



# Board of Directors Meeting

## A G E N D A

**August 20, 2020**

**2:00 p.m.**

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# 1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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

# 5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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## 5.1) Board of Directors Remote Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2020



## Board of Directors Meeting *MINUTES*

The meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 25, 2020. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, J. Wright, M. Hentz, P. Tiessen, J. Frawley, C. Cowell, S. Hipple, S. Emons and R. Leatham. A. Finn and S. Hipple were unable to attend.

### 1. First Nations Acknowledgment

M. Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

### 2. Call to Order

Chair, Linda McKinlay called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their continued patience and cooperation during these difficult times and introduced Mr. Peter Zuzek from Zuzek Ink, the primary consultant who worked on the Chatham-Kent Shoreline Study.

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

**BD-2020-34** S. Hipple – P. Tiessen

Moved that the agenda be adopted as present with the addition of two Other Business reports:

11.1) POO designation of Adam Gibb; and

11.2) Executive meeting date for Hearing purposes

And that: item 8.4) for the In camera meeting be removed from the agenda.

CARRIED

### 4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

### 5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Previously circulated)

**BD-2020-35** M. Hentz – R. Leatham

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of April 16, 2020 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**BD-2020-36** S. Emons – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of June 8, 2020 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

None declared.

7. New Business

**BD-2020-37** C. Cowell – J. Wright

Moved that the notice of the resignation of the City of London representative from the LTVCA's Board of Directors be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Business for Approval

8.1) Chatham-Kent Shoreline Study, Background to Peter Zuzek Presentation, staff report and recommended resolution

Mr. Peter Zuzek from Zuzek Ink, the primary consultant who worked on the Chatham-Kent Shoreline Study, provided the LTVCA Board of Directors with a presentation on the findings from the report.

**BD-2020-38** M. Hentz – S. Emons

**Moved that** the LTVCA continue to assist the Municipality of Chatham-Kent in their efforts to seek funding from both the Provincial and Federal governments to assist with significant flooding and erosion challenges facing Chatham-Kent described in the Chatham-Kent Shoreline Study.

**And that** LTVCA staff assist / support CK Administration to initiate discussions with the Provincial Government to obtain a commitment and Provincial funding to restore the Rondeau barrier beach.

**And that,** LTVCA staff assist CK Administration to work in the long term toward a strategy on the approaches for the remaining regions and sub-regions identified in Table 1 of the subject report.

**And that** using the information in the Shoreline Study, that LTVCA staff finalize the Planning and Regulation Policy and undertake hazard mapping updates identified in the subject report, with appropriate regulation limits related to the Lake Erie shoreline areas of erosion.

**And finally,** That the Chatham-Kent Shoreline Study be adopted as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Shoreline Management Plan for that portion of the Authority's jurisdiction within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent for the purposes of enacting Ontario Regulation 152/06.

CARRIED

8.2) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures and COVID 19 Financial Update for the period ending April 30, 2020

**BD-2020-39** P. Tiessen – C. Cowell

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended April 30, 2020.

CARRIED

**BD-2020-40** R. Leatham – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors meet 'in camera' for item 8.3) under Business for Approval.

CARRIED

**BD-2020-41** S. Emons – C. Cowell

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

CARRIED

### 8.3) In Camera Session – A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Authority

**BD-2020-42** P. Tiessen – T. Thompson

Moved that the Board of Directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority authorizes the Chair and CAO to sign an agreement to acquire, through donation, 24 acre forested lands described as: South East of the Delaware Nation on Selton Line being: South ½ Lot 22, Concession 13, Orford; Lot 23 Concession 13, Orford, Except Part 1, 24R8551; Chatham-Kent (PIN: 00648-0083 LT).

CARRIED

## 9. New Business

- 9.1) CAO's Report: Update to Board on Impacts to Operations from COVID-19 Pandemic
- 9.2) Water Management
- 9.3) Planning and Regulations
- 9.4) Conservation Areas
- 9.5) Conservation Services
- 9.6) Communications, Outreach and Education
- 9.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2020
- 9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – May 9, June 4 & June 11, 2020

**BD-2020-43** C. Cowell – P. Tiessen

Moved that the above reports under New Business, 9.1) through to 9.8) be received for information.

CARRIED

## 10. Correspondence

- 10.1) City of London, correspondence to the LTVCA Re: resignation of London representative
- 10.2) PER Farms Corp c/o Ed Roodzant Erosion Control Project

**BD-2020-44** S. Emons – R. Leatham

Moved that correspondence item 10.1) and 10.2) be received for information.

CARRIED

## 11. Other Business

11.1) Provincial Offence Officer Designation – Adam Gibb

**BD-2020-45** M. Hentz – P. Tiessen

Moved that Adam Gibb, Western District Supervisor, be appointed as a Provincial Offences Officer to enforce Section 28 and/or Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

CARRIED

11.2) Meeting of the Executive to sit as the Hearing Committee (verbal)

M. Peacock advised the members of the Executive Committee that a meeting will be required in July to hear two submissions under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. As a Hearing would be difficult to undertake via remote access, an in-person meeting was discussed and any health and safety issues for precautionary controls to be implemented during the meeting (e.g. safe distancing, etc.) due to COVID 19 concerns.

12. Adjournment

**BD-2020-46** S. Emons – R. Leatham

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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Linda McKinlay  
Chair

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

## 5.2) Board of Directors Poll Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2020

### LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

An email poll to the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee was undertaken on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 2:08 PM. The following committee members were circulated and responded: L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, A. Finn, J. Wright, M. Hentz, P. Tiessen, J. Frawley, C. Cowell, S. Emons, S. Hipple & R. Leatham.

#### 1. Business for Approval

##### 1.1) Change in Cost for Reconstruction of Elevated Boardwalk, Longwood Road C. A.

##### Background:

The chair has asked that the following report be brought to the board for a poll of board members.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation was awarded \$94,000 from Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for the replacement of the wheelchair accessible wetland boardwalk at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. The project (CP105815) is to be completed in 2020. A detailed report on this project went to the board in its April 2020 meeting.

In its April Board meeting, the Board of Directors authorized the Chair to sign a contract with Millworks Custom Carpentry and Stone for the purposes of completion of the replacement of the wheelchair accessible wetland boardwalk at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. The total approved contract price was \$97,613.00 including taxes. The LTVCA board approved reallocation of \$3,613.00 from the cancelled TODDs Signage budget item to cover the expense above the approved Trillium grant.

Prior to signing the contract, the LTVCA, as part of the permit review, had a structural engineer review the proposed details prepared by the contractor. Changes to the details included reducing joist spans and increased blocking between joists. The contractor agreed to the changes and believes the recommended changes will simplify construction and improve performance. The LTVCA administration believes the project is still worthwhile and wishes to ensure use of the \$94,000 Trillium grant.

Upon review of the price of the contract and the changes with the contractor, LTVCA administration is recommending a slight increase in the approved contract price. This increase of \$1,221.12 can also be found in the savings due to cancelled TODDs signage and will not affect the budget of the LTVCA.

##### ***Recommended Resolution:***

That the LTVCA reallocate \$4,834.12 from the cancelled TODDs Signage budget item to the Reconstruction of the Elevated Boardwalk, (Millstream Trail) Longwood Road C. A. and;

That the LTVCA supports the awarding of the contract for the Reconstruction of Elevated Boardwalk, (Millstream Trail) Longwood Road C. A. to Millworks Custom Carpentry and Stone at a total cost of \$98,834.12 including taxes.

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

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

Recommended:

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

#### **Board of Directors Responses:**

<b>Mun.</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Date of response</b>	<b>Change in Cost for Reconstruction</b>
CK	Trevor Thompson	July 14, 2020 2:20 PM	For
WE	Richard Leatham	July 14, 2020 2:46 PM	I am for the resolution
LA	Linda McKinlay	July 14, 2020 3:16 PM	I vote in favour
LE	Paul Tiessen	July 14, 2020 3:59 PM	I am in favour of the resolution
CK	Amy Finn	July 14, 2020 10:26 PM	I am in favour of the resolution
SC	Sandi Hipple	July 14, 2020 10:34 PM	I am in favour of the resolution
DD	Mike Hentz	July 15, 2020 5:44 AM	I support the resolution
SO	Sarah Emons	July 15, 2020 8:20 AM	I am in favour
SWM	Christa Cowell	July 15, 2020 12:18 PM	I support the recommendation
MC	Jeannie Frawley	July 15, 2020 12:57 PM	I am in favour of the resolution
CK	John Wright	July 16, 2020 12:47 PM	I read the change in cost for reconstruction of elevated boardwalk. I do agree
LO	vacant	n/a	n/a

#### **BD-2020-47 Unanimous**

**Moved that** the LTVCA reallocate \$4,834.12 from the cancelled TODDs Signage budget item to the Reconstruction of the Elevated Boardwalk, (Millstream Trail) Longwood Road C. A.;

**And That** the LTVCA supports the awarding of the contract for the Reconstruction of Elevated Boardwalk, (Millstream Trail) Longwood Road C. A. to Millworks Custom Carpentry and Stone at a total cost of \$98,834.12 including taxes.

CARRIED

#### **2. Other Business**

None noted.

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Linda McKinlay  
Chair

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



# 8. Business for Approval

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## 8.1) Transferability of an LTVCA Issued Permit

The LTVCA received the attached inquiry (see below) on July 27, 2020 from a landowner requesting that the current holder of an LTVCA Permission granted under O. Reg. 152/06 have the ability to transfer that Permission to a successive landowner.

While the LTVCA Application Forms for a Permission allude to the fact that transfers would not be allowed without approval from the LTVCA, the LTVCA does not actually have a policy related to the transferring of Permissions. Without such a policy in place, any request for a transfer would have to go before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for a decision. Staff of the LTVCA are not aware of any previous requests to transfer a Permission.

Under Conservation Authorities Act Regulations, " ... no person shall undertake development or permit another person to undertake development" in a Regulated Area. However, "The Authority may grant permission for development" ... "if, in its opinion, the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land will not be affected by the development." When a Permission is granted to undertake development, it is generally provided to the landowner. It is not the convention at Conservation Authorities to issue Permissions to every single person who will be involved in that development, even though any person involved in the development, from the landowner right down to an individual construction worker, could be found in violation of the regulation. The Permission covers the whole of the development and anyone involved.

However, the "holder" of the permission is granted certain rights under the legislation, such as the ability to appeal a decision, appeal any conditions of approval, or request an extension. It is therefore necessary under the legislation to have someone designated as the "holder" of the permission. Should a property be sold while a Permission is still active, it would not make sense for the previous landowner to be holding the permission as they most likely no longer have any authority over that development. However, there are also reasons that the rights as "holder" of the permission should not be automatically granted to a subsequent landowner.

A survey of other Conservation Authorities revealed that many, if not most, Conservation Authorities do not allow for the transfer of permissions. However, the reasons seemed more practical rather than legal. In general, it was deemed highly unlikely that a subsequent landowner would want the previous landowner's permission, as they would be bound to undertake the exact same proposed development, without any changes, with the same conditions of approval, and before the original permission's expiry date. Other Conservation Authorities cited cases where design contractors felt that their intellectual property had been unjustly taken by a subsequent landowner when the property was sold. Conservation Authorities who allowed transfers noted that the decision to allow a development should be based on the five tests (flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land), not on who owns the land, and therefore there would be no reason not to allow transfers.

After considering the feedback from other Conservation Authorities, staff at the LTVCA propose the following policy regarding the transfer of permissions.

Permission granted by the LTVCA can only be changed or transferred with prior written approval by the LTVCA. Transfers will require written authorization from the current holder of the permission. The proposed new holder of the permission must request the transfer in writing confirming that they intend to undertake the same works as previously approved by the LTVCA and accept the Conditions specified on the permission being transferred. If the design for the approved works was undertaken by a third party, an acknowledgement in writing must be provided confirming that the proposed new holder of the application/permission has the intellectual property rights to use the design. A transfer does not come with a time extension, so the work must be completed in the timeframe specified on

the original permission. The Executive Committee reserves the right to limit or deny the transfer of any permit issued to a permit holder.

Given the rarity with which LTVCA staff expects this policy to be utilized, it is not felt that broad public consultation is required in advance. It is proposed that the policy be implemented immediately and posted online for public comments. If significant feedback from the public is provided, the policy can subsequently be revised. Staff suggest that the proposed fee for a transfer be \$75 as this matches a current fee for “Minor revisions to a recently approved and valid application”.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors approve the policy on transfers of permissions as:

“Permission granted by the LTVCA can only be changed or transferred with prior written approval by the LTVCA. Transfers will require written authorization from the current holder of the permission. The proposed new holder of the permission must request the transfer in writing confirming that they intend to undertake the same works as previously approved by the LTVCA and accept the Conditions specified on the permission being transferred. If the design for the approved works was undertaken by a third party, an acknowledgement in writing must be provided confirming that the proposed new holder of the application/permission has the intellectual property rights to use the design. A transfer does not come with a time extension, so the work must be completed in the timeframe specified on the original permission. The Executive Committee reserves the right to limit or deny the transfer of any permit issued to a permit holder.”

to be implemented immediately and posted online for public comment, and that a fee of \$75 be implemented for transfers of permissions.

**To: Jason Wintermute, Manager, Watershed and Information Services, LTVCA**

**Cc: Mark Peacock, Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary-Treasurer, LTVCA**

July 27, 2020

Dear Jason,

I would like to make a formal request for a decision on the transferability of my LTVCA permits for [REDACTED] Bluff Line in Wheatley.

On November 21, 2019 the LTVCA issued permits under number 462-2019 for a new large detached accessory structure and a small addition to the existing home structure with work to be well underway by November 21, 2021.

Several circumstances have lead me to this point of having to very strongly consider placing the property on the market to sell it. I've conveyed these circumstances in various past email exchanges with LTVCA and if you require a synopsis for the Board, please let me know and I am happy to provide it.

After all the time, work, and money invested into the engineering reports and plans, the transferability of the permits could allow a new homeowner the opportunity/option to move forward with the work (if that's what they want to do). It really is a special property with a spectacular and private view and it saddens me to have arrived at this point.

I continue to work on all options from my end regarding my situation; however, I believe I need to concurrently get the property listed on the market as soon as I can and having transferable permits will allow me to move forward with this.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Homeowner/Permit Holder

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Respectfully Submitted

Jason Wintermute

Manager, Watershed and Information Services

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

## 8.2) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to June 30, 2020

Date: August 20, 2020  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to June 30, 2020**  
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

### Background:

Review the 2020 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 6 months ended June 30, 2020.

REVENUE	2020 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET JUN PROJECTED	2020 ACTUAL TO JUN 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	1,128,919	564,459 *	805,424	240,965
GENERAL LEVY	1,462,457	1,462,457 ^	1,462,457	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000 ^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	507,670	253,835 *	385,922	132,087
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0 *	911	911
RESERVES	0	0 *	0	0
<b>CASH FUNDING</b>	<b>3,304,046</b>	<b>2,485,751</b>	<b>2,859,714</b>	<b>373,963</b>
OTHER	0	0	235,000	235,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>3,304,046</b>	<b>2,485,751</b>	<b>3,094,714</b>	<b>608,963</b>

\*-based on a 6 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on cash received to date

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

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

Levy revenue is shown on a cash basis. All municipalities are paid in full.

General Revenue is above budget due to the following factors:

- Technical Studies, Planning & Regulations, Conservation Area(Seasonal), Conservation Services(Seasonal) and Chatham Kent Greening(Seasonal) and interest income are above budget. This is partially offset by; Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Village revenues being lower due partially to the seasonal nature of the revenues and decreased revenues for these programs due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Foundation Grants and Revenues budget are zero because of the uncertainty of funds available. The amount recorded is due to the payment on an invoice by the Foundation.

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

Other revenues are above budget due to the donation of property to the Conservation Authority

EXPENSES	2020	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	\$ VARIANCE
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	BUDGET	JUN PROJECTED	TO JUN 30	TO PROJECTED
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	166,016	83,008	60,592	(22,416)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	11	6	271	265
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	200,387	100,194	90,733	(9,461)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	50,980	25,490	25,713	223
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	268,322	134,161	132,772	(1,389)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	120,770	60,385	62,651	2,266
SOURCE PROTECTION	31,512	15,756	11,807	(3,949)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
<b>Water Management Subtotal</b>	<b>837,998</b>	<b>419,000</b>	<b>384,539</b>	<b>(34,461)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</b>				
<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>	<b>638,279</b>	<b>319,139</b>	<b>249,202</b>	<b>(69,937)</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	187,317	93,658	83,791	(9,867)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	85,146	42,573	37,013	(5,560)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	172,449	86,225	51,289	(34,936)
<b>Community Relations &amp; Education Subtotal</b>	<b>444,912</b>	<b>222,456</b>	<b>172,093</b>	<b>(50,363)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</b>				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	62,624	31,312	39,326	8,014
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	459,834	229,917	325,947	96,030
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	653,528	326,764	291,439	(35,325)
SPECIES AT RISK	206,870	103,435	207,580	104,145
<b>Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal</b>	<b>1,382,856</b>	<b>691,428</b>	<b>864,292</b>	<b>172,864</b>
<b>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING				
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
<b>Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,304,045</b>	<b>1,652,023</b>	<b>1,670,126</b>	<b>18,103</b>

### *Water Management*

Flood Control Structures are below budget as most large projects have not been completed as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due several large annual invoices received later in the year and partially off-set by staff time for flood events.

Technical Studies are comparable to budget.

Planning and Regulations are below budget due to flood events and staff time spent responding to the flood.

Watershed Monitoring is comparable to budget.

Source Protection is below budget due to increased activity in the prior year leading to reduced activity in the current year.

### *Conservation Areas*

Conservation area expenses are below budget due to several factors. Seasonal staff were hired later in the season after COVID-19 restrictions were reduced and camping was able to commence and most large projects, operation of the campgrounds and other large operational costs started later in the year or have not been completed as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### *Community Relations and Education*

Community Relations, Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs, one educator has been working in the conservations areas and one part time Village Educator contract has not been hired due to decreased demand and revenues caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

### *Conservation Services/Stewardship*

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are above budget as most activities and related expenses have been completed for the year.

Phosphorous Reduction is below budget due to the two Conservation Services/ALUS staff spending more of their time in Conservation Services during tree planting and reduced spend on one program due to uncertainty of obtaining the grant.

Species at Risk (SAR) is above budget due to large expenditures for services and materials to comply with grants ending March 31 and a contract GIS Technician employee required to complete the project for a program period ending Mar 31. Direct Expenditures in SAR are covered by the two SAR grants.

### *Capital/Miscellaneous*

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

#### **Summary:**

	2020 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET JUN PROJECTED	2020 ACTUAL TO JUN 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	3,304,046	2,485,751	2,859,714	373,963
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,304,045	1,652,023	1,670,126	18,103
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>833,728</b>	<b>1,189,588</b>	<b>355,860</b>
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
<b>NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>833,728</b>	<b>1,189,588</b>	<b>355,860</b>

At June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable mostly due to the timing of grants received and general revenues being higher then budget at this time of year.

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

COVID-19 is starting to have some impact on the results on our operations at June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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

#### 4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Respectfully Submitted

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

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

### 8.3) 2021 Preliminary Budget Preparation Report

Date: August 20, 2020  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **2021 Preliminary Budget Preparation Report**  
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

#### ***Background:***

As part of the current Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Strategic Plan (2016-2021) the Conservation Authority developed 12 objectives in 4 General Areas. The Financial Objectives were as follows:

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements
5. Improve Capital Asset Review
6. Strengthen Staff Stability (financial stability, attraction & retention)

In order to achieve objective 4, a number of initiatives were defined. Year 1 of these initiatives have been achieved including preparation of financial statement for each board meeting that improves the boards understanding of the financial position of the LTVCA. One of the other initiatives involves having managers better involved and informed regarding the financial decision of the authority (years 3 and 5).

Objective	Ownership	Measurement	Candidate Initiatives	Budget Implications
4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements	Financial Services Specialist & Management Team	Quarterly statements for each program reviewed with program managers	Year 1- Quarterly statements reflecting reality  Year 3- Managers have adequate information and capacity for financial decisions  Year 5- Managers manage budgets in collaboration with Todd	Budget neutral  Budget neutral  Budget neutral

To address this requirement, in 2018 the budgeting process was revised, allowing managers more say in budget development and more responsibility in financial management of their departments. Additionally, COVID-19 has meant that municipalities have a great amount of uncertainty in financial matters. Many municipalities are challenged to provide 2021 financial targets at this time. In order to provide additional time for municipal and staff consultation to occur, this preliminary budget report is being presented at the August 2021 Board meeting.

### ***2021 Budget Preparation Process:***

- 1) August – spreadsheets prepared showing each account with current to date results, the past two years of actuals and initial proposed budget assuming:
  - a) Salaries carried forward with increase based on merit increases only
  - b) Payroll allocated based on past experience and current expectations
  - c) Projects being carried forward will be based on known expectations
  - d) General Expenses based on past trends modified by current expectations
- 2) August/September – Managers review staff work plans with staff to determine changes and new projects/priorities/requirements for 2021 budget
- 3) August/September – Todd provide spreadsheets to managers for their areas of budget
- 4) August – Budget Preparation Report to Board providing general assumptions and process to develop 2021 preliminary budget
- 5) August continue meeting with municipalities regarding 2021 budget assumptions at their convenience
- 6) September – Mark and Todd meet with individual Managers to review and prepare preliminary budget (more than one meeting per manager may be required)
- 7) September – Mark and Todd meet to review overall budget and challenges and compile complete preliminary budget
- 8) End of September – meeting with managers to review preliminary budget prior to finalization
- 9) October Board Meeting – Preliminary Budget and levy presented to the Board of Directors for review and approval
- 10) October – budget and levy circulation and notification (min 30 days as per Act)
- 11) January – final review of budget with management team
- 12) February – final review and approval by board at annual meeting

### ***Budget Preparation Assumptions:***

The budget will be prepared based on:

1. 1% total general levy increase,
2. It is assumed that cost of living will increase less than 1% in 2020,
3. Merit increases for staff to be considered in draft budget,
4. No cost of living increases will be provided to staff in 2021,
5. There continues to be no effort to compensate for the \$76,430 (equivalent to 5.3% of levy) that was cut from the LTVCA's S.39 grant in 2019.
6. This will allow the LTVCA to meet expected Municipality of Chatham-Kent max. 1.0% and City of London preliminary budget increase requirements assuming no further changes in the City of London expectations

### ***Recommendations:***

That the Board direct staff to prepare the 2021 budget based on a 1% general levy increase, meet with member municipalities and bring the preliminary 2021 budget and municipal comments back to the October meeting for review and approval.



## 8.4) Big Creek Two -Zone Floodplain Policy

### Big Creek Two -Zone Floodplain Policy

#### Part of the Reid Drain, Silver Creek and Big Creek 2 Zone Policy

Date: August, 20, 2020

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: Big Creek 2-Zone Floodplain Policy Report

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

#### Background

##### Location

The Municipality of Leamington and the Lower Thames Valley and Essex Valley Conservation Authorities have been developing a two zone policy for three creeks (the Reid Drain, Silver Creek and Big Creek) Location of creeks shown below: The Big Creek is in the LTVCA jurisdiction.



The Conservation Authority will pass the policy as part of the Board Approved Water Management Policies to be implemented through planning and regulations. The municipality will implement the policy through its Official Plan and planning/development control program.

## The Two-Zone Approach

Under the two-zone approach to floodplain management, the Municipality and the Conservation Authority has, through a technical study, identified the floodway of Big Creek (the area subject to deeper, faster flows, which acts as the channel in times of flooding), as a zone where development other than buildings or structures required for flood or erosion control is generally prohibited. Additionally, the Flood Fringe of Big Creek (the area subject to shallower and slower flows) has been identified where flood proofed development can occur.

### Build-Out of Watersheds – Future Development Part of Study

As part of the technical study developed to define the two-zone flood plain approach, a future development scenario has been developed for each watershed. Discharge controls have been defined to ensure no increase in downstream flooding. The future buildout is as follows:

Watershed	% build-out	New Development (ha)
Big Creek	25% build-out	1,000 ha
Reid Drain	75% build-out	735 ha
Silver Creek	50% build-out	1,102ha

### Specific Definitions of the Two Zones:

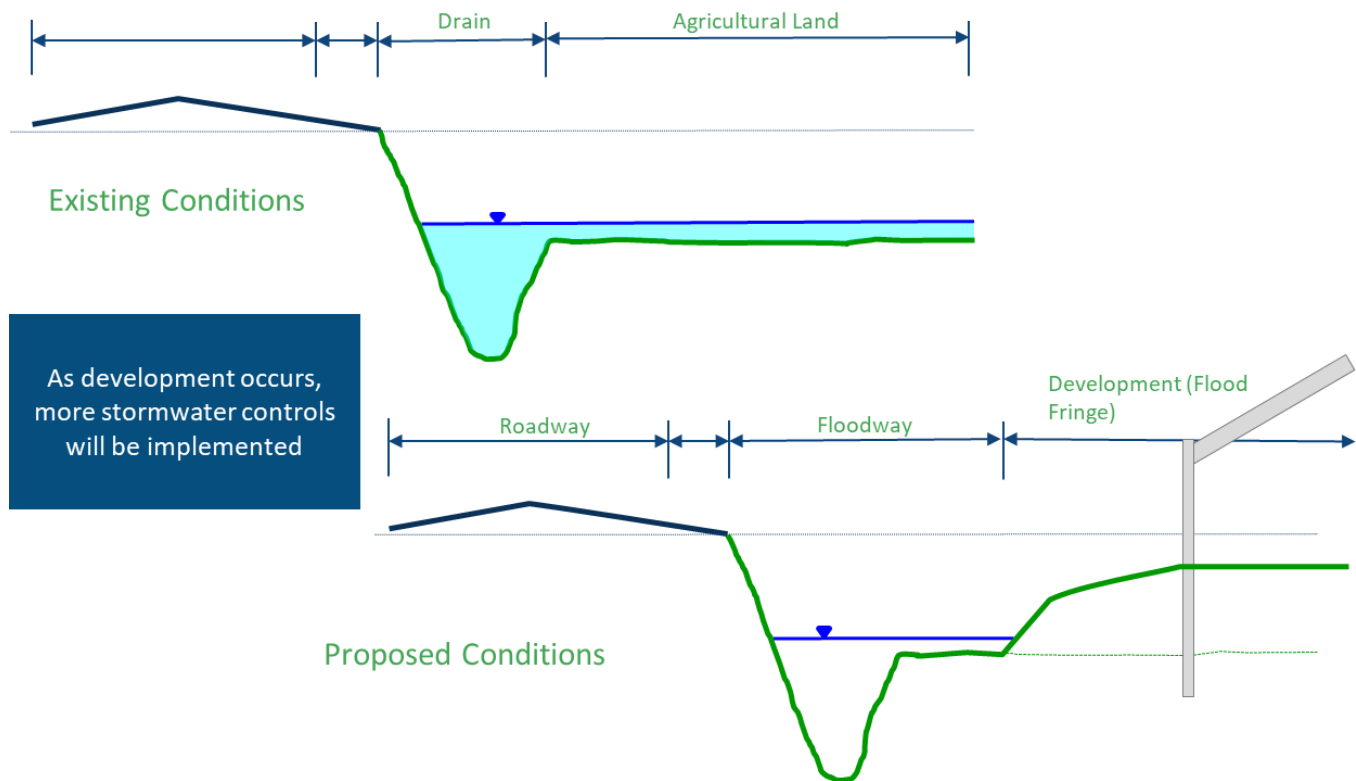
The specific Definition of the Big Creek Floodway is as follows:

- The Floodway will be 8 metres from the top-of-bank of the Creek/drain, plus the area of drain channel.
- The floodway shall remain unobstructed and without fill placed
- No development permitted in Floodway

The specific Definition of the Big Creek Flood Fringe is as follows:

- Within the study area, areas outside of Floodway are considered Flood Fringe
- Development within the Flood Fringe may be permitted, provided appropriate flood proofing measures are incorporated, and pending the receipt of a permit from the applicable Conservation Authority and other applicable planning approvals (e.g. site plan/building permit).
- Temporary Flood Storage Areas have also been identified within the flood fringe and shall remain unobstructed pending future study to confirm development would have no impact to flood levels. – landowner meetings with all affected by these areas have been undertaken

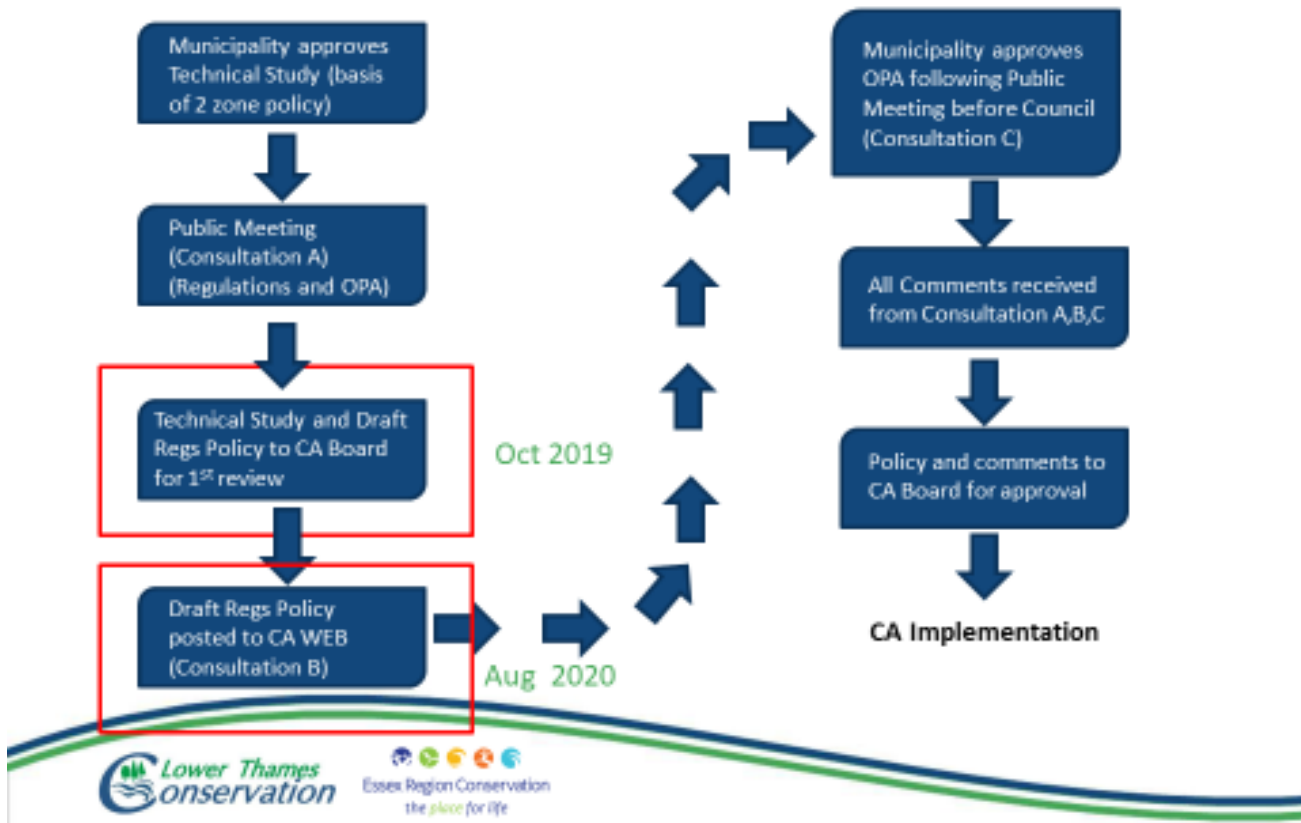
The following figure shows how the flood plain will change with implementation of the Big Creek 2 Zone Policy:



### Process to Create Board Approved Policies

It is important that the Conservation Authority and the Municipality have a robust public review process in order to receive input from landowners and residents potentially affected by this policy. The Conservation Authority is combining its public consultation with the municipalities under its Official Plan update process. In October of 2019 staff presented the technical study to the board that defined the development controls and specific zones of the Big Creek Two-Zone Policy. Staff are currently requesting permission from the board to bring the draft Two-Zone policies to the public for their review. Upon receiving comments from the public, the comments and policy will be brought back to the board for review and eventual approval. The draft policy is appended to this report. The overall process is shown in the flow chart below.

## Section 28 Regulations / 2 Zone Policy Approval Process Integrated with Official Plan Amendment Process



### **Recommendation:**

**That** the Big Creek 2-Zone Floodplain Policy Report be received for information.

**And Further** that the draft Big Creek 2-Zone Floodplain Policy be provided to the public for comment, with those comments being brought back to this board for review prior to approval of the policy

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

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

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

Existing Official Plan 2.20 – Floodplain Development Control Overlay: [BS1]

### Policy 2.20.1 Two-Zone Floodplain

Under the two-zone approach to floodplain management, Council shall, to the satisfaction of the applicable Conservation Authority through a technical study, identify the floodway (the area subject to deeper, faster flows, which acts as the channel in times of flooding), as a zone where development other than buildings or structures required for flood or erosion control is generally prohibited. Area-specific studies are encouraged at a watershed level to identify areas suitable for the application of two-zone floodplain policies. Areas subject to Council-approved studies shall be identified on appropriate Schedules through an Official Plan Amendment. [BS2]

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

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

### Policy 2.20.1 Floodway and Flood Fringe

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

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

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

1. The floodway shall remain unobstructed and without fill placed to ensure that sufficient floodway corridor is maintained.
2. No development shall be permitted within the floodway, except for those by nature of their use or purpose must be located within the floodway such as flood and/or erosion control works.
3. Replacement of an existing structure located within the floodway is not encouraged, but may be permitted provided that all reasonable efforts are made to relocate the replacement structure outside of the floodway. Replacement structures shall not have a larger footprint than the existing structure, shall be floodproofed to the satisfaction of the Municipality and Conservation



Authority, and shall not result in a net increase in flood risk to property and public health and safety, and shall to the extent possible, be located and designed such that there is no net increase in flood risk to the structure.

4. Driveways, roads, bridges, railways and other private or public services of approved hydraulic design may be permitted, provided that there is no net increase in flood risk.

Development on those lands outside the Floodway but within the “Floodplain Development Control Overlay”<sup>[B53]</sup> (Schedule B) or otherwise located within flood fringe areas of an adopted two-zone floodplain policy area shown on Schedule B shall only be permitted if:

- a) For new or replacement structures:
  - a. Floodproofing is provided to the regulatory flood level to the satisfaction of the Municipality and appropriate Conservation Authority.
  - b. No new dwelling units or areas are established under the Regulatory Flood elevation, including uninhabitable space that may be converted to livable space;
  - c. No new dwelling units are created;
  - d. All building systems (electrical, hydro, etc.) are located above the regulatory flood elevation;
  - e. Building openings (windows, doors) shall be located above the regulatory flood elevation;
  - f. All development must be in accordance with the underlying land use designations;
  - g. A permit is obtained from the applicable Conservation Authority under the applicable Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation.
- b) For minor additions and alterations, representing less than or equal to 20% of additional lot building coverage:
  - a. Floodproofing, to the extent feasible, is provided to the regulatory flood level to the satisfaction of the Municipality and the appropriate Conservation Authority.
  - b. No new dwelling units or areas are established under the Regulatory Flood elevation, including uninhabitable space that may be converted to livable space;
  - c. All building systems (electrical, hydro, etc.) are located above the regulatory flood elevation;

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

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

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

The area to which the two-zone policies apply include the entirety of the Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Watersheds as identified on **Schedule #.**

For the purposes of the Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Two-Zone Floodplain Policy Area, the Floodway is defined as a minimum setback of 8 metres plus the depth of drain to a maximum of 15m.

Mapped floodway areas can be found within the Master Drainage Study or by contacting the Municipality.<sup>[BS4]</sup>

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

### **Safe Ingress and Egress**

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

### **Buildout and Monitoring**

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

- Big Creek – 25% buildout, or 1,000ha of development
- Reid Drain – 75% buildout, or 735ha of development
- Silver Creek – 50% buildout, or 1,102ha of development

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

# 9. Business for Information

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## 9.1) CAO's Report: Update to Board on Impacts to Operations from COVID-19 Pandemic

Date: August 20, 2020  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: C.A.O.'s Report  
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

### ***COVID-19 Update***

Staff are continuing to work from home with limited staff entering buildings at this time. All staff have work plans and have met or exceeded targets that have been established internally and with project partners. The Pandemic Management Committee continues to meet three times a week to address ongoing issues and plan as we move forward. Consultations with staff have begun to consider returning staff to work sites. The following are some of the questions/issues are being considered:

1. Is it safe given limited office space – at our 2 sites we have many staff sharing office space and in close contact;
2. Can a staff member do their work from home as efficiently as from the office;
3. Are there other reasons, such as mental health, that mean that the office should be opened up;
4. What protocols will be required to open up the office?

Additionally, as we consider having more people entering our buildings, a screening form is being developed to ensure anyone at LTVCA work sites have disclosed any possible Covid-19 risks.

### Public Hearing – Section 28 Executive Meeting August 6

In order to provide proper process for the conducting of Section 28 Hearings, it was decided to conduct an upcoming hearing in person at the LTVCA Administrative Offices. During the planning for the August 6, 2020 hearings, protocols were developed for conducting in person hearings with Board Members and the public. During the hearing all participants were escorted through the building, asked to sanitize hands, and required to wear a mask until seated. Additionally, all publicly touched surfaces and seating were wiped down before the event and between hearings. All seats were also positioned to have a minimum of 10ft between participants.

### ***Recommendation:***

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

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

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



## 9.2) Water Management

There have been only 11 flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors. All of these messages related to Great Lakes shoreline issues. Two of these messages were standing Flood Watch messages intended to be a monthly update on shoreline flooding conditions. These standing messages are required as, during the summer period, thunderstorms and other weather events can appear too quickly for weather forecasts to be issued and then translated into a statement on potential flooding. The other messages were all Flood Watches. In most of these cases, weather forecasts had over-predicted the winds and waves and damages were limited. In fact, the weather station at Erieau has only recorded one event since the last Board of Directors meeting where recorded winds exceeded 25 km/hr for more than one hour. During this event on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was flooding on both Lake Erie along Erie Shore Drive and on Lake St. Clair in Lighthouse Cove. Along Erie Shore Drive, water had flooded the properties along the lake with water flowing into the front yards. Water was crossing over the road in at least two locations and at one point the water was observed to be around 20 to 25 cm deep. Municipal staff felt that the flood control spillways previously put in place were working well. In Lighthouse Cove, it was largely a lake setup event. Flooding of shoreline properties because of lake waves was limited. However, lake setup had pushed water up into the canals which then spilled out onto properties and over the roads. There was water on Tisdelle Drive for most of its length, as well as water on Haven Avenue and at most of the road intersections with Tisdelle Drive. As we move into the fall, more sustained wind events should be expected to cause flooding.

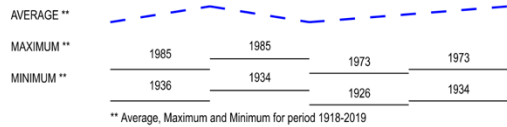
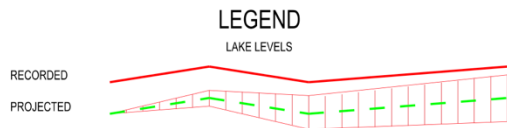
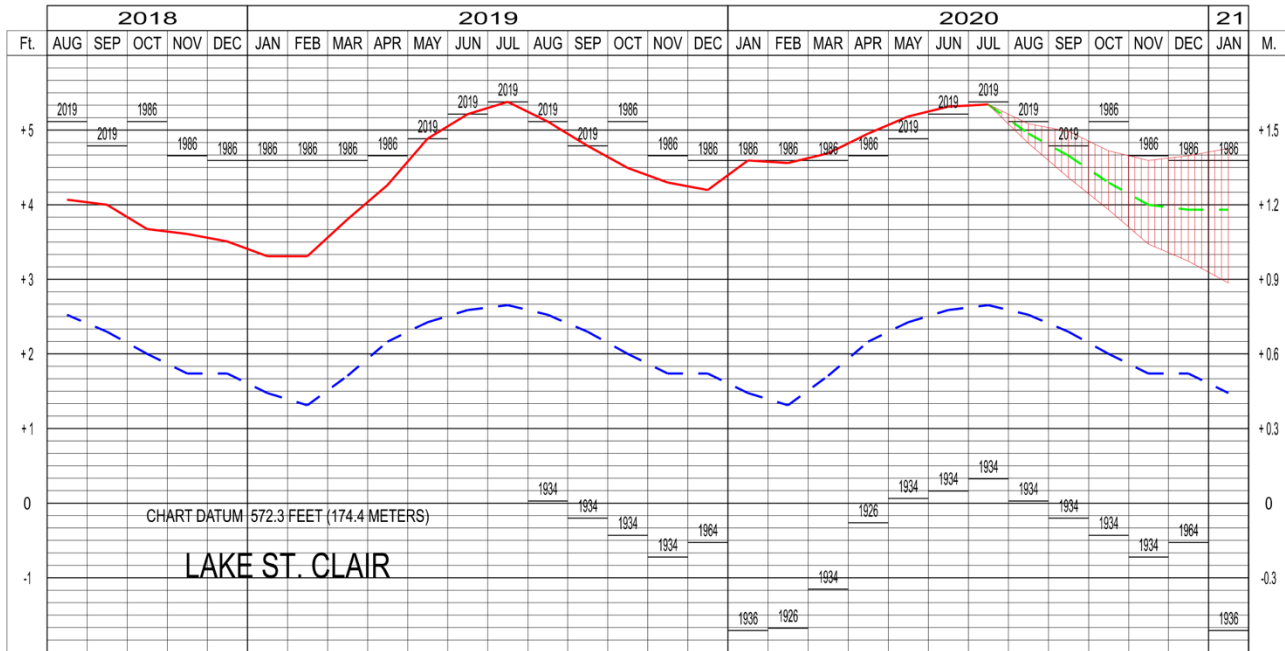
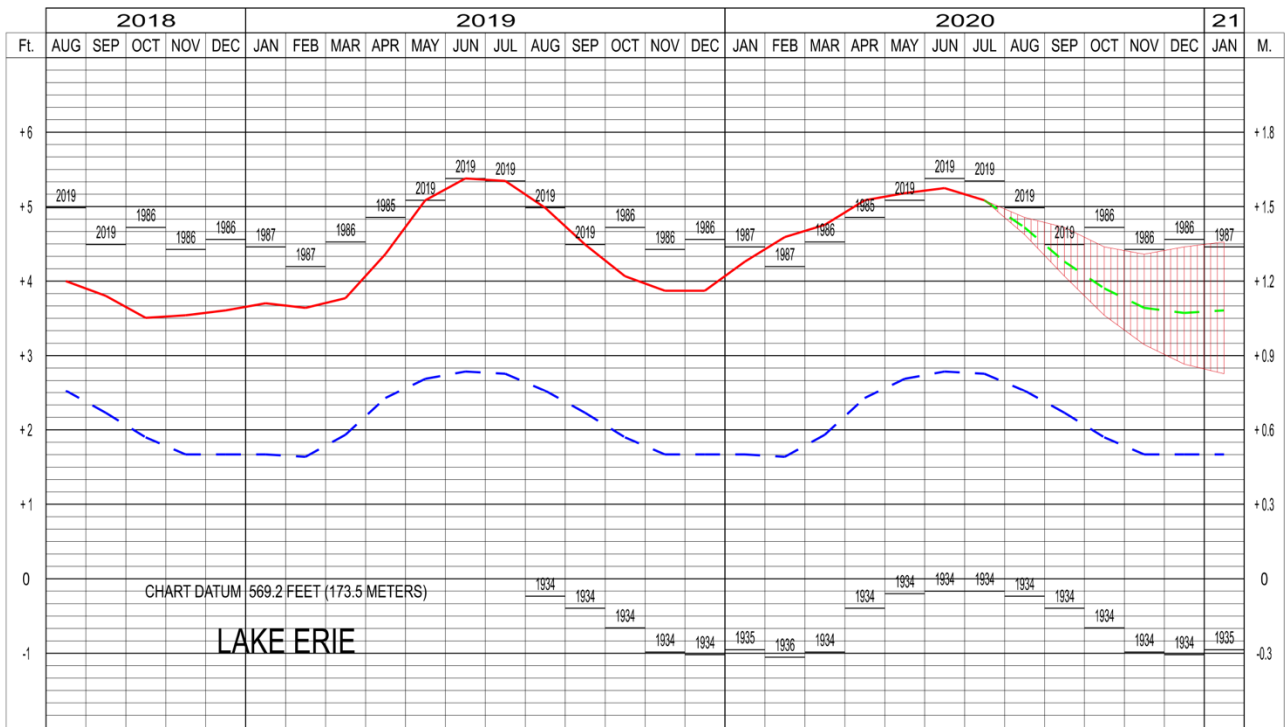
### Report on Lake Conditions

Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of August were around 175.01 m (I.G.L.D.). This water level is only 1 cm below the all-time record high monthly average for August set last year. Current average daily water levels are down 13 cm from this year's peak daily average water level set on May 30-31 and are 18 cm lower than last year's peak daily average water level set on June 22. Water level forecasts are currently predicting a drop in lake levels of 10 cm over the month of August.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of August were around 176.02 m (I.G.L.D.). This water level is 6 cm higher than the all-time record high monthly average for August set last year. Current average daily water levels are down 6 cm from this year's peak daily average water level set on May 19-20 which was the same as last year's peak daily average water level set on July 7-8. Water level forecasts are currently predicting a drop in lake levels of 7 to 8 cm over the month of August.

As can be seen by the water elevations referenced above, current water levels on the lakes are very similar to the all-time record monthly averages for August set last year. Compared to last year, or even compared to earlier this year, the very small differences from current water levels and expected level by the end of the month are not significant in terms of the flood risk they present. The current risks of flooding and shoreline damage are essentially the same as they were last year during the peak water level summer months.

The figures below are published by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and graph the monthly average water levels and water level forecast over the next 6 months.



### 9.2.2) Flood Control Structures

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

Invoices have come in for the required repairs to two pieces of damaged flood control equipment. The first invoice is for repairs to a backup generator required to operate the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station should there be an electrical outage. The required repairs cost \$10,358. However, since the generators are stored at the Chatham-Kent (C.K.) pollution control plant and are also used there, C.K. Public Utilities Commission has offered to cover half the costs. The second invoice is for the replacement of an actuator required to raise and lower one of the gates at the Indian-McGregor Creek Diversion Channel Dam. The actuator was making unusual noises the last time it was operated and a recent inspection by the manufacturer revealed that oil had leaked out and damaged the electronics. The replacement cost will be \$14,801. The LTVCA will inquire with the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) grant from the MNR to see if there are any extra end-of-year program funds to assist with the repairs. However, the WECI program is not really structured to fund emergency repairs, so this would only be possible if some other planned works by another Conservation Authority did not spend all their allocated funds.

### 9.2.3) Low Water Response Program

The Low Water Response Program is a provincial program largely administered by the Conservation Authorities. Within each Conservation Authority's jurisdiction, a Low Water Response Committee made up of provincial appointees and local stakeholders is created to advise the province should a significant period of low water supply necessitate action by the province. It had been the intention of the LTVCA to restructure that Committee this year. The current pandemic has interfered with that and the province has not even confirmed its provincial appointees. However, the role of the Committee is fairly limited when there is not a Low Water Condition, or during a Level 1 Condition. Even during a Level 2 Condition, most of the work is in preparation for a Level 3 Condition when the province may actually need to take action.

The Low Water Response Program looks at both precipitation and flow in local watercourses in determining whether there is a low water condition. For precipitation, both 18 month and 3 month rainfall totals are examined and the program thresholds are: Level 1, 80% of average; Level 2, 60% of average; and Level 3, 40% of average. For flows, the average flow over the last month is examined and the summer thresholds are: Level 1, 70% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 50% LASF; and Level 3, 30% LASF.

During July, the LTVCA came fairly close to a Low Water Level 1 Condition. At the beginning of the month, most of the rain gauges examined in the region were registering less than 80% of average rainfall over the previous three months. Shortly afterwards, significant rainfall boosted precipitation totals above the Level 1 Condition threshold. Average flows over the previous month were still above the LASF. At the beginning of August, precipitation indicators had improved. Of the four rain gauges examined, rainfall totals over the last three months ranged from 80 to 111% of average and flow on the Thames River over the last month was 92% of the LASF. Therefore, the Lower Thames region is not considered to be in a Low Water Condition.

### 9.2.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide, surface water quality monitoring continues on a monthly basis at 22 sites throughout the watershed. The sampling is being conducted under two programs, the Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN) and a special grant under Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. After earlier delays this year due to the pandemic, the LTVCA and MECP are currently working on revising the COA grant for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

It is not yet clear what will be happening with the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program. Usually sampling can begin in September and runs through the autumn. As per the program, LTVCA staff conduct the

field work and MECP funds the infrastructure and conducts the lab analyses. However, the MECP has not yet announced when the provincial labs will be reopening for this kind of work.

### 9.2.5) Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues a seasonal forecast in early July for potential HABs on Lake Erie. The Seasonal Lake Erie HAB Forecast gives coastal managers and drinking water facility operators a general sense of how “bad” the upcoming bloom season has the potential to be. The seasonal forecast is an ensemble of models based largely upon phosphorus discharge from the Maumee River. This year the seasonal forecast was issued on July 9<sup>th</sup> and is attached to this agenda.

During the bloom season, the operational NOAA Lake Erie HAB Forecast provides the current extent and 5-day outlooks of where the bloom will travel and what concentrations are likely to be seen, allowing managers to determine whether to take preventative actions. At the time this agenda was drafted, the most recent Forecast was from August 7<sup>th</sup> and is also attached.

So far this year, only one suspected HAB has been reported within the jurisdiction of the LTVCA. The MECP’s Spills Action Centre received a call the afternoon of July 6 regarding a possible Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) in the nearshore area of Lake Erie south of Cedar Springs, in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. By the time MECP staff made it to the site the next day, weather and lake conditions had changed. There was no visual indication of an algae bloom at that time but samples were taken for algae identification. While small amounts of blue-green algae was found to be present in the sample, there was not enough for it to be considered an algae bloom.

LTVCA staff have also been watching the Thames River for signs of HABs. So far this year, there have been no visual indications of bloom on the river.

### 9.2.5.1) Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

## Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

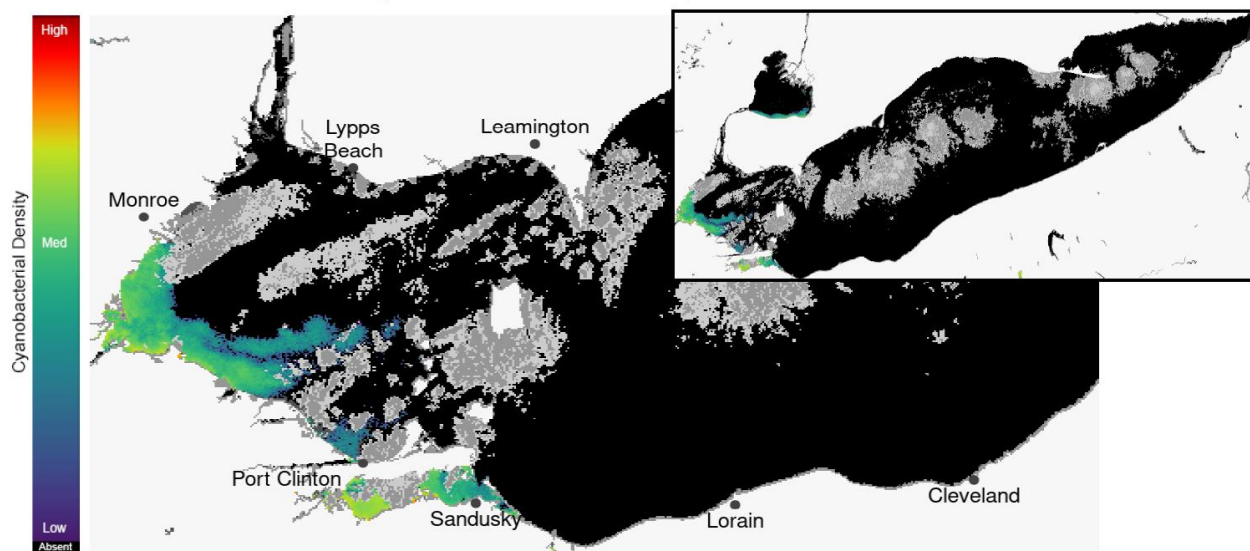
Imagery Analysis & Forecasts - Last Updated 2020/08/07 09:12 EDT



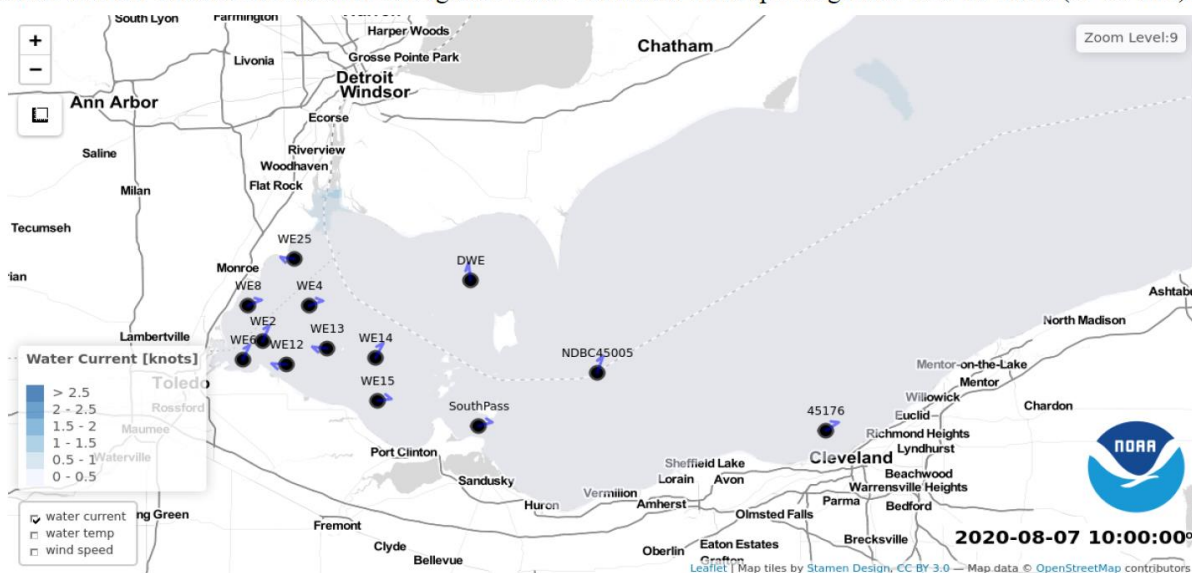
A bloom of *Microcystis* cyanobacteria continues in the western basin of Lake Erie. Eastward transport of the bloom has been observed. The bloom is present in Maumee Bay, extending north along the Michigan coast to Brest Bay, along the Ohio coast towards the Portage River, and offshore to the Bass Islands. Recent sampling (8/4) indicates toxin concentrations have increased but remain below the recreational threshold at all locations. *Keep pets and yourself out of the water in areas where scum is forming.*

Forecast winds (4-12 kn) through Monday (8/10) will promote northeastward transport of *Microcystis* concentrations offshore the Michigan and Ohio coasts, within the western basin. Winds are favorable for scum formation through Sunday. -Davis, Keeney

Cyanobacterial Index from Copernicus Sentinel-3a collected 2020/08/06 12:00 EDT. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. The estimated threshold of cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL.

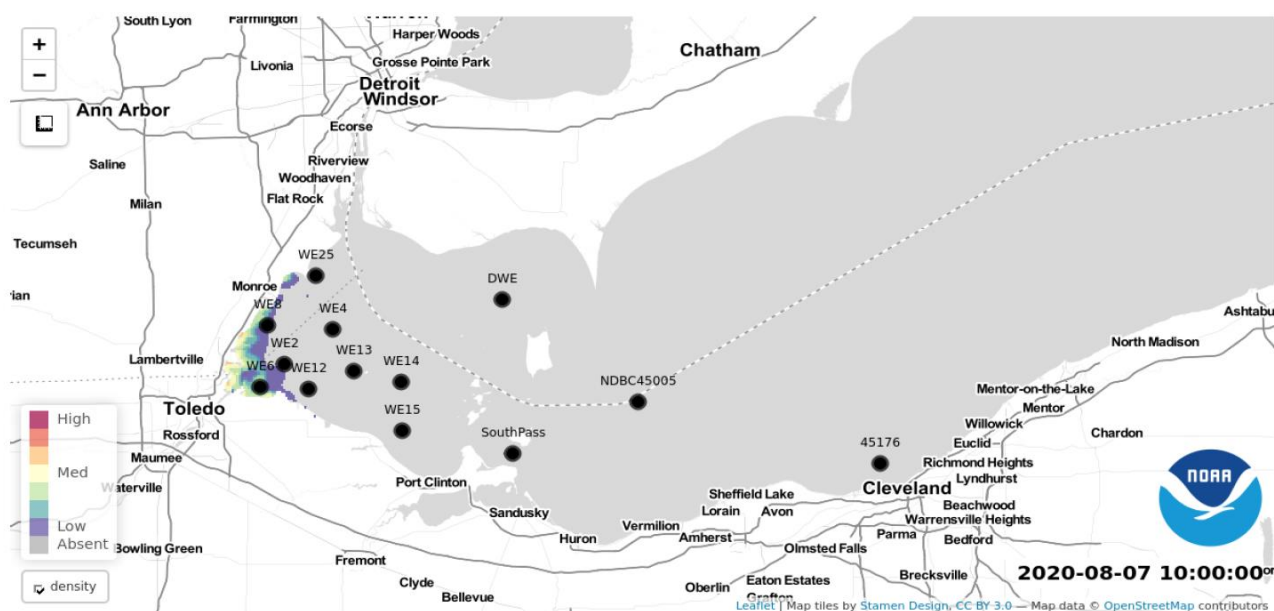


**Forecast Lake Erie Conditions at 2020/08/07 10:00 (EDT)** Each point on the map represents a point used by the HAB Tracker Model. Blooms mix through the water column at wind speeds greater than 15 knots (or 7.7 m/s).

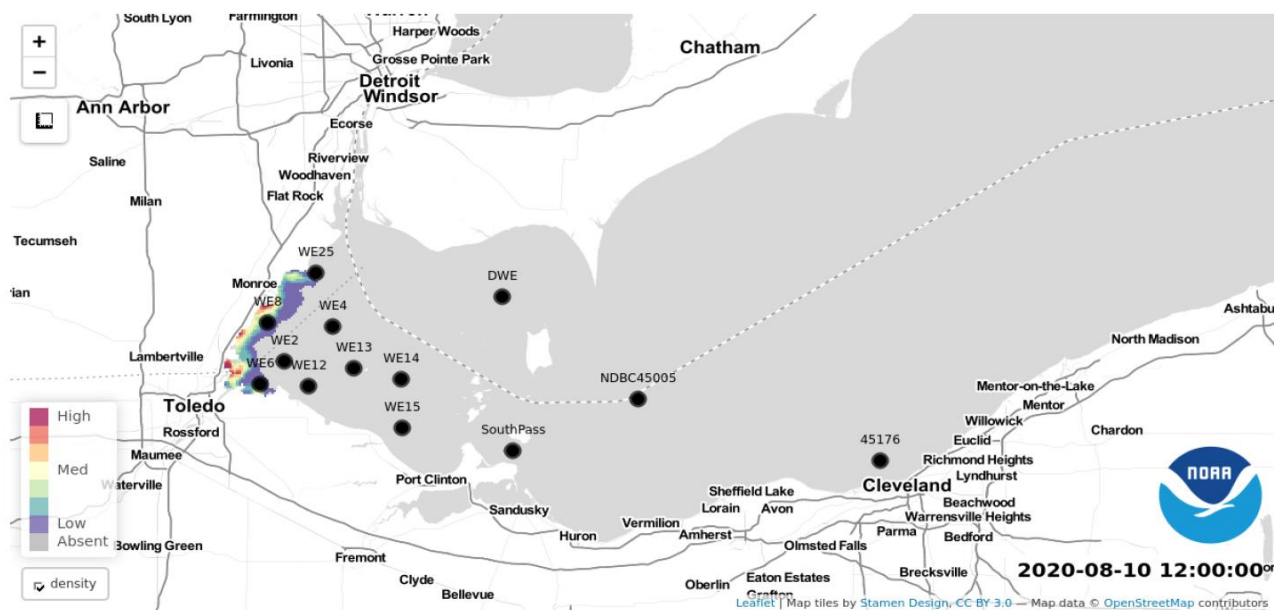




## Modeled Bloom Position & Vertical Mixing at 2020/08/07 10:00 (EDT)



## 72-Hour Bloom Position & Vertical Mixing at 2020/08/10 12:00 (EDT)



## Additional Resources

- Find a safe place for recreation through the Ohio Dept. of Health's Beach Water Quality Advisory, [BeachGuard](#).
- Learn more about water quality sampling and data monitoring by visiting the [Ohio EPA's site for HABs](#).
- Great Lakes HAB monitoring data and forecast research by [NOAA's GLERL](#).
- Frequently Asked Questions - [FAQ's](#).

## 9.2.5.2) NOAA Western Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Seasonal Forecast

# NOAA Western Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Seasonal Forecast

09 July 2020



NOAA and our research partners forecast that western Lake Erie will experience a harmful algal bloom (HAB) of cyanobacteria this summer that is smaller than in 2019 but larger than the relatively moderate bloom in 2018.

We expect this year's bloom to have a severity index of 4.5, but this could range between 4 and 5.5. The severity index is based on the quantity (biomass) of the bloom over a sustained period. The largest blooms, 2011 and 2015, were 10 and 10.5, respectively. The 2019 bloom had a severity of 7.3. The size of a bloom does not necessarily indicate how toxic it is. The toxins in a large bloom may not be as concentrated as in a smaller bloom. However, the typical cyanobacteria, *Microcystis*, forms scums that will pose a toxin risk, and people and pets should not swim in areas with scum.



The bloom varies in size and location through the summer and early fall. Winds are a key factor in determining where the bloom will go. Many areas of the lake will be safe to enjoy through the summer. NOAA's daily satellite imagery for Lake Erie ([go.usa.gov/xfC8q](http://go.usa.gov/xfC8q)) and the twice-weekly bulletins will give current information on the bloom.

Nutrient load data for the forecast came from Heidelberg University, with additional input from NOAA's Ohio River Forecast Center. The forecast models are run by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the University of Michigan, North Carolina State University, Stanford University, and the Carnegie Institution for Science. For additional information for safe recreation, check Ohio EPA's site on harmful algal blooms: [epa.ohio.gov/HAB-Algae](http://epa.ohio.gov/HAB-Algae).

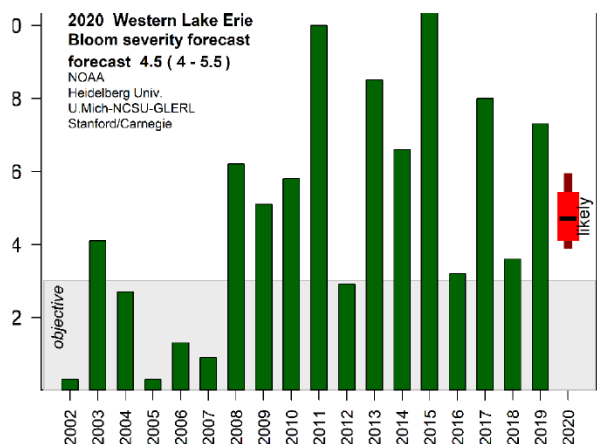


Figure 1. Bloom forecast compared to previous years. The wide bar is the likely range of the combination of models that were applied, the narrow bar indicates possible range. A severity below 3 is the goal of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA).

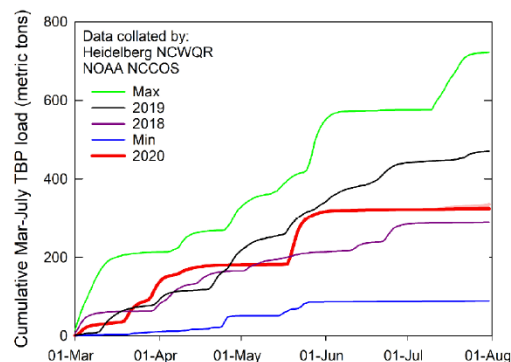


Figure 2. Cumulative total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) load for the Maumee River at Waterville. Each line denotes a different year. 2020 is shown in red, with the forecast range to August 1 shown in pink. The TBP load over the remainder of July will have a negligible impact on the bloom size.

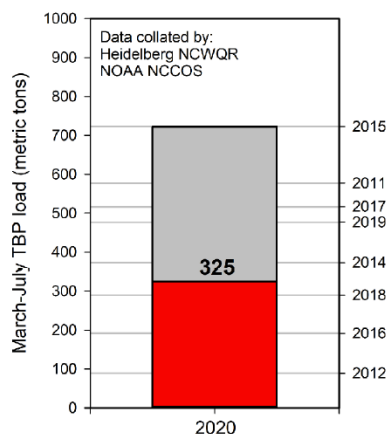


Figure 3. Total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) load accumulated from the Maumee River near Waterville to date. The right axis denotes the TBP load from selected previous years.

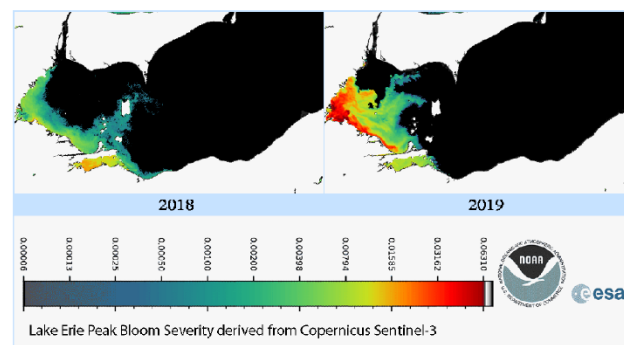


Figure 4. The maximum bloom intensity in 2018 (Aug 21-31) and 2019 (Aug 1-10) collected with Copernicus Sentinel-3 data. The blooms in these years should bracket the 2020 bloom. Red areas (seen in the western basin in 2019) were most prone to scum. Blue indicate low concentrations, which would have been barely noticeable by eye. Sandusky Bay had different cyanobacteria (*Planktothrix*), which does not produce scum.

For more information visit: <http://www.ncwqr.org/> or <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/habs/forecasting/>

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

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

## 9.3) Planning and Regulations

### 9.3.1) Planning

From June 1st to the end of July 31st, there have been 66 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 112 phone calls that have been dealt with in that time frame, and multiple emails.

Planning Numbers	2018 totals	2019 Totals	Jan totals	Feb-Mar totals	Apr-May totals	June-July totals	2020 Totals
Chatham-Kent	185	150	19	52	31	45	147
Elgin	94	76	6	11	7	4	28
Essex	58	16	3	8	3	10	24
Middlesex	55	48	0	4	8	7	19
<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>218</b>

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

Staff involved in plan review activities are working from home, with COVID 19 Standard Operating Procedures in place as well as work from home plans. Several conference call / zoom meetings have taken place with proponents / consultants / agencies / member municipalities around planning matters. Several site inspections have taken place for this department, with social distancing practices strictly adhered to. Planning services continue to be used / accessed by the public, our member municipalities and other agencies via telephone and email communication at this time.

### 9.3.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

#### Permitting

Since the last board update on 25 June 2020 and up to 12 July 2020, staff had received an additional 62 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Of the 249 permit applications received in the first ~6.5 months of 2020, all but 24 had been approved by staff. 22 of the 24 applications were still in the queue to be reviewed by staff as of 12 July 2020. Two of the 24 applications require Hearings in front of the Executive Committee as the application proposals are not compliant with board-approved policies. The Hearings were scheduled to be conducted on 06 August 2020.

Below are some Section 28 Permitting statistics up to 12 July 2020:

- Four habitat/stewardship projects in a LTVCA regulated area have been approved with their application fees waived;



- 113 property elevation surveys were completed for permit and official plan flood proofing requirements;
- 77% of all applications were within Chatham-Kent;
- 69% of the applications were for private property owners for projects such as construction or modification of structures, shoreline protection repairs, and/or bank alterations;
- 27% of the applications were for municipal projects (drainage or infrastructure);
- 4% of the applications were for utility projects (e.g. gas lines, fibre optics, etc.); and,
- Total of permit application fees = \$64,850.00 (approximately \$5,150 above this time last year).

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

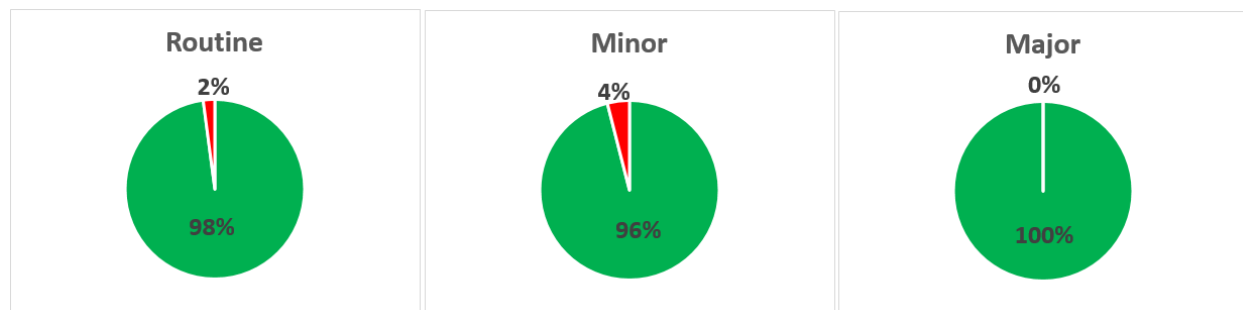
In 2019, Conservation Ontario developed “Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review” with input from stakeholders such as the Ontario Home Builders’ Association. Conservation Ontario Council endorsed the document and its delivery standards on 24 June 2019.

One of the suggestions in the document was 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 the complexity of the application. Major applications require significant review and staff time, minor applications do not require as much staff time, and routine applications are generally quick and fairly standard (such as municipal drain maintenance). The document offers the following ‘best practices’ timelines for making a decision on a complete application:

<b>Application Category</b>	<b>Turnaround Time Goal</b>
<b>Routine</b>	14 Days
<b>Minor</b>	21 Days
<b>Major</b>	28 Days

If a decision has not been rendered by the LTVCA within the appropriate timeframe, the applicant may contact the Manager, Watershed and Information Services (Jason Wintermute) 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 table below indicates that 98% of routine and 96% of minor permit applications met their applicable turnaround time goal. The one major permit application that has been processed by staff was completed within the applicable turnaround time goal. Two major applications exist in the queue – the applications that require hearings (over 178 days since the complete application has been received for one of the applications).



<b>Complexity of Application</b>	<b># of Days to Review Permit Applications (up to July 12, 2020)</b>				
	<b>0 - 14 Days</b>	<b>15 - 21 Days</b>	<b>21 - 28 Days</b>	<b>29 - 90 Days</b>	<b>&gt; 90 Days</b>

<b>Routine</b>	47	1	0	0	0
<b>Minor</b>	161	8	3	4	0
<b>Major</b>	1	0	0	0	0

At the time of the writing of this report, the current average processing time for a permit is approximately 7 to 14 days from the date of a complete application being received.

#### ***Property Inquiries & Permit Pre-Consultation***

Up to 31 May 2020, 956 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Technician. As of the time of the writing of this report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is approximately 5 to 10 business days.

#### **Section 28 Enforcement:**

In the first 6.5 months of 2020, 23 new complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. 19 of the 23 issues are violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06 with one of those issues being resolved through a Violation Clearance Permit.

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

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

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

Staff Report

#### O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications (Up to July 12, 2020)

B.D. 08/20/20

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
079-2020	11916 Rose Beach Line	Rondeau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 02, 2020
080-2020	20956 Cemetery Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 16, 2020
081-2020	20964 Cemetery Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 16, 2020
082-2020	20958 Cemetery Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 16, 2020
083-2020	20948 Cemetery Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 16, 2020
176-2020	Midwood Acres Subdivision	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 01, 2020
184-2020	550 to 570 Park Avenue West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 18, 2020
187-2020	6236 Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 05, 2020
188-2020	50 Siemens Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 05, 2020
189-2020	32027 Walnut Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Construction	Granted: June 01, 2020
190-2020	4336 Tecumseh Line	Jeannettes Creek	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 05, 2020
191-2020	49 Detroit Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 05, 2020
193-2020	41 Tuscan Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 05, 2020
194-2020	665 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 12, 2020
195-2020	20615 Gray Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: June 12, 2020
196-2020	19138 Blue Water Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: June 12, 2020
197-2020	23250 Kent Bridge Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 25, 2020
198-2020	Gellner Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: June 11, 2020
199-2020	Lighthouse Cove Access Channel in Lake St. Clair	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: June 12, 2020
200-2020	780 Ross Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 12, 2020
201-2020	4845 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 12, 2020
202-2020	19015 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: June 12, 2020
203-2020	145 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 18, 2020
204-2020	158 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 18, 2020
205-2020	166 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 18, 2020
206-2020	170 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 18, 2020
207-2020	20826 Cemetery Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 18, 2020
208-2020	Dale Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 17, 2020
209-2020	511 Indian Creek Road West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 17, 2020
210-2020	6855 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 25, 2020
211-2020	530 Bayview Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 26, 2020
212-2020	New Scotland Line over Ross Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 18, 2020
213-2020	11 South Hampton Way	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 26, 2020
214-2020	288 Indian Creek Road East	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 26, 2020
215-2020	Annett Drain	Mosa	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 24, 2020
216-2020	Cook Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: June 25, 2020
217-2020	Alexander Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 25, 2020
218-2020	Hartford Mead Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 25, 2020
220-2020	19075 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: June 29, 2020
221-2020	27 Adelaide Street South	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 29, 2020
222-2020	Rushton Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: June 29, 2020
223-2020	1115 Kerr Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: June 30, 2020
224-2020	19122 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: June 30, 2020
225-2020	Winger Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: June 30, 2020

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
226-2020	Gordon Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: July 2, 2020
229-2020	Wiley Drain and Moore Branch	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: July 03, 2020
234-2020	20951 Pier Road - Lot 11	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: July 09, 2020

## 9.4) Conservation Area Lands

### June 1 to June 30 Visitation / Camping Stats

*Note – no school programs or special events*

**Longwoods Road Conservation Area** – 734 people (1,683 in 2019) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 367 vehicles (165 in 2019)

**E.M. Warwick Conservation Area** – 130 people (370 in 2019)

**Big Bend Conservation Area** – 130 people (235 in 2019)

**C.M. Wilson Conservation Area** – 270 people (2,268 in 2019) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 135 vehicles (103 in 2019)

**Sharon Creek Conservation Area** – 354 Day Use Transactions on MacKay Pay (132 transactions in 2019)

**2020 Parking Passes** – 235 sold since November 2019; 113 sold same period November 2018 - 2019

### Conservation Lands

**Big Bend and C.M. Wilson CA's** – both campgrounds are now open fully to the public, we have seen an increase in Seasonal camping at both properties with over 40 sites at CM Wilson and 5 sites booked by seasonal campers at Big Bend. Measures still remain in place to social distance campers, as well as special COVID signage on trails and washrooms. Big Bend campground was at full capacity on the July long weekend, with staff receiving many positive compliments around the new signage and newly painted buildings. CM Wilson staff are in the midst of hosting special events for campers which include but are not limited to: arts and crafts, guided hikes, ice cream cart and many other activities to come.

**Sharon Creek CA** – this property continues to be a favourite spot for day users. Our McKay Pay Phone App is functioning well and generating revenue at this Conservation Area. Users have the option to pay \$5/day or opt to purchase the annual Conservation Area Parking Permit for \$60. New signage is in the works and will be installed shortly.

**Lighthouse Cove CA** – The high water levels at this property have forced our long time tenant, The Canadian Coast Guard, to relocate. Fortunately they have held part of the lease agreement, in hopes to return to the house and facility in the near future. In the meantime staff have sandbagged the perimeter of the house, and are operating 4 pumps to try and mitigate some of the water damage. Approximately one third of the property is currently under water.

**EM Warwick CA** – through a grant from the Elgin St Thomas foundation for Art in Public Spaces, staff have installed a sculpture created by local artist David Morris. The theme was Lake Erie, and as such the artist has constructed a brushed aluminum piece entitled “The Olluc”, a mythical creature seen by early settlers. New educational signage,

upgraded pavilion and a great viewing area will create a draw to this already popular conservation area. A ribbon cutting will be held August 13, 2020. Followed by a media release.

**Diversion Channel** – this 3.5km long channel diverts flood waters from the McGregor Creek watershed around the city of Chatham. As such, we must maintain proper flow, and large woody trees like cottonwood, willow and walnut have to be removed. Most of the chainsaw work has been completed and are now onto the herbicide application stage. Staff are identifying these problem areas, and are in the midst of getting quotes from contractors. Work will start in the next month, and will then be followed up with the seeding of tall grass.

**Big O CA** – newly donated parcel adjacent to the existing parking area is now official. Plans are being developed to restore the area and expand the parking lot. Income tax receipt issued to donor: Mr. Pat Lavin.

### ***Ontario Job Creation Program- OJCP***

Staff applied to this program in May, and have since been approved to hire 3 Conservation Area Rangers that will be based out of our Western District Workshop (CM Wilson). These positions will be for 42 weeks and will assist the Conservation Area Lands Dept. with new trail development, new structures (docks and facilities) and general maintenance at the 17 properties in the western watershed. Along with these paid positions is funding of approximately \$14,000 to assist with supervision.

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

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

## **9.5) Conservation Services**

### **9.5.1) Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration Programs**

#### ***Partnerships***

**Carolinian Canada Coalition** has implemented a pilot investment project known as *Deshkan Ziiibi Impact Bond* which LTVCA is a part of through stewardship restoration. They have offered \$85,000 for 2020 to invest in land stewardship with a focus on First Nation projects watershed wide.

**Ridge Landfill Community Trust** is a community driven committee that donated \$1M in funding to LTVCA last year. Staff held a kick off media event at landowner *Violett Shadd's* of North Buxton to see her newly excavated wetland project. These funds are to be used in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent in the South Kent Ward. Currently there have been 16 reforestation projects, 6 wetland, and 6 prairie projects have been allocated funds from the Ridge Landfill Community Trust. In turn these project funds have been matched by Ducks Unlimited Canada, Canada Nature Fund, Habitat Stewardship Program, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and Carolinian Canada Coalition.

**Waste Connections Canada** is the corporate body which runs the landfill. Due to some recent expansions, environmental assessments have determined certain mitigation measures have to be implemented. LTVCA is in the perfect position to implement these mitigation measures. These projects require significant funding and are above and beyond the Community Trust \$1M funds.



***Eastern Meadowlark- a grassland bird that is at risk in Ontario***

Two projects have been determined so far and include:

1. 5.7 hectares of reforestation (completed spring 2020)
2. 16.1 hectares of Eastern Meadow Lark habitat (to be completed 2021)

These projects are 100% covered by Waste Connections Canada

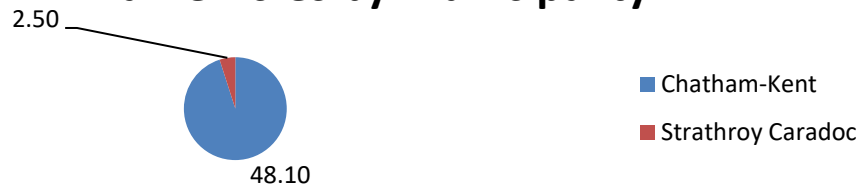
***Current Partner Contributions:***

Organization	Amount	Purpose
Carolinian Canada Coalition	\$ 85,000.00	Watershed wide stewardship (Reforestation, Wetland, Prairie) with a First Nations Priority (\$500/ac)
Ridge Landfill Community Trust	\$ 93,600.00	South Kent Projects (50%)
Waste Connections	\$ 80,500.00	Meadowlark Mitigation project (100%)
Waste Connections	\$ 30,000.00	Landfill expansion Forest Mitigation project (100%)
Wildlife Habitat Canada	\$ 35,000.00	Wetland Restoration (match)
Wildlife Habitat Canada	\$ 10,000.00	Phragmites Control
Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$ 15,000.00	Wetland Restoration (25% up to \$5K/project)
	<b>\$ 349,100.00</b>	

## Wetland Acres by Municipality



## Prairie Acres by Municipality



**Forest Ontario 50 million Tree program** tree survival assessments are ongoing for projects that are in years 1, 2, and 5. We are typically averaging an 85% survival rate. This year the dry spell in July put excessive pressure on our plantations but surprisingly the trees are doing well.

**Dutton Dunwich Landfill Prairie** was a project spurred on by Board Member Mike Hentz. We met with Mike on the landfill site, discussed options. Since municipal staff was able to prep the site, LTVCA just had to seed it with native tall grass. The maintenance schedule will begin this fall with a possible mow and again next June to suppress weed seeds and promote warm season native species.

**Seasonal Co-Op employees** Anastasia Heuvelmans and Elise Pinsonneault are winding down their placements with LTVCA and will finish on August 15, 2020. They have reported that they've had a great experience and we were happy to have them. They were able to experience work in several departments including Stewardship, Conservation Areas, Water Quality, and Communications. Their wages were 100% funded by Eco Canada and Tree Canada's Project Learning (not listed in the above partner contributions table).

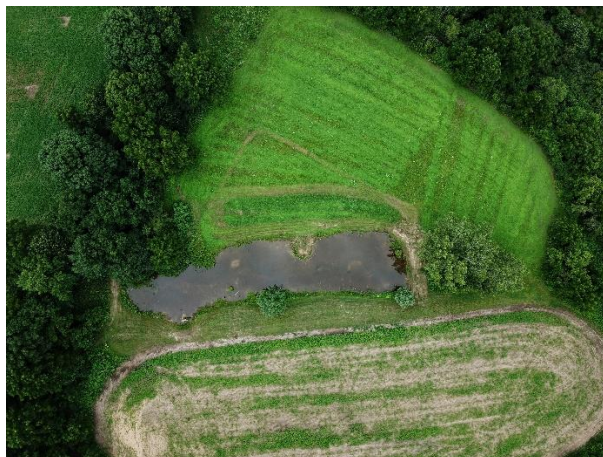
### ***ALUS Middlesex***

**ALUS Middlesex** has successfully completed 42 new acres of projects this year across Middlesex County and fulfilled the targets set out by funders and ALUS Canada.



ALUS Middlesex completed projects this summer with Ausable Bayfield, St. Clair, Lower Thames and Upper Thames Conservation. By working with local partners, ALUS Middlesex has been able to leverage \$77,000 in matching funding for projects.

Using a \$20,000 grant applied to last fall from Grasslands Ontario, a 25-acre site was able to be restored into native tall grass prairie earlier this summer.



#### **Eastern District**

LTVCA was fortunate to receive the Wildlife Habitat Canada Wetland Grant again this year, the grant was uncertain during the pandemic but has been recently been approved from the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. This grant will provide the Lower Thames Conservation Authority with \$45,000 in funds for wetland creation and further aid in restoration efforts across the watershed.

Implementation of projects has been in full swing this summer, with new projects including 6 wetlands and 3 prairie projects on schedule to be completed by this fall. Lower Thames works with local organizations to help complete these projects and has managed to raise over \$35,000 in funds to complete these projects.

Financial assistance in projects include:

- ALUS Elgin
- ALUS Middlesex
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Ducks Unlimited
- Elgin Stewardship Council
- Elgin Clean Water Program
- Wildlife Habitat Canada

#### **9.5.2) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives**

##### ***CAP and ECCC: McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program***

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



All BMP incentive funding for the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program has been allocated to 38 farm business to implement the following BMPs during the 2020 growing season:

- 2800 acres of cover crops
- 4800 acres of grid and zone soil sampling
- 3100 acres of alternative phosphorus application practices
- 6 erosion control projects

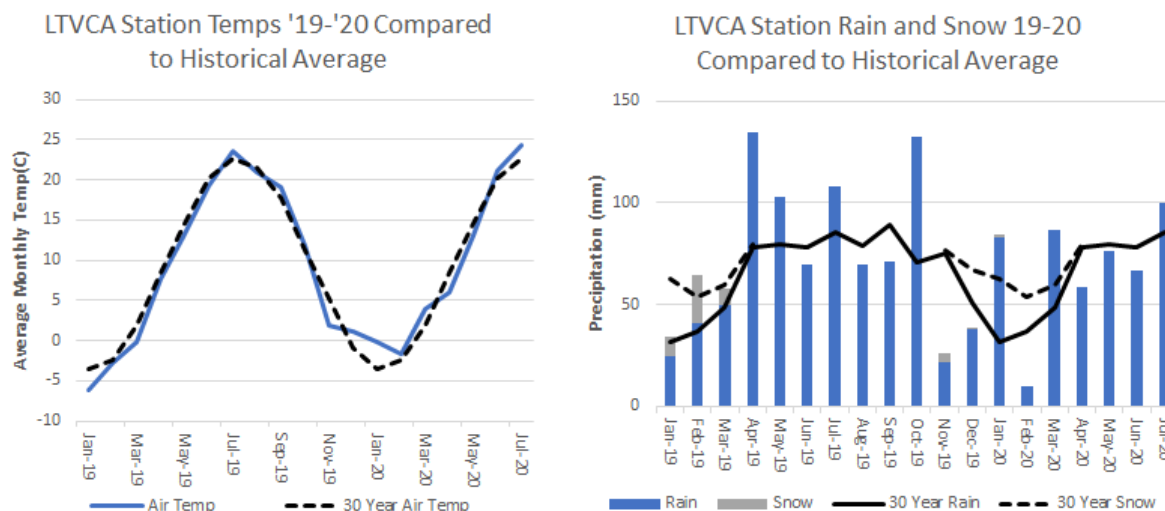
With Wheat harvest now concluded in Chatham-Kent, many farmers have begun conducting soil sampling within the subwatersheds. Furthermore, some farmers have begun the process of planting cover crops during the period of June-July. Once the BMP projects are implemented, the LTVCA will work with the farmers who have received funding approval to process program funding claims. The LTVCA has begun this work with some farmers, however it is anticipated that most of the claims will be processed after the conclusion of the growing season during October-December of 2020.



The BMP incentive program is solely funded by an Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Great Lakes Protection Initiative grants and contributions agreement.

### **McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Subwatershed Monitoring & Modeling**

LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality samples and flow data at our monitoring stations in the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek subwatershed during the period of June-July of 2020. During the month of June, relatively low levels of precipitation were observed in each subwatershed. However, during July high levels of precipitation were observed in the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek subwatershed relative to the 30 year monthly average.



This increased precipitation caused some minor Summer flow events to occur throughout the subwatersheds. LTVCA staff collected and submitted 68 water quality samples to Caduceon Environmental Laboratories for nutrient concentration analysis from the stations within McGregor and Jeannettes Creek. The collected water quality data will be used to calculate nutrient loads. Furthermore, the University of Guelph Water Resource Engineers will use the collected data to configure the subwatershed Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) models. The SWAT models will be used to estimate the phosphorus reductions that result from the implementation agricultural BMPs.

Sampling, monitoring, and modeling activities are funded in part by the following agencies and organizations:

1. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC): Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI)
2. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) – Canadian Agricultural Partnership
3. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) – Canadian Agricultural Partnership
4. Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) – Administer the ONFARM project

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



The ONFARM Program was launched during December of 2019, with the goal of to support the agricultural sector to strengthen environmental stewardship, enhance water quality, and improve soil health. The project is being administered by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. 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.

All ONFARM water quality and soil sampling activities have occurred as planned during 2020 within the Jeannettes Creek study subwatershed. Some education and outreach aspects of the project have been slightly delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. More information will be provided about the project in future board reports. The program provides a significant amount of dollars to the LTVCA to support water quality and soil health monitoring operations in Jeannettes Creek.

### ***Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative (TRPRC)***



During the months of June and July, some maintenance occurred at the TRPRC phosphorus filter tank pilot project site. With support of the farm cooperator and OMAFRA staff, The LTVCA removed the biochar Phosphorus Adsorption Material (PSM) from the tanks after it had been tested for 12 months. The tanks were cleaned after the material was removed, weighed, and sampled. A report will be released in the future by the LTVCA and OMAFRA that summarizes the water quality and quantity results from the monitoring that occurred at the site from July of 2019 to June of 2020. The report will evaluate the efficacy of the biochar PSM at capturing phosphorus from the adjacent field's subsurface tile drainage system.

The TRPRC and LTVCA will now test a new PSM in the tanks at the site. Dr. Bulent Mutus and David Ure, a PhD Candidate, from the University of Windsor will be installing a new carboxymethyl cellulose-iron hydrogel bead PSM. The new technology will be installed during September of 2020 and will be monitored by the LTVCA to determine its efficacy at reducing agriculturally sourced phosphorus loads until July of 2021.



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

Requests have been made to and accepted by Fisheries and Oceans to defer some Habitat Stewardship (HSP) and Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic SAR (CNFASAR) funds and/or deliverables from the 2019/20 fiscal to 2020/21 for COVID-19-impacted activities (e.g. delays to wetland restoration projects and an Indigenous workshop on Agricultural Best Management Practices).

A Salt Vulnerable Areas report has been completed for Southwest Middlesex with HSP funds. This report identifies the significant aquatic resources in the area as well as the current level of chloride loading from lower and upper tier municipalities to freshwater environments and the SAR that live there. It also identifies reductions that could be realized through reductions in road salt application.

A subwatershed prioritization exercise is being finalized, based on the aquatic SAR threat assessment work conducted over the last two years, to identify where restoration activities will make the most difference to aquatic SAR throughout the LTVCA.

A Canada Summer Jobs Aquatic Biologist will commence work on August 10 for eight weeks to assist with a late summer/early fall field season. Four LTVCA staff will attend a full day eDNA Training session on August 12 in Guelph. Fieldwork to sample waters in the LTVCA's watersheds to detect the presence of fish and mussel SAR in priority subwatersheds will commence shortly thereafter. Staff will identify mussel shells found at sampling sites and will conduct seine hauls for fish at some sites once permits are in place to help verify which species are present. Drone surveys of riparian areas will be conducted later in the season to identify locations in need of habitat restoration to benefit aquatic SAR.

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

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

## 9.6) Communications, Outreach and Education

### 9.6.1) Website Updates

The LTVCA website is updated to inform the public about the procedures we are using to respond to inquiries and requests to purchase items from the Conservation Authority as offices are closed to the public.

### 9.6.2) Social Media

Since the June 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors' Meeting, daily social media posts (**Facebook** - 2,201 followers for an increase of 116); **Twitter** – 1,099 followers for an increase of 11; **Instagram** – 538 followers for an increase of 24) have been issued. They focus on following environmental issues across our watershed, and how we are social distancing/adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic and keeping public informed about the LTVCA's ongoing programs and services.

We've also tried being a little more creative with introducing video clips of staff speaking about features at Longwood's and Ska-Nah-Doht – providing short virtual tours of the site. These have been encouraging visitors to come out and explore the conservation area on their own.

We have reinforced the importance of all the COVID-19 protocols including social distancing, removal of garbage and pet waste, and have encouraged visitors to support our conservation areas through payment of parking fees or purchase of 2020 parking passes.

*Some of the main topics/activities covered on our social media platforms since June 25th have included:*

- **encourage people to use our conservation areas safely during the COVID-19 pandemic** - physical distancing, reminders
- **daily departmental updates with information about: Water Management, Conservation Areas, Outreach and Education, Stewardship, and Phosphorus Monitoring.** Topics have included pollinators; 'Camp-In-A-Bag'; aquatic species at risk; 'meet the staff'; surface water monitoring; Canada Day recognition; phosphorus monitoring in Jeannettes/McGregor Creeks; virtual water safety jam sessions; new infrastructure and upgrades in conservation areas; artifact collection donations to Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum; local artists pavilion paintings; showcasing conservation areas – Sharon Creek, Delaware, Big Bend; awareness of eroding assets – Section 28; wetland projects with Delaware Nation at Moraviantown; cancellation of Children's Water Festival; photo-ops in conservation areas
- **watershed conditions statements and local media coverage of flood events**
- **articles of public interest from local media regarding ecosystems and the environment, and local environmental issues** (erosion, flooding, emergency preparedness, wetlands, grasslands, pollinators...), beautiful nature photos of our watershed, contribute to citizen Science
- **watershed community based environmental initiatives** including reposting municipal posts; sharing London Canoe Club posts (for Sharon Creek Conservation Area); August Tree Giveaway campaign
- **updates on LTVCA employment grants, projects and co-ops:** visit to Violet Shadd's wetland - first project of the \$1 million Ridge Landfill Community Trust initiative, donations of land, Canada Summer Jobs
- **cool facts about nature** – local plants, birds, trees, animals and thing families can do with their children to engage with nature in their own back yards or in a conservation area during the pandemic – helping people to reconnect with nature
- **supporting Conservation Ontario's social media posts re: Healthy Hikes campaigns** – 'Inclusion in Nature'; 'Stay on Trails'
- **status of camping in our conservation areas** – officially open July 17 for overnights at C.M. Wilson and Big Bend Conservation Areas, several more campground posts for Wilson and Big Bend
- **sharing of neighbouring Conservation Authorities' information**
- **sharing of municipal public health information** – CK Public Health, London Middlesex Health, St. Thomas Elgin Health, Windsor Essex

### 9.6.3) Health and Safety

Staff have also been ensuring that our LTVCA team is compliant with our health and safety protocols during this Pandemic from interviewing, to hiring to training. Training packages are being reviewed and COVID-19 standard operating procedures are developed for everything we are doing. Health and Safety training is extremely important for current and newly hired staff and we are ensuring that all staff receive the proper training and are safe. Ensuring staff have adequate Personal Protection Equipment for COVID-19 is top of mind.

### 9.6.4) Outreach and Education Employment Programs

Staff work mostly from home for now, however, some are working under COVID-19 standard operating procedures in conservation areas. Outreach and Education Staff have been busy overseeing a 42 week job creation program grant for several workers to assist with outdoor maintenance of our eastern conservation areas and artifact collection archiving. This is through an Ontario Job Creation Program (OJCP). As well a successful application to the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) Program hired 2 youth for 8 weeks each. Their jobs were to develop and implement a virtual "Camp-in-a-Bag" for curb-side pick-up at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

The summer youth funded through CSJ have completed Camp-in-a-Bag. To date, we have sold 227 Camp Bags for a total of \$4,954.00. Gatehouse window sales of extra clay and Ainee Bracelets have added another \$54.00. That takes the revenue just over \$5,000.00 for the project. The last pick up day is Thursday, August 6. We have 53 bags left to sell. We expected that August sales would be slower as is the case most summers. This did not change with the Pandemic.

We are going to offer a “pick-up” deal to those already in camp to save the tax if they want to purchase bags that they missed. Hopefully that will sell a few more. Camp Counselors, Rachael De Zwart and Sophia Castriogiavanni did an amazing job on the camp including the content of the bags as well as social media posts to support the campers throughout the summer. Despite some challenges with the technology, this project has been a success. We are considering revamping the bags to offer them to schools in September.

Assistant Curator, LeeAnne Doxtator hired on OJCP has been busy cataloguing the donated artifacts. These items will be used for the artifact cases to be offered to area schools. We have 7 local schools including 4 local First Nations plus as LeeAnne pointed out, 3 area schools that support a number of First Nations students living off reserve. LeeAnne will be working on programming to compliment the cases. Contacting the schools will be the next challenge as the province makes decisions on what the school year will look like this September during a Pandemic.

### **9.6.5) What Else Have We Been Up To?**

Education staff have also been assisting Lands staff throughout this timeframe with Conservation Area safety and property checks as well as grass-cutting. Advice for Camp-in-a-Bag themes and video production was also undertaken. Southern Flying Squirrel nest boxes were checked with the co-op students and we found two that had been used by our Species At Risk squirrels to raise a brood. Bluebird boxes were also checked and maintained and 5 fledglings have joined the Longwoods wildlife population with an upcoming brood of 4 soon to take off.

Education programming for adult groups is and has been looked into and seems a viable alternative if schools remain unable to participate in field trips due to COVID. Team Building and Workplace Community Challenge programming could all be offered using Longwoods Road C.A. facilities while maintaining social distancing guidelines. The unique attraction of the Village and natural surroundings offer a great opportunity for local organizations to see the value of a cultural community that has lasted thousands of years while valuing and depending on the local environment. Programming is currently being developed to address adult needs and expectations so stay posted!

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

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation held their June 23rd meeting via ZOOM conferencing. The next Foundation Directors’ meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

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

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



## Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held remotely via phone at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 2, 2020. The following members were in attendance: D. Fairbairn, B. Bruinink, G. Bogart, R. Doane, S. Emons, M. Hentz, and M. Peacock. Also in attendance: K. Mattila, B. Carey, and A. Vriends.

#### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

##### 1. B. Bruinink - G. Bogart

Moved that the minutes of the May 7, 2020 meeting be approved.

There being no objections motion

CARRIED

#### 2. Business for Approval

No Business for Approval

#### 3. Business for Information

##### 3.1) Working Through the Pandemic

Staff continue to work from home for the majority of time. The Canada Summer Jobs students are at Longwoods 2 or 3 days a week working in the Muncey, largest of the 3 Heritage Log Cabins.

Conservation Area remains busy, many visitors touring the village and walking the nature trails.

##### 3.2) OJCP and Summer Youth Employment

Through the Ontario Job Creation Partnership (OJCP) an Assistant Curator was hired for 42 weeks. The remaining 2 maintenance positions remain unfilled at this time.

Canada Summer Jobs has provided funding for two positions for 8 weeks each with a flexible schedule due to the Pandemic. The youth will work for 13 weeks to complete the Camp-in-a-Bag program.

##### 3.3) Community Museum Operation Grant (CMOG) 2020\2021

Application was submitted June 23, ahead of the June 30 deadline. Only those who were successful last year were asked to apply. There is no testing requirement this year due to the Pandemic. Financial reports will be submitted at a later date. The money is to be deposited in a timely manner to support museums at this time.

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

Currently there is no money to purchase a sign. Staff will be looking for donors to sponsor the purchase. Wording for the sign will be finalized.

#### 2. R. Doane - S. Emons

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.4 be received for information.
---

There being no objections motion

CARRIED

#### 4. Other Business

Ska-Nah-Doht was on CTV news for the Camp-in-a-Bag initiative during the weekend report at 6:00 p.m. Ska-Nah-Doht will be featured on Rogers Canada Day Special. We are part of the Strathroy-Caradoc segment. And on Canada Day, the Village was the background for a drum group during the opening of the Canada Day show on CTV.

#### 5. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 6 p.m.

#### 6. Adjournment

#### 3. S. Emons – B. Bruinink

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.
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There being no objections motion

CARRIED

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D. Fairbairn  
Chair



## 9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – July 2, 2020

### LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



#### HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTION

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020

During Covid-19 Health and Safety Inspections are being completed by one Committee Member only.

Part AREA 3 site inspection completed by Agnes Vriends - Employee Representative.

Inspection of Longwoods Road. See completed Workplace Inspection Record for details.

OBSERVATION - Due to a Gypsy Moth Caterpillar infestation, trees throughout the Conservation Area have no leaves. Trees along the roadway and paths should be inspected to confirm **that a tree is still thriving.**

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

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee  
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Longwoods Road CA

Date/Time of Inspection: July 2, 2020 – 8 a.m.

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Gatehouse	- none noted					
Workshop	- none noted					
Workshop out buildings- exteriors only	- warning signs for flammable liquid storage - existing sign(s) faded / lettering has peeled off	- review what is required and replace or install new if necessary				
Pavilion	- none noted					
Washroom building	- none noted					
<del>Muncey</del> and Oneida cabins	- several beams showing increased rot/decay	- reassess				
All three cabins	- gable ends have new squirrel holes	- patch				
Resource Centre	- housekeeping	- continue cleaning/purging				
Stairs beside Resource Centre back door	- rail tie is rotted at top of stairs	- replace				
Village	- none noted					

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee  
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Longwoods Road CA Date/Time of Inspection: July 2, 2020 – 8 a.m.

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Carey Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>stairway</b> is loosening from the top beams that moor it</li> <li>- top stair of bottom section starting to break</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maintenance is aware of both items and has blocked off staircase with caution tape until it can be assessed</li> </ul>				
Other Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- none noted</li> </ul>					

## 9.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes Aug 6, 2020

### WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on August 6th 2020 at Two Creeks

**Attendance:** Rick & Forest Taves, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Gerry Soulliere, Mike Diesbourg, Lorna Bell, Pauline Sample, Roger Dundas, Ginette Pinsonneault, Mariette Preyde, Ron Haley.

**Minutes:** Not available

**Agenda:** Moved by Rick Taves, sec. by Phil Humphries agenda be accepted as outlined. (Carried)

**Memorial Groves:** It was agreed that we would have a plaque made to honour Howard Walker for his contributions to Two Creeks. It would say " MASTER BUILDER OF TWO CREEKS" and be installed on the south shed. Plaques need to be made for some trees in the Groves.

**Prop. & Equip. :** The trails will need to be cut soon. Gerry Soulliere is going to Bowman's in Wheatley to buy a gas powered hedge trimmer which should make trimming the trails a lot easier. Moved by Phil, sec. by Mike Diesbourg. (Carried) 3 Norway Maples need to be removed near the parking lot. A new line needs to be installed under the parking lot road for a new security camera.

**Concerts:** Gerry has been approached about having music later this year but we would need to get to at least Stage 4. We decided it was not worth the risk to have any music this year.

**Financial Report:** The Account Balance as of May 25 2020 was \$39,544.24. The Account balance as of July 31 2020 was \$39,950.33. Moved by Lorna Bell, sec. by Roger Dundas.(Carried).

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** We will need to contact the new owners of Dundas Portajohns about delivery for next year if we will be having concerts. We will also need them to pump out the permanent washrooms in the future. It was decided not to allow a shipping container on our property for other groups equipment but possibly a small addition onto one of our existing sheds.

**Adjournment:** Roger moved for adjournment at 7:45pm

Phil Humphries, secretary.

## **9.10) Proposed amendment to grass cutting by-law with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

At the July 20, 2020 Chatham-Kent Council meeting, a staff report was presented to council outlining the current challenges that the existing grass cutting bylaw poses with respect to tall grass prairie environmental naturalization activities on private lands. A number of policy options were then discussed which could be introduced to eliminate the potential for the grass cutting bylaw to be used to reverse stewardship activities that the municipality has identified as desirable.

This proposed amendment will/could involve LTVCA staff providing guidance on maintenance and mowing of these natural areas, and should provide more room to allow these types of projects to be created and remain on the landscape.

Notices of Motion –

Cl. Thompson - “Chatham-Kent’s Long Grass and Weed Bylaw (Bylaw # 56-2020) was introduced to implement a minimum outdoor landscaping maintenance standard that prohibits overgrown grasses and weeds on private properties. Similar to long grass bylaws in other communities, Chatham-Kent’s Bylaw maintains community aesthetics and prevents landscape abandonment. The bylaw applies to all grass and weed species listed in the Government of Ontario’s Publication 505 ‘Ontario Weeds’ and requires that they be kept under 20cm in height through regular mowing, or be subject to enforcement.

However, it is also a community strategic objective to enhance natural areas in the Municipality and there is a conflict that exists with the long grass bylaw in meeting these objectives. Specifically, there are challenges that the current grass cutting bylaw poses with respect to legitimate tall grass prairie environmental naturalization activities on private lands and despite the positive intent of the bylaw, the way it is currently written can be used to reverse these environmental stewardship activities that the Municipality has otherwise identified as desirable.

Therefore, be it resolved that Administration prepare a report with recommendations on how the bylaw could be altered so that it maintains its initial policy intent while also recognizing the community benefits realized through appropriate naturalization activities.”

# 10. Correspondence

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## 10.1) Chatham Daily News – Chatham-Kent Children’s Safety Village Vandalism

### Vandals forcing safety village to bolster security

The Chatham-Kent Children’s Safety Village is raising money to beef up security after a rash of vandalism in recent months.



Mark Malone

[More from Mark Malone](#)

Published on: August 10, 2020 | Last Updated: August 10, 2020 6:44 PM EDT



The back window on this school bus was smashed recently at the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village near Blenheim, Ont. Photo taken Monday, Aug. 10, 2020. Mark Malone/Chatham Daily News/Postmedia Network

The Chatham-Kent Children’s Safety Village is raising money to beef up security after a rash of vandalism in recent months.

The latest incident was Sunday when a dog walker scared off a man who’d broken a window on a storage shed at 5:30 p.m.

It was the second time in a week someone smashed a window on the building that houses 60 bicycles, an ATV simulator and farm-related equipment. Doors were also kicked in on other buildings.

“There’s been quite a bit of damage out there over the last few months,” board president Gary Patterson said. “It’s frustrating.”

The safety village began a GoFundMe campaign Monday to pay for repairs and more security.

“We’ve installed some cameras, but we do need some better lighting and some different security measures,” Patterson said.

He’d like to install wire mesh over the windows as well.

The safety village is in the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area near Blenheim. Children visit for classroom and hands-on lessons on how to be safe on roads, at home, near water and around farm equipment.

Camps and other programs have been cancelled for months because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the village remains open for cyclists and pedestrians.

“We’re one of the only safety villages that do that,” Patterson said. “Other safety villages, they fence it off, and when it’s closed, it’s closed. Our theory is, this is a safe place for kids to learn how to ride their bikes and a lot of families do that. ... We have some elderly people come out and walk because they love the park, the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area.”

The vandalism began soon after the pandemic shut down everything. It started with a broken window. A few weeks later, windows were smashed and a door broken on a school bus.

The GoFundMe target is \$2000 – \$1,500 to repair the windows and bus, and \$500 for lighting.

“It is our hope that the community will come together and this heartless, senseless vandalism and thefts will stop,” executive director Barb Lovell wrote on Facebook. “We are a charity, we serve children.”



Broken windows are boarded up after recent acts of vandalism at the Chatham-Kent Children’s Safety Village near Blenheim, Ont. Photo taken Monday, Aug. 10, 2020. Mark Malone/Chatham Daily News/Postmedia Network



## 10.2) Ribbon Cutting Unveils “The Oluuc” at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area



Media Release  
For Immediate Release  
August 13, 2020

### **“Elgin - St. Thomas Community Foundation & Artist David Morris Create Unique Lake Erie Art Sculpture” Ribbon Cutting Unveils “The Oluuc” at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area**



West Elgin – The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) received a \$1000 grant through the McGregor Morris Fund with the Elgin - St. Thomas Foundation - Art in Public Spaces in 2019. This was followed by a “call to local artists” to create a sculpture with a Lake Erie theme, especially designed for the E.M. Warwick Conservation Area, near Eagle.

Local Artist David Morris was selected to create a piece called “The Oluuc”. David's concept was to design a mythical creature that swam in the waters of the Great Lake. Standing back and taking a look at this brushed aluminum piece with the blue waters of the lake in the background, one envisions what it may have been like for the Indigenous peoples and settlers of this area, as they gazed out into the misty waters of Lake Erie. LTVCA staff have created a beautiful destination for this sculpture in the day use area; with educational signage, an improved pavilion and a nature trail leading the way to “The Oluuc”.

Today, a ribbon cutting took place on site with the Elgin – St. Thomas Community Foundation Executive Director - Terry Carroll, Artist - David Morris, LTVCA CAO - Mark Peacock and LTVCA Manager of Conservation Lands and Services - Randall Van Wagner. Also in attendance was LTVCA Director and Deputy Mayor Mike Hentz from the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich.

*“I would like to personally thank the Elgin - St. Thomas Community Foundation for their financial assistance towards this great project, and of course I thank Artist David Morris for his unique vision and contribution to Art in Public Spaces in Elgin County,” states Randall Van Wagner, LTVCA Manager of Conservation Lands and Services.*

*Terry Carroll - Executive Director of Elgin – St. Thomas Community Foundation says “Through the McGregor Morris Fund, Elgin – St. Thomas Community Foundation is very pleased to be working with Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority on this art installation for the E. M. Warwick Conservation Area. It's especially fitting that David Morris, advisor to the Fund, created the sculpture being publicly unveiled today.”*

There is no charge to visit “The Oluuc”. E.M. Warwick Conservation Area overlooks the north shore of Lake Erie, east of the town of Eagle in the Municipality of West Elgin, just a half hour's drive from London. The conservation area has four cabins and a main hall. It is an ideal setting for corporate retreats and family reunions with a full kitchen, washrooms, showers and sleeping bunks for over 40 people. Please email [emwarwick@ltvca.ca](mailto:emwarwick@ltvca.ca) for reservation inquiries. Visit our website [www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca) for further information. To view more of David Morris art check out [www.davidmorrissculptor.com](http://www.davidmorrissculptor.com).

For further information contact:  
Randall VanWagner – LTVCA Manager, Conservation Lands and Services  
Email: [Randall.VanWagner@ltvca.ca](mailto:Randall.VanWagner@ltvca.ca)  
Cell: 519-359-4559

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*Left to Right: Mark Peacock – CAO LTVCA, David Morris – Artist, Randall VanWagner – Manager Conservation Lands and Services LTVCA, Mike Hertz - LTVCA Director and Deputy Mayor from the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich, Terry Carroll – Executive Director Elgin – St. Thomas Community Foundation.*

*Caption: Group ribbon cutting unveils "The Oluuc" art installation at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area near Eagle.*



*Left to Right: Vance Stark – Eastern District Supervisor LTVCA, Mike Hertz - LTVCA Director and Deputy Mayor from the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich, Randall VanWagner – Manager Conservation Lands and Services LTVCA, David Morris – Artist.*

*Caption: Posts of differing heights and flowing grasses situated around "The Oluuc" art installation symbolic of waves and water on the lake.*






*Caption: Beautiful picnic shelter overlooks "The Oluuc" and Lake Erie. Complete with seating and picnic tables.*

## "The Oluuc"

By David Morris | 2020

Imagine a time, 300 years ago, early European settlers came to Southern Ontario to farm and live off the land. Little was known about the area, and any knowledge they did acquire came from Indigenous people that were living in the region. Deep extensive forests and vast wetlands and prairies, surrounded the great lakes region. This was a wild place with Black Bear, Cougars and Wolves residing at the top of the food chain. Out of this era came many legends and folklore, including the story of a Lake Erie creature, that settlers described seeing in the distance.




Lake Erie has produced some big fish like the now extirpated Paddlefish, or even a Lake Sturgeon can get to about 6-8ft in length. But this was something more; like the Scottish Lochness monster. Standing back from the sculpture, with Lake Erie in the horizon, one can imagine what those early settlers would see.


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**Other art by David Morris can be viewed at**  
[www.davidmorrissculptor.com](http://www.davidmorrissculptor.com)


**"Mask 1a"**  
Aluminum



**"Prairie Burn"**  
on Aluminum



**"Michigan Lily"**  
on Aluminum





## About The Artist

### David Morris



"I started as a post Group of Seven landscape artist. That type of painting and getting out into nature can be fun. But at this point I am interested in sculpture. I would like people to think of me as a sculptor, as a person who does new things—a curious person. I like change, learning the visual and tactile qualities of sculpting. It is a way of learning about society. It goes places

where I didn't expect to go—there's humour in it. But then, I may also get back to doing some large black and white graphics. I like to have a lot of balls in the air—you can grab onto them or leave them up in the air for a while. That way there are always surprises."

### Education

1966-67 Central Technical School, Toronto, Ontario - Special Art course  
1977 University of Western, London, Ontario - Ontario Teachers' Cert./Fine Art  
1979 Fanshawe College, London, Ontario - Welder/Fitter Certificate  
1987 University of Western Ontario, London, B.A. (Dean's Honour Roll)  
1968-70 Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, Ontario - Artist-in-Residence  
1970-74 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin, St. Thomas, Ontario - Executive Director  
1979-80 Ontario Psychiatric Hospital, St. Thomas, Ontario - Art Teacher  
1980-84 Fanshawe College, London - Professor in the Manufacturing Science Division

### Exhibitions

1968 Chatham Public Library, Chatham, Ontario  
1969 Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, Ontario  
1970 Thames Art Gallery  
1974 Parallels Six Gallery - Parkville, St. Thomas, Ontario  
1975 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin, St. Thomas, Ontario David Morris  
1993 St. Thomas Public Library, St. Thomas  
1996 Thames Art Gallery: Fusion, Time And Interval  
1997 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin: David Morris: Recent Work  
2000 The Beaneery, St. Thomas, Ontario Thielson Galleries London, Ontario  
2001 Woodstock Art Gallery, Woodstock, Ontario  
2002 Gallery Lambton, Sarnia  
2004 St Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas

### Group Exhibitions

1968 Willstead Art Gallery, Windsor, Ontario  
1969 20 - 20 Gallery, London, Ontario  
1973 Gallery of St. Thomas, Ontario  
1974 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin  
1975 London Public Art Museum, London  
1976 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin/Olympics  
1987 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin  
1992 London Regional Art Gallery, London  
1992 46th Annual Western Ontario Show  
1992 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin: WOAX  
1992 Tony Huddle, St. Thomas-Elgin: WOAX  
1992 Gibson Gallery, London, Ontario  
1994 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin  
1995 London Regional Art Gallery: 47th Annual Western Ontario Show  
1995 Gibson Gallery, London: Miniature Show  
1996 Art Gallery of St. Thomas-Elgin  
1996 Thielson Galleries, London/Gallery Artists  
1997 Thielson Galleries  
1998 Thielson Galleries

## Lake Erie

Lake Erie is one of the five Great Lakes. The Great Lakes contain about 20% of the freshwater in the world. Lake Erie is the 11th largest lake in the world (by surface area), and the fourth largest of the Great Lakes in surface area and the smallest by volume.

Ninety-five percent of Lake Erie's total inflow of water comes via the Detroit River water from all the "upper lakes" — Superior, Michigan and Huron — the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair and numerous tributaries. The rest comes from precipitation and water that drains off the land directly into the lake. Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes and is especially vulnerable to fluctuating water levels.



Wind setups (wind pushing the water from one end of the lake toward the other), usually from west to east, have produced large short-term differences in water levels at the eastern and western ends of the lake, the record being more than 16 feet (4.88 meters). About one-third of the total population of the Great Lakes basin resides within the Lake Erie watershed. Approximately 12 million people live in the watershed, with 17 metropolitan areas having more than 50,000 residents. The lake provides drinking water for about 11 million of these inhabitants.

**Statistics:**

- Length: 241 miles / 388 km
- Breadth: 57 miles / 92 km
- Average Depth: 62 ft / 19 m
- Maximum Depth: 201 ft / 61 m
- Volume: 110 cu miles / 458 cubic km
- Water Flow: 100 cu miles / 25,700 cu km
- Catchment Area: 100 sq miles / 26,000 sq km
- Shoreline: 3,000 miles (circumference) 871 miles / 1,402 km
- Elevation: 569 ft / 173 m
- Outlet: Niagara River and Welland Canal
- Retention/Replacement Time: 2.5 years

### Watersheds of Lake Erie



This project was possible  
through the McGregor-Morris  
Fund "Art in Public Places"



## 11. Other Business

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## 12. Adjournment

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