



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

October 20, 2022

2:00 p.m.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
2. Call to Order – Roll Call	
3. Adoption of Agenda	
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest	
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	
5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2022	3
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	
7. Presentations	
7.1) Chatham-Kent Lambton Children’s Water Festival 2022	7
7.2) Revitalization of the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum and Creation of an Indigenous Community Education Centre – Fundraising Campaign – LTVCFoundation	7
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10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – August 4, 2022	90
10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – September 1, 2022	91

11. Correspondence	
11.1) What better collaboration than nature and beer? Local brewery creates unique natural setting	92
11.2) LTVCA Monitoring Policy	95
11.3) Paddlers haul over 200 kilograms of garbage from Thames River and McGregor Creek	97
11.4) Waterway cleanup Saturday in Chatham	100
11.5) Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival News Coverage - 5 articles	102
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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 Meeting Minutes August 18, 2022



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 18, 2022. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, A. Finn, M. Hentz, P. Tiessen, C. Cowell, H. Aerts, R. Leatham and JJ Strybosch. T. Thompson, S. Emons, S. Hipple, and J. Wright were unable to attend.

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

M. Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Linda McKinlay called the meeting to order.

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2022-33 R. Leatham – A. Finn

Moved that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2022-34 C. Cowell – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of June 16, 2022 be approved.

CARRIED

BD-2022-35 P. Tiessen – H. Aerts

Moved that the June 29, 2022 meeting minutes be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) Heritage Cabin Accessibility and Renovation Project

Alison Klages provided a brief presentation about the Heritage Cabin Accessibility and Renovation Project.

7.2) Revitalization of 'Livermore House

Mark Peacock provided an update on the renovations to the "Livermore House" at Longwoods.

7.3) 2023 Budget Challenges

Todd Casier presented the 2023 draft preliminary budget assumptions.

7.4) Beginning the LTVCA Strategic Plan Process

Mark Peacock outlined the process and timeline involved developing the 2023-2028 LTVCA Strategic Plan.

BD-2022-36 A. Finn – P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors receive presentations 7.1) through to 7.4).

CARRIED

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to June 30, 2022

BD-2022-37 A. Finn - P. Tiessen

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended June 30, 2022.

CARRIED

9.2) Hearing Fees - LTVCA

BD-2022-38 H. Aerts – P. Tiessen

Moved that the S.28 Permit Fee Schedule be adjusted to note that fees for a hearing will be \$1,000.

CARRIED

Board directs staff to develop a tiered fee approach to hearings and bring this back to the October meeting.

9.3) S.28 Permits & Sheds

BD-2022-39 C. Cowell – A. Finn

Moved that staff be directed to update the 2019 Operational Guidelines and the 2019 Chatham-Kent Lake Erie Shoreline Development Policies to increase the shed permit exemption threshold from 10 m² to 15 m²

CARRIED

9.4) Heritage Cabin Accessibility and Renovation Project

BD-2022-40 H. Aerts – R. Leatham

Moved that the requirement for 3 proposals for specialized work associated with this project be waived.

CARRIED

Board directs staff to document all efforts made to obtain 3 quotes.

9.5) 2023 Preliminary Budget Preparation and Assumptions Report

BD-2022-41 R. Leatham – A. Finn

Moved that the Board approve the budget assumption of a 5% general levy increase, and That staff bring the preliminary 2023 budget to the October meeting for review and approval.

CARRIED

10. New Business

- 10.1) C.A.O.'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 Minutes – June 8, 2022
- 10.8) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee – June 23, 2022
- 10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – June 2, 2022
- 10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – July 7, 2022

BD-2022-42 P. Tiessen – C. Cowell

Moved that the New Business items 10.1) to 10.10) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

None

12. In Camera Session

BD-2022-43 A. Finn - M. Hentz

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

CARRIED

BD-2022-44 R. Leatham – A. Finn

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

CARRIED

13. Other Business

Question regarding LTVCA By-Law Enforcement. What is being done now that MEU is no longer in operation? Staff are searching for other support.

Adjournment

BD-2022-45 P. Tiessen – A. Finn

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Linda McKinlay
Vice-Chair

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

7. Presentations

7.1) Chatham-Kent Lambton Childrens Water Festival 2022

Presentation from Don Hector - Volunteer Coordinator of the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival and partners.

7.2) Revitalization of the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum and Creation of an Indigenous Community Education Centre Fundraising Campaign - LTVCFoundation

PowerPoint presentation by Ken Brooks – Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation Vice-President, accompanied by Dan McKillop – Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation President.

7.3) Bill 229 - Categories of Programs & Services Agreement

Valerie Towsley to present.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to August 31, 2022

Date: October 20, 2022,
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to August 31, 2022**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

Background:

Review the 2022 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 8 months ended August 31, 2022.

REVENUE	2022 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET AUG PROJECTED		2022 ACTUAL TO AUG 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	1,542,782	1,031,788	*	1,309,693	277,905
GENERAL LEVY	1,506,624	1,506,624	^	1,506,624	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	638,100	422,133	*	630,458	208,325
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	6,144	6,144
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
CASH FUNDING	3,892,506	3,165,545		3,657,919	492,374
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	3,892,506	3,165,545		3,657,919	492,374

*-based on a 8 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 grants including Rondeau Barrier Beach, OMAF, ALUS Chatham-Kent, ALUS Elgin and Species at Risk.

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, spent funds for grant programs not invoiced are set-up as receivables and added to grant income, unspent funds are reduced from grant income and deferred for future expenditures.

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

General Revenue is above budget due to the following factors:

- Planning & Regulations is above budget due to increased demand, Conservation Areas is above budget due to receiving seasonal camping revenue and increased seasonal sites, Ska-Nah-Doht Village is above budget due to returning schools, stewardship is above budget as most sales are completed and interest revenue is above budget.

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

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

EXPENSES	2022 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET AUG PROJECTED	2022 ACTUAL TO AUG 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	183,042	122,028	106,644	(15,384)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	12	8	9	1
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	202,762	135,175	85,124	(50,051)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	124,979	83,319	111,763	28,444
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	378,967	252,645	268,933	16,288
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	124,315	82,876	103,062	20,186
SOURCE PROTECTION	31,878	21,252	15,586	(5,666)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,045,955	697,303	691,121	(6,182)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	626,125	417,417	550,106	132,689
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	161,719	107,813	96,595	(11,218)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	84,111	56,074	16,465	(39,609)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	130,575	87,050	83,490	(3,560)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	376,405	250,937	196,550	(54,387)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	94,006	62,670	70,229	7,559
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	541,174	360,782	339,514	(21,268)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	908,429	605,619	769,432	163,813
SPECIES AT RISK	300,412	200,275	257,962	57,687
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,844,021	1,229,346	1,437,137	207,791
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	3,892,506	2,595,003	2,874,914	279,911

Water Management

Flood Control Structures is below budget due to several large annual invoices received later in the year.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due to several large annual invoices received later in the year, no flood event on the Thames River to date and staffing being utilized by other programs.

Technical Studies are above budget due the Cambium project nearing completion and the staff time required and staff time and services performed for the Rondeau Barrier Beach Grant and not included in the budget.

Planning and Regulations is above budget due to the increase of permits and the resources and staffing required to process these permits and staff time spent on Bill 229 requirements.

Watershed Monitoring is above budget due to March 31 year-end budget expenditures and increased grant funds.

Source Protection is below budget due to timing of when staff work on this program.

Conservation Areas

Conservation area expenses are above budget due the costs of opening of the Conservation Area campgrounds, work on a rental house to prepare it to be rented again, increased costs due to increased seasonal campers and some of the other larger operations costs being incurred.

Community Relations and Education

Community Relations, Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs and one staff on leave.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are comparable to budget.

Phosphorous Reduction is above budget mostly due new ALUS Chatham-Kent and Elgin grants and the related expenses and to equipment purchased for a new funded project with Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and all not included in the budget.

Species at Risk is above budget due to March 31 year-end budget expenditures and the receipt of an unbudgeted grant and the related expenses.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Operating Summary:

	2022 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET AUG PROJECTED	2022 ACTUAL TO AUG 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	3,892,506	3,165,545	3,657,919	492,374
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,892,506	2,595,003	2,874,914	279,911
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	570,542	783,005	212,463
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	570,542	783,005	212,463

At August 31, 2022, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable due to increased grant and general revenue over budget and partially offset by increased expenditures due to the increased grants and the seasonal nature of some expenditures.

Note: The difference between the projected budget funding and projected budget expenditures is due to the recognition of the annual 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 August 31, 2022.

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) 2023 Preliminary Budget Report

Date: October 20, 2022
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: 2023 Preliminary Budget Report
 From: Todd Casier, Manager, Financial and Administrative Services
 Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Background:

In its meeting of August 2022, the Board of Directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority was presented with the 2023 preliminary budget assumptions. The Board approved the assumptions and directed staff to prepare the 2023 preliminary budget based on these assumptions and bring it to the October meeting.

As part of the Strategic Plan, staff have been directed to develop an Asset Management Plan. This plan will likely result in significant levy increases as reserves are to be generated to address capital asset repair and replacement. As a first step into the plan, in 2019 to 2022 staff included large capital purchases and repairs as budget items. In the past, these items would have been addressed setting aside surpluses equal to the amount of depreciation of the assets. When surpluses were not generated, the depreciation would not be offset. This change in budgeting has continued in the 2023 budget with all capital purchases included in items of the budget.

Budget Changes:

Every year costs increase as suppliers address increases such as inflation and the wage expense increases. Some of the most significant cost increases in 2023 are listed below. The more significant negative and positive impacts to the budget are as follows: (numbers rounded to the nearest \$100)

	Negative impacts on Budget	Difference to Prior Year Budget
1	Mandatory Employer Related Cost Increases (To maintain current programs)	-\$11,000.00
2	Merit Increase (To maintain current programs)	-\$31,300.00
3	3.5% COLA (To maintain current programs)	-\$67,300.00
4	Insurance (20% current year increase plus remainder of last year increase)	-\$36,400.00
5	Admin, Planning & Regs Staffing	-\$60,200.00
6	Increased Stewardship Staffing (covered by grants)	-\$60,900.00
7	Increased Water Quality Staffing (covered by grants)	-\$40,600.00
	Total Negative Impact on Budget	-\$307,700.00
	Positive Impacts on Budget	
1	Increased Education Revenue	\$24,500.00
2	Reduced Education Staffing	\$27,300.00
3	Increase Planning Revenue	\$26,000.00
4	Minimal Asset purchases 2023	\$51,000.00
5	No Strategic Plan funds (to be completed in house)	\$20,000.00
6	Increased Water Quality Grant	\$67,500.00
7	Increased Interest Income	\$10,000.00
8	Various Increased Grants	\$6,100.00

Total Positive Impacts on Budget	\$232,400.00
Net Change	-\$75,300.00
General Levy Increase	\$75,300.00
Total Change	\$0.00

Note: Capital items in budget are noted below:

Capital Items Accounted for in Budget:

Cost	Description	Reason For Expenditures
\$ 6,500.00	Computer equipment and infrastructure	Continue updating aging computers and IT infrastructure through out the organization
\$ 6,500.00	Total	

Note: Due to the major rebuild/expansion of the Longwoods Road Resource Centre and all efforts in capital improvements will be confined to this project.

2022 Budget

The LTVCA Board approved a 2022 budget of \$3,892,506, resulting in a general levy of \$1,506,624 plus a special levy of \$205,000 for Chatham-Kent for Flood Control Structures and the Greening Partnership/Natural Heritage Programs.

Proposed 2023 Budget

For 2023, the preliminary balanced budget of \$4,200,484 requires a general levy of \$1,581,955, an increase of \$75,331 over the 2022 general levy, or 5.00% (Chatham-Kent's special benefiting levy remaining at \$205,000). The total municipal levy for 2023 is \$1,786,955. As in previous years, the annual adjustment to each municipality's assessment within the watershed varies, the resulting change in the levy ranging from 3.79% to 8.58%. The current value property assessment values are provided annually by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and are beyond the ability of the Conservation Authority to modify.

Non-municipal revenues include grants and general revenues (user fees) and account for \$2,413,529 or 57.5% of total program revenues. Such funds are required for a number of programs, the most variable of which is the Conservation Services/Stewardship programs, which is heavily dependent on the success of numerous funding applications. Staff are currently engaged in developing new sources and extending current contracts to meet the demand for services and to take advantage of emerging priorities such as phosphorus reduction.

Recommendation:

That the 2023 preliminary budget totalling \$4,200,484 be approved and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed levy as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days' notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and levy.

And that the final 2023 Budget be brought to the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2023 for approval.

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

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Respectfully Submitted

Recommended by:

Todd Casier, CPA, CA,

Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

Reviewed by:

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

CAO / Secretary-Treasurer

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2023 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET**

F U N D I N G S O U R C E S

PG. NO.	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET	2023 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
WATER MANAGEMENT									
2	183,084	187,142	31,071	31,071	125,000	0	0	0	0
2	12	9	4	4	0	1	0	0	0
2	202,809	132,280	50,392	50,392	0	31,496	0	0	0
3	124,632	179,707	55,000	0	0	124,707	0	0	0
3	379,055	485,410	0	0	0	320,410	165,000	0	0
3	124,124	205,314	165,000	0	0	40,314	0	0	0
3	31,885	30,519	28,000	0	0	2,519	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,045,601	1,220,381	329,467	81,467	125,000	519,447	165,000	0	0
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES									
3	626,269	712,741	0	0	0	379,491	333,250	0	0
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION									
4	161,756	185,449	0	0	0	185,449	0	0	0
4	84,130	33,940	0	0	0	21,940	12,000	0	0
4	130,605	145,817	22,992	0	0	72,825	50,000	0	0
	376,491	365,206	22,992	0	0	280,214	62,000	0	0
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP									
5	94,027	174,493	27,100	0	0	94,293	53,100	0	0
5	541,298	522,336	229,900	0	80,000	107,336	105,100	0	0
5	908,339	1,077,985	934,162	0	0	143,823	0	0	0
5	300,481	127,342	111,650	0	0	15,692	0	0	0
	1,844,145	1,902,156	1,302,812	0	80,000	361,144	158,200	0	0
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS									
5	0	0	0	0	0	-30,000	30,000	0	0
5	0	0	9,808	0	0	-9,808	0	0	0
	0	0	9,808	0	0	-39,808	30,000	0	0
	3,892,506	4,200,484	1,665,079	81,467	205,000	1,500,488	748,450	-	-

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2023 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET**

F U N D I N G S O U R C E S

	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET	2023 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
<u>WATER MANAGEMENT</u>									
<u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	119,840	119,465							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	24,553	23,049							
OPERATIONS	28,891	33,733							
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	9,450	5,545							
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	350	5,350							
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	183,084	187,142	31,071	31,071	125,000				
					(CHATHAM-KENT)				
<u>EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS									
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	1	1							
OPERATIONS	11	8							
TOTAL EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	12	9	4	4		1			
<u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	149,820	90,118							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	27,198	16,292							
DATA COLLECTIONS	13,978	13,998							
FLOOD FORECASTING	2,650	2,650							
COMMUNICATIONS	2,400	2,400							
OPERATIONS CENTRE (RENT)	2,430	2,430							
FLOOD RESPONSE AND MONITORING	4,333	4,392							
TOTAL FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	202,809	132,280	50,392	50,392		31,496			

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2023 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET**

F U N D I N G S O U R C E S

	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET	2023 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
<u>TECHNICAL STUDIES</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	77,918	140,574							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	16,714	22,133							
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & MAPPING	0	0							
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	30,000	17,000							
TOTAL TECHNICAL STUDIES	124,632	179,707	55,000			124,707			
<u>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	300,143	381,906							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	50,835	59,785							
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	28,077	43,719							
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	379,055	485,410				320,410	165,000		
<u>WATERSHED MONITORING</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	54,463	131,496							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	16,646	25,287							
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	53,015	48,531							
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	124,124	205,314	165,000			40,314			
<u>SOURCE PROTECTION</u>									
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	31,885	30,519	28,000			2,519			
<u>CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	308,163	332,561							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	83,988	87,784							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	234,118	292,396							
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	626,269	712,741				379,491	333,250		

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2023 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET**

F U N D I N G S O U R C E S

	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET	2023 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
<u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</u>									
<u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	129,563	150,758							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	21,693	22,841							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	10,500	11,850							
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS	161,756	185,449				185,449			
<u>CONSERVATION EDUCATION</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	69,729	26,891							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	11,282	4,180							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	3,119	2,869							
TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION	84,130	33,940				21,940	12,000		
<u>SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	104,940	120,508							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	17,515	17,959							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	8,150	7,350							
TOTAL SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	130,605	145,817	22,992			72,825	50,000		

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2023 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET**

F U N D I N G S O U R C E S

	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET	2023 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
<u>CONSERVATION SERVICES</u>									
<u>FORESTRY</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	51,260	107,852							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	12,610	21,491							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	30,157	45,150							
TOTAL FORESTRY	94,027	174,493	27,100			94,293	53,100		
<u>CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	172,189	176,485							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	72,592	64,333							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	296,517	281,518							
TOTAL CHATHAM-KENT GREENING	541,298	522,336	229,900		80,000	107,336	105,100		
<u>PHOSPHORUS</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	354,150	510,040							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	121,816	132,769							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	432,373	435,176							
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	908,339	1,077,985	934,162			143,823			
<u>SPECIES AT RISK</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	150,466	105,171							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	40,297	15,684							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	109,718	6,487							
TOTAL CONS. SERVICES	300,481	127,342	111,650			15,692			
<u>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</u>									
ADMINISTRATION/MISCELLANEOUS	0	0				-30,000	30000		
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)			9,808			-9,808			

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Levy for 2023 using Modified CVA

	Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)	% of Levy	C-K Flood Control, Greening Levy 2023	Non- Matching Levy 2023	Matching Levy 2023	Total General Levy 2023	Total Municipal Levy 2023	Total Municipal Levy 2022	\$ Change from 2022 Levy	% Change from 2022
Dutton-Dunwich M	554,180,029	3.6831%	0	55,264	3,001	58,265	58,265	55,738	2,527	4.53%
Southwold Tp	172,076,120	1.1436%	0	17,160	932	18,092	18,092	16,662	1,430	8.58%
West Elgin M	646,846,548	4.2989%	0	64,505	3,502	68,007	68,007	65,212	2,795	4.29%
Lakeshore T	1,434,366,637	9.5328%	0	143,039	7,766	150,805	150,805	143,038	7,767	5.43%
Leamington M	356,697,324	2.3706%	0	35,571	1,931	37,502	37,502	35,651	1,851	5.19%
Chatham-Kent M	8,502,941,863	56.5105%	205,000	847,933	46,038	893,971	1,098,971	1,058,821	40,150	3.79%
London C	1,740,841,749	11.5696%	0	173,601	9,425	183,026	183,026	174,419	8,607	4.93%
Middlesex Centre M	255,957,269	1.7011%	0	25,524	1,386	26,910	26,910	25,220	1,690	6.70%
Southwest Middlesex M	452,526,174	3.0075%	0	45,127	2,450	47,577	47,577	44,901	2,676	5.96%
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	930,218,792	6.1822%	0	92,764	5,036	97,800	97,800	91,962	5,838	6.35%
TOTAL	15,046,652,505	100%	\$205,000	\$1,500,488	\$81,467	\$1,581,955	\$1,786,955	\$1,711,624	\$75,331	4.40%

9.3) S. 28 Hearing Fees

To: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Jason Homewood, P.Geo., Water Resources and Regulations Technician
Date: September 06, 2022
Subject: S. 28 Hearing Fees

Background

As outlined in previous reports to the Board, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) regulations staff have been facing increased workload challenges and capacity issues as a result of high development pressures throughout the watershed – demands that have been increasingly evident since 2019. Capacity has gradually been added to the planning and regulations unit and continues to be sought in order to meet these increasing pressures and demands.

The LTVCA is committed to delivering the best possible services with our available staff and resources. In doing so, the LTVCA continues to implement changes, review opportunities to create efficiencies, and increase transparency to better improve our customer service. At the last board meeting, the Board of Directors approved increasing the hearing fee from \$400 to \$1,000. Additionally, it was requested that staff look into and bring back a report to the Board regarding implementing a tiered system for hearing fees with the minimum fee being \$1,000. As such, staff provide the following for discussion.

Neighbouring CA's – Tiered Approach Fee Schedule

Of our neighbouring conservation authorities (Essex Region CA, St. Clair Region CA, Upper Thames River CA, and Kettle Creek CA), all utilize some form of a tiered approach in their fee schedule for S. 28 permit applications. The LTVCA also uses a tiered approach in our fee schedule for various types and complexities of applications (e.g. type of structure, size of structure, volume of fill required, whether or not a site visit is required, complexity of application, etc.).

Only the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) has a tiered system for hearing fees which was created and approved by their Board of Directors in June 2022. The outline of their tiered system is below:

Hearing Type	Fee
Streamlined Hearing	\$800
Full Hearing – Intermediate	\$1,200
Full Hearing – Major	\$5,000

The "Streamlined Hearing" tier is for hearings specific to a single policy in their policy manual with respect to replacement of structures in the floodway (the specifically requires approval from the hearing board) as well as for applications that comply with policy but the applicants request a permit validity of more than 24 months (24 months is the maximum that CA staff are allowed to approve permits for). The application must meet the board-approved policies and be such that they don't require the applicant to present their case in a formal hearing setting. It's just CA staff presenting the application and staff report and, generally, quick approval from their Hearing Board. They are reportedly generally shorter hearings with less work involved.

An example related to the LTVCA would be for an application to construct on Krista Lane in the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex. A previous LTVCA hearing board made a decision that required all permit applications for development on new lots on Krista Lane to meet specific requirements and be brought back to the LTVCA's Executive Committee for approval. If an application complies with those requirements, we currently have a full hearing with the applicants involved and staff provide an approval recommendation (with conditions) based on the previous hearing

board’s decision(s). Under a “Streamlined Hearing” approach, such applications could be brought to the Executive Committee in a more efficient manner.

The “Full Hearings – Intermediate” tier is for hearings related to applications that can be considered “minor” in nature due to project size, level of risk, location, and/or other factors where the proposed works would have minor impacts on the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution, or the conservation of land. Minor applications could be those involving, for example, minor fill, minor development, and minor site alteration where there is a high degree of certainty that issues associated with natural hazards are minimal.

The “Full Hearings – Major” tier is for hearings related to applications that could be considered “major” and would require significant staff involvement. They could be highly complex projects such as large subdivisions requiring technical review supported by comprehensive analysis, or for small scale site-specific applications that require complex technical reviews.

Issues with the above application complexity approach could include the matter of being subjective and determining which tier an application would fall under. Clear guidelines would need to exist to categorize each application.

Tiered Approach Based on Project Value

At the last board meeting, it was suggested that staff look into having a tiered approach based on the project value of the proposed works, similar to how some building permit fees are determined, but with a minimum fee of \$1,000. Such a fee could be based on a dollar value per \$1,000 of construction / project value or based on an overall percentage of the construction / project value.

Examples of a fee structure based on a dollar value per \$1,000 construction / project value (with a minimum fee of \$1,000) are below. For comparison purposes, fee rates of \$3, \$5, and \$10 per \$1,000 construction value are provided.

Construction Value (CV)	Hearing Fee		
	Rate = \$3 per \$1,000 CV	Rate = \$5 per \$1,000 CV	Rate = \$10 per \$1,000 CV
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
\$250,000	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$2,500
\$500,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$1,000,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$10,000

Alternatively, the hearing fees could be categorized based on construction / project value as per the example below:

Construction / Project Value	Hearing Fee
\$0 to \$10,000	\$1,000
\$10,000.01 to \$100,000	\$1,500
\$100,000.01 to \$500,000	\$2,500
\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000	\$5,000
> \$1,000,000	\$10,000

Examples of a fee structure based on a percentage of the construction / project value (with a minimum fee of \$1,000) are below. For comparison purposes, 0.5%, 1%, and 1.5% are used.

Construction Value (CV)	Hearing Fee		
	Rate = 0.5% of CV	Rate = 1% of CV	Rate = 1.5% of CV
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
\$250,000	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$3,750
\$500,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$1,000,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000

One issue that could arise with utilizing the Construction / Project Value is that staff have no way of determining if the value provided by the applicant is representative of the actual value. It could be a value entirely estimated by the applicant that underestimates the true value and could even be undervalued on purpose to achieve a lower fee. Or, the application could have no construction value and be more policy based (e.g. allowing building on a lot but with no site plan or construction drawings).

Tiered Approach Based on Complexity

Similar to how it is now done at the UTRCA, and given the above review, it is recommended that the LTVCA implement a tiered system based on complexity of the application/hearing with guidelines to categorize the application/hearing. The recommended fee schedule is shown below:

Hearing Complexity	Description	Hearing Fee
Routine	Applications that are being recommended for approval by LTVCA staff. No technical or in-depth review required.	\$1,000
Minor	Applications that are being recommended for refusal by LTVCA staff or where no recommendation is given. No technical or in-depth review required.	\$1,500
Major	Applications that are being recommended for refusal by LTVCA staff. Technical or in-depth review may be required. Peer review may be required. Legal review may be required.	\$5,000

Recommendation:

That the S.28 Fee Schedule be updated to include a tiered approach for hearing fees based on application complexity as noted in the table below.

Hearing Complexity	Description	Hearing Fee
Routine	Applications that are being recommended for approval by LTVCA staff. No technical or in-depth review required.	\$1,000
Minor	Applications that are being recommended for refusal by LTVCA staff or where no recommendation is given. No technical or in-depth review required.	\$1,500
Major	Applications that are being recommended for refusal by LTVCA staff. Technical or in-depth review may be required. Peer review may be required. Legal review may be required.	\$5,000

Prepared by:

Jason Homewood, P.Geo.
Water Resources and Regulations Technician

Reviewed by:

Jason Wintermute
Manager, Watershed & Information Services

Mark Peacock, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary-Treasurer

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

- 1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders*
- 4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements*

9.4) LTVCA Dock Policy - Lower Thames River

Date: October 20, 2022
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: DRAFT LTVCA DOCK POLICY – LOWER THAMES RIVER
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner

Background

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 suffer damage from flooding and ice push/jam events. A detailed approach has been lacking for the LTVCA to make informed decisions regarding dock proposals. The overall objective of the work that was undertaken was to produce an Ice Guideline that would assist the LTVCA in decision-making with respect to permitting for docks regarding ice issues. The supporting reports to the Dock Policy include the Technical Report Ice Guideline for Docks, and the Ice Guideline for Docks that was prepared by Mr. George Comfort, P. Eng., an experience and qualified ice engineer.

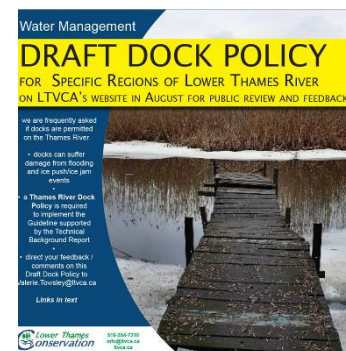
On October 21, 2021, a presentation was provided to the Board of Directors by George Comfort, P.Eng. on the Technical Report for the Ice Guideline for Docks. A resolution at the October 21, 2021 Board of Directors meeting, directed that staff undertake consultation with the public and the municipalities of Chatham-Kent and Lakeshore on the Draft Dock Policy. Staff sent the Draft Dock Policy to municipal departments in Chatham-Kent and Lakeshore in October of 2021, with a subsequent submission sent out in May 2022 to broader municipal departments.

CA staff did not hear back from either Lakeshore or Chatham-Kent staff for any input or comments on the Draft Dock Policy. As a result, the Policy was then posted to the LTVCA's website as of August 2, 2022 under the 'Public Consultation and Bid Opportunities' tab, located here:

<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/about-us/public-consultation-and-bid-opportunities/>

CA staff only heard a response back from one individual on the Draft Dock Policy so far (refer to next paragraph below for the submitted feedback). The suggestion, although very insightful, would require financial support to fulfill and potentially purchase of lands. As a result, no changes to the Policy are expected as a result of the feedback. The Policy will remain on our website and if any further comments come in, staff will review and see if they can be addressed in future policy updates.

Feedback:



Received: August 21, 2022 – The one solution that I see would be costly and involve a planned time line. The docks established would be owned by the municipality or conservation department.

What needs to be done is to establish a list of areas based on priorities and establish methods of building docks. Looking at the river and issues I would suggest building lagoons at primary locations.

In Chatham the McGregor creek would not be satisfactory so a river access would need to be found. Jeanettes creek would be a spot to go in behind If desired there are a couple creeks that could be used. If you look at the Chagrin River in Ohio they have docking for 100's of boats you could look at and possibly create a small business location.

Policy Development Process:

The following process is followed in development of policies that impact implementation of the Section 28 regulations:

1. Report to the Board on the need and subsequent steps to create Policy direction around docks on the Thames River (Apr 2021 & June 2021)
2. Staff prepare a draft policy (drafted Oct 2021, draft finalized on July 2022)
3. Staff present the draft policy to the board for initial review and input (Oct 2021)
4. The Board directed staff to consult with affected municipalities and the public (Oct 2021)
5. Staff consult (Oct 2021 – Oct 2022)
6. Staff bring the policy back to the Board, with any revisions / comments receive during consultation (Oct 2022)
7. Board reviews, and if in agreement, approves the policy for implementation (Oct 2022)

Staff are of the opinion that the Policy should now be approved by the Board of Directors for use with any future dock proposals by Regulation staff. Any further input from our member Municipalities and the public will be reviewed in light of the purpose of the Policy and if any suggestions can be incorporated into the Policy in future policy updates.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors adopt the Dock Policy which will be used by staff for Regulatory review of dock proposals on the Thames River and the canals in Lighthouse Cove.

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Recommended by:

Valerie Towsley
Watershed Resource Planner

Reviewed by:

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

9.5) Bill 229 - Categories of Programs & Services Agreements

Date: October 20, 2022
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: Bill 229 (O. Reg. 686/21 & 687/21) – Categories of Programs and Services Agreements
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner

Background

Through the recently proclaimed subsection of the Conservation Authorities Act many changes have been enacted which will affect the provision of conservation authority programs and services. As a result of recent proclaimed provisions within the Conservation Authorities Act and accompanying regulation changes, Ontario Regulations 686/21, Mandatory Programs and Services and 687/21, Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act lays out what programs are considered mandatory and how CA's can transition into agreements with our member municipalities for programs not considered mandatory.

There were four key elements to the changes that need to be addressed prior to the end of the Transition Period, which is January 1, 2024 and two elements to be completed by December 31, 2024. The six elements include the following:

- The first requirement was undertaking a **Transition Plan**, which was due on **December 31, 2021**. (*completed*)
- The second requirement was undertaking an **Inventory of Programs and Services**, which was due by **February 28, 2022**. Two progress reports have since been submitted to MECP, as required every three months. (*completed*)
- The third requirement was undertaking consultation on the **Inventory and Cost Apportioning Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding**, which is to be completed by January 1, 2024. We currently have 3 signed Planning MOU Agreements with member municipalities, the rest to be taken to the remaining municipal councils after elections have taken place. The Category 1, 2 and 3 Agreements (Cat 1, 2 & 3 Agreements) are currently in draft form and are attached to this report for review. (*ongoing*)
- The remaining fourth element is the required **Progress Reports** (6 in total) and the **Final Report**. The progress reports will include any comments received/changes to the inventory, an update on the progress of negotiations of cost apportioning agreements, and any difficulties that the authority is experiencing with concluding the requirements prior to the end of the Transition Period. A final report is to be submitted to MECP and each participating municipality by January 31, 2024 including the final version of the Inventory of Programs and Services and confirmation that the authority has entered into all necessary cost apportioning agreements. (*ongoing*)
- The Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy which is to be completed by December 31, 2024, and
- The Conservation Area Strategy / Land Inventory which is to be completed by December 31, 2024.

Below is the draft Cat 1, 2 & 3 Agreement that staff will be taking out to our member municipalities after the municipal elections have occurred. It covers all programs, as laid out in the Inventory of Programs and Services. It was determined that the planning component required a more detailed Memorandum than what the Agreement could cover, so is covered by individual MOU's with each member municipality.

The Cat 1, 2 & 3 Agreement (attached) separates out what programs fall under Category 1 – mandatory, Category 2 – municipal programs and services, and 3 – other programs and services. The conservation authority has been, and will continue to consult with our member municipalities on entering into agreements/MOUs with our members for category 2 and 3 programs and services where municipal levy will be required.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors approves the Draft Category 1, 2 & 3 Agreement, and that the Agreement be provided to our municipal members for their consideration.

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

Customer/Stakeholder Objectives

- 1) Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
- 2) Increase Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship Recommended by:
Financial Objectives
- 4) Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Valerie Towsley
Watershed Resource Planner

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

DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT dated this day of , 2022.

BETWEEN

The LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
(hereinafter called "Authority")

OF THE FIRST PART

– and –

The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT
The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF DUTTON DUNWICH
The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAKESHORE
The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON
The CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON
The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MIDDLESEX CENTRE
The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX
The CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD
The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF STRATHROY-CARADOC
The CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN
(Hereinafter called the "Members")

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ontario Regulation 686/21(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/210686>) Conservation Authorities are authorized to charge a levy to their members for delivery of mandatory services under the Regulation;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Ontario Regulation 687/21 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/210687>) Conservation Authorities are required to enter into an agreement to levy members for services provided to Members other than mandatory services;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authority is prepared to provide certain non-mandatory services to its Member Municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Members wish to avail themselves of these services and to pay the amount levied for the services;

NOW THEREFORE, that in consideration of the terms of this Agreement, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The Authority agrees to provide to the Members the services outlined in the Inventory of Services and Programs attached hereto as Schedule A.
2. The Members agree to be charged a levy for such services, to be apportioned among the Members.
3. The Authority will not add to or delete from the services or programs funded through the levy without first consulting with the Members. Any such change would require an amendment to this Agreement agreed to by all parties.

4. The parties will maintain the current annual approval process for increasing the levy and budget (i.e. weighted vote based upon current value assessment in the watershed for approval of the levy).
5. The Members will continue to support the current Inventory of Services and Programs throughout the period of this Agreement.
6. That all elements of this Agreement will include consideration of Climate Change impacts.
7. This Agreement will be for a Term of five (5) years commencing on the date of the signature by the last of the parties.

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Per: _____
Chair –

Per: _____
CAO / Secretary Treasurer – Mark Peacock

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF DUTTON DUNWICH

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAKESHORE

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MIDDLESEX CENTRE

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF STRATHROY-CARADOC

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS DAY OF , 2022.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN

Per: _____
Mayor –

Per: _____
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation

APPENDIX A

Category 1: Mandatory Services – Risk of Natural Hazards, Flood and Erosion

a) Preparedness

- i) Flood and or erosion risk emergency response planning with municipal members
- ii) Flood and or erosion risk mapping updates
- iii) Administration of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation in flood prone, watercourse, riverine/valleys, shoreline, dynamic beaches and wetlands
- iv) Plan input and review support to municipalities regarding natural hazard polices and development applications

b) Monitoring

- i) Year round monitoring and data acquisition for lake levels, wind upset, river levels, snow pack, ice thickness, precipitation, weather forecasts and runoff potential
- ii) Maintenance of all rainfall and streamflow monitoring equipment
- iii) Development and maintenance of flood forecasting software and hardware
- iv) Monitoring bluff collapse, gully and toe erosion along the Thames River, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie shorelines
- v) Low Water Response Monitoring across the watershed especially during drought conditions

c) Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure (Sixth Street Dam and Pumping Station, Rivard Dam and Diversion Channel, Sharon Creek Morning glory spillway)

- i) Annual inspections
- ii) Annual minor maintenance
- iii) Major maintenance

d) Response

- i) Provide flood and or erosion forecasting / warnings and updates to municipalities regarding flood and or erosion events
- ii) Work with municipal partners to design and implement mitigative measures to address these natural hazards
- iii) For Low Water updates, undertake rainfall calculations and provide updates to the Committee members / postings to the community

Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements

1. Managing the risk posed by the natural hazards within their jurisdiction, including flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, hazardous sites, hazardous lands, low water and drought conditions. This program or service shall be designed to:

Develop an awareness of areas important for the management of natural hazards (e.g. wetlands, rivers and streams, shoreline areas, unstable soils, etc.)

- Understand risks associated with natural hazards and how they will change as the climate changes
 - Manage risks associated with natural hazards
 - Promote public awareness of natural hazards
- The LTVCA will provide a comprehensive communications, education and outreach program to meet these regulatory requirements.
 - The LTVCA will identify where expertise can be found that is needed to develop a better understanding of the impact of climate change on natural hazards and low water or drought conditions in the watershed.
 - The LTVCA will review and streamline processes where possible.

2. Ice Management services (preventative and/or remedial) as appropriate and as supported by a CA approved ice management plan, including:

- LTVCA will continue to develop an ice management plan for the Thames River. (*we don't actively 'manage' ice jams, determined non-effective and costly and could pose a liability to the Authority if other areas flood as a result of the activity*)
- LTVCA will continue to update the Flood Contingency Plan as needed and provide it to our emergency services contacts and our municipal members.
- LTVCA will review dock applications and their tolerances for ice damage with respect to the LTVCA's Dock Policy and the Technical Report, Ice Guideline and the Ice Guideline for Docks.

Infrastructure - Operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of Flood and Erosion Control Structures.

3. Review of applications and issuance of permits under Section 28 and 28.0.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act (as amended from time to time), including associated enforcement activities

- The LTVCA will provide technical support for reviewing applications for development within Regulated Areas
- The LTVCA currently has limited ability to act on enforcement activities due to influx of applications

The flood plain / erosion mapping / modeling that is currently in place for LTVCA watercourses require updating

- Data collection, mapping, data sets, watershed photography
- Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide spatial geographical representations of data
- Studies and projects are required to inform natural hazard management programs including: floodplain management, watershed hydrology, regulation area mapping update, flood forecasting system assessment, floodplain policy, Lake Erie and St. Clair shoreline management

Category 1: Mandatory Services – Conservation Areas

Conservation Area Services

Includes the management, development and protection of significant natural resource lands, features and infrastructure on authority owned lands. The LTVCA has 34 conservation areas, with a land base of 1,713.58 acres (703.58 hectares) and continually increases this area by acquisitions and donations.

Service Components:

- a) Management and Development of Authority lands
 - Build resiliency and demonstrate good resource management within all conservation areas, ranging from day-use lands, wetlands and forest tracts
- i) Lands and Infrastructure – inspections, maintenance and enforcement
 - Identification and removal of hazards to reduce liability
 - Maintain essential infrastructure and dispose of surplus items
 - Manage public use that is compatible with the land and enforcement of regulations
- ii) Water Control Structures – inspections, maintenance and operations
 - Operation of dams following regulatory requirements
 - Develop and monitor funding agreements with municipality where dams are located for maintenance and major repairs
- iii) Forest Management
 - Implement activities identified in Managed Forest Plans (MFTIP's) to improve forest health, including harvesting, tree planting and monitoring of woodlots
 - Removal of invasive species and monitoring of disease and pests
- iv) Administration
 - Development of policies and procedures for conservation area use
- b) Land Acquisition
 - i) Review land donations or purchases for conservation purposes
 - Identify benefits and concerns for potential land acquisitions based on the LTVCA's Land Acquisition Policy
- c) Leasing and Agreements on Authority Lands
 - i) Review agreements that are compatible with the land use
 - ii) Monitoring of agreements

Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21

Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements

1. A Conservation Area Strategy, prepared on or before December 31, 2024 for all lands owned or controlled by the authority. The Strategy will include:
 - Objectives to provide decision making on lands including acquisition and disposition
 - An assessment of how lands owned may augment natural heritage / hazard strategies, and integrate with provincial, municipal or publicly accessible lands and trails
2. An Inventory of Conservation Authority lands, prepared on or before December 31, 2024, including:
 - Identification of all parcel details including historical information, location and surveys
 - Designation of land use categories based on activities or other matters of significance related to the parcel
3. Programs and services to ensure that the authority performs its duties, functions, and responsibilities to administer regulations made under Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act
 - Enforcement of Regulation 686/21 – Rules of conduct in conservation areas
 - Enhanced enforcement and control measures are required to limit trespassing of unauthorized vehicles on, and unauthorized use of, conservation area lands

Category 1: Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Services and Programs: Category 1 – Mandatory Program	Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
<p>Monitoring and Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long standing (50+ years) CA/MECP partnership for stream water quality monitoring at 22 sites. CA takes water samples; MECP does lab analysis and data management. CA uses information for watershed report cards and stewardship project prioritization. ii) Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) (MECP funded network installation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-standing CA/MECP partnership for groundwater level and quality monitoring at 7 stations. Costs include equipment, data collection, analysis, data management and reporting. MECP funded network installation. iii) Thames River Clearwater Revival, Watershed Wide Strategic Resource Management Plans, individual Watershed and Sub-watershed Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative project of federal and provincial agencies, municipalities, First Nations and Thames River conservation authorities to address broader-watershed scale water quality and quantity issues in river and contributing watersheds 	<p>Programs and services to support the authority's functions and responsibilities related to the development and implementation of a watershed-based resource management plan on or before December 31, 2024</p>

Category 1: Mandatory Services – Drinking Water Source Protection	Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Drinking Water Source Protection	Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
<p>Services:</p> <p>a) Governance – Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thames - Sydenham & Region Drinking Water Source Protection Authority, Source Protection Committee and Joint Management • Maintenance of local source protection program, including issues management <p>b) Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the local source protection program <p>c) Program implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support of local source protection program • Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies where applicable • Review of local applications / planning proposals / decisions in vulnerable areas to ensure source protection is considered <p>d) Technical Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the preparation of amendments to local assessment report and source protection plan to incorporate regulatory changes as well as technical assessment completed for new and expanding drinking water systems • Review technical information received regarding changes to the landscape, such as new transport pathways in WHPA and IPZ's, to determine if assessment reports or source protection plans should be revised <p><u>Note:</u> This program is currently funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.</p>	<p>No additional changes need to be made to existing services</p>

Category 1: Mandatory Services	Required Services: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Corporate Services	Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Governance and Leadership Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Setting priorities and policies ii) Financial planning and monitoring iii) Services and project development iv) Conservation Ontario Council and Committees v) Reporting to member municipalities b) Administration / Human Resources / Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Human resources planning and administration ii) Workspace and equipment management iii) Records retention and management iv) Compliance with legislation related to employment, health and safety, accessibility, etc. c) Financial Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Bookkeeping, investments, banking, financial planning ii) Tangible capital asset management iii) Management of financial agreements with external funders d) Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Communications strategy development and implementation e) Information technology management and geographic information system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Provide IT and GIS support f) Vehicles, Equipment and Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Provide and maintain vehicles and equipment ii) Maintain and upgrade buildings and related infrastructure g) Strategic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) An updated Strategic Plan is required by January 2024 	<p>LTVCA Asset Management Plan due on or before December 31, 2024</p>

Category 2:	Additional Regulatory Requirements: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Private Land Stewardship Program	Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best Management Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mitigate flood and erosion hazards on private lands (overlaps Cat 1 program) ii. Improve and protect water quality iii. Restore flood plains and river valleys (overlaps Cat 1 program) iv. Reduce nutrient contamination v. Restore and enhance wetlands to reduce flooding peaks and augment low flow (overlaps Cat 1 program) vi. Management of terrestrial non-native invasive species vii. Protect groundwater viii. Improve aquatic species at risk habitat 2. Tall grass prairie establishment, tree planting and forestry services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Forestry services including planting plan development, tree and shrub planting ii. Private woodlot stewardship, technical assistance iii. Tall grass prairie plan development and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Apply for and maintain external funding

Category 2:	Additional Regulatory Requirements: Ontario Regulation 686/21
Natural Heritage System Planning and Review Services	Identification of Additional and or Enhanced Services to Meet Regulatory Requirements
<p>Support development of Natural Heritage Systems to address Planning Act, infrastructure and greenspace planning.</p> <p>Provide technical information and advice to municipalities on circulated municipal land use planning applications (Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, Subdivision, Consents, Minor Variances).</p>	

Category 3: Watershed Stewardship Extension, Forestry and Monitoring Services

1. Provide stewardship services to watershed landowners and municipalities that will:
 - a) Help improve the health and resiliency of rivers, lakes, soil and forests
 - b) Help keep soil and nutrients on the landscape and out of watercourses
2. Restoration of natural areas:
 - Projects include: flood plains, river valleys, riparian areas, forests, grasslands and wetlands
 - Technical support for landowners
 - Support with funding applications
 - Coordination of planting projects (this service is funded by a user fee)
 - Purchase of trees and shrubs in bulk for municipalities and residents (this service is funded by a user fee)
 - Benefits include:
 - Increases natural areas and habitat on the landscape
 - Improves water quality
 - Promotes storm water retention on the landscape and reintegration back into the ground water table
 - Aides in Climate Change resiliency
3. Soil and Water Conservation:
 - Rural storm water management and cover crops
 - Technical support for landowners
 - Support with funding applications
 - Benefits: reduces soil erosion and improves soil health for agricultural production
4. Watershed Stewardship / Agricultural Programs and Projects:
 - Delivery of rural water quality programs
 - Leverage other funding to support our extension work
 - Develop proposals and necessary partnerships to secure funding

5. Natural Heritage Systems Implementation

6. Costs to Operate CA's

- Costs to operate campgrounds and associated facilities on LTVCA lands. CM Wilson CA – 66% Active; Big Bend CA – 66% Active; Warwick CA – 66 % Active

7. Land acquisition

- Strategic acquisition of environmentally-significant properties. Average appraisal, legal and other fees over last five years equates to \$10,000 per year. Average land donation equates to \$225,000 per year over the last five years. Periodic based on timing of donations.

8. Watershed Health Monitoring and Reporting:

- Monitor and report on the health of forests, rivers and soil
- Used to help track progress and to focus extension services
- Used to determine extent and type of stewardship work needed in the watershed
- The information is required to support the need for funding for stewardship projects when applying to Provincial, Federal and NGO agencies

9. Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (benthic, spills, algae blooms)

10. Species At Risk Program

- Species at risk research and assessment
- Assisting landowners with land restoration projects and improving Species at Risks habitats on private and CA lands

11. Agricultural Research and Stewardship Programs

- Stewardship and research undertaken jointly with the agriculture community
- Programs address nutrient run off, healthy soils and development/implementation of local Best Management Practices

12. School Programs

- Curriculum-based education programs for elementary and secondary students
- The programs focus on local watersheds, ecosystems, and environmental issues
- Programs take place at schools (indoors and outdoors), field trips to conservation areas, community parks and through online learning

13. Watershed Report Card

- Conservation Authorities report on local watershed conditions every five years
- The LTVCA watershed is divided into 57 sub-watersheds grouped into 8 in the Watershed Report Card
- Understanding of the watershed, focuses efforts and tracks progress (report card undertaken every five years)

14. Community programs and events e.g. Chatham-Kent Water Festival

- Education and outreach programs and community events to assist in achieving the objectives of the conservation authority

15. Ska-Nah-Doht Longhouse Village and Museum

- First Nations education and programs

Category 3: CM Wilson Conservation Area Campground / Education Centre

- LTVCA provides overnight and seasonal camping at the CM Wilson Conservation Area
- LTVCA provides educational and community programming at the CM Wilson Education Centre
- The campground and education programs are partially funded by user fees charged for programs, day use and overnight camping to the area
- Revenue raised is used to fund the operations of the campground, with any surplus revenue used to fund education and community programs

Category 3: Big Bend Conservation Area Campground

- LTVCA provides overnight and seasonal camping at the Big Bend Conservation Area
- The campground is funded by user fees charged for day use and overnight camping to the area
- Revenue raised is used to fund the operations of the campground, with any surplus revenue used to fund operation / maintenance of conservation authority lands

Category 3: EM Warwick Conservation Area Campground

- LTVCA provides overnight and seasonal camping at the EM Warwick Conservation Area
- The group camping facility is funded by user fees charged for overnight camping to the area
- Revenue raised is used to fund the operations of the group camping facilities, with any surplus revenue used to fund operation / maintenance of conservation authority lands

Category 3: Longwoods Road Conservation Area / Ska-Nah-Doht Longhouse Village and Museum

- LTVCA provides educational and historic learning at the Longwoods Road Conservation Area / Ska-Nah-Doht Longhouse Village and Museum
- The conservation area programs are partially funded by user fees charged for day use programs, special events and parking to the area
- Revenue raised is used to fund the operations of the resource centre museum and the historic village and buildings, with any surplus revenue used to fund education and community programs

9.6) 2023 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule

The fee schedule includes increased rates for a number of items that have been deemed to be significantly below market rates. This determination was developed by comparing adjacent Conservation Authority rates.

The increased rates include:

Item	2022 Rate	Proposed Rate
Monthly Camping	\$625	\$700
Seasonal Camping	\$1800	\$2000
Big Bend Hunt Camp- hydro & water	New Fee	\$266/week
Big Bend Hunt Camp- unserviced	New Fee	\$228/week
E.M. Warwick CA- excess garbage fee	New Fee	\$50/bag (if over 4 bag limit)

Below is the new rate schedule.

Recommendation:

That the LTVCA Board of Directors approve the 2023 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule.

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

Customer/Stakeholder Objectives

- 4) Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

**Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
2023 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule**

ALL PRICES INCLUDE HST

	Longwoods Road	Big Bend	CM Wilson	EM Warwick	Sharon Creek
Camping (Single Sites ¹)		✓	✓		
Group Camping	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Seasonal Camping		✓	✓		
Pavilion/Area Rental	✓	✓	✓		
Day Use Fee	✓ coin or credit card		✓ coin or credit card		✓ Passport Canada
2023 CA Parking Pass	✓		✓		✓

Day Use Parking Passes

Vehicle Permit	5.00 per day
Bus	110.00 per day
2023 CA Parking Pass	60.00 each, or two for 90

Camping

	Nightly	Monthly	Season (Victoria Day - Thanksgiving)
Premium Sites	40.00	700.00	2000.00 (other fees may apply)
Hydro & Water/Waterfront Sites [Big Bend]			
Hydro Only	38.00		
Unserviced	32.00		1800.00 (other fees may apply)
Extra Overnight Vehicle	5.00 per night		
Group Camping	100.00 per night		
Winter Storage of Camper	200.00 (Thanksgiving – Victoria Day [CM Wilson Only])		
Firewood	10.00/bag		

Big Bend Hunt Camp¹ – Weekly Rates Only (Designated season)

Serviced (Hydro only)	266.00
Unserviced	228.00
Firewood	10.00/bag or 75.00 per ½ face cord

EM Warwick⁺

	Weekends/night	Fri & Sat bundle	Sun-Thurs/night	Weekly
(Includes all buildings)				
Year-Round	400.00	600.00	250.00	1100.00
Scouts/Cadets/Guides (Nov-Apr)	250.00	450.00	150.00	750.00
Reservation Deposit*	50% of total bill due at time of booking (\$100 of which non-refundable without 30 days' notice)			
Firewood	75.00 per ½ face cord			
Excess Garbage	50.00 per additional bag if over 8-bag limit			

Pavilion Rental⁺

	Per day, excludes parking where applicable (Guests must use Pay & Display machine OR Purchase permits in advance)
Pavilion/Area Rental	100.00 (for outdoor and pavilion weddings \$200 consultation fee also applies)
Barn (CM Wilson)	250.00 (50% of total bill due at time of booking (\$100 of which non-refundable without 30 days' notice))
Per 25 Vehicle Permits	50.00
Wedding Consultation Fee	200.00 (includes one CA Parking Pass for couple)

CM Wilson Barn Wedding Package⁺

1000.00	Includes:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of outdoor area for ceremony and photos, additional fees may apply for tents in outdoor area • Parking for 25 vehicles, one CA Parking Pass for couple • Access to setup day before at 2:00 pm, including access to host rehearsal dinner • Teardown before 1:00 pm day after, including access to host brunch • 50% of total bill due at time of booking (\$100 of which non-refundable without 30 days' notice)

Other

Non-Camper Sewage Disposal	50.00 (CM Wilson Only, May-Oct)
Cleaning Fee	150.00 first hour, 50/hour thereafter

¹ Includes one vehicle per site; Let's Camp processing Fee additional

⁺ Requires \$150 Security/Damage Deposit, to be refunded if applicable

* Reservation deposit applied to total bill

Prices are subject to change

9.7) Magic of Lights Proposal

Staff have been meeting with Woodlo Productions (the “contractor”) to renegotiate the potential for a light show this upcoming holiday season.

Electrical Upgrades

The Contractor is proposing to upgrade existing services and adding new electricity outlets at Longwoods as follows:

- A new electric subpanel panel and outlets that are approximately 700' from the gatehouse with buried service cabling
- New outlets at the post outside the gatehouse
- New outlets at the front gate entrance
- New outlets outside the resource centre
- New outlets outside the Ska-Nah-Doht Village cabins

These upgrades will reduce the number of generators required for the show from 14 to 5, thereby reducing pollution and noise issues. The upgrades are estimated at \$16,000 and will be fully paid for by Woodlo Productions.

Rental Rate

As part of the negotiations, staff have requested an increase in the rental rate to \$0.50 (fifty cents) per vehicle, with a minimum rental fee of \$14,000. At the minimum fee, the rate is an increase of 75% from last year's rate. If we reach our target of 32,000 cars this year, then the rental rate increases to \$16,000 -- a 100% increase from last year's rate. This is a realistic target given that 36,000 vehicles attended last year. In addition, the contractor will continue to pay additional fees for road clearing and maintenance, and any springtime restoration that is required as a result of the show traffic.

The contractor will also continue to support and bring a spotlight to Longwoods Conservation Area through their extensive marketing efforts. Last year, the show and Longwoods were featured in a number of TV and radio news reports, online articles, and over 1 million social media interactions. The breadth of the marketing attracted show goers from Sarnia, Windsor, London, Chatham, Kitchener, Woodstock and all the communities in between. The Contractor has the same level of marketing planned this year, along with handing out Longwoods pamphlets and information to vehicles attending the event.

Financial Summary: The LTVCA will receive the following:

	\$16,000 – electrical upgrades
	<u>\$14,000</u> – rent (minimum)
Total:	\$30,000 (minimum)

Recommendation:

That the LTVCA Board of Directors approves the negotiated items and authorizes the chair and CAO to sign an agreement for undertaking the Magic of Lights show for the period Nov. 2022 to Jan. 2023.

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

Customer/Stakeholder Objectives

- 1) Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
- 4) Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

10. Business for Information

10.1) C.A.O.s Report

Date: October 20, 2022
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

The Pandemic Management Committee has completed its work but COVID-19 still is an issue with a number of staff being affected over the last 2 months. We continue to follow provincial guidance with managing COVID-19 infections. All staff have returned to offices and off site meetings are slowly returning to pre COVID-19 levels.

Planning Agreements with Member Municipalities

LTVCA staff continue to work with member municipalities to sign planning agreements as the first step in ensuring member municipalities support the programs of the LTVCA. Three agreements have been signed, and we are continuing to work with municipal staff to a deadline of the end of 2022 for having all planning agreements in place. We recognize that this target will be difficult for some municipalities but we will try to bring these agreements to new councils once they have been reconstituted.

Asset Management Plan

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority was instructed to create an Asset Management plan as part of our Strategic Plan 2016-2021. A recent opportunity (the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program) emerged that allowed the LTVCA to apply for 80% of the funding required to complete the LTVCA Asset Management Plan. This will significantly help staff complete this task as staff time is being challenged by additional work required under Bill 229.

Applications for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program were due by July 15, 2022. To address this timeline, a special board meeting was undertaken and a resolution supporting the application was approved. The application was submitted with the help of PSD Citywide.

Subsequently, the application was reviewed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and sent back for revisions. These revisions have been made and the application has been resubmitted. Staff are currently waiting for a decision on the funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Monitoring Policy

On February 28, the Ontario government introduced the Working for Workers Act, 2022 (Bill 88) (the Act). The Act put into effect a number of amendments to existing employment legislation, including a requirement for large employers to develop electronic monitoring policies. The Act changes Ontario's Employment Standards Act, 2000 (the ESA) which was amended to require Ontario employers with 25 or more employees to create an internal electronic monitoring policy, setting out whether the employer electronically monitors employees and, if so,

- i) a description of how and in what circumstances the employer may electronically monitor employees and
- ii) the purposes for which information obtained through electronic monitoring may be used by the employer.

The LTVCA Electronic Monitoring policy is intended to address requirements of the above legislation. It provides transparency for LTVCA practices and procedures related to electronic monitoring of employees. This policy applies to all employees (as defined under the Ontario Employment Standards Act) of the LTVCA. This policy is attached to this agenda.

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 and Flood Events

There have been only 3 flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors. Two of these messages were standing message issued for Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie shoreline flooding and intended to cover the months of September and October. The third message was a Flood Outlook for Lake Erie - Erie Shore Drive issued on October 12th. No significant flooding was reported for that event as winds never rose as high as predicted. Since the last Board of Directors meeting, there have not been any significant wind events to generate large waves and cause shoreline flooding. At the Erieau weather station (run by ECCC), there have been no recorded events with winds above 30 km/hr from a southerly direction. With respect to the Thames River and local watercourses, there were no messages issue as it was a relatively dry summer (which is reflected in the Low Water Response Program report below) and as a result there have been no predicted rainfall events large enough to trigger flood messages.

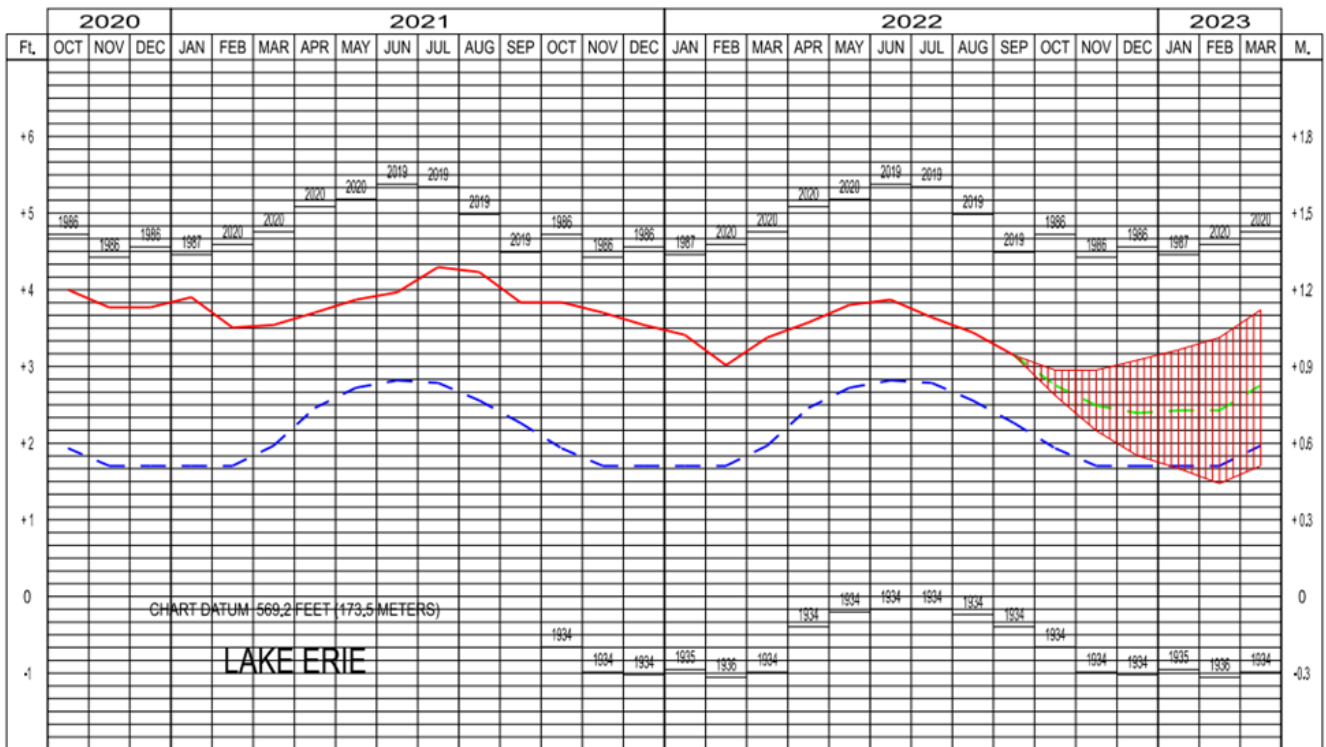
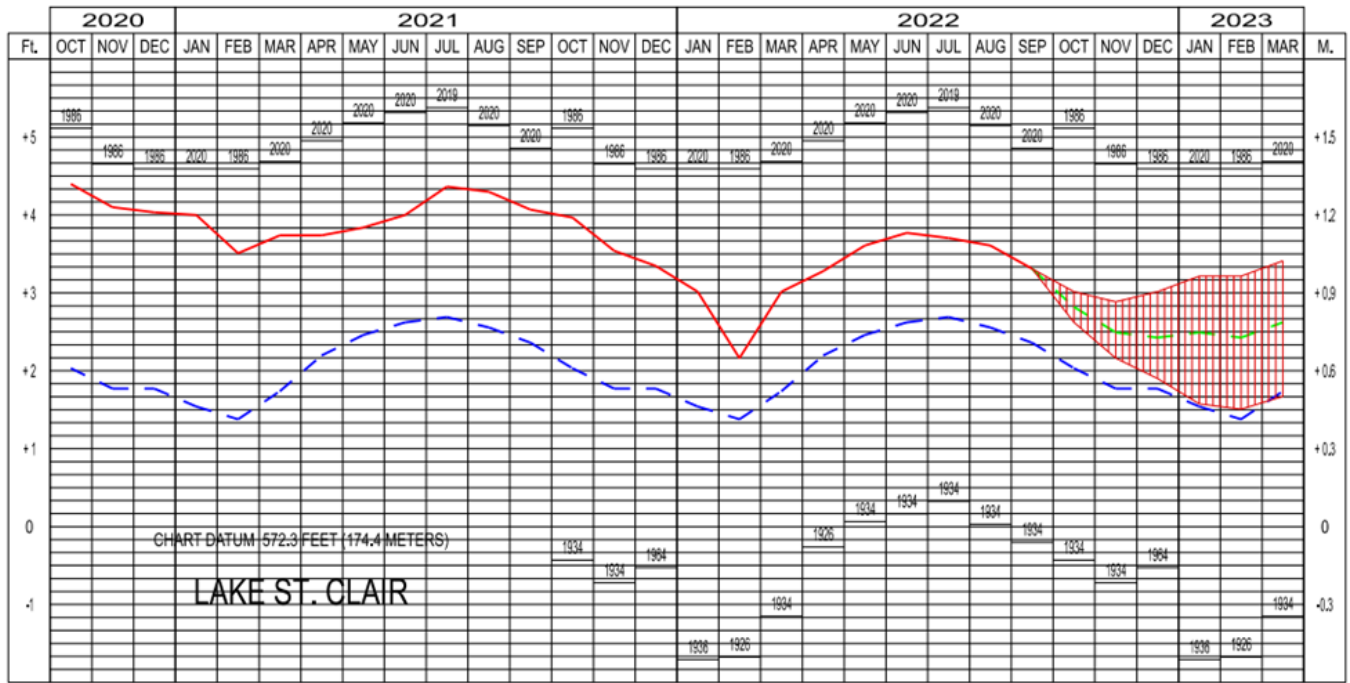
Report on Lake Conditions

Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of October were around 174.4 m (I.G.L.D.). This is down about 47 cm from last year's peak daily average water level record set on July 21st. The all-time record high monthly average for October was 174.94 m, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of October were still 31 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of October. Water levels on Lake Erie peaked in June and are now well into their seasonal decline. Forecasts suggest water levels could drop around 13 cm by the beginning of November.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of October were around 175.4 m (I.G.L.D.). This is down about 41 cm from last year's peak daily average water level record set on July 17th. The all-time record high monthly average for October was 175.96, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of October were 38 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of October. Water levels on Lake St. Clair peaked in June and are now well into their seasonal decline. Forecasts suggest water levels could drop around 13 cm by the beginning of November.

While current water levels on the lakes are still around 30 to 40 cm above average for this time of the year, water levels on both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair have fallen back down below October water levels seen from 2017 to 2021. Long range forecasts suggest that water levels are now trending more towards normal. Stronger wind events (most likely gale force wind events) are now required to cause flooding along the LTVCA's Lake St. Clair shoreline and along most of its Lake Erie shoreline. However, Erie Shore Drive is likely still more vulnerable at lower wind speeds. As autumn progresses and more frequent strong wind events appear, the LTVCA and municipal staff will need to pay close attention to the new conditions that produce flooding along the road.

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 October.



10.2.2) Flood Control Structures

There has been little activity surrounding the LTVCA's flood control structures over the last few months. It has been a relatively dry last few months so there have been no operations since the last report. Seasonal maintenance has continued for the flood control structures.

10.2.3) Low Water Response 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 summer/autumn thresholds are: Level 1, 70% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 50% LASF; and Level 3, 30% LASF. During the growing season, LTVCA staff create a brief report summarizing conditions around the watershed, which is available by request.

A Level 1 Low Water Condition was declared in June based on the rainfall deficit seen over the prior 3-month period. Lower than normal amounts of precipitation were also seen throughout most of the watershed in July and August. By the end of September, the 3-month rainfall indicators had improved in the east and west ends of the watershed and rain gauges outside Chatham-Kent were no longer indicating Low Water Conditions. However, most of Chatham-Kent seemed to still be in a Low Water Condition, with the area from south Chatham out towards Ridgeway showing Level 2 Conditions. Monthly flows on the Thames River at Dutton and Thamesville were also indicating Level 1 Low Water Conditions. Flows on McGregor Creek, which drains that area from south Chatham out towards Ridgeway were also indicating Level 2 Low Water Conditions.

Taking in consideration the uncertainty in the calculations and the geographic area each station represents, the watershed as a whole is still best represented by a Level 1 condition. The recommended action under a Low Water Level 1 Condition is to use existing communication channels to seek a voluntary 10% reduction in water usage from the relevant water sources. Since the growing season is pretty much over now, declaring a Level 2 Condition for just a portion of Chatham-Kent (with the associated ask for further reductions in water takings) doesn't seem necessary. Due to the dry conditions in August and September, unless rainfall conditions improve substantially in October, the Low Water Conditions in Chatham-Kent will likely continue into December.

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/>

10.2.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide, surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. The sampling is being conducted under two programs, the Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN) and a special grant under Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. Final signoff for the COA grant is still pending.

There had been some challenges with the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program over the last few years. However, significant efforts have been put into the program over the last few months and all the groundwater level monitoring instrumentation and telemetry is now up and running properly again. Every autumn there is also a program where LTVCA staff pump seven of the wells and take water quality samples to be analysed by the MECP. One of the wells was sampled in the first week of October and the remaining six are expected to be sampled in the coming weeks.

10.2.5) Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

Lake Erie Blooms

So far this year there have been no blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms reported on Lake Erie within the jurisdiction of the LTVCA. During the bloom season, the operational Lake Erie HAB Forecast is put out by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The forecast provides the current extent and 5-day outlooks of where the bloom will travel and what concentrations are likely to be seen. At the time this agenda was drafted, the most recent Forecast was from August 13th (see forecast below).

Satellite data used in the forecasts has occasionally shown low amounts of cyanobacteria offshore around Wheatley during September and early October. However, it never seemed to concentrate near the shoreline where it might have caused issues. As of October 11th, the NOAA HAB interactive map (<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/stressor-impacts-mitigation/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/satellite-imagery/>) appeared to show blooms alongshore from Stony Point, MI to Port Clinton, OH, with patches extending into western Lake Erie. On Lake St. Clair there appears to be a very narrow band that might be indicative of a bloom along the eastern shoreline in the former township of Dover. There are also indications that there may be some blooms occurring in Rondeau Bay.

Thames River Blooms

The Thames River in the city of Chatham experienced an algae bloom in early August. The bloom was first noticed on August 1st but had pretty much disappeared by August 8th. This year, the bloom was once again dominated by algae species with a dark brown or rusty brown that tended to form in streaks. Both leading up to that bloom and since, there have been days when the river seemed to have a slight green discolouration. This would suggest that a blue-green algae bloom might soon occur. However, there have been no other algae blooms of either type detected so far this year. Although blooms have been seen on the river in the past in October, as the weather gets cooler the chance of another bloom becomes much less likely. LTVCA staff continue to monitor the river with an algae sensor to see if the bloom reappears.

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

Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast



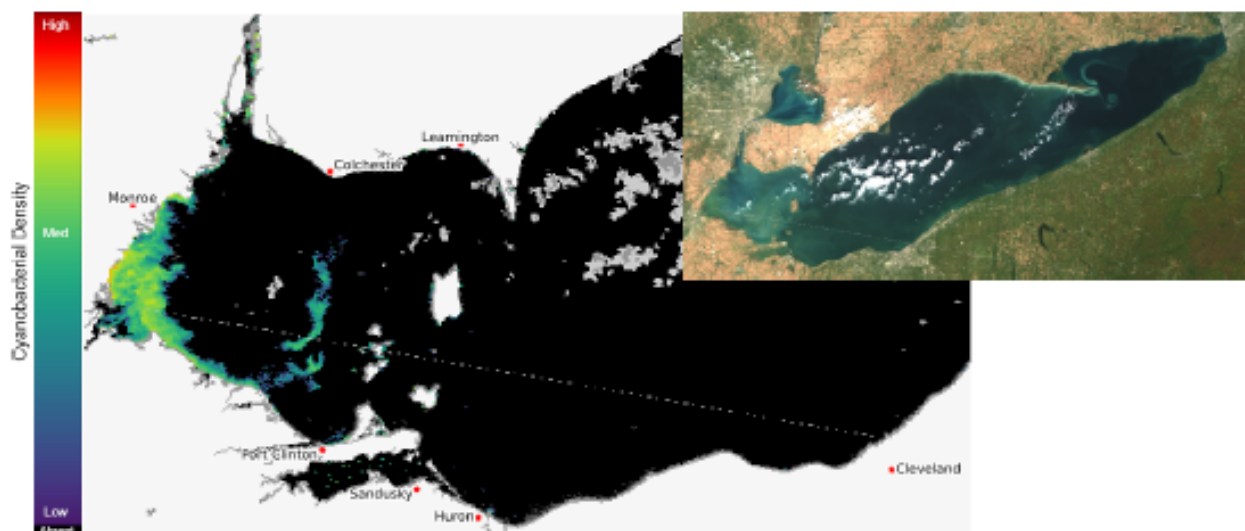
NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

Imagery Analysis & Forecast - 2022-10-13

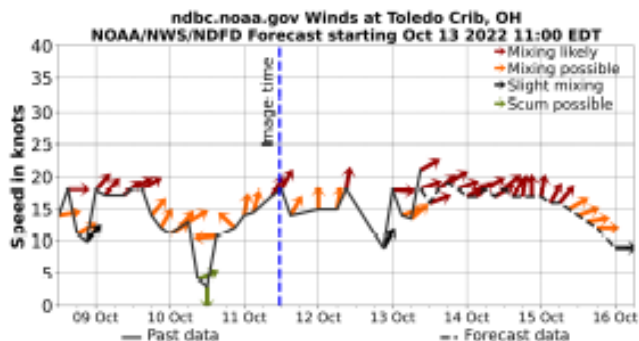
The *Microcystis* cyanobacteria bloom is present in western Lake Erie but cloud cover and winds prevent determining the area. The bloom extends alongshore from Stony Point, MI to Port Clinton, OH, with patches extending into western Lake Erie. Highest concentrations are observed in Maumee Bay. Sandusky Bay has a local bloom of cyanobacteria, which is persistent in most years.

Toxins have been detected below the recreational limit. They can be highly concentrated in scums! If you see scum, keep your pets and yourself out of the water. In the satellite imagery or bloom forecast position products, any areas that are orange or red are likely to have scum, especially during calm winds, see Mixing Forecast product. –S. Tomlinson 10/13

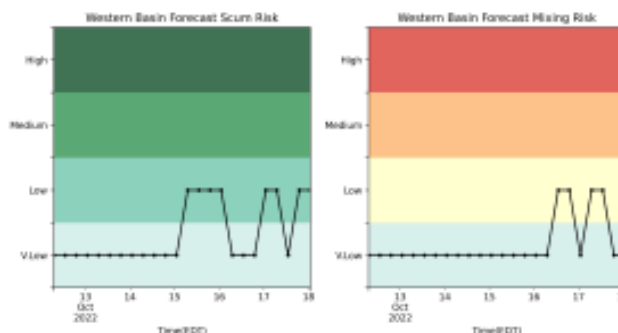
The past few days of imagery can be seen at [the HAB monitoring site](#). The Lake Erie Forecast is operated by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. Contact hab@noaa.gov for technical Questions. Last Updated: 2022-10-13 10 AM EDT



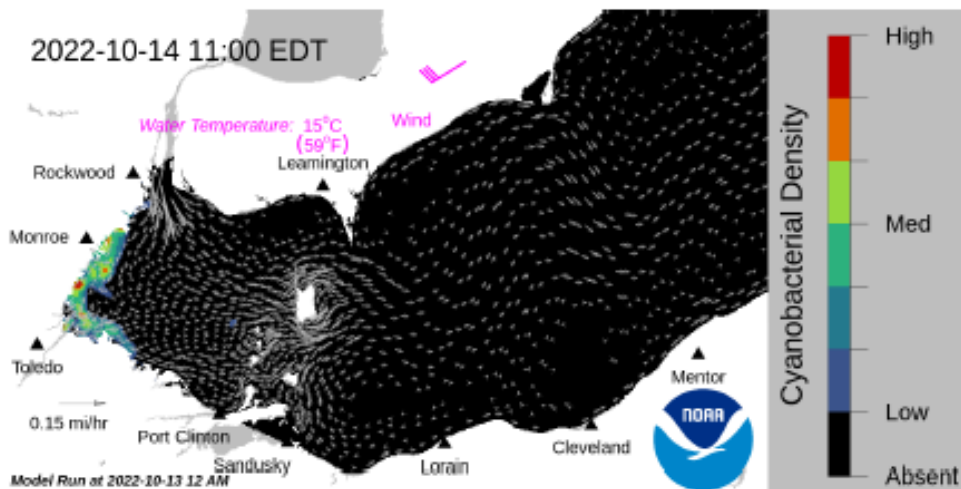
Current Lake Erie Sentinel-3 satellite imagery from the Ocean and Land Color Imager (OLCI) on Oct 11, 2022, showing bloom location and extent in the western basin. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. The estimated threshold of cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL. Inset shows a truecolor image of the entire lake. Data derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3.



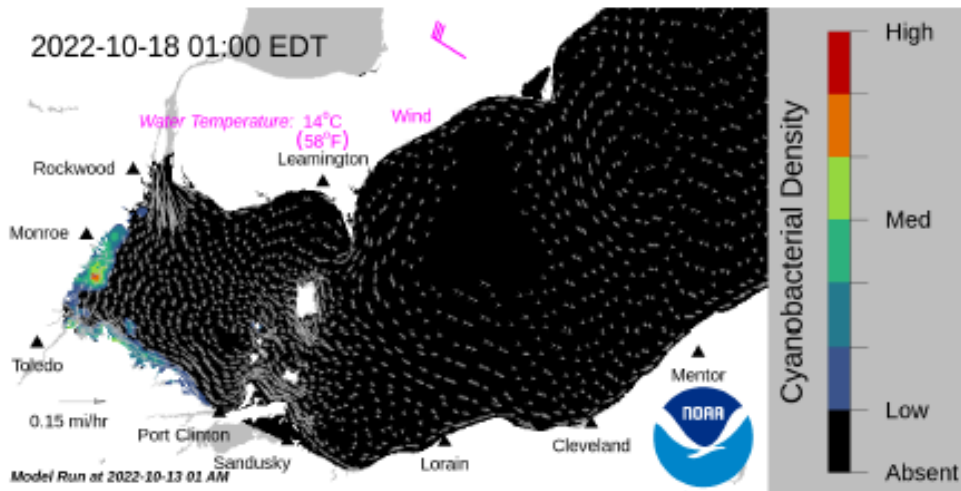
Wind speed and direction from Toledo Crib, OH. Blooms mix through water column at wind speeds > 15 knots.



Where the bloom is present in western Lake Erie, the potential risk of scum (left), and risk of mixing of the bloom down into the water column every 6 hours over the next 5 days.



Forecast surface bloom position for Oct 14, modeled from the last satellite image with water currents estimated from the Lake Erie Operational Forecast System (LEOFS). Potential for bloom movement is forecast in 3-dimensions with a hydrodynamic model using satellite imagery and currents. The modeled output does not contain clouds. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.



Forecast surface bloom position for Oct 18. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.

Additional resource:

- [Archived Lake Erie Forecasts](#)
- [More information about our bloom monitoring imagery](#)
- [FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions about cyanobacteria and the forecasts NOAA issues](#)
- [Contributors and Data Providers](#)
- [Lake Erie HAB Forecast Guide - User guide to help navigate the forecast products](#)

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.3.1) Planning

From the end of July 2022 through to the end of September 2022, there were 72 planning submissions reviewed by staff for this reporting season 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 43 phone calls and over 126 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2020 Totals	2021 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	March Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	June Totals	July Totals	Aug Totals	Sept Totals	2022 Totals
Chatham-Kent	259	306	16	11	16	23	23	14	17	22	17	159
Elgin	67	79	5	4	4	8	7	21	12	7	9	77
Essex	46	36	4	1	1	2	6	2	4	3	6	29
Middlesex	35	54	4	1	5	3	4	8	0	7	1	33
Total Numbers	407	475	29	17	26	36	40	45	33	39	33	298

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

10.3.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

In the months of August and September, the LTVCA received 65 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Of the 427 permit applications received in the first nine months of 2022, all but 13 had been approved by staff. Three applications can't be approved by staff as they don't comply with board-approved policies and are awaiting hearing decisions from the Executive Committee. The remaining 10 applications were in the queue to be reviewed by staff as of the end of September.

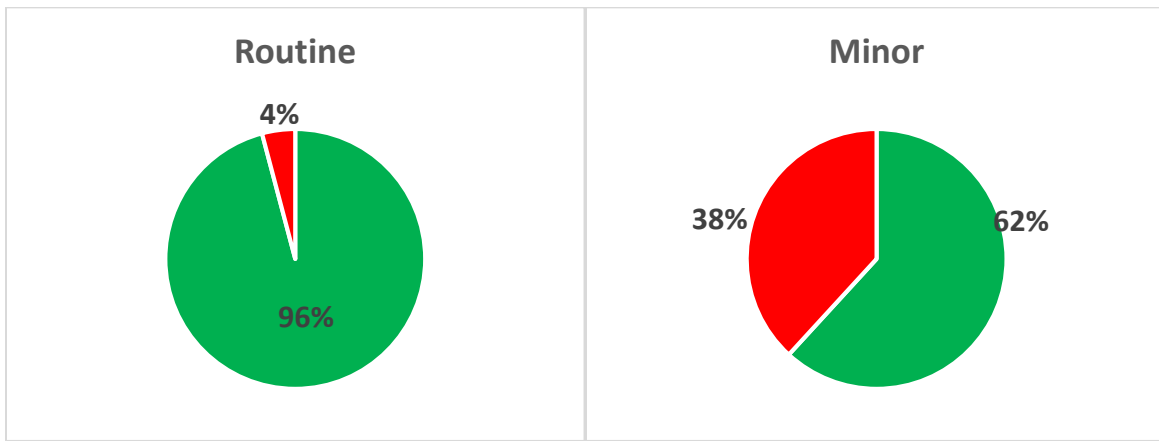
The refusal of permission by the Executive Committee regarding Application #617-2021 following a hearing earlier this year is being appealed by the applicant to the Ontario Land Tribunal. This is the first LTVCA Hearing Board decision to be appealed in the history of the LTVCA. The Executive Committee will be updated regularly by the Chief Administrative Officer regarding the file.

The regulations program continues to experience a strong demand for resources. In an attempt to keep pace with the demand and to support the Regulations Technician, the Watershed Resource Planner and Water Resources Engineer continue to help with processing permits. The Planning Technician has been trained and is now providing support for the program by surveying for floodplain development applications. An Administrative Assistant for the Planning and Regulations program was hired in April 2022. They have been trained in surveying and are taking on those duties. They continue to be trained and are providing support to the program.

\$91,725 has been collected thus far this year (as of the end of September) in permit application and hearing fees.

10.3.3) Permit Processing Timelines

For applications issued up until the end of September, the charts and table below indicate that 96% of "routine" and 62% of "minor" permit applications met their applicable customer service standard for turnaround time. Permit turnaround times continue to lag behind the LTVCA's & Conservation Ontario'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	93	2	1	1	0
Minor	119	72	33	84	1
Major	0	0	0	0	1

For the months of August and September, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was 4 days (ranged between 0 and 22 days). The customer service standard for routine permits is a turnaround within 14 days. The processing time for routine permit continues to meet customer service targets. This improvement is largely due to the Water Resources Engineer that was hired near the end of 2020 taking on the task of processing most of the applications identified as being routine in complexity.

For the months of August and September, the average turnaround time for a minor permit application was 16 days (ranged between 0 and 56 days). For private property minor complexity permits, the average turnaround time was 22 days. The customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. The processing time for minor permit applications is not meeting the customer service targets.

Another required aspect of the Regulations program is the organization and handling of Hearings. It can take a significant amount of time to manage the applications up to the point a Hearing is deemed required and requested. Then, further time is required to prepare, arrange, and conduct the Hearings. There were four Hearings conducted in 2021 and seven Hearings so far in 2022.

10.3.4) Property Inquiries

Up to the end of September, 1087 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Program which is 278 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 1-5 business days for e-mails and up to 5 business days for phone calls.

10.3.5) Section 28 Enforcement

In the first nine months of 2022, twenty-nine complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. Twenty-three out of twenty-nine issues are confirmed violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. None of the issues 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

Staff Report

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications
(Up to September 30, 2022)

B.D. 10/20/2022

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
2022 Permits					
323-2022	Hitchcock Road, Howard Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 03, 2022	37
329-2022	24422 Dashwheel Road	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 03, 2022	28
332-2022	980 Rivait Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: August 03, 2022	28
335-2022	4915 Tesumseh Line	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 03, 2022	29
346-2022	17655 Erieau Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 10, 2022	34
349-2022	35 Crerar Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 04, 2022	22
351-2022	7 McGregor Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 04, 2022	22
352-2022	5386 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 04, 2022	17
355-2022	18246 Erie Shore Drive	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent	Granted: September 12, 2022	20
356-2022	30 Adelaide Street North	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 10, 2022	22
357-2022	6810 Grande River Line	Pain Court	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 11, 2022	20
358-2022	893 Markham Drive	Tilbury	Lakeshore	Granted: 06 September 2022	42
359-2022	325 Mariners Road	Erieau	Chatham-kent	Granted: August 24, 2022	9
362-2022	7121 Riverview Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 15, 2022	17
364-2022	4172 Tecumseh Line	Jeannettes Creek	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 12, 2022	14
365-2022	408 Erie St N	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 12, 2022	14
366-2022	Mariners Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 09 september 2022	37
367-2022	5310 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 05, 2022	56
368-2022	19172 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: 16 September, 2022	42
369-2022	Kenesserie Road over Wilson Drain	Howard & Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 29 August 2022	21
370-2022	Turin Line over Wilson Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 29 August 2022	21

371-2022	2 Kent Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 10, 2022	0
372-2022	1315 Trillium Drive	Wardsville	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: August 10, 2022	0
373-2022	Malott Drain	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 29 August 2022	18
374-2022	Edgewood Subdivision	Mount Brydges	Chatham-Kent	Granted: August 24, 2022	12
375-2022	Falconbridge Drive @ Eddie Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: 29 August 2022	13
376-2022	Falconbridge Drive @ Delvin-McTaggart Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: 29 August 2022	13
377-2022	136 Middleton Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 12 September, 2022	25
378-2022	8686 Iona Road	Iona Station	Southwold	Granted: September 02, 2022	10
379-2022	5295 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: September 09, 2022	17
380-2022	Government Drain #2	Ekfrid and Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: August 29, 2022	10
381-2022	Martin Drain	Chatham & Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 30 August 2022	6
382-2022	Ligori Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 30 August 2022	6
383-2022	Gladstone Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 30 August 2022	6
384-2022	12 Wellington Street @ Sterling Drain	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 29 August 2022	4
385-2022	8739 Homestead Road	Dutton	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: 30 August 2022	5
386-2022	33106 Scotch Line	Fingal	Southwold	Granted: 30 August 2022	5
387-2022	Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 25 August, 2022	6
388-2022	8846 Homestead Road	Iona	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: 30 August 2022	4
389-2022	27766 Duff Line	Dutton	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: 30 August 2022	4
390-2022	Taylor Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 29 August 2022	10
391-2022	Taff Creek Drain	Harwich and Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 29 August 2022	0
392-2022	McTavish Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 29 August 2022	0
393-2022	Walker Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 30 August 2022	1

394-2022	Lundy Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: 02 September 2022	4
395-2022	Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 30 August 2022	5
396-2022	360 Grand Ave East	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 16 September, 2022	21
397-2022	34 Prince Street South	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 9 September, 2022	14
398-2022	540 Park avenue E; Suite 8	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 13 September, 2022	17
399-2022	16 O'Brien Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 12 September, 2022	12
400-2022	147 Kennedy St	Wardsville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 1 September, 2022	0
401-2022	825 Mariners Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 2 September, 2022	0
402-2022	70 Mary Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 13 September, 2022	11
403-2022	20854 Cemetery Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 13 September, 2022	7
405-2022	McKenzie Drain	West Elgin	West Elgin	Granted: 08 September 2022	1
406-2022	Macfie Drain	Ekfrid and Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: 07 September 2022	0
407-2022	22788 Creek Rd	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 15 September 2022	7
408-2022	19110 Haven Avenue	Lakeshore	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 13 September, 2022	4
409-2022	19072 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: 20 Septembre, 2022	11
411-2022	19150 Blue Water Ave	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: 13 September, 2022	6
412-2022	Unopened Right of Way (Lamila Street)	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 16 September, 2022	2
413-2022	10445 Longwoods Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 16 September, 2022	0
415-2022	825 Mariners Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 20 September, 2022	1
416-2022	11763 Bates Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 20 September, 2022	1
417-2022	Gesner McKerracher Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 23 September, 2022	1
421-2022	Coll Drain	Morpeth	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 28 September, 2022	0
422-2022	Cruickshank Drain	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 28 September, 2022	0
424-2022	Fields Creek Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: 28 September, 2022	0

10.4) Conservation Area Lands

10.4.1) Conservation Area Visitation / Camping Stats, August 1 September 30 2022

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 1,591 people (1,275 Aug 1 – Sept 30 2021) (Includes two people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 508 vehicles (608 vehicles Aug 1 – Sept 30 2021)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 880 people (570 Aug 1 – Sept 30 2021)

Big Bend Conservation Area – 1,763 people (1,081 Aug 1 – Sept 30 2021)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 10,142 people (9,803 Aug 1 – Sept 30 2021) (Includes two people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 211 vehicles (244 Aug 1 – Sept. 30 2021)

Sharon Creek Conservation Area – 0 Day Use Transactions (545 Aug 1 – Sept 30 2021)

2022 Parking Passes – 7 sold (10 sold Aug 1 – Sept 30 2021)

10.4.2) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area



Staff built this new porch on Livermore House

New tenants have been screened by a third party realtor, credit checks conducted, the new tenants will be moving in the “Livermore House” this month. With area rates increasing, we have negotiated a monthly rate of \$2600 with a possible reduction of \$300 if tenants mow their own grass. This is a substantial increase and will help to offset staff use of the Burwell house and general maintenance of the property.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)- has ordered LTVCA to raised up certain hydro posts. AV Utility has been contracted and work has commenced to bring LTVCA back into compliance with Hydro One.

The Canada Revitalization Grant that was approved has begun, with RFP being posted and reviewed by engineers. Plans are underway and set to start this exciting project this upcoming fall.

Kenneserie Prairie

Staff conducted a seed collection event at this nature reserve. Educational and intentional; the seed will be used at other projects including the LTVCA Diversion Channel.



New England Aster- native wildflower

Sharon Creek

Our current Mackay Pay Phone app at Sharon Creek is in the midst of changing to Passport Parking Canada. This new platform will be available general public to pay \$5/day to utilize the property. London Canoe Club continues to provide a presence and offer their own programming. New signage to be installed over the next few weeks.

Big Bend

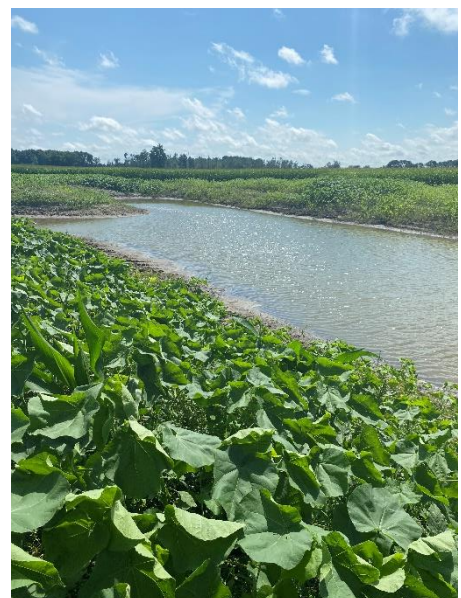
This season we have 9 Seasonal campers at Big Bend CA and is open for transient campers. New hydro was added to the storage barn to allow for two more seasonal sites. Through our Species at Risk program, new signage was installed at the boat launch to the Thames River.

With regular camping season coming to a close, Hunter groups will be moving in for a few weeks, which generates about \$5000/year.

Walter Devereux

A grant through the Ontario Land Trust Association (OLTA) has provided funds to excavate a second wetland cell at this property. 5 acres of agricultural land has been taken out of production and the perimeter of these wetlands have been planted in Tall Grass Prairie.

These new features will be a great addition to this conservation area that acts as a demonstration site for visitors and lies at the headwaters of the McGregor Creek watershed.



New wetland at Walter Devereux CA

C.M. Wilson



Staff put in a fair amount of time preparing the Conservation Area for the McKinlay Memorial Forest program and the Children’s Water festival. Both events saw 1000’s of visitors to this Conservation Area.

Staff have also been working with CK Safety Village as we work through the expired lease and assist this organization with a path forward.

Alison Klages and Adam Gibb assist with parking at McKinlay Memorial Forest Event

Camping season comes to close at the end of the month, so staff will be shutting down water systems and preparing to winterize.

Three quotes for Chimney repairs on our Tenant house have been received, and work will commence this fall with the pointing and repairs that are required.

Diversion Channel

This year a fair amount of staff time was dedicated to applying herbicides, brushing woody material and mowing of this flood control structure. At 3.5km in length this is an ongoing maintenance issue that requires significant staff and resources. In particular, the species that causes the most difficulty is willow, that if left to grow will impede flow and be difficult to eliminate. Now that plants are going dormant, the window to apply herbicides is closing and staff will continue to mow the channel.

Staff use this spray boom system to apply herbicides to undesirable species.



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) General Update



Figure 1- New signs were installed at the Ridge Landfill to acknowledge natural restoration work going on around the perimeter of the Landfill



Figure 2- Staff attended the Somerville Stock viewing day on Sept 29 to assess tree availability for spring 2023

In the eastern district, planning of 2023 projects has accelerated, with more interest every week. Currently, we have 14



tree planting projects large enough to qualify for 50 Million Trees Program support, totalling 17,250 trees, with more interest through the over-the-counter seedling sales program. We expect this number to grow after our appearances at four Ontario Agricultural Societies fall fairs (Melbourne, Shedden, Rodney, Glencoe), as there are still landowners considering projects with us that could total up to 35 acres more (21,000 trees) if all landowners decided to plant with us across all the area they are considering. Notably, there was also an expression of interest from the mayor of Southwest Middlesex in planting a project on municipal land, which we are beginning to pursue. Outside of tree planting projects, there are 4 wetlands that we are planning to move ahead on with partners, and 7 acres of tallgrass prairie.

In addition to the fall fair circuit, other outreach efforts are going well. LTVCA has been confirmed as the guest speaker for the annual general meeting of the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, and are on the waitlist to present to the Glencoe Horticultural Society and the West Elgin Nature Club. We are waiting to hear back from the initial contact with the Rodney Horticultural Society. Efforts to find more opportunities to speak to the community about our programs are ongoing.

Figure 3 - Connor Ferguson speaks at Ridgetown Horticultural Society Meeting in September

ALUS Middlesex



ALUS Middlesex had a busy September, working on several projects while the warm weather stuck around. With St. Clair Conservation Authority, three new wetlands were created in priority areas. A 10-acre prairie was planted and a prescribed burn carried out on an 11-year old prairie, in partnership with Grasslands Ontario. ALUS Middlesex also began a new partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and through their generous funding, was able to plant over 2,000 native wildflower plants. This project is part of the Monarch Pathways project, which aims to increase the amount of available habitat for the at-risk species.

ALUS Middlesex staff pictured with the burn from Lands & Forests Consulting.

ALUS Elgin

ALUS Elgin has continued developing relationships with landowners across the County – this is reflected in the 215 acres now restored under the program. We’re gearing up for 2023 with projects of all ecotypes starting to role in for establishment. ALUS Elgin has also been busy hosting several events like the Growing Biodiversity Conference, hosted in partnership with ALUS Middlesex, which reached over 140 people. Multiple project tours to showcase landowner experiences and project success were held with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Environment and Climate Change Canada. ALUS Elgin further extended its reach into the County by attending fairs in Shedden and Rodney where 100 people had visited our booth with the interest in learning about the program.

Preston, our new program assistant, and Graham, our monitoring specialist, have joined the team this August and have been a great help while being involved our community events and supporting program delivery. We’re looking forward to what the end of the year will bring!



ECCC representative and the ALUS Hub Manager discuss project details while exploring an ALUS Elgin prairie project.



Attendees gather at the Growing Biodiversity Conference hosted at Wildflowers Farm in St. Thomas.

ALUS Chatham-Kent

ALUS Chatham-Kent has recruited a new Program Coordinator – Shauna Taylor started at the end of September and has been busy learning and preparing for the upcoming reporting season.

ALUS Chatham-Kent has implemented **19 projects this year with a total of 61.75 acres**, which surpasses the years target acreage. Projects include wetlands, native tall grass prairies, riparian buffers, and tree plantings. There is already interest in projects for 2023, and ALUS-CK will be looking for new and effective ways to promote the program to attract project participants. In addition, ALUS-CK will be recruiting new members of the Partnership Advisory Committee who will provide insight and expand the outreach of the program.

Ducks Unlimited and Imagine McGregor

The Imagine McGregor program has continued to ramp up steam, with a slew of events occurring in the past months.

In August, **six volunteers from the Children’s Treatment Centre** practised stewardship in our own front yard through an office garden cleanup. They collected several bags of litter as well as removed woody and herbaceous invasive plants that were taking over the LTVCA’s garden. **Two groups from Community Living Chatham** also volunteered in two Conservation Areas: C.M. Wilson & Thames Grove. The two groups had a two-day volunteer stint in which they removed invasive phragmites, invasive species from a tallgrass prairie, and litter from both sites.



Children’s Treatment Center volunteers doing a cleanup of the LTVCA gardens (left), and volunteers from Community Living Chatham removing invasive species from the tall grass prairie at Thames Grove CA (right).

Several tree-planting events were held in September and October, seeing over 200 new trees and shrubs planted within our watershed. The LTVCA teamed up with Coca-Cola through a Trees Canada grant to plant **100 trees in T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest**. Over **20 volunteers** from the Chatham Coca-Cola branch came out and were instrumental in the restorative work. The TD Tree Days grant received earlier this summer was put to good use, purchasing over **100 native trees and shrubs** planted in several municipal green spaces: Jaycette Park, Sage Close Park, Moose Park, & Henry Smyth Park. Staff from the TD Chatham branch as well as local high school science classes were recruited for the plantings, with over **75 students from UCC, CKSS, and John McGregor** getting their hands dirty.



Staff from Coca-Cola (left) and TD Bank (right) participating in tree planting events.

The LTVCA has partnered with Maple City Homes to order **150 large stock trees** (Red & Silver Maples, Tulips, and Redbuds) that will be planted as street trees in the new Meadows subdivision in Chatham. These trees will help to beautify the subdivision as well as provide a plethora of ecosystem services.

Restorative work is also being completed directly on the bank of the McGregor creek through a partnership with the local brewery: Sons of Kent. The backyard of the brewery backs onto the McGregor, which is currently undergoing a large-scale invasive removal and garbage/debris cleanup so that it can be planted with native herbaceous and woody species in the spring of 2023. Red Barn Brewing Co. has also jumped in on the restorative action; with the help of the LTVCA, they have planted 35 native trees and shrubs in their new outdoor seating area.



Staff & volunteers participating in restorative work at Red Barn Brewing Co. (left) and Sons of Kent Brewing Co. (right).

The 2nd Annual CK Paddle & Clean was held in the first weekend of October, which saw over **700 lbs of garbage removed from the Thames River** and surrounding area by approximately 20 volunteers. We partnered with several organizations for this event, including the Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise, Stronghouse/Twindolphin Canada Corp, Lloyd Bag Co., and Waste Connections Canada, among others. This event was a great way to engage the community in environmental stewardship as well as stay connected with stakeholders of the program. Promotion for this event was broadcasted on several local radio stations, while the results of the Paddle & Clean were showcased in the local newspaper.



Staff & volunteers at the 2nd Annual CK Paddle & Clean.

The LTVCA also applied for and was selected as a **host for the 2022 Paw Paw Parade**. The parade will see pairs of Paw Paw trees as well as garden kits given away to members of the community who provide compelling applications. This will help to improve the native tree cover within CK, as well as help restore populations of the endangered Paw Paw.

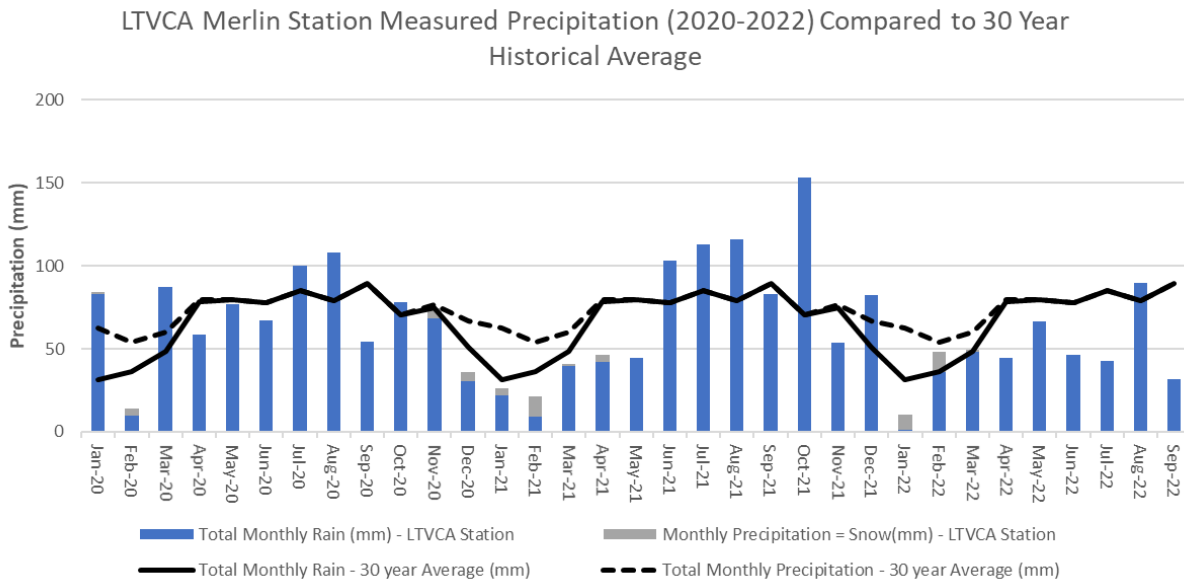
The Imagine McGregor program has also successfully received funding for two additional grants this month: the TD Friends of the Environment Fund, and the Invasive Species Microgrant award. The TD FEF will see just under **\$4,000** go towards a community “ecopsychology & stewardship day” in which the benefits of nature & giving back to the environment will be explored by a certified ecopsychologist. The Invasive Species Microgrant contributes **\$1,000** to invasive species removal equipment including extractigators and spades.

The wetland restoration program (Ducks Unlimited) will see three wetland cells created this month within the LTVCA watershed totalling **2.5 acres**. These wetlands are a part of larger restoration projects in both retired farmland and scrubland. Site visits are ongoing for inquiries about wetland implementation in 2023.

10.5.2) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program

From August to September of 2022, LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality and quantity data in the Jeannettes Creek ONFARM study subwatershed. Approximately 121mm of precipitation was recorded at the Merlin edge of field sites during the period.



The LTVCA continued to record very low levels of precipitation in the Jeannettes Creek study subwatershed during this period. During the 2022 water year (Oct of 2021 to Sep 2022), the LTVCA recorded 718mm of precipitation in the subwatershed, this is 164mm lower than the 30-year average for the region during this period (882mm). This is consistent with precipitation volumes recorded across southwestern Ontario and has resulted in dry conditions with very few flow events. As such, event-based water sampling demand was significantly reduced during the 2022 water year.

During this period, LTVCA project staff have worked on data management and analysis tasks. Nitrogen and Phosphorus load calculations have been completed for all of the Jeannettes Creek stations. This data will be included in the final ONFARM technical report which will include a synthesis of the water quality results from the 5 study subwatersheds across Ontario. The report should be available publicly during February of 2023.

The current ONFARM funding agreement is set to expire during February of 2023.

To learn more about the LTVCA's involvement in this initiative, watch the below YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TON9EreMDXM>

This program is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative. ONFARM was developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) with support from various organizations including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, five Conservation Authorities and The Soil Resource Group. The current funding agreement for the program concludes during February of 2023.

2nd Annual Cultivating Conservation Tour – September 8th – Event Summary

The second annual Cultivating Conservation Tour occurred on Thursday, September 8th of 2022 and was a big success! The goal of this interactive tour was to increase awareness regarding regional environmental issues and to provide examples of solutions that can and have been implemented by local residents. The event targeted both rural and urban landowners in Chatham-Kent. The self guided tour included 5 stops which provided examples of; restored wetlands, fragile land retirement, livestock exclusion fencing, urban pollinator plantings, tree plantings, and donated conservation lands.

112 people registered for the event and 72 attended. Each site had between 45-55 visitors over the 3-hour period. The event concluded with a dinner and speeches at the Red Barn Brewing Company. The LTVCA conducted a post-evaluation survey with attendees and 80% of respondents indicated they learned new information from the event that would motivate them to implement new conservation projects or practices.



LTVCA: Soil Health Program 2022 – Update

The 2022 LTVCA Soil Health Program budget has been fully allocated to 2022 cover crop projects. The objective of the program is to provide financial support to farmers who are planting cover crops to sequester carbon, improve soil health, and to reduce agriculturally sourced phosphorus loads. The program offers farmers \$15.00/acre to plant cover crops in the LTVCA watershed.

With harvest well underway, many of the approved program applicants completed their cover crops plantings during August and September. With some plantings complete, the LTVCA has begun to work with farmers to complete the claim process. To date, we have received 6 of the expected 72 claims. The LTVCA anticipates that the vast majority of the claims will be submitted once corn and soybean harvest is complete. The bulk of the claims will be processed and validated during December of 2022, with payments being disbursed to the farmers during January of 2023.



If all projects proceed as planned 9,300 acres of cover crops will be planted by 72 farm businesses. This would equate to a total financial contribution \$140,000.00.

This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, a Government of Canada Department of Environment and Climate Change program, in partnership with Conservation Ontario. The LTVCA has been approved for \$423,000.00 in funding to administer the program from 2022-2024. The majority of the funding will be allocated to provide incentives to farm businesses to plant cover crops during 2022 and 2023. The LTVCA will also receive funds to offset the cost of administering the program.

10.5.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Aquatic surveys have wrapped up for the 2022 field season with nine stations seined for fish, seven sampled for eDNA and five sampled for freshwater mussels. Field surveys confirmed the presence of six live species at risk: Eastern Sand Darter and Northern Madtom at one station each and Threehorn Wartyback (two stations), Purple Wartyback (one station), Fawnsfoot (one station) and Mapleleaf mussels (five stations). eDNA samples are being sent to labs for processing and data entry is well underway in preparation for permit and funding reports. Funding for this work was provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk.

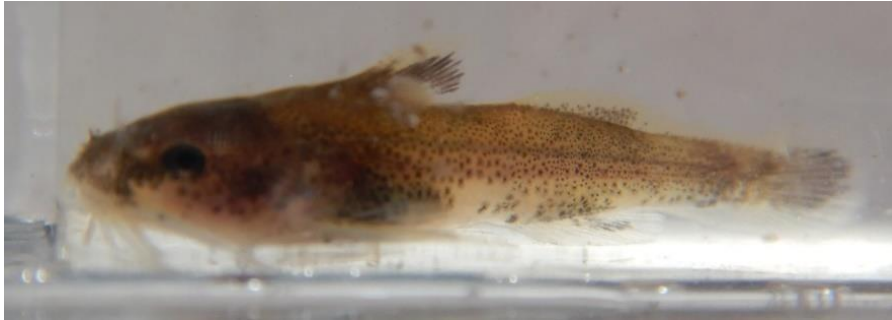


Figure 4: A single young-of-the-year Northern Madtom was captured on while seining in the Thames River.

Work is now underway to retrieve temperature/light data loggers from the Thames River and Baptiste Creek. One set of loggers at Westminster Road was found disturbed by the public, with one hauled completely out of the water and the other still submerged, but at the shoreline.

A request has been put forth to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to extend the SAR Monitoring Technician position (Sarah Rabideau) until March 31, 2023 to complete the Aquatic SAR Threat Assessment Technical Document for DFO publication and to purchase models of six aquatic invasive fish species for outreach activities.

SAR staff operated booths at the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival and participated in the Cultivating Conservation event, with a booth at the Mike Buis property showcasing fencing livestock from a watercourse.

10.5.4) Bioacoustic Monitoring of Bat and Bird Species at Risk



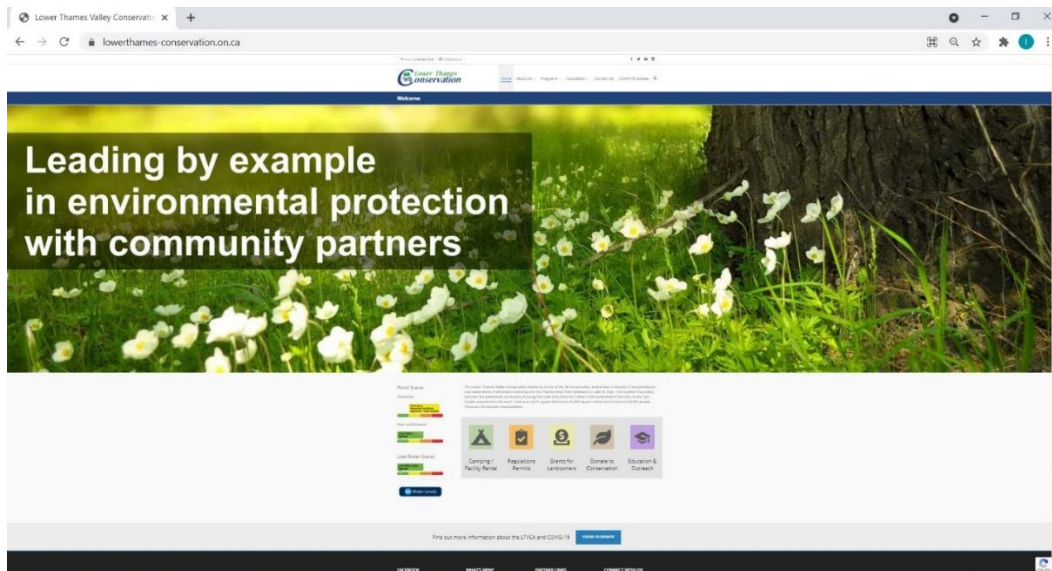
Figure 5: An Anabat Swift monitoring unit installed at the Mosa Forest Conservation Area to detect bats.

Ultrasonic detection of bats using Anabat Swift units will continue until the end of October. Additional funding (\$24,452) has been granted through Environment and Climate Change Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program to process acoustic and ultrasonic data and complete Ecological Land Classification at Mosa Forest Conservation Area.

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.



Our website alerts visitors of the current status of COVID-19 Pandemic health unit and government guidelines that affect our conservation area usage and our programs and services. 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. Offices at Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority are returning to a more normal work environment. Staff are working from their respective offices at this time.

10.6.2) Social Media Analytics as at October 11, 2022

Followers continue to increase on our social media platforms. Daily posts on LTVCA's social media platforms were issued following the August 18, 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors. (**Facebook** – 3,112 followers for an increase of 53 new followers; **Twitter** – 1,256 followers for an increase of 3 new followers; **Instagram** – 1041 followers for an increase of 28 new followers, **YouTube** - 105 subscribers for an increase of 0 new subscribers.) Posts focus on the LTVCA's ongoing programs and services, and follow environmental issues across our watershed.

The **Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook** page currently has 2,846 Followers for an increase of 128 followers. The **Instagram page for the Village** has 444 Followers for an increase of 72 new followers.

Social media posts circulate daily 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 continue to reinforce the importance of any current COVID-19 protocols, removal of garbage and pet waste, and have encouraged visitors to support our conservation areas through payment of parking fees and the purchase of 2022 parking passes.

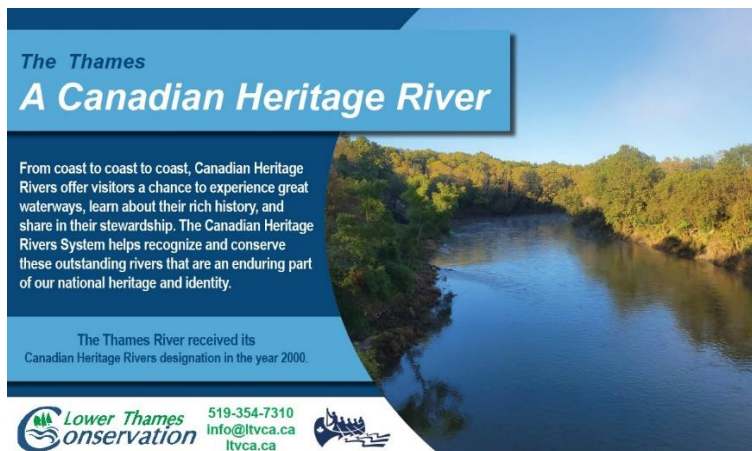
In addition to the daily departmental posts, there were posts and media releases created on our social media and website for other major events associated with the LTVCA over the past couple of months (August 10 – October 10):

- Living Labs posts
- Conservation Ontario Announces New General Manager
- Trestle Bridge service disruption at Longwoods
- Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival
- Forest Bathing Walks at Longwoods
- Volunteers from the Children’s Treatment Centre tidy up our native gardens
- Twilight Tuesday reminders
- Conservation Ontario – Healthy Hikes week posts
- Conservation Area service disruptions
- Shoreline Condition Statements
- Ska-Nah-Doht Museum Pop-Up Exhibits in your Community
- 23rd annual McKinlay Woodlands Memorial Forest Dedication Service
- Cultivating Conservation Tour reminders
- 17th Annual Tilbury Northside Park Memorial Forest Service
- Orange Shirt Day or National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Departmental Social Media Post Messages – August 10 – October 10, 2022

- **Water Management Mondays**

- *August 15 - Celebrating the Thames River: a Canadian Heritage River – designated 22 years ago August 14, 2000!*
- *August 22 - LTVCA Draft Dock Policy on Website for Public Review and Comment for Specific Regions of Lower Thames River*
- *August 29 - There has been a policy change for detached non-habitable accessory structures – ‘sheds’*
- *September 5 - September 1991 Construction Began on the 6th St. Dam in Chatham*
- *September 12 - Dry conditions continue in the Lower Thames watershed*
- *September 19 - HEALTH & ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF AN AREA REQUIRES PLANNING ...*
- *September 26 - Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival is just around the corner!*
- *October 3 - Starts tomorrow! Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area near Blenheim*
- *October 10 – Happy Thanksgiving from LTVCA*



- **Stewardship Tuesdays**

- August 16 - Does this empty view look too familiar to you?
- August 23 - Thank You! Community Living Volunteers
- August 30 - LTVCA has two different projects with Wildlife Habitat Canada for 2022-2023!
- September 6 – LTVCA Foundation Memorial Forest Program
- September 13 - Our Land Stewardship department works with landowners, member municipalities, First Nations and a vast number of partners
- September 20 - Fall Webworm - *Hyphantria cunea* - Yes! That is what these things are!
- September 27 - Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is a host for the Paw Parade
- October 4 – Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival has stewardship activities



- **Conservation Area Wednesdays**

- August 10 - Step Into Nature DYK - Ontario has nearly 300 Conservation Areas!
- August 17 - Welcome back "Deep Southwest" as they entertain at the C. M. Wilson Conservation Area barn
- August 24 - Did you know there is a "Friends of Sharon Creek Conservation Area" community volunteer group
- August 31 - Mellow Yellow! Relax, Refresh & Return - Our conservation areas are golden!
- September 7 - Check out our Conservation Areas offering PAVILION, FACILITY & AREA RENTALS!
- September 14 - Fall Hikes...No Bugs! Check out your local conservation area and enjoy the autumn splendour!
- September 21 - MNRF Testing on Conservation Authority Lands
- September 28 - Colour in Conservation Areas - Camera Ready! Visit Us Soon!
- October 5 – Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area



- **Outreach and Education Thursdays**

- *August 11 - Summer Hours Continue! Planning a visit with the family and friends to Longwoods Road Conservation Area or Ska-Nah-Doht Village?*
- *August 18 - Are you coming out to next week's Twilight Tuesdays?*
- *August 25 - Book Your Class Field Trip Soon! Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village*
- *September 1 - Service Disruption Notice - The Resource Centre and Ska-Nah-Doht Museum building will be closed*
- *September 8 - Inviting Group Fall Tours and Programming – School Classes ... Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs ... Youth and Adult Groups*
- *September 15 - See you at the Falling Leaves Festival in Strathroy*
- *September 22 - "Hello, Aaniin Boozhoo, Shekoli, My name is Thomas Michael Martel*
- *September 29 - The date of our next Forest Bathing Walk has been changed to Sunday, October 16, 2022! Just in time for the fall colours!*
- *October 6 – Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival Educational Activities*



- **Phosphorus / Water Quality Fridays**

- *August 12 - The Chatham-Kent Soil & Crop Improvement Association (KSCIA) is putting on a Twilight Tour*
- *August 19 - Don't miss out! Spots are filling up quickly for this year's second annual Cultivating Conservation Tour!*
- *August 26 - How do nitrogen management and spraying programs change when the cover crops are perennial? –Living Labs*
- *September 2 – Making a Conservation Farming System Work*
- *September 9 - Here are some pictures from LTVCA's 2nd annual Cultivating Conservation Tour in Chatham-Kent*
- *September 16 - On October 1st we will be holding our second annual CK Paddle & Clean of the Thames River and McGregor Creek!*
- *September 23 - Cover Crops are sprouting up across the watershed after a warm start to September*
- *September 30 - Don't Forget! CK Paddle and Clean II*
- *October 7 – Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival agricultural activities*



PLUS WE POST AND SHARE OTHERS’ MESSAGES ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS:

- **encourage people to use our conservation areas safely during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **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 things 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: *Healthy Hikes Week Long “Step Into Nature” Campaign for June and July***
- **sharing of neighbouring Conservation Authorities’ information** – posts of interest
- **sharing of municipal public health information** – CK Public Health, London Middlesex Health, St. Thomas Elgin Health, Windsor

**10.6.3) Public Events Held at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village
August 10 - October 11, 2022**

- Rotary Discovery Tour hosted by Rotary St. Thomas, October 2
- Thames Valley District School Board North-West Regional Cross-Country Running Meet- approximately 3,000 spectators, 900 vehicles, 21 schools, October 11

10.6.4) Media Releases Issued August 10 - October 11, 2022

- LTVCA Draft Dock Policy – released August 18
- Cultivating Conservation Tour – released August 19
- Red Barn Brewery – released September 16

10.6.5) 11th Annual Chatham-Kent and Lambton Childrens Water Festival October 4 - 6, 2022

Don Hector has been the Festival's Volunteer Coordinator since 2005. His dedication to planning 11 festivals held since then is beyond amazing! This year, close to **2000 elementary students participated** in many of the 42 outdoor water-themed activity centres, taught by high school students and dedicated adult volunteers, including many LTVCA staff.

In Don's words, below is a brief summary of how **this year's festival** turned out. (Don continued to write a thank you to individual volunteers and organizations / partners / sponsors – but too many to include in this report!)

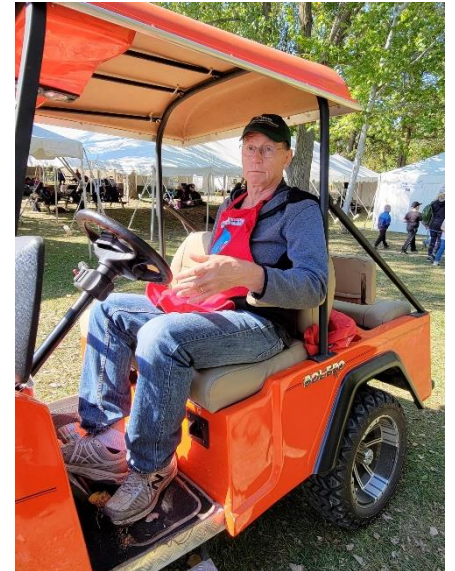
"I would like to express my appreciation to all the volunteers that helped in many ways in our 2022 Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival. After a 2 year pause, I was not sure how we would emerge but volunteers came forward and brought the festival back to life for our 11th year. I have reflected and feel so lucky to have people freely coming forward to provide important water messages to the children in our community.

*Including high school volunteers and adults, **over 500 volunteers** contributed to the success of the festival. This included both "behind the scenes" people and those that actively participated over the three days of the festival.*

*The Festival started as an idea in 2005 as we observed other similar festivals being carried out across the Province. Our committee envisioned a festival with a water theme focus with hands on, interactive activities geared to the **Grade 4/5**. It has grown from there. **To date over 18,000 elementary students and 3300 high school volunteers have attended the festival.** One of the goals of attending the festival was for students to **learn and become catalysts for change by taking the knowledge and newfound respect for water back to their homes, schools and communities.** It was also viewed as a teaching moment for the teachers, parent leaders, and other volunteers and to come away from this event with new ideas and positive perceptions around environmental initiatives ...**it is our hope that some of this may lead to future citizens with more awareness of environmental issues and what needs or could be done in the Chatham Kent and Lambton communities,** I think we are achieving that.*

*On our Wednesday Sponsor tour we heard an inspiring story from an Adult Activity leader talking about her attendance at the CKL Water Festival as an 8 year old, Grade 3 student, what the festival has meant to her and how it has helped to shape her future. **(This was our very own Alyssa Broeders – LTVCA Wetland and Urban Stewardship Technician!)** Other stories similar to this emerged during the festival." – Don Hector*

A shout out to all the LTVCA staff who helped out at the 2022 festival, doing various jobs – everything from bus and traffic control, site set-up and take down, headquarters tent operations, teaching festival activities, zone leadership, and much more!! Several staff from St. Clair Region Conservation Authority helped out as well. We're already planning and looking forward to the 12th Annual Festival in October 2023!





Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival

"CELEBRATING OUR 11TH"

Thanks You - Our 2022 Supporters!

       	<h4 style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 5px;">GREAT LAKES</h4> <p>Ridge Landfill Community Trust Together CK Fund Friends of the St. Clair River Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Lambton-Kent District School Board St. Clair Catholic District School Board</p> <h4 style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 5px;">WATERSHED</h4> <p>TD Friends of the Environment Chatham-Kent Community Foundation Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise St. Clair Region Conservation Authority</p> <h4 style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 5px;">RIVER</h4> <p>Howard Mutual Foundation Captain Garnet Bracken I.O.D.E. Kiwanis Club of Chatham-Kent Ahcom Shrine Conseil scolaire Catholique Providence Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission Dillon Consulting</p> <h4 style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 5px;">STREAM</h4> <p>4H Club of Chatham-Kent Chatham-Kent Environmental Services Dover Rod & Gun Club East Kent Vintage Tractors Association Kent Cloverleaf Conservation Club Kent Federation of Agriculture Lee Environmental Education & Consulting Maple City Citizens on Patrol Ontario Federation of Agriculture Ontario NativeScape St. Clair College Border Services and Police Foundations</p>	       
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Ken Phillips SCRCA General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer and Mark Peacock LTVCA CAO / Secretary-Treasurer showed their support and toured the festival grounds on the last day.

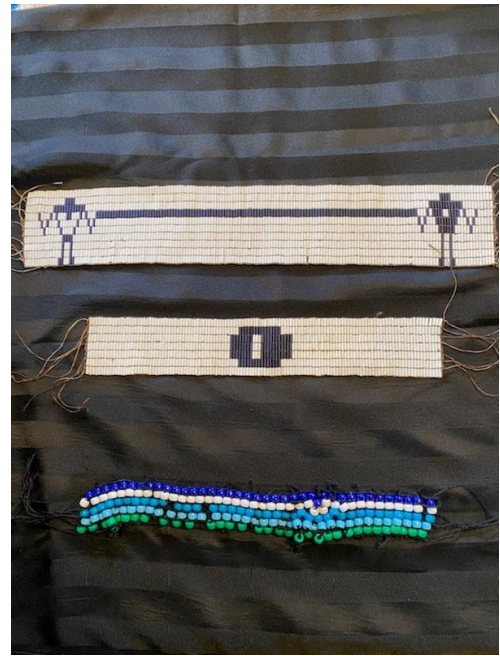


Beautiful weather prevailed over the 3 day festival. Check out the Festival’s Facebook page for lots of festival pictures!
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057269747718>

10.6.6) Welcome to the Team! Thomas Martel - LTVCA Community Educator

Thomas began his new role as Community Educator for the LTVCA on September 19, 2022. He shares with the public and staff Indigenous teachings and knowledge as he offers school and community group programming at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village. Thomas will also be teaching conservation authority education programming throughout the LTVCA watershed at other conservation areas, schools and other community venues.

During the week of October 4th, at one of the 42 activity centres at the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival, “Wampum Talk” offered each student an opportunity to add a bead to our loom. He explained that beads represent earth, water and sky and everything in between. He talked about how important earth, water and air are and why it’s important that we give thanks, respect the land and water so we can leave the same opportunities for future generations. Thomas shared the meaning of the one dish one spoon and the three core guidelines from wampum belts displayed.



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

Teachers and community groups have been steadily booking programming in October through the month of November, with bookings for January through June also starting to come in. The Education Team is currently assessing the programs that are able to be offered on-site at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, but also off-site in school yards or at other Conservation Areas within the Conservation Authority.

On September 17, Ska-Nah-Doht participated in the Falling Leaves Festival in Strathroy. Our booth was visited by 382 people approximately and we made connections with a number of teachers from the area who hope to book Education Programs with us this year.

As of October 11, 2022 the Museum resumes its fall hours, and is open Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. From the beginning of the year, to October 11 we have seen 2793 visitors (1187 adults; 450 seniors; 1156 children)—this does not include education programs or visitors that only go to the Village.

The revitalization of the Heritage Log Cabins is ongoing . A woodstove has already been installed at the Chippewas Cabin. Log replacements, accessibility ramps, new signage, and a language component will all be involved in this project.

Pop-Up Exhibits are travelling throughout the watershed—they are currently visiting Essex and Chatham-Kent. We will be continuing to offer these mini exhibits to locations in the new year.

10.6.8) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) is a not-for-profit, federally registered charity, governed by a volunteer Board of six Directors. The Executive – President Dan McKillop, Vice-president Ken Brooks and Secretary-Treasurer Don Pearson have been re-elected for 2022 at their AGM on May 18, 2022.

The LTVCF works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, to raise funds towards the wise management of our renewable natural resources. Since 1995, the Foundation has raised approximately \$1M for natural and cultural heritage conservation.

This fall the LTVCF took part in two memorial forest dedication services:

- September 11th, McKinlay Memorial Forest Dedication Service at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area
- September 25th, Tilbury Northside Park Memorial Forest Dedication Service

A committee formed to develop a fund-raising strategy for the Indigenous Education Centre addition. Jena Downen-Dempsey – Foundation Director, Don Pearson – Foundation Director, Mark Peacock - LTVCA CAO, Bonnie Carey – LTVCA Manager Communications, Outreach and Education (and Foundation volunteer administrator) and Alison Klages – Skana-Nah-Doht Museum Curator are on the fund-raising committee. This Committee has met 8 times since June 15, 2022.

A presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors will be given by Foundation Directors at the October 20 meeting to provide an update on the Indigenous Community Education Centre – Phase 1 and Phase 2 fundraising campaign plans.

Next meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors is November 23, 2022.



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

4. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
5. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship

10.7) Executive Committee Minutes September 30, 2022

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

A meeting of the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee was held on Friday, September 30, 2022 at the Authority's Administration Building at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario at the hour of 10:00 AM. A roll call was held with the following committee members present: T. Thompson, L. McKinlay, C. Cowell, P. Tiessen & R. Leatham. S. Emons sends her regrets.

Also present were the following staff members: M. Peacock & J. Homewood, V. Towsley & K. Casier (minutes recorder).

1. Call to Order

Chair, Trevor Thompson called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 10:00 AM.

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

M. Peacock provided the reading of the First Nations Acknowledgement. Of particular importance on this day to recognize the Truth and Reconciliation for First Nations.

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.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

E-2022-26 L. McKinlay – C. Cowell
Moved that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2022

E-2022-27 P. Tiessen – R. Leatham
Moved that the Executive Committee meeting minutes of June 8, 2022 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

7. New Business

Motion to sit as a Hearing Board

E-2022-28 C. Cowell – L. McKinlay

Moved that the Executive Committee sit as the Authority's Hearing Board.

CARRIED

a. Hearing #1 – LTVCA Permit Application #215-2022 – 18140 Erie Shore Drive, Chatham-Kent

The Chair introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicant. The applicant was in attendance for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources and Regulations Technician provided the Hearing Board with the staff report which was previously provided to the applicant and to the Executive Committee. A power point presentation was also given regarding this application as it relates to the Lake Erie shoreline and the CA Regulations. The applicant was provided an opportunity to be heard.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicants, J. Homewood and V. Towsley leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2022-29 C. Cowell – L. McKinlay

Moved that the Hearing Board meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

E-2022-30 C. Cowell – L. McKinlay

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

CARRIED

The Chair advised the Committee that LTVCA staff will provide the applicant the Hearing Board's decision at a later date.

Motion to sit as a Hearing Board

E-2022-31 P. Tiessen – R. Leatham

Moved that the Executive Committee continue to sit as the Authority's Hearing Board.

CARRIED

b. Hearing #2 – LTVCA Permit Application #228-2022 – 6465, 6473, 6487, 6507, and 6513 Riverview Line, Chatham-Kent

The Chair introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicant. The applicant was in attendance for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources and Regulations Technician provided the Hearing Board with the staff report which was previously provided to the applicant and

to the Executive Committee. A power point presentation was also given regarding this application as it relates to the Lake Erie shoreline and the CA Regulations. The applicant was provided an opportunity to be heard.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicants, J. Homewood and K. Casier leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2022-32 P. Tiessen – L. McKinlay
Moved that the Hearing Board meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

E-2022-33 C. Cowell – R. Leatham
Moved that the Hearing Board move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

The Chair advised the Committee that LTVCA staff will provide the applicant the Hearing Board's decision at a later date.

Motion to sit as a Hearing Board

E-2022-34 P. Tiessen – R. Leatham
Moved that the Executive Committee continue to sit as the Authority's Hearing Board.

CARRIED

c. Hearing #3 – LTVCA Permit Application #261-2022 – 24377 Gray Line, West Elgin

The Chair introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicant. The applicant was in attendance for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources and Regulations Technician provided the Hearing Board with the staff report which was previously provided to the applicant and to the Executive Committee. A power point presentation was also given regarding this application as it relates to the Lake Erie shoreline and the CA Regulations. The applicant was provided an opportunity to be heard.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicants, J. Homewood and V. Towsley leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2022-35 L. McKinlay – P. Tiessen
Moved that the Hearing Board meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

E-2022-36 C. Cowell – R. Leatham
Moved that the Hearing Board move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

The Chair advised the Committee that LTVCA staff will provide the applicant the Hearing Board's decision at a later date.

E-2022-37 L. McKinlay – P. Tiessen
Moved that the Hearing Board sit as the Executive Committee.

CARRIED

8. Cost of Living Increases

T. Casier, Manager of Finance and Administrative Services, provided a power point presentation to the Executive Committee on the Cost of Living Adjustment for staff.

E-2022-38 C. Cowell – P. Tiessen
Moved that the Board approved Cost of Living Adjustment (August 2022) be issued to staff by providing a \$1.19/hour raise to all staff for the 2023 budget Cost of Living increase.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

Appointing of municipal members to the Board of Directors

M. Peacock brought the Executive Committee up to date on the issue of members extending beyond their municipally appointed terms. The Committee provided direction to staff to write a letter of request to our member municipalities to extend CA membership to extend beyond a municipal election year to the next AGM.

10. Adjournment

E-2022-39 L. McKinlay – C. Cowell
Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Trevor Thompson
Chair

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



Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held in person and remotely at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 15, 2022. The following members were in attendance: B. Bruinink, R. Doane, D. Fairbairn, G. Bogart, S. Hipple, S. Emons, M. Hentz and M. Peacock. Also in attendance: A. Klages and B. Carey.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SND-2022-18 D. Fairbairn – S. Hipple

Moved that the minutes of the June 23, 2022 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

None

3. Business for Information

3.1) Youth Employment and Staff Changes

Three eight week positions were funded by Canada Summer Jobs. Leeanne Doxtator has left the LTVCA for an opportunity at another organization. Thomas Martel has been hired as the Community Education.

3.2) Volunteers

Development of a combined Volunteer Information Package for SND and the LTVCA continues.

3.3) Grant and Funding Updates

Funding from Southwest Ontario Tourism Relief Fund to support renovations at the cabins has been approved. The Community Museums Operating Grant was submitted on June 30. Staff continue to research other funding opportunities.

3.4) Education Programs

Bookings for school and group programs are ongoing. Staff will be at the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival the first week of October.

3.5) Events and Workshops

Summer programming went well. Staff are preparing for future events and workshops.

3.6) Museum Hours

The Museum continues to be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at this time. Fall hours will be determined based on the accessibility of the building and staff availability.

3.7) Update on the Indigenous Education Centre

Mark Peacock provided an update on the Indigenous Education Centre.

SND-2022-19 D. Fairbairn – G. Bogart

Moved to receive 3.1 – 3.7 for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Policy Review

Policy review has taken place over the summer. It is anticipated that these draft policies will be provided to the Advisory Committee during the November meeting.

SND-2022-20 R. Doane – D. Fairbairn

Moved that item 4.1 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Proposed future meeting dates

March 16, 2023

June 15, 2023

September 21, 2023

November 16, 2023

6. Adjournment

SND-2022-21 – D. Fairbairn – M. Hentz

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Bill Bruinink
Chair

10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes August 4, 2022

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on August 4 2022 at Two Creeks

Attendance: Ken Hatt, Rick & Forest Taves, Bob Roth, Lorna Bell, Joe Pinsonneault, Lee & Linda Pearce, Vicki & Erin Haley, Gerry Soulliere, Roger Dundas, Bob Niven, Pauline Sample, Bruce & Marj Jackson.

Agenda: Moved by Linda, sec. by Roger agenda be accepted as outlined. (Carried)

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

Memorial Gardens: The Kentucky Coffee tree mentioned in August's minutes has been planted, it just needs to be adopted. All the post spikes have pounded in the ground.

Prop. & Equip. : The trails have been cut, some of them need to be widened. We have not received a grant from the Chatham Kent Community Fund. We have received 2 quotes for the floor of the Wedding Chapel, 1 for \$10,000 and also \$11,500. Cost for the rest of the building will be approx. \$15,000. Lee motioned and Roger sec. that we should budget \$35,000 total for the Chapel. (Carried)The Car Barn truck will no longer be at Two Creeks because of other commitments, they will remove their freezer from our shed. We will put a "Slow Moving Vehicle " sign on the UTV. There are 2 rentals for the pavillion so far in August. Some Norway maples need to be removed near the Hike bridge.

Concerts: There are 5 weeks left in the season. If Brian Cobby cannot do the sound John Morin can step in for him.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of June 30 was \$ 57,413.91. Account balance as of July 31 was \$55,045.42. Moved by Roger, sec. by Rick report be accepted as given. (Carried)

Correspondence: None

Old Business: None

New Business: We have received some negative comments about the condition of our trails.

Adjournment: Roger moved for adjournment at 6:47pm

Phil Humphries, secretary.

10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes September 1, 2022

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on Sept. 1st at Two Creeks

Attendance: Rick Taves, Mark & Linda Peacock, Lorna Bell, Pauline Sample, Bob Niven, Roger Dundas, Gerry Soulliere, Bob Roth, Lee & Linda Pearce, Bruce & Marj Jackson.

Agenda: Moved By Linda, sec. by Rick agenda be accepted as outlined (Carried).

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

Memorial Groves: A couple of trees need to be removed in the groves. The bike club will put up a post and plaque in memory of Mark Sherman near an existing Maple tree by the blue bridge.

Prop. & Equip. : The trails will need to be cut once more this year, some also need to be widened. Mark said that he will look into acquiring an old bridge to be installed over the culvert on the West trail. The floor for the Chapel will be poured in about 2 weeks. Saddles for the posts will be inserted in the wet concrete. Kevin Getty will cut the grass once or twice more this season depending on how it grows. The rope and lights on the stage and pavilion will be removed for the winter. Dave Santis plans on flying his drone with camera over the entire park and put it online. The pavilion has been rented for 3 weekends in Sept. Some posts need to be reinforced in the large pavilion.

Concerts: John Morin will be doing the sound for the last concert due the death's of Brian Cobby's parents. We will ask him if he is interested in doing the sound for us next year. We will ask Ray if he could make sure that there is at least 1 scout at their table next year.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of July31 was \$55,045.42. The balance as of August 31 was \$57,838.15. Moved by Roger,sec. by Lee report be accepted as given. (Carried)

Correspondence: None

Old Business : None

New Business: Rick proposed having a meeting to decide on next years music at Two Creeks on Sept. 17 at 10 am. He also mentioned that there will be a year end party at the Tave's on Sept. 10 from 1 to 5pm. We will be sending a fruit basket to Brian Cobby in memory of his parents as well as Roger in memory of his brother.

Adjournment: Roger moved for adjournment at 6:50pm

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11. Correspondence

11.1) What better collaboration than nature and beer? Local brewery creates unique natural setting

What better collaboration than nature and beer?' Local brewery creates unique natural setting



- [Chris Campbell](#)
- CTV Windsor News Reporter
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Updated Sept. 22, 2022 7:36 p.m. EDT
Published Sept. 22, 2022 5:52 p.m. EDT
Share

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) has partnered with Red Barn Brewing Co. to create a unique natural setting, where visitors can reserve private fire pit areas while enjoying a local beverage of their choice.

Earlier this week, LTVCA and Red Barn Brewing staff led Blenheim high school students to plant the site in Carolinian species trees and shrubs. Next year, teams will return to install native grasses and wildflowers.

“What better collaboration than nature and beer?” said Red Barn Brewing co-owner Denny Vervaet. “There is still lots to do, but we plan on launching this ‘experience’ late summer of 2023.”

Vervaet said it was a “no-brainer” to partner with LTVCA on the collaborative project, noting hundreds of young trees now surround the area where five fire pits will soon be.

“They cover the nature very well and we cover the beer,” Vervaet told CTV News. “This is going to be a fun experience for local travelers, local residents and what better way to have some time with your family spent by the fire.”

Red Barn Brewing opened in July of 2020 and quickly became a tourist destination and local landmark, playing host to community events, concerts and comic nights.



Denny Vervet and Randall Van Wagner at the Red Barn Brewing Co. in Chatham, Ont. on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022. (Chris Campbell/CTV News Windsor)“You take away the technology, you sit around, you share some stories. We put the logs on the fire for you and it’s all ready to go,” Vervet continued.

“It is always rewarding to get trees planted, this project takes it a step further with the educational component of having many people learn about our unique Carolinian Zone Species here in Chatham-Kent,” Randall Van Wagner, manager of conservation lands and services with LTVCA said.

Van Wagner explained current tree cover in Chatham-Kent sits between 3-5 per cent, noting it’s critical to use native plant species.

“I think it’s important. A lot of times when we plant trees with a farmer, we can plant 10,000 trees but nobody really sees them or learns about them. Here there’s an educational component,” he said.

“Native species here in Ontario, things like oak, maple, hickory or pine, these are trees that are adapted to this area and our conditions. If you take for example a Norway maple, something from Europe, our wildlife here are not adapted to it. Same with birds. Birds migrate through this area. So it's important we provide species that they can use and benefit from.”

Van Wagner said he envisions educational QR codes and conservation staff providing private tours of the new natural setting.

He added the trees should mature within five-10 years while Red Barn staff anticipates opening the space within the year to let guests sample a wide array of beer styles in a rural farm setting.

Vervaeet exclaimed, “we're pretty excited that we got some trees in the ground and we're ready to roll here.”





Electronic Monitoring Policy

1. Intent

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) values trust, discretion, and transparency and believes employees deserve to know when and how they are being monitored. This policy is intended to provide transparency for company practices and procedures related to electronic monitoring of employees. This policy applies to all employees (as defined under the Ontario Employment Standards Act) of the LTVCA. This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant LTVCA policies.

2. Definitions

Electronic monitoring: Using electronic or other technological means to track, observe, or monitor someone's actions. Electronic monitoring can be classified as either active or passive.

Active Electronic Monitoring: is the use of electronic monitoring tools that are intended to intentionally track employee activity or location and is monitored in real-time or close proximity to the time of collection. Some examples of active monitoring include (but are not limited to) tools that automatically notify management when a company computer network is used to access restricted websites, video cameras continually monitored by security staff, or tools that update the location of company vehicles in real-time.

Passive Electronic Monitoring: is the automatic collection and/or retention of data that may include information about employee activity or location either in physical spaces or on the company's computer network that is not actively monitored. Some examples of passive monitoring include (but are not limited to) data collection relating to alarm system usage, automatic logging of access to the company computer network or files, video cameras only intended to be viewed in the event of an incident.

MFIPPA: Means the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended.

Personal information: Any factual or subjective information about an identifiable individual.

3. Electronic Monitoring Practices

The LTVCA uses various electronic monitoring tools throughout its business for various purposes. However, the LTVCA does not use active electronic monitoring of employees in its normal course of business.

Passive electronic monitoring of employees has been implemented at the LTVCA for a variety of purposes. The primary purpose of such monitoring is corporate security, whether that be physical security for LTVCA staff and property, security of the LTVCA computing resources, or otherwise protecting the company's legal and business interests.

Other incidental passive electronic monitoring of employees occurs related to other business activities such as (but are not limited to) monitoring the environment, monitoring wildlife, monitoring LTVCA property, monitoring visitors to LTVCA owned properties, etc.

Given the wide range of computer software, hardware, and other electronic devices, that are designed by the manufacturer to automatically record user activity it is extremely difficult to enumerate all the passive electronic monitoring that occurs at the LTVCA. A full inventory of such passive electronic monitoring is beyond the scope of the policy. In the interest of transparency, some of the more obvious passive electronic monitoring at the LTVCA include: security systems that monitor employee access to buildings, video and audio surveillance systems at offices and other LTVCA properties, field instruments that record usage, and computer networking software that records when a user logs into the network, uses an application, uses the file system, sends an email, or browses the web.

The LTVCA may use data collected from electronic monitoring tools for lawful employment-related purposes and reserves any and all rights to do so. For example, the LTVCA may use electronic monitoring tools for the purposes of investigating employee conduct, including whether to issue an employee discipline, up to and including termination of employment. The LTVCA's use of any electronic monitoring tools for employment-related purposes is further subject to any rights an employee may have otherwise per their employment contract or otherwise at law.

This Policy does not provide employees any new rights or a right to not be electronically monitored. Nothing in this Policy affects or limits the LTVCA's ability to conduct, or use information obtained through, electronic monitoring for lawful purposes.

In the event the LTVCA collects any personal information, as defined in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), the LTVCA shall collect, use and disclose personal information in accordance with applicable legislation, including, but not limited to, MFIPPA.

4. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed and updated if there is any substantive change or upgrade to the policy, and further reviewed every five (5) years or as required to reflect the LTVCA's operating practices.

11.3) Paddlers haul over 200 kilograms of garbage from Thames River and McGregor Creek

Paddlers haul over 200 kilograms of garbage from Thames River and McGregor Creek

Author of the article:

[Ellwood Shreve](#)

Publishing date:

Oct 01, 2022

More than 200 kilograms (approximately 440 pounds) of garbage – and counting – was removed the Thames River in Chatham on Saturday by volunteers.

Residents brought their kayaks and canoes out to take part in the second annual CK Paddle & Clean of the Thames River and McGregor Creek organized by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

Randa Speller collected 22 kilograms, including wooden dining room chair she fished out of the river, along with a bag of trash that included mainly single-use beverage containers and some lighters.

She also found a ‘message in a bottle,’ which turned out to be a handwritten note to a loved one named John from Delaware that was in a plastic beverage container.



Randa Speller reads the contents of a message in the bottle she found while participating in the second annual CK Paddle & Clean of the Thames River and McGregor Creek on Saturday in Chatham. PHOTO Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News.jpg, CD

Speller has taken part in the LTVCA event both years along with going out on paddle cleanups on the Sydenham River a few times.

“It’s a good chance to really get dirty and wet,” she laughed.

Speller said it can take a little work to get the garbage in your kayak or canoe, especially from along the river bank.

“You got to dig out it with your paddle most of the times and kind of pull it a little closer over,” she said.

Alyssa Broeders, LTVCA wetland and urban stewardship technician, said about 1,000 pounds (roughly 450 kilograms) of garbage was collected during the first year of the event.

“It was a pretty good mix, there was a lot of food and beverage items, but then also some bigger things like a lot of shopping carts,” she said.

“A lot of the garbage that’s in the river is really detrimental to wildlife,” Broeders said.

She added waterfowl can choke on some of the garbage.

Broeders said there’ is also a “huge recreational advantage” when the river is cleaned up, because people don’t want to see a litter-strewn river.

“It helps aesthetically as well, so it’s a really good social-economic balance between helping out the wildlife and helping out the community.”



Mark Peacock, chief administrative officer with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, weighs a bag of garbage from the Thames River on Saturday, along with a wooden chair, as Alyssa Broeders, LTVCA wetland and urban stewardship technician, watches. PHOTO Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News jpg, CD

Sally Joyce, creative consultant with Wallaceburg-based Twin Dolphin/Strong House Canada, was joined by a team from the floating home manufacturer to take part for a second year in the cleanup.

She said the company has also organized three paddle cleanup events on the Sydenham River in Wallaceburg.

Joyce has both as serious reason and a more light-hearted reason for participating.

“In the first culture of this country, it is known that women are the protectors of water,” she said.

She added the river you are born near is your birth river “and it’s our responsibility to help look after it.”

Joyce said the Thames River was calling her to take part after she started with the Sydenham River.

But there is also an enjoyable aspect to participating.

“Overall, honestly, we have fun,” Joyce said. “It’s a good day out.”

Twin Dolphin/Strong House was also among the sponsors of the event, providing hemp fabric T-shirts.

Lloyd Bag of Chatham provided mesh bags to collect the trash in, which Joyce said are ideal, because it lets the water flow out making it easier to handle the garbage collected.

Members of the Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise were also out for the day taking care of the registration for the event, which launched from the Thames Grove Conservation Area.

11.4) Waterway cleanup Saturday in Chatham

Waterway cleanup Saturday in Chatham

By
Chatham Voice

September 22, 2021



Nancy Kohajda hoists a tire brought in by Dave Hould of Blenheim in June in from the Sydenham River. A river cleanup takes place this Saturday in Chatham. Canoe and kayak enthusiasts will be taking to the water in Chatham Sept. 25 in an effort to clean up the shorelines of the Thames River and McGregor Creek.

Organizers said registration for the CK Paddle & Clean event is mandatory and can be done through Eventbrite.

The maximum number of participants for the event is capped at 75 people. Volunteers are also welcome to participate on foot along the shoreline.

All participants must wear a personal floatation device and have proper canoe or kayak safety gear, according to organizers.

You are encouraged to bring your own reusable water bottle and a lunch if you plan on staying for the day. Bring your own gloves and have a mask handy just in case.

Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise will help check participants in at the Thames Grove Conservation Area at 34 Kingsway Dr. in Chatham.

At check in, participants will receive garbage collection bags. Once you've filled your bag, return to the Thames Grove launch area to throw out the trash. Garbage and recycling bins will be on site.

As participants finish for their day, they will receive a locally made hemp fabric T-shirt.

As well, participants can detail where they collected the litter, as well as examine displays on the Imagine McGregor project underway by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

Whoever collects the most litter individually will earn a free 2022 LTVCA Conservation Area parking pass.

There is a team challenge as well. The business team that collects the most litter will earn a free, full-page ad in the 2022 LTVCA Conservation Area Guidebook, as well as each individual participant will receive a 2022 LTVCA Conservation Area parking pass.

All current, local COVID-19 health guidelines will be adhered to at this event.

To register, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ck-paddle-clean-registration-168764159143>

Chatham This Week

Children's Water Festival returns with a splash after pandemic pause

Author of the article:

[Ellwood Shreve](#)

Publishing date:

Oct 07, 2022 • 5 days ago • 2 minute read • [_Join the conversation](#)



Students from Rosedale Public School in Sarnia were among the 600 in attendance for the second day of the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival on Oct. 5 at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. They learned about erosion and flooding at the Muddy Waters station. Ellwood Shreve/Postmediaicle content

The Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival has returned following a two-year hiatus.

More than 1,800 elementary students, along with 330 high school students volunteering at 45 activity stations spread across 2.4 hectares at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area near Cedar Springs, attended the water festival last week.

“It feels good to be back,” said volunteer festival co-ordinator Don Hector after the COVID-19 pandemic halted the event for two years.

Five themes – water science, water technology, water conservation, water protection and water attitude – were covered during the festival. The Oct. 4-6 event also included messaging around climate change, especially sharing and teaching about local impacts has on communities, such as lakeshore flooding and erosion, algae blooms in lakes and rivers, and methods to reduce phosphorus run off.

“It’s all the basics of understanding water and water quality and water processes, so that forms the basis of the bigger picture,” Hector said.

Some Grade 9 Chatham-Kent secondary school students volunteering at the various water education stations enjoyed the experience of teaching younger students the importance of water.

“It sparks interests and it just makes them think in a different way,” said Lexie Hitchcock, who also attended the festival as an elementary student.



Ben Bertino, 9, a Grade 4 student at Indian Creek Public School in Chatham, holds black rat snake, during the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children’s Water Festival held at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area on Oct. 6. Ellwood Shreve/Postmedia

Chatham Kent Secondary School student Sydney Hawthorne, who was teaching at the ponds and pollywogs station, said it was important for younger students to learn about the environment.

“I think it’s really good to have kids learn about the environment and trying to keep it safer and more healthy,” Hawthorne said.

Hitchcock, who was also at the station, said students were dipping nets in the water, looking for bugs to get an indication of the water quality, as well as the quality of the ecosystem.

As the impact of climate change becomes more apparent, Hawthorne said she hopes the young students, through this education, “know in the future that climate change is going to affect them and they can do something about this.”

Fellow high school student Jacob McNeill was teaching students about the hydrologic cycle at the Water Cycle Madness station.

“It’s a good experience for these kids to realize what is going on with water, the pollution, the problems that we’re facing and how we’re managing to learn more about how water works,” he said.

Alyssa Broeders attended the water festival as a youngster, which influenced her decision to study biology at university and ultimately her career path.

“I thought back to the water festival and I saw what great things people can do, even education-wise,” said Broeders, the wetland and urban stewardship technician with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

“When you see how much your own community is doing ... it really encourages you to want to come back here and help out.”

Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival returns after two-year hiatus

The sharing of knowledge about the importance of water is flowing freely again with the return of the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival.

Author of the article:

Ellwood Shreve

Publishing date:

Oct 05, 2022 • 1 week ago • 2 minute read • [Join the conversation](#)



Chatham-Kent secondary school student Sydney Hawthorne, left, and Ridgetown St. Michael Catholic school student Isabelle Beer, 9, inspect what she scooped up from the pond at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Wednesday during the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival. (Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News)

The sharing of knowledge about the importance of water is flowing freely again with the return of the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival.

More than 1,800 elementary students in grades 4 and 5, along with 330 high school students volunteering at 45 activity stations spread across 2.4 hectares at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area near Cedar Springs, are expected to attend before the festival wraps up on Thursday.

“It feels good to be back,” said volunteer festival co-ordinator Don Hector after the COVID-19 pandemic halted the event for two years.



Nine-year-old twin sister Nora Koomans, left, Lainey, Grade 4 students Chatham Christian school, take part in a demonstration comparing a low-flow shower head compared to a regular shower head during the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children’s Water Festival held at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area on Wednesday. (Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News) jpg, CD

Five themes – water science, water technology, water conservation, water protection and water attitude – were being covered during the festival. The three-day event also included messaging around climate change, especially sharing and teaching about local impacts has on communities, such as lakeshore flooding and erosion, algae blooms in lakes and rivers, and methods to reduce phosphorus run off.

“It’s all the basics of understanding water and water quality and water processes, so that forms the basis of the bigger picture,” Hector said.

Some Grade 9 Chatham-Kent secondary school students volunteering at the various water education stations enjoyed the experience of teaching younger students the importance of water.

“It sparks interests and it just makes them think in a different way,” said Lexie Hitchcock, who also attended the festival as an elementary student.

Chatham Kent secondary school student Sydney Hawthorne, who was teaching at the ponds and pollywogs station, said it was important for younger students to learn about the environment.

“I think it’s really good to have kids learn about the environment and trying to keep it safer and more healthy,” Hawthorne said.

Hitchcock, who was also at the station, said students were dipping nets in the water, looking for bugs to get an indication of the water quality, as well as the quality of the ecosystem.



Grade 5 Merlin Area Public School students Savannah VanZetten, back and Ameila Shadd, front, scrub fellow student Jesseka Renders, during the Saturday Night Bath station at the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children’s Water Festival held at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area on Wednesday. (Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News) .jpg, CD

As the impact of climate change becomes more apparent, Hawthorne said she hopes the young students, though this education, “know in the future that climate change is going to affect them and they can do something about this.”

Fellow high school student Jacob McNeill was teaching students about the hydrologic cycle at the Water Cycle Madness station.

“It’s a good experience for these kids to realize what is going on with water, the pollution, the problems that we’re facing and how we’re managing to learn more about how water works,” he said.



Ben Bertino, 9, a Grade 4 student at Indian Creek Public School in Chatham, holds black rat snake, during the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children’s Water Festival held at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area on Wednesday. (Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News)

Alyssa Broeders attended the water festival as a youngster, which influenced her decision to study biology at university and ultimately her career path.

“I thought back to the water festival and I saw what great things people can do, even education-wise,” said Broeders, the wetland and urban stewardship technician with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

“When you see how much your own community is doing . . . it really encourages you to want to come back here and help out.”

Broeders has a particular focus on water in her urban stewardship position, citing the second annual CK Paddle & Clean of the Thames River and McGregor Creek held last weekend in Chatham.

“It all really comes full circle when you expose people to (this kind of programming) at such a young age. It encourages people to think about it forever,” she said.

CK students soak up science at Water Festival



Harwich-Raleigh Public School students at the 11th Annual Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival. (Photo by Millar Hill)

By **Millar Hill**

October 5, 2022 12:52pm

Hundreds of elementary school students are soaking up the science behind water conservation this week at the 11th annual Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival.

Festival Coordinator Don Hector says about 2,000 elementary students will get a hands-on learning experience around water topics in an outdoor environmental setting during the festival at the CM Wilson Conservation Area in Chatham-Kent.

“We have about 600 elementary students here today who will be looking at over 40 hands-on interactive activities around water conservation and science,” said Hector. “The students get fully involved and experience all of the activities.”

The water festival is geared toward Grade 4 and Grade 5 students. The majority of schools involved are located in the Lower Thames River watershed and the Sydenham River watershed, as well as schools located along the St Clair River from Port Lambton to Sarnia and local First Nations communities.

“It’s all an outdoor setting and it’s all around water conservation, water attitude, and water science. We have our volunteers that lead the students interacting, learning about, and exploring water in our area,” said Hector.

According to Hector, one of the main goals of the festival is for students to learn and become catalysts for change by taking the knowledge and newfound respect for water back to their homes, schools, and communities.

The water festival also includes a message about climate change. Students learn about the local impact climate change has on their community, such as flooding and erosion, algae blooms and ways to reduce phosphorus runoff.

“A lot of them might not understand what goes on with the environment and how things work,” said Hector. “They don’t get that connection unless they see it, do it, and experience it. We hope that by introducing this at a young age, maybe down the road they take an environmental career or become a community leader.”

The Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival has been held annually since 2007. Almost 16,000 elementary students have attended the festival over the past eight years.

More information can be found [online](#).



Science at Children's Water Festival

September 13, 2022

Courtesy of Pattern Canada

Do you ever wonder what happens to water after it rains? Or when water evaporates?

These are just a couple of the questions sure to be answered at the annual Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival. This volunteer-organized event began in 2007 when staff from several organizations were inspired by similar events held in other communities.



Students learn how water moves through different size rocks and pebbles, simulating how water moves through the environment.

“We saw water festivals operating across Ontario and thought it was a good idea to try in this area. It’s an outdoor, hands-on festival about water, water conservation, protection, and technology. We thought this could be a good project for the Chatham-Kent and Lambton area, so we spent some time seeing what other people were doing and started to put ours together,” explains Festival Coordinator Don Hector.

Taking place for three days just outside Chatham at CM Wilson Conservation Area, the festival is only open to students.

“Grades 4 and 5 elementary school students are invited to come. This is a good age to start teaching students about water in a hands-on way through activities. Students who’ve attended in the past remember the things they learn at the festival and carry it through their life,” Don explains.

Dozens of volunteers help run the festival, including high school students who are trained to run the activities, allowing the festival to work as a learning experience for them as well.

“Since 2007, we’ve had 3,000 high school students and 2,400 parents and teachers as volunteers at the festival. We’ve seen over 16,000 elementary school students participate,” says Don.

Making a Splash

Each day, a new group of elementary and high school students attend the festival and participate in a variety of activities designed to teach about water and the imperative role it plays in our lives

Some of the activities include:

Water Cycle Madness – this simple game explores the water cycle of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation

Ponds and Pollywogs – students can examine the types of aquatic life by using nets to catch organisms, placing them in Petri dishes, and looking at them with a microscope

Bucket Brigade – students learn the role of water in safety, and this activity shows children how fires were put out by forming a line between a water source and a ‘fire’ by passing along buckets of water to extinguish it quickly

Porosity and Permeability – a demonstration showing what type of materials hold on to water and which materials allow water to pass over them



In this activity, students pour blue water through containers filled with sand, soil, clay, and rocks to see how fast water travels through them.

Each activity is held in a tent and two or three high school students guide elementary school students through a demonstration. Some involve pouring water through small-scale versions of farms, cities, and terrain to see how it moves.

Others include testing water pH, learning how clothes were cleaned before washing machines were invented, and examining what types of fish can be found in Lake Erie.

“Teachers and volunteers have described the event as a giant outdoor classroom. There’s a large pond at the site that provides an aquatic setting to the experience,” Don says



This activity explores how laundry was done before washing machines were invented.

A Big Return

“We’re getting ready to bring back the festival this fall. Our partners who are key in making the festival run are all on board, to make it happen again,” says Don.

While the festival was previously placed on hold for the past few years, this isn’t its first return.

“There were a few years we couldn’t hold the festival for various reasons, and we’ve only held it three times over the past three years. This will be our 11th year over the past 15 years,” Don explains.

Organizers are excited to welcome students back to the festival, and there may be something new coming this year.

“We’re hoping to bring a new activity focused on fish and art. We plan to bring some artists on board, and we think that’ll be a great activity to show the connection between water and fish,” Don says.

The Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival (CKLCWF) Oct 3 – 5, 2023

Helping Our Kids Learn About Water ... Through Community Partnerships.

- This annual water festival has delivered our water education program (with core messages around water) to a succession of Grade 4 / 5 students over the last ten years in hopes that a new generation of positive thoughts and actions around water and associated issues may develop.
- We believe there is a strong need for a variety of outdoors, hands on educational experiences around a number of environmental themes in our local area. Themes dealing with water and water issues are particularly relevant in this area of the province where a variety of rural and urban issues around use of water, water contamination and aquatic habitat issues are currently very topical.
- We are bordered by the Great Lakes and interconnecting waters with a wide variety of basic water "lessons" to be learned.
- We are not aware of any other program that provides the type of hands on experiential learning that we are able to provide to our local students. Teachers have told us this on many an occasions. We have heard many anecdotal stories of where students have "changed course", have been inspired and made career decisions from exposure to our annual festival.

OVERVIEW / BACKGROUND OF THE Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's WATER FESTIVAL

- The Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival (CKLCWF) has been delivering a variety of water themed topics to elementary school children in the Chatham-Kent and Lambton County areas since 2007. Website link: www.cklwaterfestival.com
- During this time period over 18,000 elementary school children at the Grade 4 and 5 level, 3300 high school students, 2400 teachers / parents and up to 500 adult volunteers have participated in this annual 3 day event. Over 200 volunteers / day assist in delivering the festival material.
- We are celebrating our 12 th Annual Festival this coming year (Oct. 3 to 5, 2023).
- The festival delivers hands on interactive activities covering 5 water themes: Water Science, Water Technology, Water Conservation, Water Protection and Water Attitude. 45 hands on activities are offered each year on a 6 acre day use area at the CM Wilson Conservation Area just south of Chatham. A two acre pond adjacent to the site provides an aquatic setting to add to the outdoor experience. Teachers and volunteers have described the event as a giant outdoor classroom. The CKLCWF provides important water messages through a balance of both rural and urban activities and scenarios relevant to the southwestern Ontario landscape. Some of the activities include First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge and highlight our partnerships with local First Nations communities in our watershed to enhance stewardship and species at risk efforts. The water festival also includes messaging around climate change, and specifically shares with and teaches youth about the local impacts climate change has on our communities e.g. lakeshore flooding and erosion, algae blooms in the lakes and rivers and methods to reduce phosphorus run off.
- Elementary school children come from both urban and rural backgrounds and the communities served include those touching on Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River and Lower Lake Huron. The majority of schools are located in the Lower Thames River watershed (Chatham-Kent) and the Sydenham River watershed (northern Chatham-Kent and southern Lambton County), as well as schools located along the St Clair River from Port Lambton to Sarnia and local First Nations communities.
- Four school boards are involved in the festival (Lambton Kent District School Board, St. Clair Catholic District School Board, the French School Board and the Chatham Christian School Board). The CLKCWF provides important leadership and training skills for over 300 high school students each year.

- A variety of groups are involved each year in assisting in the festival including municipal and provincial agency staff, ground and surface water experts, Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority staff, service clubs , and a variety of agricultural related groups (4-H, OMAFRA, OFA) and outdoor educators. A large number of retired school teachers assist each year.

• **Partners and Contributions**

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Staff - committee, administration, implementation,

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority - committee, implementation

Lambton Kent District School Board - committee, registration, funding, implementation

St. Clair Catholic District School Board - committee, funding, implementation

Chatham Sunrise Rotary - committee, implementation, volunteers, funding

Chatham Kent Kiwanis Club - implementation, volunteers, funding

Captain Garnet Bracken IODE - implementation, volunteers, funding

- **St. Clair College - Police Foundations and Border Security - volunteer security for the festival**

- **Maple City Citizens on Patrol - volunteer security for the festival.**

- Municipality of Chatham Kent - Public Utilities Commission, Environmental Services, Chatham Public Library, Chatham Public Health - funding, implementation, volunteers

- Chatham 4H - implementation, volunteers, tent

- Toronto Zoo (Great Lakes Program)

Ontario Parks, Rondeau

- East Kent Vintage Farm Equipment Group – volunteers, tent

- MM Dillon Consulting - volunteers, implementation, funding

- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food - volunteers

- Retired Teachers and Retired Teachers of Ontario -committee, volunteer recruitment, volunteers

- Dover Rod and Gun Club, Kent Cloverleaf Conservation Club

- Ontario Nativescape – Cargo Trailer

• ***Anticipated Outcomes – Quantitative**

- 2000 elementary students will receive hands on learning around water topics in an outdoor environmental setting.

- 300 high school students will experience leadership opportunities through instruction of 45 activities to 2000 elementary students as well as providing valuable life-experiences in teaching and managing groups of young students that may influence future career choices. This will also raise awareness of water related problems and challenges to a growing community.

- 400 teachers and parent volunteers leading and assisting in the educational experience will learn about a variety of basic water related concepts and local water issues. They will also be able to meet and network with other project partners (environmental organizations, community groups)

- 150 adult volunteers leading activities and involved in other festival volunteer positions will learn about water issues and are provided opportunities to meet and connect with other water festival partners.

- All activities are linked to the Ontario School Curriculum in ways that help students achieve the desired expectations in Science and Technology, Social Studies, Environment, Mathematics and Physical Education.

- One of the goals of attending the festival is for students to learn and become catalysts for change by taking the knowledge and newfound respect for water back to their homes, schools and communities. The wide diversity of community groups (both rural and urban) that come together during this 3 day event provides a great networking opportunity and a chance to develop new partnerships. Teachers, parent leaders and students always come away from this event with new ideas and positive perceptions around environmental initiatives and it is our hope that this leads to future citizens with more awareness of environmental issues.

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
