



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

**June 17, 2021
2:00 p.m.**

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
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1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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 Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation, and Caldwell Nation. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

5.1) Board of Directors Remote Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2021



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT 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, April 15, 2021. The following directors were in attendance: T. Thompson, L. McKinlay, A. Finn, M. Hentz, P. Tiessen, C. Cowell, S. Emons, R. Leatham, H. Aerts. S. Hipple and J. Wright were unable to attend the meeting.

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

M. Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

Chair, Trevor Thompson called the meeting to order and introduced the new member from Middlesex Centre, Councillor Hugh Aerts.

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2021-01 C. Cowell – L. McKinlay

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2021-2 S. Emons – M. Hentz

Moved that the Board of Directors remote meeting minutes of February 25, 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

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7. Presentations

7.1) Boundary Adjustment between UTRCA and LTVCA

M. Peacock provided a Power Point Presentation outlining the current and proposed boundary line and the process required to change it.

BD-2021-3 P. Tiessen – S. Emons

Moved that the Board of Directors receive presentation 7.1).

CARRIED

8. New Business

8.1) Conservation Ontario Governance Accountability and Transparency

Board of Directors had received a written report and M. Peacock provided a power point presentation.

BD-2021-4 L. McKinlay – R. Leatham

WHEREAS the provincial government has passed legislative amendments related to the governance of Conservation Authorities;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities remain committed to fulfilling accountable and transparent governance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority endorses the three key actions developed by the Conservation Ontario Steering Committee to update CA Administrative By-laws, to report proactively on priorities, and to promote/demonstrate results;

AND THAT staff be directed to work with Conservation Ontario to implement these actions and to identify additional improvements and best management practices.

CARRIED

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2021

BD-2021-5 M. Hentz – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 28, 2021.

CARRIED

9.2) Mill Stream Trail Boardwalk Construction and Contract Increased Cost

BD-2021-6 C. Cowell – R. Leatham

Moved that the LTVCA Board of Directors directs staff to provide additional funding in the amount of \$11,125.00 for completion of the Mill Stream Trail Boardwalk Construction to Millworks Custom Carpentry and Stone.

CARRIED

10. New Business

- 10.1) CAO's Report
- 10.2) Water Management
- 10.3) Planning and Regulations
- 10.4) Conservation Area Lands
- 10.5) Conservation Services
- 10.6) Communications, Outreach and Education
- 10.7) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2021
- 10.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2021

BD-2021-7 S. Emons – C. Cowell

Moved that the New Business items 10.1) to 10.8) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

- 11.1) Statement on Bill 257 regarding legislation to exempt MZO's from planning laws and policy | Ontario Nature
- 11.2) Sydenham Field Naturalists Re: Removal of Forest Habitat in Chatham-Kent
- 11.3) City of London Re: Climate Action Plan
- 11.4) Letter to Minister Yurek regarding compliance of Section 14 of the CA Act

BD-2021-8 L. McKinlay – T. Thompson

Moved that Correspondence items 11.1) to 11.4) be received for information.

CARRIED

12. In Camera Session

BD-2021-9 M. Hentz – L. McKinlay

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

CARRIED

BD-2021-10 R. Leatham – S. Emons

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

CARRIED

13. Other Business

None noted.

14. Adjournment

BD-2021-11 M. Hentz – P. Tiessen

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Trevor Thompson
Chair

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



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT 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 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 2, 2021. The following directors were in attendance: T. Thompson, L. McKinlay, M. Hentz, P. Tiessen, C. Cowell, S. Emons, H. Aerts, S. Hipple and J. Wright. A. Finn and R. Leatham were unable to attend the meeting.

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

M. Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

Chair, Trevor Thompson called the meeting to order.

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2021-12 C. Cowell – P. Tiessen

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Presentation

5.1) Phase 1 REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE for the Conservation Authorities Act

M. Peacock provided a Power Point Presentation, reviewing the Discussion Paper and providing comments made by staff and other Conservation Authorities received to date.

Directors Comments

Agree with comments of presentation and further comments/questions include:

Is there enough funding to provide for a replacement for the resource technician who will be working on the transition to the new levy system?

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How apprised are municipal councils of these changes?

MOU with each municipality, each with different interests, how do you save non-mandatory programs?

MOU for maintenance in Conservation Areas – will this increase levy or be maintained in current funding levels?

2022 municipal election- new faces on council will create significant work for LTVCA and for councils.

Who pays for Community Advisory board?

Section 29 compliance – concern having LTVCA staff have to enforce new powers.

Recreation and Education has to become mandatory, to be sustained over the years otherwise with each new council it has to be fought for. Can't have on and off funding.

When / how is CAO to come to municipalities without being bogged down?

Municipalities with more than one CA – would both/all CA's be at a municipal council meeting at the same time? LTVCA trying to coordinate with neighbouring CA's to have same MOU for those municipalities

Advisory Committees – concern over structure – who and what interests would be served?

Governance – council members only for CA representative – text on member responsibilities mudding the waters – vote for/with CA or for/with their municipality

Board representation – you are supporting the board you are sitting on which does not always support your municipality.

BD-2021-13 P. Tiessen – S. Emons

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the presentation entitled "Phase 1 REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE for the Conservation Authorities Act" and endorses the comments discussed,
and further, the Board of Directors directs staff to prepare a letter with these comments to be provided to Conservation Ontario and the Province of Ontario.

CARRIED

6. New Business

6.1) Phase 1 REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE for the Conservation Authorities Act

BD-2021-14 M. Hentz – S. Hipple

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

CARRIED

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12. Adjournment

BD-2021-15 C. Cowell - J. Wright

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Trevor Thompson
Chair

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

Bonnie Fox, CAE
Manager, Policy and Planning
Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 3W3

Re: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority comments on Phase 1 REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE for the Conservation Authorities Act

Dear Bonnie:

During a special Board of Directors' meeting of June 2, 2021 the board passed the following resolution:

BD-2021-13 P. Tiessen – S. Emons

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the presentation entitled "Phase 1 REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE for the Conservation Authorities Act" and endorses the comments discussed, and further, the Board of Directors directs staff to prepare a letter with these comments to be provided to Conservation Ontario and the Province of Ontario.

CARRIED

The comments referred to in the resolution are noted below:

Issues with Definition of Mandatory and Non-Mandatory Programs

1. A number of requirements under the mandatory programs as detailed are not within current budget scope of LTVCA. Will province fund these? Some examples include:
 - a. Asset Management of Flood Control Structures – over last 3 years the LTVCA has been working to address this issue as current general levy will not cover all costs
 - b. Flood Plain mapping for all streams
 - c. Conservation Area Management Plans
2. Currently Mandatory Programs do not include: Stewardship
 - a. Stewardship is required as LTVCA is the main partner of this work in this watershed
 - b. At LTVCA stewardship pays its own way but we want municipalities to have funds committed to this work
 - c. Significant international commitments (COA, LEAP etc.) are based on LTVCA's stewardship work. Is this work not as important as the work addressing commitments under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act?

- d. Even though stewardship has significant impacts in reducing hazards described in the Natural Hazards program, the stewardship program should be considered as a separate mandatory program
 - e. The province should consider putting this into a regulation to be developed in the one year following the transition period.
3. Mandatory Programs currently do not include:
 - i. Recreation in Conservation Areas
 - ii. Education Programming

Additionally this potentially includes assets associated with these programs – significant assets in some Conservation Areas. This will impact small Conservation Authorities that do not make money on their Conservation Areas in recreation and education programming. This won't affect the big programs e.g. Black Creek Pioneer Village but will affect LTVCA's Longwoods Rd CA programs. This will create big city urban haves and rural have nots.

At a minimum, the assets associated with the Recreational and Education Programs of a Conservation Authority should be included in the Mandatory Conservation Areas Program. Without this, there is potential that significant assets could be allowed to deteriorate.

4. The issue of Climate Change has not been adequately addressed in the Discussion Paper when dealing with mandatory programs.

Issues with Transition Period

The LTVCA supports the change in the Transition Period to January 1, 2023, however a number of factors will challenge both municipalities and conservation authorities in completing the significant number of tasks associated with the upcoming regulations. These are:

1. Municipalities are dealing with COVID-19 fallout and reopening challenges and may not be interested in developing Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with CAs
2. Timing is still short due to the fact that the municipal elections will be held in 2022. All work probably needs to be done by June 30, 2022 due to councils entering lame duck periods prior to election.
3. The cost of doing this work will be significant – review of programs and finances, and preparation of plan – Is the provincial government going to fund this extra work?

Issues with Watershed-Based Resources Management Strategy

It is felt that the Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy could and should act as an LTVCA Strategic Plan update. The strategy would provide an organizing framework for categorizing the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services for consultation with municipalities and for the establishment of a single comprehensive MOU/agreement. The board is concerned about doing this work after the MOUs are signed as the MOUs should be

based on a strategic plan that encompasses the period of the MOUs. With this in mind the following comments are provided:

1. The way the discussion paper is written, these strategies are only to include mandatory programs. It appears that they can include non-mandatory programs but need to make a connection between them and mandatory programs – e.g. stewardship work will support dampening of flood events. We believe all proposed programs (mandatory and non-mandatory) should be included to make this a complete strategy for the LTVCA.
2. Cost of completing this strategy is significant and provincial funding is requested.
3. LTVCA needs to complete this strategy but should do it in one year so it can be part of MOU discussion. This will be very difficult both due to timing and capacity.
4. Additionally, public consultation will be an important part of this strategy and this needs time.

Issues / Questions with Community Advisory Boards

Conservation Authorities used to have numerous advisory boards but past committees were disbanded due to issues with accountability and cost. A number of questions arise:

1. What is their decision making power as they aren't part of levy discussions? Giving residents a powerless role will frustrate well intentioned people.
2. Will we have enough people interested?
3. Will Advisory Boards be slanted by those who are interested?
4. Who is paying the cost of running this Board? Will the province provide funding?
5. Will First Nations be interested in being a member of this Advisory Board? Our experience with the First Nations within the area we call the lower Thames valley is that the Nations consider themselves equal in co-management, within a shared waters approach to the Thames River. The Nations may not be interested in being a member of an advisory board. Have first nations been approached with this idea?

Section 29 – Creation of Minister's Regulation

We believe there is a commitment to maintain the substance of existing s.29 Conservation Areas Regulations but this will be consolidated into one Minister's Regulation. The current regulations have enforcement/compliance issues; therefore tools are needed. The LTVCA is encouraging review of the s.29 enforcement/compliance program area in the updating of the Regulation.

However, we request flexibility to ensure large Conservation Authority resources aren't expected from small CAs in the management of CA owned lands.

Minimum Levy

The LTVCA requests that administration and overhead for all programs, both mandatory and non-mandatory be included in the minimum levy. This will ensure maintenance of all CA owned assets.

Overall Concerns

The LTVCA expresses three major overall concerns with the discussion paper contents. These are:

1. **COSTS:** Who is footing the bill for all the extra work for both municipalities and Conservation Authorities for what is being proposed. The costs are not just one time as future MOUs will have to be renegotiated.
2. **CAPACITY:** Given existing resources, it is questionable whether CAs have the capacity to achieve all the proposed extra tasks associated with this discussion paper.
3. **TIMING:** Given the pandemic and election in 2022, timing will be a huge issue when completing the tasks associated with this discussion paper.

Concern Regarding Consultation Process:

It is noted that prior to Bill 229, the province had extensive consultation. The LTVCA attended this consultation and felt that as first presented, Bill 229 did not represent that consultation. Changes to Bill 229 only occurred due to huge public outcry. The LTVCA is concerned that consultation for upcoming regulations may be the same. The LTVCA encourages Conservation Ontario to develop a plan B should regulations produced not consider ideas presented in this discussion paper.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Thank-you for this opportunity to provide input into this discussion paper.

Sincerely,



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

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1) Potential for IT Services from Municipality of Chatham-Kent

During the last Board of Directors meeting while discussing IT issues, it was suggested that the LTVCA approach Chatham-Kent (it's largest member municipality) to discuss the possibility of obtaining IT support. Many lower tier municipalities receive IT services from their upper tier municipalities and there is also precedent where some Conservation Authorities receive IT services from local municipalities as well.

Some preliminary discussions were held with Catherine Fitzgerald, Director, Information Technology & Transformation, Municipality of Chatham-Kent. During those discussions it was acknowledged that shared IT services was also a direction being promoted by the province through its recent Municipal Modernization Program. Chatham-Kent does provide IT services for associated organizations such as the Public Utilities Commission, CK Public Health and formerly Entegrus. The Entegrus example is probably the most appropriate as Entegrus was a separate corporation with interests outside the political boundary of the municipality. As such there is a precedent for CK providing IT services to remote locations outside of Chatham-Kent. There would be several options for obtaining services from Chatham-Kent with a Service Level Agreement being the most likely model. Under such a model there is typically an annual fee which covers a baseline of services (which typically includes hardware life-cycle replacement costs) and then an hourly rate for services beyond that. Under this model, undertaking special projects would also be an option, however, they would go into the larger pool of CK projects for prioritization. This was about as far as discussion could proceed at this time. It was recognized that the LTVCA needed to put more thought towards what IT services it needed. It was suggested that a "Needs Assessment" or "Service Review" should be undertaken. Once the review is undertaken, it should be clearer in what direction the LTVCA should proceed. Such options could include a Shared Services Agreement with another organization, a single-sourced Service Level Agreement, or perhaps an open RFP for services.

7. Presentations

7.1) Retiring Staff

Bonnie Carey will provide a power point presentation for retiring staff – Karen Mattila.

7.2) Enforcement within the LTVCA and the Potential Impacts of Section 29 Revisions

Adam Gibb will provide a power point presentation on Enforcement within the LTVCA and the Potential Impact of Section 29 Revisions.

8. New Business

8.1) LTVCA Development of an Ice Guideline and Policy for Dock Construction in the Thames River

Date: June 17, 2021
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: LTVCA Development of an Ice Guideline and Policy for Dock Construction in the Thames River
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

1.0 Background

It is well known that ice problems occur regularly in the lower Thames River. There is a long history of ice jams on the River; and in parallel, efforts have been made to investigate ice problems and potential mitigative solutions for more than four decades.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is often asked to make decisions regarding whether or not docks are permitted on the Thames River. The LTVCA has found that even robust docks can suffer damage from flooding and ice push/jam events. A detailed technically sound approach is lacking for the LTVCA to make informed decisions regarding a given proposed dock.

In the past the LTVCA did not allow permanent docks in the river due to concerns with ice. A number of residents have recently applied for permanent docks and the LTVCA has been working with them to develop a reasonable approach to their applications. It has been deemed too expensive for every applicant to undertake an ice analysis for every proposed dock. Staff with the support of Mr. George Comfort, P. Eng., a senior ice engineer, have been working over the last few months to develop approaches to this issue and undertake technical investigations to allow a resolution.

2.0 Project Objective

The overall objective of the work being undertaken here is to produce an Ice Guideline and Policy that would assist the LTVCA in decision-making with respect to permitting for docks in the Thames River regarding ice issues.

3.0 Technical / Policy Approach

The work will be comprised of the following tasks:

- (a) Develop format and scope for the Ice Guideline
- (b) Ice Engineer to investigate the ice environment
- (c) Ice Engineer to complete analysis of ice actions on the dock, including ice forces
- (d) Ice Engineer to complete evaluation of the effect of the dock on the ice regime of the River
- (e) Ice Engineer to complete ice guideline and technical report
- (f) Current proposed docks to be reviewed based on guideline and technical report
- (g) LTVCA staff to prepare draft Ice / Dock Policy
- (h) Staff to review draft policy with Municipality of Chatham-Kent and Municipality of Lakeshore
- (h) LTVCA staff to complete public consultation on policy
- (i) LTVCA staff to bring guideline, technical report and policy to board for review and approval

4. Timing

It is intended to bring the draft guideline and policy to the next board meeting to be held on August 19, 2021. Staff are working to complete the review of the proposed docks prior to that time so that if the docks are permissible, landowners can begin construction in 2021.

5. Financial Implications

Funds to cover the cost for the ice engineering support will be taken from excess revenues from Section 28 Regulations fees. The project will have no impact on the 2021 budget.

Recommendation:

The LTVCA Development of an Ice Guideline and Policy for Dock Construction in the Thames River 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. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2021

Date: June 17, 2021
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2021**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

Background:

Review the 2021 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 4 months ended April 30, 2021.

REVENUE	2021 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET APR PROJECTED		2021 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	1,128,824	376,275	*	519,966	143,691
GENERAL LEVY	1,477,082	1,477,082	^	1,477,082	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	508,490	169,497	*	215,942	46,445
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	0	0
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
CASH FUNDING	3,319,396	2,227,854		2,417,990	190,136
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	3,319,396	2,227,854		2,417,990	190,136

*-based on a 4 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, the timing of grants invoiced and increased or new Water Quality, education, OMAF and ALUS 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:

- Planning & Regulations and Conservation Areas are above budget. Planning & Regulations has seen a huge increase in demand over expected and Conservation Areas have collected a large portion of their seasonal camping revenue. This is partially offset by Education, Conservation Services and Chatham-Kent Greening being below budget.

Foundation Grants and Revenues budget are zero because of the uncertainty of funds available.

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

EXPENSES	2021 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2021 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	194,441	64,814	63,790	(1,024)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	3	4	1
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	200,602	66,867	43,893	(22,974)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	126,250	42,083	27,862	(14,221)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	279,822	93,274	88,243	(5,031)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	93,441	31,147	46,370	15,223
SOURCE PROTECTION	32,481	10,827	18,029	7,202
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	927,046	309,015	288,191	(20,824)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	631,238	210,413	180,723	(29,690)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	188,262	62,754	52,218	(10,536)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	84,669	28,223	25,425	(2,798)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	114,813	38,271	41,063	2,792
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	387,744	129,248	118,706	(10,542)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	99,995	33,332	27,851	(5,481)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	446,513	148,838	110,977	(37,861)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	599,579	199,860	289,508	89,648
SPECIES AT RISK	227,281	75,760	68,626	(7,134)
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,373,368	457,790	496,962	39,172
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,319,396	1,106,466	1,084,582	(21,884)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures are comparable to budget.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due several large annual invoices received later in the year and no flood event on the Thames River this year.

Technical Studies are below budget due to the time of the Technical Studies staff being used by other programs.

Planning and Regulations are below budget due some larger expenses incurred later in the year.

Watershed Monitoring is above budget due to the increase of a Water Quality grant and the increased expenses. Source Protection is above budget due to the timing of when employees work on this program. Income is also above budget at this point in the year.

Source Protection is above budget due to the timing of when employees work on this program. Income is also above budget at this point in the year.

Conservation Areas

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

Community Relations and Education

Community Relations and Conservation Education are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs. SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village is slightly above budget due to new grants to purchase equipment.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

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

Phosphorous Reduction is above budget due to increased OMAF COA and ALUS grants and the increased expenses. Species at Risk is below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Species at Risk is below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2021 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2021 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	3,319,396	2,227,854	2,417,990	190,136
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,319,396	1,106,466	1,084,582	(21,884)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,121,388	1,333,408	212,020
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,121,388	1,333,408	212,020

At April 30, 2021, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable due to increased grant revenue and less expenditures compared to budget due to the seasonal nature of a large amount of the Conservation Authorities expenses.

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.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended April 30, 2021.

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

9.2) Parking Enforcement at LTVCA High Use Properties

Issues at hand:

- Revenue loss due to entry without a day pass or season pass.
- Inability to enforce parking offences, through Section 29 of CA Regulations.

Goal:

- To increase daily vehicle permit and season pass sales.
- Raise awareness of rules and regulations within a Conservation Area.
- Increase revenue to help fund projects throughout all departments of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

Method: Work with Municipality of Chatham-Kent

- Most viable option for CM Wilson, with potential for partnerships with other municipalities.
- Test run will be done at CM Wilson before applying to other CAs, such as, Longwoods, and Sharon Creek.
- In contact with CK By- Law Officer *Mark Ceppi* to create CM Wilson specific parking tickets.
- Funds from these tickets will go to Chatham-Kent.
- Convenient to work with municipality, as it solves issues of where to file tickets once issued, and execute “*Notice of impending conviction*” for those who are late on payments.
- Parking tickets will be able to be affixed to windshields of vehicles.
- Officers to use their discretion when it comes to each offence. They can be used as an educational tool and if a visitor produces a day pass, the ticket can become void and disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- List of Offences to be included: *Fail to Display Permit, Block Roadway, Park Motor Vehicle Other than Where Permitted, Park ATV where not permitted.*

Conclusion:

- Another tool in our toolbox to educate public about paying to enter Cas.
- Potential to generate small amounts of revenue to put back into CAs or other programs.
- A stop-gap between legislation amendments.
- A great conversation starter with the public.
- Extra layer of security for our paying visitors.

Recommendation:

That the LTVCA staff work with our municipal by- law officers to implement parking ticket offences, that include “Notice of Impending Conviction” to enforce the use of our payment systems at CM Wilson, Longwoods Road and Sharon Creek Conservation Areas.

10. Business for Information

10.1) C.A.O.'s Report

Date: June 17, 2021
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

Background

The Pandemic Management Committee continues to meet three times a week to review questions and provide direction to staff as they deal with Covid-19. All activities being undertaken away from LTVCA facilities are being done under staff developed and approved Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to ensure compliance with all local, provincial and federal requirements. All activities undertaken at LTVCA facilities are done in compliance with the LTVCA COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Stay-At-Home Order Lifted Across Ontario

As of June 2nd, 2021, the stay-at-home order, which has been in place for the Province of Ontario since April 7, 2021, **has expired**. The restrictions which required Ontarians to remain at home except for the purposes set out in the order (such as exercise, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, or accessing health care services), are no longer in effect.

At this time, Ontario is set to move into Step One of the provincial "Roadmap to Reopen" on Friday, June 11th, 2021 (see details below). Until this time, all other existing measures which were in place during the stay-at-home order period (e.g., restrictions on gatherings, businesses, services and activities) will remain in effect. LTVCA followed all restrictions in operating its facilities. This includes:

- Limitations on gatherings, with a maximum of five (5) people for outdoor gatherings
- Limitations on religious services (including weddings and funeral services), with a maximum of 10 people indoors or outdoors
- Outdoor recreational amenities (e.g., golf courses, tennis courts, sports fields, and more) permitted to be open with restrictions
- Overnight camping not permitted, except for individuals in need of housing or with full seasonal contracts. Seasonal contract campers are required to stay a minimum of 14 days so site acts as second residence or are allowed to visit 24hrs to undertake emergency maintenance activities. All recreational and shared facilities are closed. Seasonal campers have access to washrooms and showers.

For guidance on when certain businesses, services and activities can reopen, please see the "[Roadmap to reopen at a glance](#)" provided by the provincial government.

Province Entering Phase 1 of the Provincial Reopening Plan

On June 7th, 2021, the provincial government announced that **the Province of Ontario will move into Step One of its "[Roadmap to Reopen](#)" at 12:01 a.m., on Friday June 11th, 2021.** Step One of the provincial reopening plan focuses on

the resumption of more outdoor activities with smaller crowds, and will also permit more limited indoor settings to open, all with public health restrictions in place.

A selection of the permitted activities and services in Stage One which may be applicable to LTVCA Conservation Areas is offered below. Please see the [regulation](#) for full details:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 10 people
- Outdoor religious services, including weddings and funeral services, capped at the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres
- Indoor religious services, including weddings and funeral services permitted at up to 15 per cent capacity of the particular room
- Outdoor fitness classes, outdoor groups in personal training and outdoor individual/team sport training to be permitted with up to 10 people, among other restrictions
- Day camps for children permitted to operate in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines for COVID-19 produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Overnight camping at campgrounds and campsites, including Ontario Parks, and short-term rentals permitted
- Outdoor attractions such as zoos, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens permitted to be open with capacity and other restrictions.

Conservation Authorities Act – Discussion Paper on Regulations

Background

On December 8, 2020, legislative amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, as part of Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act, 2020, received Royal Assent. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is moving forward with the first phase of regulatory proposals detailing the requirements for programs and services and how they should be implemented. To initiate the new regulations development, a discussion paper has been posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario. A copy of the discussion paper was attached to the email sent to directors on May 21 2021.

The discussion paper was provided to the LTVCA by the minister's office late in the day on Thursday May 13th. The CAO continues to meet with all 36 CAOs and Conservation Ontario as we develop responses to the paper.

The Discussion Paper was provided to the Board of Directors by email on May 21, 2021. A special meeting of the Board was held on June 2, 2021 to review the elements of the Discussion Paper and to develop board consensus on comments to be provided to the province. A detailed power point presentation was provided, reviewing the Discussion Paper and providing comments made by staff and other Conservation Authorities received to date. As a result of the meeting staff prepared a letter to Conservation Ontario (due the day after the special meeting) summarizing the comments that were made and reviewed at the special meeting. A copy of this letter is on page 10, section 5.2) of this agenda.

Request: The Board is asked to review the letter and provide comments to the CAO, should they feel anything was missed or misrepresented. With this information from the Board, a final response to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks will be formulated and sent by the due date of June 27, 2021.

Finally, in response to recommendations from the LTVCA and other CA Boards and municipalities regarding the need to have all local CAs consistent with shared municipalities, the CAOs of Southwestern Ontario Conservation Authorities met on June 14, 2021 to develop consistent approaches for shared municipalities.

Timeline:

The Timeline for these comments are as follows:

- Special LTVCA Board Meeting June 2, 2021 to prepare comments
- Draft Conservation Ontario (CO) submission was sent to all Conservation Authorities on May 20th
- Comments to Conservation Ontario from LTVCA Board sent June 3rd
- Conservation Ontario Council Report Due June 4th
- First meeting of Southwestern Ontario CA CAOs June 14, 2021
- June 21st Conservation Ontario Council Meeting – Endorsement
- Board members to provide revisions/additions to LTVCA comments as found in June 4, 2021 letter to Conservation Ontario to CAO by June 25, 2021
- Submit final LTVCA to Province before June 27th deadline

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

10.2) Water Management

10.2.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging

There have been only 4 flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors. Two of these were standing message issued for Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie shoreline flooding and intended to cover the months of May and June. The 2 other messages were Flood Watches related to shoreline flooding. One of these messages was for a strong southwest wind event that raised concerns for Erie Shore Drive on May 1st. The other was for a potential gale force northeast wind event that raised concerns for north and east facing shoreline communities (such as Erieau, Rose Beach Line, Shrewsbury and Wheatley) on May 28th. Significant damages were not reported during these events.

Report on Lake Conditions

Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of June were around 174.69 m (I.G.L.D.). This is down about 45 cm from last year's peak daily average water level record set at the end of May. The all-time record high monthly average for June was 175.14 m, set in 2019. Water levels at the beginning of June were still 36 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. Water level forecasts suggest that water level have essentially peaked for the year and will either remain flat or begin their seasonal decline in June, dropping perhaps 2 to 3 cm by the beginning of July.

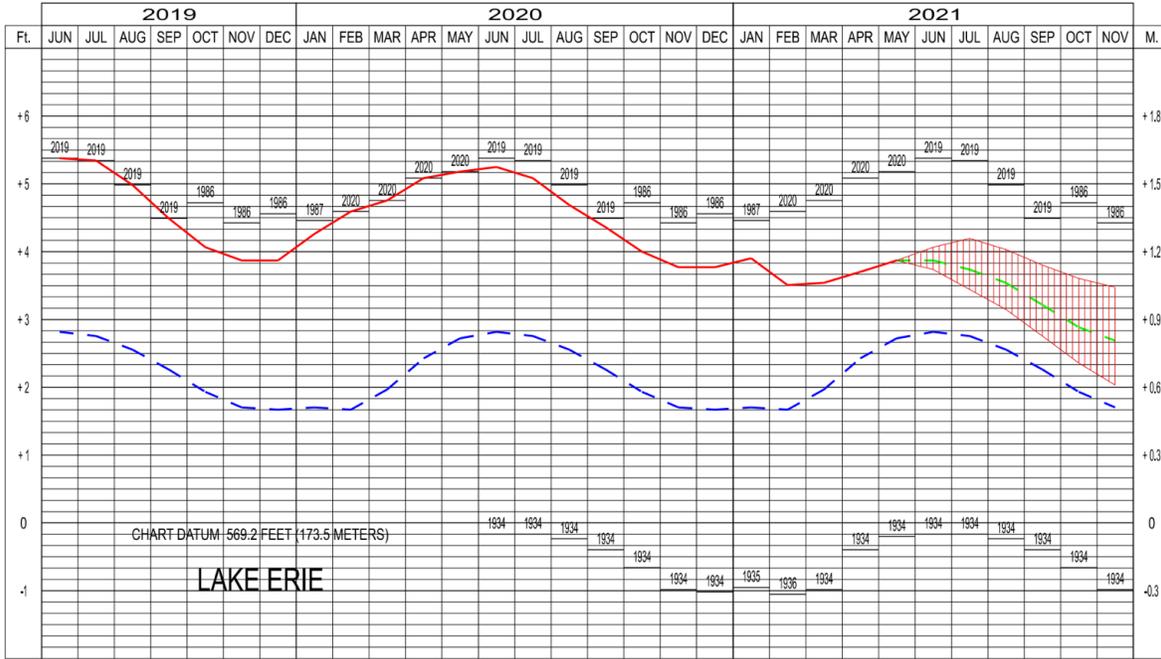
Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of June were around 175.60 m (I.G.L.D.). This is down about 48 cm from last year's peak daily average water level record set during the third week of May. The all-time record high monthly average for June was 176.02, set last year. Water levels at the beginning of June were 40 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. Water level forecasts suggest that water level have essentially peaked for the year, will remain flat through June, and will begin their seasonal decline in July.

It has been a fairly dry spring thus far and water levels did not rise as much as would be typically expected. On Lake Erie, from March through May, water levels only rose around half of what would be expected during an "average" year for this time period. On Lake St. Clair, from March through May, water levels only rose around a quarter of what would be expected. Looking forward over the month of June, the USACE weekly water level update predicts that, by the beginning of July, water levels on Lake Erie will drop 2 or 3 cm and that water levels on Lake St. Clair should stay stable. This is an indication that water levels have essentially peaked for this year and are about to begin their seasonal decline. The U.S. and Canadian seasonal precipitation forecasts are not suggesting any significant rainfall anomaly that would either delay or increase this seasonal decline in water levels.

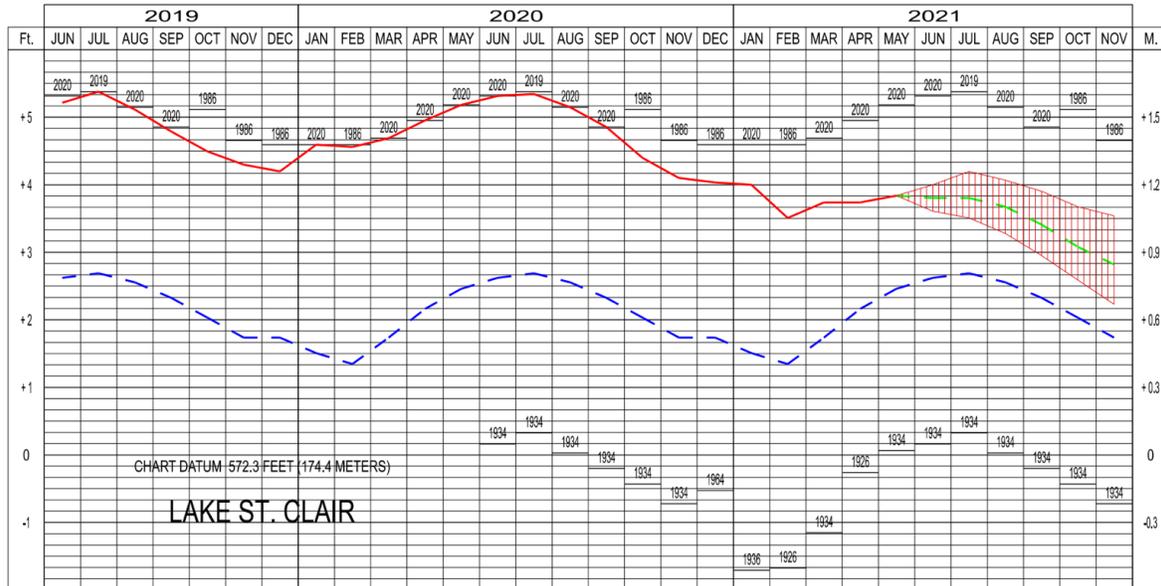
Looking into summer, conditions look much better than they have over the last few years. Water levels will be down quite a bit, with no risk of them reaching the record setting levels of 2019 and 2020. For the summer at least, water levels will still be high enough that flooding could occur with moderately strong wind events. But if the long-range forecasts hold, by autumn or winter, conditions for shoreline flooding could improve even further.

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. These versions were published at the beginning of June.

LAKE ERIE WATER LEVELS - JUNE 2021



LAKE ST. CLAIR WATER LEVELS - JUNE 2021



10.2.2) 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 Team, 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. The role of the Team is limited when there is not a Low Water Condition. During a Level 1 Condition the expectations are largely around communicating water conservation efforts. During a Level 2 Condition, there can be further communication around water conservation, as well as work in preparation for a Level 3 Condition when the province may need to act. Given that drought is largely a natural phenomenon, provincial actions are largely focused on restricting water usage through the MECP's Permit to Take Water program.

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 spring thresholds are: Level 1, lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 70% LASF; and Level 3, 50% LASF. During the growing season, LTVCA staff create a brief report for the Team summarizing conditions around the watershed, which is available to others by request.

As I mentioned earlier in the Report on Lake Conditions, it has been very dry this spring in the region and in the LTVCA. This has already triggered some messaging from the LTVCA outside of the Low Water Response Program. Throughout most of May, it looked like the watershed was sitting in a Level 2 Low Water Condition. However, some rain at the end of May boosted conditions back up into the Level 1 Condition range.

With respect to flows in the Thames River, other than a very slight rise during the first week of May, and the boost in the last few days of the month, there had been a steady decline in flows on the Thames River throughout the month of May. This had brought flows on the Thames River well down into the Low Water Level 1 range, to be boosted back up due to the higher flows right at the end of the month. The boost brought the flow criterion around Thamesville out of a Low Water Condition but flows in Middlesex/Elgin around Thames/Curry Road were still in a Level 1 Condition.

Taking into account the rain at the end of May, the three-month total rainfall values throughout the watershed all sit right around the threshold from a Level 1 to Level 2 Low Water Condition. Most stations examined were in the range of 57 to 62% of normal. In addition, a weather system moved through the region dropping additional rainfall on June 2nd. Were this rain to be added into the totals shown here, it would boost all the numbers up above 60% and put them into the Level 1 range. The eighteen-month would also suggest at worst a Level 1 condition for specific areas of the watershed.

The Low Water Response Team was provided the information about watershed conditions on June 3rd and the Low Water Level 1 Condition was confirmed and posted on June 7th.

Further information on the Provincial Low Water Response Program can be found at <https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/low-water-response/>

10.2.3) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide, surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. The sampling was 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.

Using funds provided by MECP under the COA grant, the LTVCA has hired Victoria Wisniewski on a 12-month contract to assist with the program. Reporting for the COA grant's 2020-2021 fiscal year was due at the end of May and was submitted on schedule. In addition, a meeting with staff from MECP and ECCC has been scheduled to discuss the results.

The sampling of local watercourses for benthic invertebrates was conducted between May 4th and May 13th by LTVCA staff. The species of benthic organisms present and their diversity can be used as an additional indicator of stream health and is one of the indicators examined in Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards. Eleven Creeks were sampled from around the watershed this year. Samples were preserved for later classification, which includes sample processing, species identification and counting. As the LTVCA does not have the facilities to perform this work, the classification work is performed at the University of Windsor. However, those labs are still shut down due to COVID and the classification work will have to wait for a later time. Classification work from last year is still pending as well due to the closure of university labs.

10.2.4) Information Technology

Staff have continued to pursue options to meet the new requirements of our insurance coverage. For the interim (as perhaps broader IT discussions may lead to another solution in the future), the concerns around off-site backups will be handled by simply having employees physically take a copy of the encrypted backups offsite with them (in addition to our existing backup procedures). This approach is being used by several other Conservation Authorities and seems to meet the insurance requirements. Options for implementing two-factor authentication are still being explored, but there seems to be two viable options; integrating Microsoft's Office 365 two-factor authentication with our in-house network authentication or using third party two factor authentication software to integrate with our in-house network authentication. Either method will be one that sends an authentication code to people's cell phones. Depending on the solution chosen, an outside IT consultant may need to be hired to help implement this, or a monthly service fee may need to be paid.

Further discussion around IT at the LTVCA can be found in Business Arising from the Minutes.

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

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.3.1) Planning

From April 1st to the end of May 31st, there have been 93 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 74 phone calls that have been dealt with in that time frame, with more proponents reaching out to staff via email (numbers not tracked).

Planning Numbers	2019 Totals	2020 Totals	Jan totals	Feb-Mar totals	Apr-May totals	2021 Totals
Chatham-Kent	150	259	13	55	63	131
Elgin	76	67	6	13	21	40
Essex	16	46	3	7	6	16
Middlesex	48	35	5	8	9	22
Total Numbers	290	407	27	83	99	209

**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 and counties around planning matters. Several site inspections have also taken place, keeping in mind COVID protocols. Planning services continue to be used / accessed by the public, our member municipalities and other agencies via telephone and email communication at this time.

10.3.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

In the months of April and May, the LTVCA received 117 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Of the 296 permit applications received in the first five months of 2021, all but 41 had been approved by staff. One of the 41 applications was refused by the Executive Committee in March, four applications require hearings in front of the Executive Committee (not yet scheduled), and the remaining 36 applications were in the queue to be reviewed by staff as of the end of May.

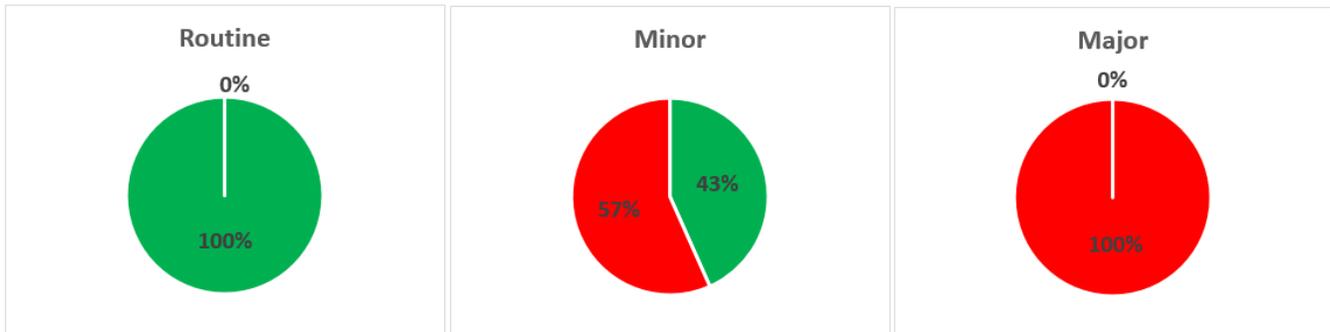
The regulations program continues to see very strong demand for resources. The number of permit applications received in the first five months of the year was more than the program sees for the entire 12 months of a “normal” year. The number of permit applications received thus far in 2021 eclipses every single year prior to 2019. At the current pace, the number of applications is set to eclipse both 2019 and 2020’s records.

In an attempt to keep pace with the demand and to support the Regulations Technician, the Resources Technician and Water Resources Engineer continue to help with processing permits and responding to regulations inquiries. Given the continuing and increasing stresses on the program since the last board update, the GIS Technician took over surveying duties in May. Continued support from the above staff members, as a minimum, is expected to be needed for the foreseeable future. There is no foreseeable decline in service demand for the future.

\$65,950 has been collected thus far this year (as of the end of May) in application and hearing fees. It is anticipated that 2021 will be another record-setting year for permit fee revenues.

Permit Processing Timelines:

For applications issued since the last board report and up to the end of May, the charts and table below indicate that 100% of “routine”, 43% of “minor”, and 0% of “major” permit applications met their applicable turnaround time standard. Permit turnaround times continue to lag behind the LTVCA’s customer service standards.



Complexity of Application	# of Days to Review Permit Applications				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	16	0	0	0	0
Minor	16	23	8	43	0
Major	0	0	0	0	1

For the months of April and May, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was four days (ranged between 0 and 10 days). The average turnaround time for a minor permit application was 27 days (ranged between 3 and 83 days). The single “major” permit application took 113 days to process. For private property permits, the average turnaround time was 34 days.

Property Inquiries:

Up to the end of May, 688 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Technician which is 270 more since the last board report. At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is approximately 5 to 10 business days for e-mails and 10 to 15 business days for phone calls.

LTVCA Development Policies:

Given the on-going increased workloads, staff haven’t been able to work on drafting the updated watershed-wide policies which was an initiative first started in 2016. There is an on-going need to update the policies to provide clarity and consistency in the policies across the watershed, close loopholes in policy, and to ensure that all policies are based on sound science/engineering with direction from provincial technical guidance and local input.

LTVCA Regulated Area Mapping:

The need to update and publish regulatory screening mapping online is still present. This was identified as a need under Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative from 2019. Updates to floodplain mapping, shoreline hazard mapping, and watercourse mapping are required prior to publishing the mapping online for the public and consultants.

The GIS Technician has updated the regulatory mapping for West Elgin, Dutton Dunwich, and Southwold at the request of those municipalities as part of their Official Plan updates. The GIS Technician is currently working on updating the mapping for Strathroy-Caradoc (when time allows) for their Official Plan update. However, much of the GIS Technician's time has been dedicated to IT issues since the pandemic began to keep LTVCA staff working and the infrastructure supported/upgraded. Updated mapping will also help reduce the amount of time Planning and Regulations staff spend creating custom regulatory screening mapping for project proponents. It continues to be a common request from the public, consultants, utilities, and municipal staff to have our mapping available online.

Section 28 Enforcement:

In the first five months of 2021, 30 complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. Historically, the LTVCA receives approximately 30 complaints/tips regarding Section 28 enforcement per year.

19 of the 30 issues are confirmed violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Two of the 19 confirmed or potential violations have been resolved.

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

10.3.3) O. Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

Staff Report

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications
(Up to May 31, 2021)

B.D. 06/17/2021

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
021-2021	25097 Gray Line	Alborough	West Elgin	Granted: May 11, 2021	113
130-2021	5173 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 25, 2021	83
136-2021	21070 Admiral Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: April 22, 2021	45
138-2021	16230 Couture Beach Road	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Granted: May 14, 2021	67
143-2021	18 Legacy Lane	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 13, 2021	36
151-2021	4341 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 13, 2021	27
152-2021	264 Detroit Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 13, 2021	31
153-2021	889 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 21, 2021	37
154-2021	18 Dundee Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 13, 2021	25
155-2021	89 Tuscany Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 13, 2021	26
158-2021	Comwall Creek Drain @ Victoria Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2021	21
159-2021	Crow Road @ Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2021	21
160-2021	Wilcox-Oullette Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2021	21
161-2021	Slagg Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2021	21
162-2021	Payne and Bachus Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2021	21
163-2021	Huff Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2021	21
164-2021	Tremblay Creek	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: April 12, 2021	20
165-2021	Indian Creek Drain @ Queen Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 12, 2021	19
166-2021	19326 McKinlay Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	33
167-2021	19125 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: April 27, 2021	36
169-2021	6481 Third Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	33
170-2021	40 Birmingham Lane	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	32
171-2021	22167 Douglas Line	Port Glasgow	West Elgin	Granted: May 14, 2021	63
175-2021	6208 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	28
176-2021	53 Tuscany Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	27
177-2021	18376 Lagonda Way	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 03, 2021	6
178-2021	10858 Longwoods Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 01, 2021	3
179-2021	4 Parkview Court	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2021	46
180-2021	Cantlay Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 06, 2021	5
181-2021	Sandison Brush Outlet Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 06, 2021	5
182-2021	Horne Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 06, 2021	5
183-2021	South Dale Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: May 03, 2021	35
184-2021	South Dale Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: April 07, 2021	0
185-2021	13 Adelaide Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 07, 2021	9
186-2021	17500 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 13, 2021	56
187-2021	5615 Tecumseh Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2021	20
188-2021	68 Stanley Avenue	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 09, 2021	0
189-2021	113 Highland Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 03, 2021	33
190-2021	480 Ross Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 06, 2021	35
191-2021	63 Dundee Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 04, 2021	29

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
192-2021	Balmoral Line, Integrity Dig Site 3	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 30, 2021	24
193-2021	Malott Drain	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	19
194-2021	Bacon Lanoue Drain	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	19
195-2021	Malott Diversion Drain	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	19
196-2021	Taylor Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: April 21, 2021	5
197-2021	Foxton Drain Guttridge Branch and Foxton Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 22, 2021	6
198-2021	166 Queen Street	Wardville	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: April 13, 2021	4
199-2021	Fenton Farm Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	7
200-2021	Ted Teetzel Drain and Branches	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 27, 2021	7
201-2021	206 Island Crescent	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 20, 2021	42
202-2021	24801 Pioneer Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: May 14, 2021	35
203-2021	852-856 Hiawatha Beach Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 18, 2021	36
204-2021	685 Tisdelle Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: April 22, 2021	10
205-2021	23282 Kent Bridge Road	Kent Bridge	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 16, 2021	4
206-2021	Johnston Drain	Harwich	Chatham Kent	Granted: April 23, 2021	1
208-2021	15 Prince Street North	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2021	43
209-2021	90 Kent Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2021	32
210-2021	875 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 18, 2021	79
211-2021	21892 Communication Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 14, 2021	21
212-2021	12783 River Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 20, 2021	30
214-2021	61 Albert Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2021	41
215-2021	550 Ross Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 20, 2021	58
216-2021	6569 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 20, 2021	34
217-2021	8545 Havens Lake Road	Port Glasgow	West Elgin	Granted: April 29, 2021	10
218-2021	13713 Jane Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 20, 2021	22
219-2021	22499 Gray Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: May 25, 2021	34
220-2021	31112 Fingal Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: April 28, 2021	7
222-2021	21950 Tecumseh Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 20, 2021	24
223-2021	58 Dover Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 29, 2021	3
224-2021	23148 Wheatley Road, Brouillette-Donais Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
225-2021	23378 Wheatley Road, Brouillette-Donais Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
226-2021	23100 Wheatley Road, Brouillette-Donais Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
227-2021	23232 Wheatley Road, Brouillette-Donais Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
228-2021	22964 Wheatley Road, Brouillette-Donais Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
229-2021	Wheatley Road @ Burgess Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
230-2021	Wheatley Road @ Campbell Sideroad Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
231-2021	Wheatley Road @ Cottingham Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
232-2021	22616 Wheatley Road, Cottingham Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
233-2021	22510 Wheatley Road, Cottingham Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
234-2021	22410 Wheatley Road, Cottingham Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
235-2021	Wheatley Road @ Government Drain #4	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
236-2021	22240 Wheatley Road, Two Creeks Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
237-2021	Wheatley Road @ Two Creeks Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 27, 2021	29
238-2021	Communication Road @ Thames River	Chatham & Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 07, 2021	8
239-2021	Industrial Road @ Cruikshank Drain	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 07, 2021	8
240-2021	Evergreen Line @ Cryderman Drain	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 07, 2021	8
241-2021	13235 Evergreen Line, Cryderman Drain	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 07, 2021	8
242-2021	Evergreen Line @ White Drain	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 07, 2021	8
243-2021	Lakeshore Road 301 @ Krisfalusi Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 07, 2021	8
244-2021	10 Alice Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 20, 2021	21
245-2021	179 Bristol Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 04, 2021	1
248-2021	23919 Jeannettes Creek Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 25, 2021	20
249-2021	11502 Rondeau Drive	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 25, 2021	18
250-2021	155 Manning Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 11, 2021	0
253-2021	32138 Walnut Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: May 28, 2021	21

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
254-2021	Thames River @ 6800 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 26, 2021	19
255-2021	23392 Drake Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2021	21
256-2021	19075 Light Cove Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 28, 2021	18
257-2021	19175 Crest River Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 28, 2021	17
259-2021	131 Peel Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2021	31
260-2021	875 Rivait Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 28, 2021	15
261-2021	84 Gordon Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2021	15
262-2021	10864 Fairview Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 26, 2021	12
263-2021	Brown Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: May 20, 2021	6
264-2021	19037 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 28, 2021	3
266-2021	970 Ross Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2021	10
268-2021	7513 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 26, 2021	6
293-2021	12984 Lakeshore Road 308	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 31, 2021	2

10.4) Conservation Area Lands

10.4.1) Conservation Area Visitation, April 1 – May 31, 2021

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 2724 people (1722 in 2020) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 1362 vehicles (861 in 2020)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 638 people (200 in 2020) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 319 vehicles (100 in 2020)

Sharon Creek Conservation Area – 438 Day Use Transactions on MacKay Pay (238 transactions in 2020)

2021 Parking Passes – 169 sold in April/May 2021 (89 sold April/May 2020)

10.4.2) Conservation Areas

Eastern District

Sharon Creek CA



This continues to be a very busy property, as such; staff expanded the north parking lot, complete with new signage, easy to follow payment information and highly visible map for orientation. Though an improvement, challenges still remain with non-compliance of payment and difficulty around issuing tickets through the CA ACT. Staff are hoping to model the Chatham-Kent by law methodology as a means of issuing parking tickets.



This year, staff will be looking to reinitiate a “*Friends of Sharon Creek*” group that could be similar to the *Wheatley Two Creeks Association* that manages our Two Creeks CA property.

Big Bend CA

Several new water access camp sites have been added as they continue to be popular with campers and paddlers. A new trail was constructed by our Oneida First Nation workers, that will provide access from the boat launch through the forest to the campground area and around the beaver ponds.

The farm lease to the north was renewed this year with an increase from \$140/acre to \$200/acre.

Longwoods Road CA

Oneida First Nation staff have returned to work at the Longwoods Workshop. They will be assisting our Eastern staff with trail upgrades, campground maintenance and other Conservation Area projects.

New Signage will be installed in the coming weeks to match our other properties, and provide a clearer message to visitors.

Staff continue to make great strides with implementing the LEAN methodology and have done a great job organizing our workshop and storage areas.

Big "O" CA

New land donated by Mr. Pat Lavin has been planted in Tall Grass Prairie along with 35 Bur and Black Oak to create an *Oak Savanna* which is a globally rare ecosystem.

A commemorative boulder with engraving and new trail will be installed over the next few weeks.



Pictured here is marsh marigold

CM Wilson CA

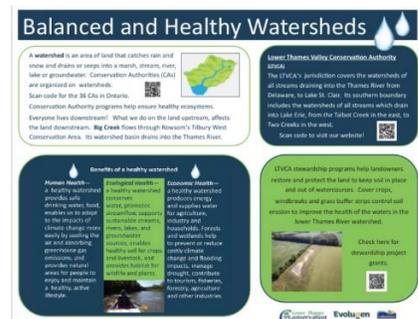
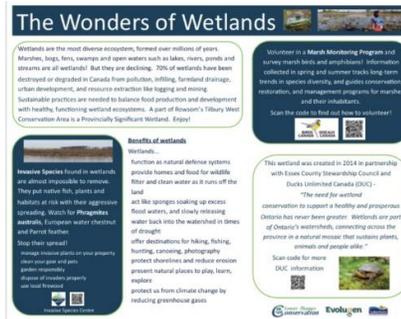
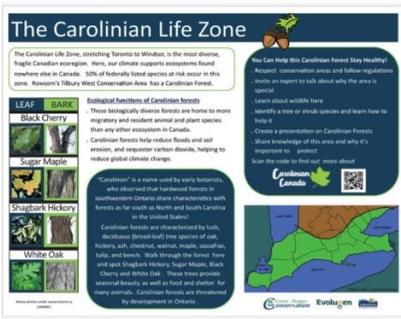
The campground is currently open to seasonal campers and will soon be open to overnight camping as per the provincial recommendation of June 11.

On the weekend of May 29th, staff evicted 3 seasonal camp sites for failure to follow provincial COVID-19 protocols and violation of our CA Regulations. Chatham-Kent Police were called in for support and issued warnings to the campers. There are several people on the waiting list for a seasonal site and those sites that were evicted will be filled.

A new aeration system has been installed on the 6 acre pond, to rectify the thermocline issue that causes the lower half of the pond to be void of oxygen. This will provide better circulation, aquatic plant growth and an increase in suitable fish habitat. Staff are planning on releasing warm water species such as large mouth bass, pike and perch and educational signage that will explain the project in detail.

Rowson CA

Another grant from Evolgen Inc (formerly Brookfield Energy) towards educational signage will result in 3 new pedestal signs that will be installed at this property.



Staff will be installing these interactive signs over the next month, which encourages visitors to learn and contribute to *citizens science* through the use of QR Codes.

2021 Conservation Area Brochure

Is now complete, and are awaiting printed copies. Staff did a great job raising funds and getting sponsors which amounted to over \$7000 in revenue, which will go towards the printing of more.

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

10.5) Conservation Services

10.5.1) Stewardship Report

West Update

Tree season was another success this year despite Covid 19. We had a crew of 4 to distribute all trees. It was unfortunate that larger stock trees that would have arrived in April did not arrive until May which put pressure on us having to do seedlings and larger tree distribution at the same time. Cold storage was adequate and there were no issues. Delivery method for over the counter sales proved successful for the second year in a row now.

Ducks Unlimited Canada and Imagine McGregor Creek - Anastasia Heuvelmans has come aboard to develop the Imagine McGregor program for LTVCA while also assisting DUC in the South West Region. Current tasks include developing an Action Plan and liaising with community groups like the Chatham Sunrise Rotary Club for stewardship events in the urban areas of McGregor Creek.

Tree Planting Partnerships/Events

Retro Suites: 400 seedlings were given out to citizens as part of the “No Room Service Required? We’ll plant a tree!” program established 2020.

Dutton Dunwich: Citizens of Dutton Dunwich can subscribe to a municipal program to acquire trees through the Municipality. LTVCA supplied 1520 trees for that program.

West Elgin Roads: This year the West Elgin Roads Department offered two species; Black Cherry and Silver Maple. 300 trees were given out to program subscribers

ReLeaf: This group lead by Mike Smith who received the Stewardship Award at the AGM this year continues to gather community support for local plantings and tree give away events. ReLeaf was involved in the Retro Suites give away and is working on initiatives in Blenheim with St. Annes school and the newly approved dog park near the B fit trail.

CK Real Estate Board: Thirty new home owners were awarded a free large tree for their new properties as part of the CK Real Estate Board program. Realtors offer trees to new home owners and LTVCA supplies and delivers the native Carolinian trees.

Back to Your Roots CK: 10 trees go to graduating classes each year as a way to keep youth attached to their home town. This is part of Chatham-Kent’s citizen retention efforts.

Tilbury Free Tree Giveaway: This is the third year in a row we have Partnered with Rene Blain Trucking and The Tilbury Mini-Storage to offer the Tilbury Free Tree Giveaway. 1,000 trees were purchased and giving to 100 people. The Giveaway is available to anyone who lives in Tilbury, Wheatley, Merlin or Comber and is one of the first 100 people to email. We hope to expand this program throughout our watershed.



Over 68 acres or 27 ha of tallgrass buffers and prairie were installed Spring 2021

Current Partner Contributions:

Canada Summer Jobs supported seasonal staff for tree planting this spring.

Various grants are being worked on:

1. Ontario Community Environment Fund
2. TD Friends of the Environment

Tree Planting

A total of 85,700 seedlings were distributed and planted in the LTVCA watershed this spring season. Specific Municipal allocations are being calculated. 954 larger stock trees were also distributed and planted with various partners in the watershed listed above. Accounts payable and receivable are being finalized for the reforestation program. **Total trees 2021 = 86,654.**

ALUS Chatham-Kent

ALUS Chatham-Kent received our allocation in March and target acres is set at 18 acres. We are set surpass that this year already. ALUS Chatham-Kent has wrapped up all tree planting projects and prairie grass projects and is now moving into wetland projects. Interim reports for ALUS Canada are due in July; this is how ALUS can report to each of the many funders about progress on community projects. The Next ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021. We hope to resume in person meetings by September but for now, we will continue to do them by Zoom. We are continuing to accept expressions of interest and we still have funding available for some projects.

East Update

The eastern district of the watershed was a flurry of activity again this spring, with trees, prairie and wetland projects all being established in the month of May. The main activity of the spring was tree planting, with 10 different landowners in the eastern district participating in large-scale tree planting projects; resulting in over 18 acres of land being afforested. Tree planting in the east was supported with funds from Tree Canada this year, with over \$24,000 of grant money being awarded to LTVCA to carry-out this tree planting endeavour. LTVCA staff also delivered 23,770 over the counter seedlings to residents in the eastern district of the watershed, helping to green our rural and urban areas.

Four wetlands and six acres of prairie were established during the spring, with funding assistance from: ALUS Elgin, Elgin Clean Water Program, and the Elgin Stewardship Council. These projects continue to increase the natural cover on the landscape and provide habitat for species.

ALUS Middlesex

Spring was busy for ALUS Middlesex, with project highlights including:

- Over 7,000 native trees planted
- 7 acres of land retired along the Thames River
- 25 acres of tall grass prairie planted
- Work with 6 landowners

ALUS Middlesex was able to build and strengthen relationships with landowners and partner organisations, working with four conservation authorities to implement and cost-share these projects.

ALUS Middlesex worked with JustDrew Productions, a local video production company, to capture content during tree planting season, including landowner testimonials. This content will help to build an online presence and market the program to get more funders and landowners interested.

ALUS Middlesex has also been hosting a co-op student from Fanshawe College. This 6-week co-op placement with Agri-business program allows students to get real-world experience. Givianish Gahkar, our co-op student, has been hard at work learning the ArcGIS web-based mapping software, the ALUS cloud database, and learning social media marketing and analytics. Givianish works with the program coordinator closely to help migrate map and project data onto these platforms, as well as posting content on the different social media platforms.

10.5.2) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

LTVCA: Soil Health Program

The LTVCA Soil Health Program officially launched on February 3rd of 2021. The LTVCA received 69 applications for projects. The LTVCA was able to approve 68 projects, prior to the project budget being fully allocated. If all the approved projects proceed as planned, the LTVCA Soil Health Program will support the planting of 10,040 acres of cover crops and 5,430 acres of grid or zone soil sampling in the watershed. In total, this could result in the LTVCA Soil Health Program providing \$124,366.00 in financial contributions to farmers to implement soil health projects during 2021.



The LTVCA received a significant amount of demand and support for the new program during 2021. The Agricultural Program Coordinator and Outreach specialist worked closely with agricultural retailers, agronomists, and farm organizations to promote the program and engage farmers. The collective work of all these partners resulted in program having an extremely successful launch during 2021.

The Soil Health program is funded by an Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Great Lakes Protection Initiative contribution agreement. The agreement expires during March of 2022, the LTVCA will need to identify and secure additional funding sources to offer this program again during 2022.

CAP and ECCC: McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program Best Management Practice (BMP) Incentive Program

On February 15th of 2021, the LTVCA relaunched the McGregor & Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction BMP Incentive program for 2021. During the 3rd year of the program the LTVCA observed high levels of demand to access funding to support the implementation of BMP projects. In total, 34 applications were approved for funding prior to the project budget being fully allocated. If all projects proceed as planned this could result in \$102,00.00 in financial contributions to support the implementation of the following BMPs:

- Cover Crops: 3,160 acres
- Grid or Zone Soil Sampling: 5,600 acres
- Alternative Phosphorus Application Practices: 5,000 acres
- Erosion Control Projects: 2 projects

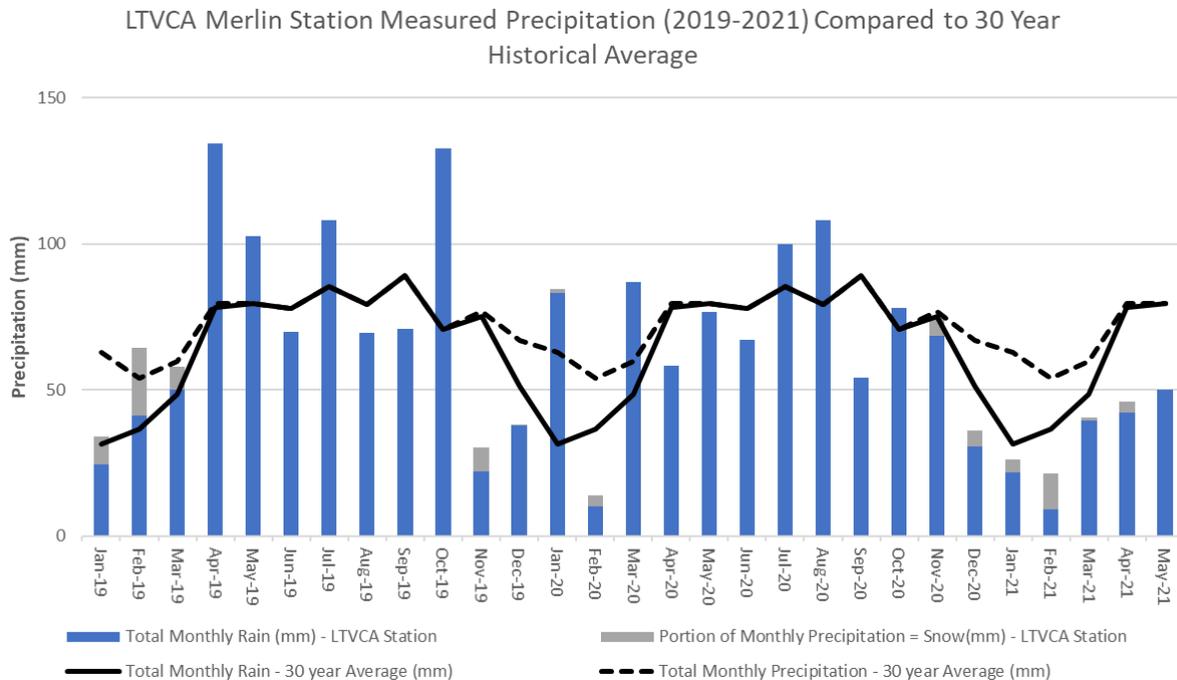


The BMP incentive program is solely funded by an Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Great Lakes Protection Initiative contribution agreement. This agreement will conclude on March 31st of 2022. In the future the LTVCA will need to assess if the BMP incentive program will be offered beyond 2021 and how it could be funded.

McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Subwatershed Monitoring & Modeling

LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality samples and flow data at monitoring stations in the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek subwatershed during the Spring of 2021. Monthly precipitation levels during the period have been very low when compared to 30 year monthly averages. Since December of 2020, we have recorded 6 consecutive months of precipitation that were below the 30 year monthly average. Due to the extremely low levels of precipitation, few significant flow events occurred during the 2021 Winter and Spring. From January-May of 2021, 5 significant flow

events were monitored by the LTVCA in the subwatersheds. Water samples and water quantity data was collected during each event by LTVCA staff.



All 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 of 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 is conducting high intensity environmental monitoring in the former Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) priority subwatersheds.

All monitoring activities were completed as planned in the 20km² Jeannettes Creek ONFARM study subwatershed during this period, as referenced in the previous report section. LTVCA project staff are now working on calculating nutrient loads from the sites to inform the creation of education and outreach material. The LTVCA will be creating digital material to promote the program and share results from the research initiative with watershed stakeholders during the summer of 2021.

AAFC Living Labs Ontario Project – Official Program Launch

On May 10th, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced the launch of the Living Labs Ontario project during a roundtable meeting with project collaborators. The project will bring together farmers, scientist, farm organizations, and conservation authorities to develop, test, and share innovative agricultural practices and technologies. The project is being led by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association and the research will focus on reducing the soil and nutrient runoff from agricultural land into Lake Erie, improving water quality, conserving soil health, and increasing biodiversity on agricultural lands in Ontario. To learn more about the project visit the following program webpage: <https://bit.ly/3gk3b2V>.

Mark Peacock, represented the three conservation authority partners (LTVCA, UTRCA, ERCA) during the Living Labs Ontario launch event and provide comments on the significance of the project to regional conservation authorities. The LTVCA could receive in excess \$100,000.00 from 2021-2023 to complete the following activities in support of the project:

1. Collect Water Quality, Quantity, and Crop Management Data in the Big Creek and Jeannettes Creek subwatersheds of the Thames River.
2. Complete enhanced land management and socio-economic surveys with farmers in the Jeannettes Creek subwatershed.
3. Support the Ontario Soil Network, Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association, Ontario Innovative Farmers Association, and Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario with developing, promoting, and executing outreach and education activities to increase the adoption of BMPs.

10.5.3 Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

The Aquatic SAR field season is now in full swing. Dan Nydam has been re-hired for twenty-six weeks through the support of the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR) as the SAR Monitoring Technician and will be leading the field crew. Two Aquatic Biology Technicians (Brooke Ciuman and Gabriela Carew) have been hired to assist with fieldwork through the support of Canada Summer Jobs (8 weeks each) and CNFASAR (an additional 10 weeks each). Staff have started to install data loggers in the Thames River to monitor light and temperature conditions for aquatic SAR. eDNA sampling of tributaries to the Thames River will be accompanied by timed searches for mussel SAR and seining for fish SAR through June and August. In July, SAR staff will be conducting targeted searches for the Threatened Eastern Sand Darter (a fish) in the Thames River.



Two downloadable Aquatic Species at Risk Guidebooks: Fish and Mussels are now available to view or download from the LTVCA's SAR webpage (<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/conservation-services/species-at-risk/>).

The Chatham Kent Community Foundation (Wonnacott Environmental Fund and Environmental Legacy Fund) provided \$1,484 and the Ursuline Religious of the Diocese of London in Ontario provided \$500 in funding to obtain equipment to initiate a bat and bird monitoring program in LTVCA's Conservation Areas. Funding announcements regarding additional contributions are expected from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Habitat Stewardship Fund, the province's Species at Risk Stewardship Program and Wildlife Acoustics in late June or early July.

10.6) Communications, Outreach and Education

10.6.1) Website Updates

Ongoing are the postings of watershed and shoreline conditions, Minutes and Agendas of Board Reports, changes in fees, updates regarding programs and services of the LTVCA and virtual/onsite events and activities. The website design is being refreshed and will have a new look soon.

Our website also alerts visitors of the current status of COVID-19 Pandemic health unit and government guidelines that affect our conservation area usage. During the pandemic 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 remain closed to the public.

10.6.2) Social Media

Since the April 15, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors, daily social media posts on the LTVCA's general social media platforms have been issued: (**Facebook** – 2,737 followers for an increase of 159 followers; **Twitter** – 1,184 followers for an increase of 8 followers; **Instagram** – 805 followers for an increase of 105 followers), **YouTube** 77 subscribers for an increase of 9 subscribers. Posts focus on the LTVCA's ongoing programs and services, following environmental issues across our watershed, how we are social distancing/adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic and keeping public informed. The Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook page currently has 2,235 followers for an increase of 49 followers.

Posts are regularly circulated to Directors of the LTVCA and Foundation, First Nations Communities, Municipal Councils/Clerks/CAO's, MP's and MPP's, Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee, all staff, Conservation Ontario, and watershed media (as needed).

We have reinforced the importance of all the COVID-19 protocols including messaging about 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 2021 parking passes.

Daily Social Media Post Messages – April 7, 2021 – June 8, 2021

- **Water Management Mondays**

- Planning and Regs Work in Strong Demand – April 12
- Lake St. Clair Shoreline Management Plan Online Public Info Session – April 19
- Looking to Purchase Property Near the Water? – April 26
- When it comes to flooding and erosion – LTVCA Protects Lives and Property – May 3
- Shoreline Conditions Statement – During May - Lakes Erie and St. Clair – May 10
- Paddle Plans for 2021? Thames River – Delaware to L. St. Clair – May 17
- missed May 24
- It's Been a Very Dry Spring! – May 31
- Shoreline Conditions Statement – During June - Lakes Erie and St. Clair – June 7

When it comes to flooding & erosion
LTVCA Protects Lives & Property by

- directing development away from hazardous areas to reduce hardship, loss of life and property
- maintaining and operating dams and diversion channel
- monitoring climate and water levels/flows to predict flooding and erosion
- notifying municipalities of watershed and shoreline conditions for public safety

60 years 519-354-7310 info@ltvca.ca ltvca.ca Lower Thames Conservation Remember to Social Distance

• **Stewardship Tuesdays**

Watershed Stewardship & Restoration
 Targeting McGregor Creek for Natural Restoration Projects
 "IMAGINE MCGREGOR" Promises Positive Watershed Improvements

May 10 tree plant at Maple Leaf Cemetery

Thank You!
 Chatham Sunrise Rotary
 Ken Bechard
 Glenn Smith
 Murray Hebblethwaite
 Mark Peacock



Remember to Social Distance

60 Years 519-354-7310 info@ltvca.ca ltvca.ca Lower Thames Conservation

- Spotted Sucker – April 13
- Planting a Prairie – April 20
- Forest Cover vs Tree Cover – April 27
- Tree Orders Have Arrived! – May 4
- It's Been a Busy Tree Planting Season – May 11
- "Imagine McGregor" Promises Positive Watershed Improvements – May 18
- Heading into the Wetlands Season – May 25
- Mulch 'n Grow – June 1
- Forests Ontario A Long Time Partner – June 8

• **Conservation Area Wednesdays**

- Spring Migration Visit 1 of our Wetlands – April 7
- Seasonal Campsites Here – Big Bend Conservation Area – April 14
- Breathe In Some Nature at a Conservation Area – April 21
- Big O Birdwatchers! – April 28
- We're Celebrating Moms and Dads – CA parking pass special - May 5
- ATV's and Our Natural Areas – May 12
- 2021 Guidebook LTVCA Conservation Areas Now Available! – May 19
- Take a Hike This Weekend! 18 Conservation Areas Open for Day Use! – May 26
- Not in Stage 1 Just Yet! LTVCA Campgrounds Update – June 2

Relax, Refresh, Return
 2021 Guidebook LTVCA Conservation Areas Now Available!

18 Conservation Areas

- facilities & services
 - area maps
 - interesting facts
- tips for enjoyable trips
 - watershed map
- local business sponsors & appreciations
 - about LTVCA
 - ways to contact us

Remember to social distance!



Lower Thames Conservation 519-354-7310 info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca 60 Years

• **Outreach and Education Thursdays**

Outreach & Education
 Enjoy Nature & All It Gives!
New Life in the Forest

This month welcomes young plants & animals that will enhance our natural areas.

If you find a young fawn please leave it where it rests. Mom will return to feed it soon.

Instilling inherent value for our natural & heritage resources.
 Remember to Social Distance



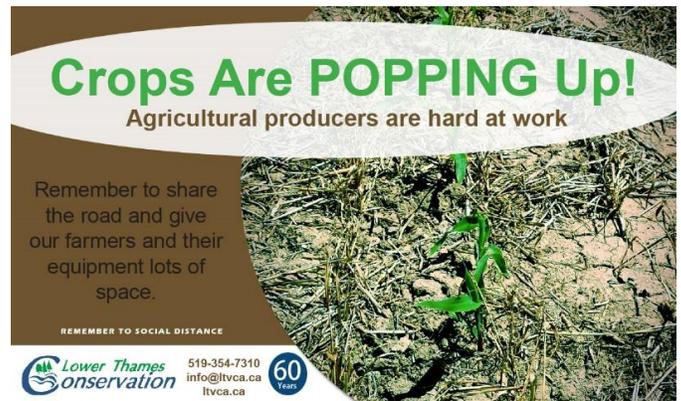
Lower Thames Conservation 519-264-2420 info@ltvca.ca ltvca.ca 60 Years

Deb De Zwart

- Good Luck Leeanne! – April 8
- Lake Chubsucker – DYK? – April 15
- Happy Earth Day! – April 22
- Listen for 'phoebes' – April 29
- We're Hiring! – May 6
- Camp-in-a-Bag Encore Curbside – May 13
- Visit Ska-Nah-Doht Village! – May 20
- Delaware Conservation Area's Mighty Big Oak – May 27
- New Life in the Forest – June 3

- **Phosphorus / Water Quality Fridays**

- OSCIA launches Species At Risk Farmer Incentive Program – April 9
- Winter Wheat is Growing – Cover Crops – April 16
- Lower Thames Watershed in Moderate Drought Condition – April 23
- Keeping Fields Green with Cover Crops – April 30
- Crops are Popping Up! – May 7
- Living Lab Ontario – May 14
- Data Loggers and Water Tables – May 28
- Collected Samples in Jeannettes Creek Subwatershed- June 4



- **encourage people to use our conservation areas safely during the COVID-19 pandemic** - physical distancing, reminders
- **articles of public interest from local media regarding ecosystems and the environment, and local environmental issues** (erosion, flooding, emergency preparedness, wetlands, grasslands, pollinators)
- **watershed community based environmental initiatives** including reposting municipal posts; sharing London Canoe Club posts (for Sharon Creek Conservation Area)
- **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 campaigns re: World Wetlands Day, Drinking Water Source Protection**
- **sharing of neighbouring Conservation Authorities’ information**
- **sharing of municipal public health information** – CK Public Health, London Middlesex Health, St. Thomas Elgin Health, Windsor

10.6.3) Education Programming Developments / Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum



Karen Mattila retired as the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Curator on May 31st following 27 years of dedicated service 1994 – 2021! Due to the pandemic, we were limited to just a handful of staff on hand to wish Karen well on her last day and to present staff gifts. A powerpoint tribute will be shown at this meeting in an attempt to capture some of Karen’s amazing accomplishments and contributions to Ska-Nah-Doht and LTVCA over her many years with us. We wish Karen the best in her much deserved retirement!

In Karen’s words “I would like to thank everyone for their generous words and the well thought-out selection of gifts. My heart is overwhelmed! ... I am leaving at a time when I feel that I have accomplished what I set out to do 27 years ago. I will miss the everyday challenges but I will miss the people I’ve worked with and those I met along the way the most. Our paths will cross again I’m sure. I know that the LTVCA will continue to be leaders in Environmental and Conservation issues and Education is a big part of getting the message out there! I wish everyone well, stay healthy and I’ll see you on the trails! Karen”



We welcome **Alison Klages as our new Curator, Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum**. Alison began her new role on June 14 with the LTVCA. She has a background in archaeology and a degree in Anthropology, with work experience in several museums across Ontario. The past 5 years she has served as Public Programming Coordinator at Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London, managing the day to day operations and the administration of the public programming and marketing departments. Alison brings with her lots of experience in education programming, exhibit design, site maintenance and has her Certificate in Museum Studies. She has experience wearing many hats, which is a prerequisite at the LTVCA,

whether it be getting dirty in the field or addressing Boards of Directors!



You are invited

to attend the Western Lake Erie Student Summit! Join other participating classes to share your ideas and plans of action to improve the health of Lake Erie. Hear feedback on your ideas from experts from across the region. Guest speakers from different levels of government, from your community and from environmental organizations are ready to share some of their ideas with you too.

[Click To Register In Advance](#)

Learning In Action Agenda

Log On/Connection Check Prelude Video Welcome	Click How to Login Maranda MacKean Conservation Education Specialist Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Indigenous Land Acknowledgement	Melissa Levi Conservation Education Coordinator St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Indigenous Opening	Alaina Stonefish Walpole Island First Nation
The Great Lakes – Hidden in Plain Sight	Carolyn O'Neill Manager, Great Lakes Office Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Action through Individual Initiative Good, Better, Best Personal Actions to Protect Water Quality	Student Submissions Barry Orr Sewer Outreach and Control Inspector City of London
Action through Reduction Reducing Phosphorus - Current Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Research Projects	Student Submissions Colin Little Agricultural Program Coordinator Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Action Through Engagement Environmentalism: How to be a Force for Nature	Student Submissions Lisa Jeffery Teacher Greater Essex County District School Board
Action Through Education How TikTok Can Save the World	Student Submissions Emily Febrey Community Outreach Technician Cattfish Creek Conservation Authority
Chippewa of Thames First Nation and Haudenosaunee Thoughts about Water Indigenous Closing	Carlyn Johnson Chippewa of Thames First Nation Alaina Stonefish Walpole Island First Nation



Funding for the Western Lake Erie Student Summit provided by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The **Western Lake Erie Student Summit** was organized by our Authority in partnership with UTRCA, SCRCA, ERCA, KCCA and CCCA. It was prepared and shared with 250 high school students during the months of April through June. The Summit, funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, targets high school students and forms part of a SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) curriculum requirement for these students enrolled in science, geography and environment programs. SHSM programs help students prepare for their future career goals like pursuing academic degrees in biology, botany, resource management etc. Previous to COVID these students would enjoy a day-long field trip to a presentation locale where they would cycle through 4-5 learning stations throughout the day. Stations would consist of experts demonstrating and encouraging student involvement in things like stewardship, importance of Lake Erie, First Nations regard for the lakes, recreational uses of the Great Lakes, SAR, Best Management Practices, threats to local environments etc. This year necessitated a change to a virtual learning experience. Participants learned of current threats to Lake Erie through a video developed by LTVCA staff and participated in a presentation that covered watersheds and things occurring in them that stress the lake along with positive contributors to environmental health like wetlands and forests and landowner involvement. A subsequent presentation gave the situation over to the students, who formed groups that identified a specific problem, determined how they would address that problem (often incorporating new and exciting ideas) and who/what their solution would impact, and how they would implement their solution by contacting the right people and agencies. Student groups then had to prepare a short video to inform others of their solutions. These student videos were shared in a final presentation, where experts in the field of stewardship like our LTVCA Agricultural Program Coordinator and Soil and Water Quality Technician could provide direct input and encouragement to these student ideas and all participating schools could view them. Overall the Summit was a success in providing a valuable virtual learning opportunity to students, some of which may play a large part in saving our lands and waters.

We received \$4,782 from **Ontario’s Digital Capacity Grant** towards the “Education Video Project”. This funding allows us to purchase photographic equipment and digital editing packages to produce higher quality video productions for educational purposes. As we move from on-site to virtual teaching, this equipment will help us stay competitive with our peers as teachers look for alternative learning options.

A \$10,000 grant will go towards re-opening the Resource Centre Museum through Tourism Adaption Funding facilitated by Southwestern Ontario Tourism (SWOTC). PPE and sanitizers as well as accessible door openers, plexiglass and display barriers are being purchased to keep both staff and visitors safe. By the time we can safely open, the museum and conservation displays will be less hands-on and still provide an informative experience to our customers. Maybe sometime in August?

10.6.4) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation was held virtually on May 19, 2021.

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

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held remotely at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The following members were in attendance: D. Fairbairn, B. Bruinink, R. Doane, D. Fallon, S. Hipple, S. Emons, M. Hentz and M. Peacock. Also, in attendance: K. Mattila, A. Vriends, B. Carey and C. Johnston.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SND-2021-1 B. Bruinink – M. Hentz

Moved that the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

SND-2021-2 R. Doane – M. Hentz

Moved that Mark Peacock chair the Ska-Nah-Doht Committee 2021 elections.

CARRIED

M. Peacock assumed the chair for the elections and declared the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair vacant and outlined the voting procedure.

a) Chair

M. Peacock called for nominations for Chair of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee.

D. Fallon nominated B. Bruinink. B. Bruinink accepted the nomination.

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

SND-2021-3 M. Hentz – R. Doane

Moved that nominations for Chair of the committee be closed.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink was declared to be elected as Chair.

b) Vice-Chair

M. Peacock called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee.

D. Fallon nominated D. Fairbairn. D. Fairbairn accepted the nomination.

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

SND-2021-4 D. Fairbairn – M. Hentz

Moved that nominations for Vice-Chair of the committee be closed.

CARRIED

D. Fairbairn was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.

2.2) Appointment of Sub-Committees*

- a) Education (2 members) – G. Bogart, S. Hipple
- b) Village Build (2 members) – D. Fairbairn, D. Fallon, Liam Browne (volunteer)
- c) Policy (1-2 members) – B. Bruinink, M. Peacock
- d) Events/Fundraising (2 members) – S. Emons, R. Doane

*Note: the Curator is included on all Sub-Committees

SND-2021-5 D. Fairbairn – S. Hipple

Moved that the above appointments to Sub-Committees be accepted.

CARRIED

2.3) Review Mission and Vision Statements

MISSION - no change

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is an interactive museum that engages the public in the preservation and presentation of local First Nation history, through experiences both on-site and in the community.

VISION - updated

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is a community leader in collecting and preserving local history, while faithfully interpreting the Haudenosaunee as well as all Indigenous communities in the LTVCA watershed.

SND-2021-6 R. Doane – S. Emons

Moved that the changes to the Museums Mission and Vision Statements be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2.4) #3 Collections Policy Review

Minor changes include removing with/without provenance. Removing records be kept on “disk” and replacing with “an external computer device”. The Donated Collection to include statement “These donations are not meant for public handling therefore access is limited with permission from the Curator”.

SND-2021-7 D. Fallon – D. Fairbairn

Moved that the changes to #3 Collections Policy be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) Staff Update

C. Johnston has accepted a new position and will end her employment with the LTVCA on April 30. K. Mattila has offered to delay her retirement to later in the year to help facilitate the hiring and training of a new Curator.

3.2) Education Programs and Workshops

Staff continue to look for alternate forms of communication with teachers and community groups.

3.3) Summer Student Employment

An application has been submitted to Canada Summer Jobs for four Conservation Area Interpreters.

3.4) Community Museum Operation Grant (CMOG) 2021-2021

Report has been submitted for the year 2019 as required in the 2020 application. There will be an application this year to report on the events of 2020. No indication of how and when this will be due.

3.5) OJCP and Grant Application Updates

Current OJCP wraps up April 30. Application is being submitted for another OJCP to start asap.

\$4,782 has been received from an Ontario's Digital Capacity Grant towards the purchase of photographic equipment and digital editing packages.

Tourism Adaption Funding facilitated by Southwestern Ontario Tourism (SWOTC) has given \$10,000 towards re-opening the Museum. This funding is for the purchase of PPE and sanitizers as well as accessible door openers, plexiglass and display barriers to keep both staff and visitors safe.

SND-2021-8 S. Hipple – D. Fairbairn

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.3 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

D. Fairbairn was thanked for his long term commitment as chair and volunteer of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum.

5. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, June 24 at 6 p.m. via zoom.

6. Adjournment

SND-2021-9 D. Fairbairn – S. Emons

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink
Chair

10.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Inspection Minutes – May 5, 2021

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) was held May 5, 2021. Due to the Pandemic, only one JHSC member attended the Conservation Areas at this time. Attending the Conservation Areas was: V. Towsley.

Site inspection of Area 2 and one CA from Area 1 was undertaken: C.M. Wilson, McGeachy Pond, Rondeau Bay Marshes, Sinclair's Bush, Stirling, Devereux, Skakel, Myslik, Well Head, Elva Gray Tall Grass Prairie and Miller (Area 1) were conducted. See completed Workplace Inspection Records for details.

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

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Area 2, plus Millar Sanctuary from Area 1

Date/Time of Inspection: May 5, 2021

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
8:00 AM CM Wilson						
Group campground closest to washrooms	Split branch in tree closest to fire pit	Trim branch				
Beavers dam on north side of pond	Burrow holes in pathway	Fill or create a barrier around them (as they'll just re-dig new holes)				
North side of pond	Dead standing Ash trees in memorial grove	Cut and drop				
North side of pond near the east corner	Couple of downfall / dead trees jutting into path	Push to one side of trail and/or remove				
Campground	Dead limbs from Ash trees throughout the campground	Cut and push off into bush and/or remove				
Play hill	Several ground hog holes – under stairs and on top and side of hills	Fill or create a barrier around them (as they'll just re-dig new holes)				
Barn	Concrete pad out back door by bathrooms being undermined by critter activity	Ensure all animals are trapped out of the hole, then fill and create a barrier to prevent re-digging of the hole				

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

Inspection Location: Area 2, plus Millar Sanctuary from Area 1 Date/Time of Inspection: May 5, 2021

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Nature trail 9:25 AM	Downed branches / limbs on path	Push off of trail or remove completely			Removed majority of what was on trail	V. Towsley (May 5/21 – VT)
9:37 AM Myslik	No issues noted					
9:40 AM						
9:58 AM Stirling	No issues noted					
10:00 AM						
10:10 AM Sinclair's Bush						
North end of trail	Trail is not clearly visible leading to visitors wandering off trail – potential trip hazards from downed branches	Ensure markers are in plain sight and re-establish trail				
10:20 AM						

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Area 2, plus Millar Sanctuary from Area 1

Date/Time of Inspection: May 5, 2021

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
10:31 AM Rondeau Marsh Pathway out to the Bay	Path in rough shape due to impacts from high water levels / storm events damaging the trail	Fix obvious trip hazards Remove dead shrubs from along trail, especially those leaning in towards the pathway				
10:38 AM 10:50 AM McGeachy's Pond Pathway along the dike	Chip and stone path damaged due to lake storm surge events, exposing filter fabric below the materials	Re-groom where needed as stone pathway has been pushed over to the far side of the trail due to lake surge events in multiple areas along its length				
Path down to east dock	Trail down to dock overgrown, have to duck down to access the dock	Trim back shrub vegetation from trail down to dock				
East dock	Dock in worsening condition	Repair or remove the dock				

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Area 2, plus Millar Sanctuary from Area 1 Date/Time of Inspection: May 5, 2021

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
Middle dock	Leaning drastically to one side	Repair or remove the dock				
West dock	Dock in poor condition	Repair or remove the dock *see below				
West dock	Dock has been overtaken by the Beaver dam close to the shoreline	Abandon dock, removing only the outer limits of the dock, not disturbing the Beaver Dam ** extreme caution required as the Beaver may defend its den if it thinks the work is endangering the den. This may be a case where we post signs prohibiting use of the dock and leave it in place as is.				
West end of trail	Shrub fallen across the path, but still growing	Trim shrub back and/or remove				
Overflow catch basin on Erieau Road at drain outlet	Woody vegetation growing out of the catch basin	Remove growth from within the overflow catch basin				
11:28 AM						
12:00 PM						
12:45 PM	Stop for lunch					

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: Area 2, plus Millar Sanctuary from Area 1 Date/Time of Inspection: May 5, 2021

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
12:50 PM Well Head	No issues noted					
12:51 PM						
1:05 PM Elva Gray	No issues noted					
1:06 PM						
1:17 PM Devereux						
Tree line along McLarty Line	Dead Ash trees in between the conifer exterior row, and the maple interior row, falling into trees, leaning towards the pathway	Cut and drop in place				
1:56 PM						
1:59 PM Skakel	No issues noted					
2:00 PM						

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

Inspection Location: Area 2, plus Millar Sanctuary from Area 1 Date/Time of Inspection: May 5, 2021

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	CAO Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
2:15 PM Miller (Area 1) Dead standing Ash trees	Dead standing Ash along perimeter of Harwich Line and neighbouring property to the north	Review all Ash trees (dead or alive) within 100 feet of roadway and northerly neighbour to determine state of hazard and drop if determined to be a danger to the roadway or neighbouring properties structures / infrastructure				
2:17 PM	Inspections complete					

11. Correspondence

11.1) Letter of Response from Minister Yurek Office regarding compliance with new CA Act Regulations

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Conservation and Source Protection
Branch

14th Floor
40 St. Clair Ave. West
Toronto ON M4V 1M2

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la
Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Direction de la protection de la nature et
des sources

14^e étage
40, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1M2



357-2021-1579

June 8, 2021

Mark Peacock
CAO/Secretary Treasurer
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Email: mark.peacock@ltvca.ca

Dear Mark Peacock:

Thank you for your letter to Minister Yurek informing us of how the numbers of members of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority are appointed by the participating municipalities. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister.

With regard to a proposed boundary adjustment between with Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the ministry will need to review the matter including the material the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has provided. We will contact you should we have any questions or require any additional information.

Thank you again for forwarding this information to the ministry.

Sincerely,

Deb Scanlon

Debbie Scanlon
Manager (A), Conservation Authority Office
Conservation and Source Protection Branch

11.2) Source Water Protection Legislation – letter to Doug Ford from Town of Fort Erie



Community Services

Legislative Services

April 27, 2021

File #120203

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Province Investigating and Updating Source Water Protection Legislation

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of April 26, 2021 passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed a resolution on October 21st, 2019 identifying that 1,100 private water wells were in operation in the Town of Fort Erie, of which 75% were used for domestic purposes including human and livestock consumption, and

Whereas the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie further identified in that resolution that Council requires the protection of water in the aquifer supplying water to those wells from contamination as the result of any remediation of Pit One owned by the Port Colborne Quarries in the City of Port Colborne, and further

Whereas Report No. PDS-23-2021, approved by Council on March 22, 2021, identified that while the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, The Regional Municipality of Niagara and Local Area Municipalities work together to protect source water, these plans do not generally apply to private servicing, and

Whereas Report No. PDS-23-2021 further identified efforts undertaken by the Town of Fort Erie through available provincial planning policy, regulation and legislation to protect source water within the Town of Fort Erie without any explicit ability to designate source water protection for private services, and

Whereas on July 28, 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights, and

.../2

Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterie.ca

Whereas it would be desirable to ensure that those in our community who rely on wells and other private servicing for clean drinking water are afforded the same source water protection as municipal drinking water systems;

Now therefore it be resolved,

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie recognizes and acknowledges that clean drinking water and sanitation are basic human rights and essential to the realization of all human rights, and further

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks consider legislative changes that would permit the expansion of source water protection to aquifers and private services, and further

That: This resolution be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls, Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre, Jennifer Stevens, MPP St. Catharines and Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West, and further

That: This resolution be circulated to all Conservation Authorities and Municipalities in Ontario for their endorsement and support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Carol Schofield, Dipl.M.A.
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

cschofield@forterie.ca

CS:dtk

C.C.

The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks jeff.yurek.co@pc.ola.org

Jeff Burch, MPP, Niagara Centre burch-je@ndp.on.ca

Sam Oosterhoff, MPP, Niagara West sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org

Jennifer Stevens, MPP, St. Catharines JStevens-co@ndp.on.ca

Wayne Gates, MPP, Niagara Falls wgates-co@ndp.on.ca

Ontario Conservation and all Ontario Conservation Authorities: karpine@conservationontario.ca, shoman@ocba.ca, kurlanoff@ocba.ca,

generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca, @cloc.com, mvytytskyy@hrca.on.ca, deb.martindowns@cvc.ca, fm.pidduck@crowevalley.com,

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anne@hamasilver.on.ca

Ontario Municipalities

11.3) Food growers issue urgent plea to preserved Ontario's shrinking farmland base

Food growers issue urgent plea to preserve Ontario's shrinking farmland base

Author of the article:

Doug Schmidt

Publishing date:

May 28, 2021 • 2 days ago • 5 minute read •



"Amazing" amount of local agricultural land being lost to urban development. Long-time Lakeshore farmer Leo Guilbeault, shown at his home on May 20, 2021, is among Ontario growers worried over the rapid pace of disappearing farmland due to urban sprawl. Photo by Dan Janisse /Windsor Star

With urban sprawl gobbling up Ontario's precious farmland at a breathtaking rate — the equivalent of 135 football fields disappearing every day — the province's growers are sounding the alarm, warning that Canada's future food security is under threat.

"I don't know where all these people are coming from," longtime Lakeshore farmer Leo Guilbeault said of all the new homes and strip malls sprouting up locally in what had been agricultural cropland.

"I don't think there's a town in Essex County where there isn't a subdivision popping up next to a farm. And they're huge subdivisions. It's amazing," he said.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the voice of the province's 38,000 farm families, has [launched a campaign](#) and started a [change.org petition](#) asking Ontarians to help urge governments to "Save Ontario's Food and Farms from Disappearing Forever."

"We've been watching this go on for a long time, and every census brings us a little more bad news," said OFA president Peggy Brekveld.

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, Canada's most populous province has been losing 175 acres — the equivalent of five family farms — every single day to urban sprawl. The "harsh reality," says Brekveld's farmer-led organization, is that only five per cent of Ontario's landscape is suited to agricultural use to grow food for human consumption.

“The pressure of development is intense. Losing farms means we’re losing food security — once farmland turns into housing and concrete, it never goes back,” said Brekveld. “We have to have this conversation about long-term planning.”



New homes under construction abutting farmland just east of the Renaud Line in Lakeshore are shown on May 20, 2021. Ontario growers are worried over the rapid pace of expanding urban footprints gobbling up prime farmland used to grow food. Photo by Dan Janisse /Windsor Star

With his farm’s 2,000 acres of cash crops such as corn, soybeans and winter wheat largely surrounded by other farms, Guilbeault said he’s not feeling the same pressure as other local growers.

“We’ve been lucky, we haven’t lost any yet — but we have neighbours who have,” he said. “They’re being offered big bucks for their land.”

It’s crazy the kinda money they’re throwing at these guys Guilbeault said it’s a “Catch-22” for those farmers, especially the ones getting on in years and looking to retire. Rather than pass all of their prime growing lands on to the next generation of farmers to continue growing food, they’re cashing in and selling to those with intentions other than agriculture.

“It’s crazy the kind of money they’re throwing at these guys. You can’t blame them, they’d never make that much farming,” Guilbeault said of those peers selling to developers who are eagerly snatching up agricultural lands, especially those along the edges of existing urban footprints.

A decade ago, said Guilbeault, “normal farmland” in Essex County would sell for about \$3,000 to \$4,000 per acre, but the current price is in the \$11,000 to \$12,000 range. Some developers, however, are now offering double and triple that rate, he said, with those looking to cash in on the greenhouse boom willing to spend even more.

With those kinds of inflated numbers being dangled in front of farmers, “it’s hard to justify growing corn,” said Guilbeault, whose son represents his agricultural operation’s fourth generation. Commodity prices haven’t gone up at nearly that pace, but capital and other input costs continue to climb.

And the pressure on area growers to sell more of their land to developers, as well as on local municipalities to expand their urban footprints, is only increasing. Just this week, Essex County Warden Gary McNamara said a local housing shortage has led to home prices going “bonkers,” while the head of the Windsor-Essex Home Builders Association described an “insatiable” appetite for land to build on in the city.



Sold, sold, sold. A billboard outside a new subdivision going up east of the Renaud Line in Lakeshore illustrates the increased pressures on farmland as municipalities seek to address a high demand for new housing. Ontario’s farmers warn that more needs to be done to protect lands needed to keep Ontarians fed in the future. Photo by Dan Janisse /Windsor Star

Provincial policy statements and municipal official plans are in place and supposedly there to help protect Ontario’s prime agricultural lands from being lost to urban sprawl, but Brekveld, who is a dairy farmer in Thunder Bay, points to the current pace of disappearing farmland to indicate current protections are lacking.

Using the COVID-19 global pandemic’s hit on employment and the economy as justification, as well as pointing to the growing shortage of affordable housing stock, Ontario’s current government has been making it easier for developers to implement their plans. Critics point, as an example, to the increasing use of Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZOs), aimed at speeding up development approvals by bypassing public consultation and the normal avenues of appeal.

“The MZOs worry us — they have taken away some of the safeguards and review processes,” said Brekveld, whose organization is aware of six such applications approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that led to new development on what had been farmland. In such cases, the applications for Minister’s Zoning Orders, which originate at the municipal level, permit the provincial cabinet to override principles contained in the Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statements designed to preserve lands for agricultural production.

The opposition NDP has slammed the legislation for granting “unchecked power” to the government to benefit developers. Premier Doug Ford’s Progressive Conservative government argues the MZO cut through “red tape” and help streamline applications for important projects, such as new long-term care facilities, affordable housing projects and hospital expansions by getting rid of “unnecessary barriers and delays.”

It’s a finite resource, and we should protect that.

Since the pandemic began, Brekveld said the use of MZO has accelerated and their provisions strengthened. It took a public outcry for Amazon Canada to announce in March it was backing out of a plan for a giant warehouse complex set to be built in a protected wetland in Pickering through the facilitation of an MZO.



A farmer works on land near St. Joachim in Essex County on May 20, 2021. Developers eyeing urban development opportunities are offering top dollar for local farmland, a trend that has Ontario growers worried over the province’s future food supply. Photo by Dan Janisse /Windsor Star

Ontario’s farmers are now hoping for a similar public outcry to protect the lands needed to grow crops domestically.

There’s an alternative to urban sprawl to accommodate population expansion, said Brekveld, who points with “lots of hope” to the kinds of enlightened urban planning she sees in municipalities such as Waterloo.

“They’re building in and up, and not out — with wise planning, we can certainly do that.” Such growth within existing urban boundaries, she said, takes advantage of already built infrastructure, such as existing water and sewer lines and public transit, rather than having to continually expand those municipal services into areas currently used to grow food.

One of the positives from the pandemic, said Brekveld, has been a growing awareness among Canadians of the importance of having a strong domestic supply of food, and among consumers of knowing where their food is coming from and how it is grown.

“We’re proud of what we do, we’re proud of what we grow,” she said, adding her organization’s members supply more than 200 different fruits, vegetables, grains and livestock to the domestic marketplace.

“It’s a finite resource, and we should protect that,” Brekveld said of Ontario’s shrinking farmland base.

Agriculture, she said, “is the second-biggest economic driver in the province,” responsible for the employment of 860,000 workers and \$47 billion in economic activity.

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11.4) 'Very Fast Death Factor' being released from algal blooms, scientists find

'Very Fast Death Factor' being released from algal blooms, scientists find

Isabella O'Malley
Digital Reporter, Environmental Scientist

Monday, April 19th 2021, 2:00 pm - Experts say that toxin production is correlated with periods of rapid harmful algal bloom growth, which will become more prevalent as the climate warms.

Many have heard of the troublesome algal blooms that are impacting both marine and freshwater ecosystems. These harmful blooms occur when a number of factors, such as sunlight and warm water temperatures, reach favourable levels that allow algae to grow more rapidly than other aquatic species.

Harmful algal blooms are occurring more frequently as the atmosphere warms, which depletes the amount of oxygen in the water and blocks the sunlight from reaching other organisms. From [poisoning dogs](#) to creating a stench that can be smelled miles away, scientists say that algal blooms are a serious environmental issue that will become more prevalent as the climate warms.

A [study](#) published in *Lake and Reservoir Management* has now added another item to the growing list of concerns: a toxin called anatoxin-a (ATX) has been found in the air for the first time after tests were conducted near a Massachusetts pond with large algal blooms.



Credit: RJ Turcotte

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) can grow in almost every type of habitat and can produce a number of toxins, including ATX. The study's researchers were particularly concerned about ATX because it is neurotoxic and can rapidly cause tremors, convulsions, paralysis, and death in humans and animals, according to the [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH).

Due to the severity and rapid onset of symptoms, the NIH says that there is no specific antidote. These severe symptoms helped this toxin earn its informal moniker: Very Fast Death Factor.

While exposure to this toxin typically occurs from recreational aquatic activities and drinking contaminated water, the researchers say that their study is the first report of airborne ATX collected outside an aquatic ecosystem.



Credit: RJ Turcotte

Glass fibre filters were used to collect air samples during an active harmful algal bloom in 2019 at Capaum Pond on Nantucket Island, MA. The toxin was also found in water samples, with the concentration of ATX fluctuating from 0.13 to 2.96 nanograms per mL.

The study says that the air samples with the highest concentrations of ATX were taken during a high wind event with gusts measuring 30 km/h, with an average of 0.87 ng per filter. The materials that transported the toxins through the air were not investigated in the study and the researchers say that it is unknown if ATX travelled into the filters by attaching to other particulate matter, dissolving in water droplets, or being contained in bacteria.

ALGAL BLOOM CONCERNS IN A WARMING CLIMATE

Researchers say that the human health risks from harmful algal blooms will become an increasingly serious public health issue as the climate warms. "Toxin production is correlated with periods of rapid growth (blooms) and 25 per cent to 70 per cent of blooms may be toxic," states the NIH.



Credit: RJ Turcotte

“Harmful algal blooms and climate change go hand-in-hand. As the climate warms and causes water temperatures to rise in our ponds, streams, and estuaries, it creates longer stretches of favourable conditions for cyanobacteria populations to increase,” RJ Turcotte, one of the study’s authors and Nantucket Waterkeeper for the Nantucket Land Council, said to The Weather Network.

“Cyanobacteria, also known as "blue-green algae", are the drivers of many of our harmful algal blooms and produce toxins that in high concentrations are harmful to wildlife, humans, and domesticated animals. Rising temperatures combined with cultural eutrophication are driving more frequent, longer-lasting harmful algal blooms. It is a complex problem, but we are learning more every day and are confident we can address these challenging conditions and reduce the prevalence of harmful algal blooms in our surface waters.”

STAYING SAFE FROM ALGAL BLOOMS

Water authorities actively monitor lakes, ponds, and other bodies of water to protect the public from encountering harmful algae blooms. The [Government of Ontario](#) states that a cautious approach should be taken when blue-green algae are spotted in a body of water due to the potential risk of toxins.

“If you suspect a blue-green algal bloom: assume toxins are present, avoid using, drinking, bathing or swimming in the water (call your local health unit for swimming advisories), restrict pet and livestock access to the water. Contact your local health unit for information on health risks associated with blue-green algal blooms.

Thumbnail credit: RJ Turcotte

11.5) Transfer Payments SEC39 2021/22 Lower Thames Valley CA

Ministry of Natural Resources
and Forestry
Regional Operations Division
Integration Branch
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7
Tel.: 705-755-1620
Fax.: 705-755-1201

Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts
Division des opérations régionales
Direction de l'intégration
300, rue Water
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7
Tél.: 705-755-1620
Télé.: 705-755-1201



June 3, 2021

Mr. Mark Peacock
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
100 Thames Street
Chatham ON N7L 2Y8

Dear Mr. Peacock,

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority plays a vital role in the province, helping to protect the public from natural hazards including flooding, erosion and dam failure. Thank you for your continued good work in these priority areas.

I wanted to share an update about your transfer payment agreement for your work under section 39 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

To help your organization continue its vital work, we are providing your team with a transfer payment in the amount of \$81,467.00 to continue your work in support of flood and erosion operational activities, and the provision of Natural Hazard Information to the municipal planning process. Terms and conditions governing this funding will be sent to you soon through your regular program contacts.

Please note that the approval of the above-mentioned grant/funding is conditional on MNRF and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority entering into an agreement, satisfactory to Ontario, that outlines the terms and conditions of the funding. MNRF staff will be in contact shortly to provide you with a draft agreement.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Dave Burritt
dave.burritt@ontario.ca.

We will continue to work with you – and all our partners – to protect the people of Ontario from flooding, erosion and dam failure hazards.

Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Woeller".

Kathy Woeller
Director

12. In Camera Session

12.1 A matter addressing one of the following:

- a) The security of the property of the Authority;
- b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including employees of the Authority;
- c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Authority;
- d) Labour relations or employee negotiations;
- e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals (e.g. Local Planning Appeal Tribunal), affecting the Authority;
- f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;
- g) A matter in respect of which the General Membership, Executive Committee, Advisory Board or committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another act;
- h) Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the Authority by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- i) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the Authority, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- j) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the Authority and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- k) A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority.

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

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment
