



# Board of Directors Meeting

## AGENDA

April 20, 2023  
2:00 p.m.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
2. Call to Order	
3. Adoption of Agenda	
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# 1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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We will begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario. We also acknowledge the local lower Thames River watershed communities of this area which include 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

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## 5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 2, 2023



### Board of Directors Meeting

#### *DRAFT MINUTES*

The Annual Meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at Willson Hall at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus at 2:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 2, 2023. The following directors were in attendance: T. Thompson, K. Loveland, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, S. Hipple, M. Vink, S. Emons and R. Leatham. P. Tiessen, A. Finn, M. Blosch, and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement

M. Peacock read the First Nations Acknowledgement.

2. Teaching from the Caldwell First Nation.

3. At 2:00 P.M. the LTVCA Environmental Awards were presented to:

Landowner Category - Chad and Kate Hoskins

Organizational Category - Twin Dolphin/Strong House Canada Corp. – Sally Joyce & Alexander Topol

Volunteer Heroes Awards were presented to:

Roger McRae- Sunrise Rotary - Chatham-Kent and Lambton Water Festival

Mark Benoit St. Clair College Security - Chatham-Kent and Lambton Water Festival

David Braukis - homeowner looking after Western Area CA's

Dan McKillop spoke on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.

4. Call to Order

5. Adoption of Agenda

Have not received the Audited Annual report at the time of the AGM, so it will not be presented at this meeting. It will be brought forward at the next Board of Directors meeting in April.

**Motion: AGM-2023-01**

1. R. Leatham – S. Hipple

Moved that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

6. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

## 7. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Trevor Thompson, welcomed the Board of Directors, staff and guests to the Conservation Authority's 2023 Annual General Meeting.

### In attendance:

Trevor Thompson, Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
Ken Loveland, Municipality of Dutton Dunwich  
Larissa Vogler, Town of Lakeshore  
Hugh Aerts, Municipality of Middlesex Centre  
Martin Vink, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex  
Sarah Emons, Township of Southwold  
Sandi Hipple, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc  
Richard Leatham, Municipality of West Elgin

### Regrets sent:

Paul Tiessen, Municipality of Leamington  
Amy Finn, Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
Marie Blosh, City of London Representative  
Mike Bondy, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

## 8. Introduction of Guests

Don Pearson – past CAO of the LTVCA and LTVCFoundation member.

## 9. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

### Motion: AGM-2023-02

2. K. Loveland – L. Vogler

Moved that the Board of Directors minutes for the December 15, 2022 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

## 10. Business Arising from the Minutes

None Declared.

## 11. Presentations

### 11.1) 2022 Annual Report

A. Blain provided a Power Point Presentation on 2022 LTVCA programs and events.

### 11.2) Bill 23 and Regulations Update

M. Peacock provided a Power Point Presentation on Bill 23 and Regulations Update.

### 11.3) Administration By-law Update

V. Towsley provided an update on the Administration By-Law to the Board of Directors.

## 12. Business for Approval

### 12.1) 2022 Annual Report

#### Motion: AGM-2023-03

3. S. Hipple – S. Emons

Moved that the LTVCA's 2022 Annual Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

### 12.2) 2021 Audited Financial Statements

The LTVCA had not received the Audited Annual report by the time the AGM was held, so it was not presented at this meeting. It will be brought forward at the next Board of Directors meeting in April.

### 12.3) Election of Officers

#### Motion: AGM-2023-04

4. K. Loveland – R. Leatham

Moved that Mark Peacock chair the LTVCA's 2023 elections.

CARRIED

Mr. Mark Peacock assumed the chair for the elections, declared all elected offices, positions and appointments vacant, and outlined the voting procedures to the Board of Directors.

#### a) Chair

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for Chair of the LTVCA for 2023.

T. Thompson nominated S. Emons. S. Emons accepted the nomination.

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

#### Motion: AGM-2023-05

5. S. Hipple – R. Leatham

Moved that nominations for Chair be closed.

CARRIED

S. Emons was declared to be elected as Chair.

#### b) Vice-Chairs

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for 1st Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2023.

S. Hipple nominated T. Thompson. T. Thompson accepted the nomination.

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

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2023.

T. Thompson nominated P. Tiessen. P. Tiessen accepted the nomination (written acceptance of nomination received by CAO prior to meeting).

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

**Motion: AGM-2023-06**

6. K. Loveland – S. Emons

Moved that nominations for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair be closed.

CARRIED

T. Thompson was declared to be elected as 1st Vice-Chair and P. Tiessen was declared to be elected as 2nd Vice-Chair.

**c) Executive Committee (2 members to be elected)**

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Executive Committee for 2023.

H. Aerts nominated R. Leatham. R. Leatham accepted the nomination.

S. Emons nominated H. Aerts. H. Aerts accepted the nomination.

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

**Motion: AGM-2023-07**

7. M. Vink – L. Vogler

Moved that nominations for the Executive Committee be closed.

CARRIED

R. Leatham and H. Aerts were declared members of the Executive Committee.

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

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee for 2023.

H. Aerts nominated S. Hipple. S. Hipple accepted the nomination.

R. Leatham nominated K. Loveland. K. Loveland accepted the nomination.

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

**Motion: AGM-2023-08**

8. H. Aerts – R. Leatham

Moved that nominations for the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee be closed.

CARRIED

S. Hipple and K. Loveland were declared members of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee.

**e) CM Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee (2 members to be elected)**

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the CM Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee (formerly Children’s Safety Village) for 2023.

S. Emons nominated L. Vogler. L. Vogler accepted the nomination.  
T. Thompson nominated A. Finn. A. Finn accepted the nomination (written acceptance of nomination received by CAO prior to meeting).

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

**Motion: AGM-2023-09**

9. H. Aerts – R. Leatham

Moved that nominations for the CM Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee be closed.

CARRIED

L. Vogler and A. Finn were declared members of the CM Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee.

f) Ice Management Committee (2 members to be appointed from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, plus the member from the Town of Lakeshore). Chair ex-officio.

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for the Ice Management Committee of the LTVCA for 2023.

S. Hipple nominated L. Vogler. L. Vogler accepted the nomination.

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

**Motion: AGM-2023-10**

10. R. Leatham – L. Vogler

Moved that nominations for the Ice Management Committee be closed.

CARRIED

L. Vogler was declared a member of the Ice Management Committee.

Mr. Peacock congratulated those elected and turned the chair over to Sarah Emons, the Chair for 2023, to continue with the rest of the meeting.

12.4) 2023 Budget and Levy

T. Casier answered any questions that the Board of Directors had about the 2023 Budget and Levy. He noted that the Budget and Levy has not had any major changes since it was last presented.

**Motion: AGM-2023-11**

11. T. Thompson – R. Leatham

Moved that the non-matching levy of \$1,500,488 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the levy apportionment table. (weighted vote)

A recorded weighted vote followed with all members voting in favour of the motion.

CARRIED

**Motion: AGM-2023-12**

12. S. Hipple – T. Thompson

Moved that the 2023 proposed budget totalling \$4,200,484 be adopted as presented, and that the matching levy of \$81,467 and the Chatham-Kent Greening, Natural Heritage and Flood Control Levy of \$205,000 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the table accompanying the budget.

CARRIED

12.5) Appointment of Auditor

Motion: AGM-2023-13

13. K. Loveland – H. Aerts

Moved that the firm of Baker, Tilly CK, LP be appointed as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's auditor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2024.

CARRIED

12.6) Appointment of Bank

Motion: AGM-2023-14

14. R. Leatham – K. Loveland

Moved that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce be appointed as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's bank until the next Annual Meeting in February 2024.

CARRIED

12.7) Appointment of Solicitor

Motion: AGM-2023-15

15. L. Vogler – M. Vink

Moved that the firm of M. Gordnerlaw Professional Corporation be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2024.

CARRIED

12.8) Authorization to Borrow

Motion: AGM-2023-16

16. K. Loveland – S. Hipple

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

CARRIED

12.9) Appointment to Conservation Ontario

Motion: AGM-2023-17

17. H. Aerts – R. Leatham

Moved that the Chair be appointed as Voting Representative; and CAO as first Alternative.



CARRIED

12.10) 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 20, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 pm  
Thursday, June 15, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 pm  
Thursday, August 17, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 pm  
Thursday, October 19, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 pm  
Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 pm  
Thursday, February 22, 2024 – 2:00-4:00 pm AGM

**Motion: AGM-2023-18**

18. L. Vogler – T. Thompson

Moved that the meeting schedule for 2023 and the Annual General Meeting for 2024 be endorsed.

CARRIED

12.11) Update to the Administration By-law – 2023-02

**Motion: AGM-2023-19**

19. S. Hipple – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors approves the first reading of the revised Administrative By-law and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers Policy – 2023-02; That the By-law be posted to the Authority's website for public consultation; and, That the previous Administrative By-law, 2018-01 be hereby repealed.

CARRIED

12.12) Chatham-Kent Tree Nursery Lease

**Motion: AGM-2023-20**

20. T. Thompson – R. Leatham

Moved that the C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer and the Chair be authorized to sign a lease amendment with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent upon review of the final document by the LTVCA lawyer.

CARRIED

13. Business for Information

13.1) Bill 23 and Regulations Update

**Motion: AGM-2023-21**

21. K. Loveland – M. Vink

Moved that the Board of Directors receive this report for information; and further,

THAT the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority continue to meet the obligations under the Conservation Authorities Act; and further,

THAT Administration continue to evaluate anticipated financial implications in 2023 and in preparation of the 2024 budget and advise the Board as additional regulation and legislative impacts become known.

CARRIED

- 13.2) CAO's Report
- 13.3) Water Management
- 13.4) Planning and Regulations
- 13.5) Conservation Services
- 13.6) Communications, Outreach and Education
- 13.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – December 1, 2022

**Motion: AGM-2023-22**

22. T. Thompson – L. Vogler

Moved that Business for Information items 13.2) to 13.7) be received for information.

CARRIED

14. Correspondence

- 14.1) Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes associated with planning, development and permitting fees
- 14.2) Policy: Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee
- 14.3) Legislative and regulation changes affecting conservation authorities

**Motion: AGM-2023-23**

23. S. Hipple – K. Loveland

Moved that Correspondence items 14.1) - 14.3) be received for information as presented.

CARRIED

15. Other Business

None noted.

16. Adjournment

**Motion: AGM-2023-24**

24. M. Vink – R. Leatham

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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Sarah Emons  
Chair

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

# 7. Presentations

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## 7.1) Flood Review April 2023

Jason Wintermute will provide a presentation on the April 2023 Flood Event.

## 7.2) Draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOUs

Valerie Towsley to present.

## 7.3) Revitalization of the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum and Creation of an Indigenous Community Education Centre

LTVCF Representative to present.

# 9. Business for Approval

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## 9.1) 2022 Audited Financial Statements Presentation

A representative of the LTVCA's Auditor will be presenting the Board of Directors with the Audited Financial Statements for the 2022 year ending.

**Recommendation:** That the LTVCA's 2022 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2022**

*Draft - April 8, 2023*

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of the  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at December 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT, continued

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In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT, continued**

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- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chatham, Ontario  
April 20, 2023

**CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS**  
*LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS*

Draft - April 6, 2023



**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2022**

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LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	2022 Budget (note 14)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Municipal levies, Schedule 9	\$ 1,711,624	\$ 1,711,624	\$ 1,682,082
Miscellaneous income	-	12,515	69
Grants	1,510,730	2,091,948	1,403,009
Government grants - special projects	9,060	38,501	27,080
Direct benefiting	354,200	518,389	546,798
Rental recoveries	-	120,964	138,583
Oil and gas royalties	-	9,101	7,094
Interest income	-	73,904	21,543
Foundation revenue	-	3,556	4,716
Conservation area revenues	251,400	507,086	425,807
Mapping revenue	-	55,578	53,174
Donations	-	201	3,663
Ska-Nah-Doht Village, Schedule 1	55,492	78,389	79,248
	<u>3,892,506</u>	<u>5,221,756</u>	<u>4,392,866</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Ska-Nah-Doht Village, Schedule 1	130,605	125,697	127,089
Source protection, Schedule 2	31,885	23,897	40,748
Watershed monitoring, Schedule 3	124,124	149,366	165,649
Flood control structures, Schedule 4	307,728	303,018	291,421
Flood forecasting and warning, Schedule 5	202,809	112,989	164,460
Regulations and plan review, Schedule 6	379,055	433,374	342,249
Conservation services - Stewardship, Schedule 7	1,844,145	2,343,981	1,792,008
Maintenance and other non-eligible, Schedule 8	872,155	1,268,015	1,111,866
	<u>3,892,506</u>	<u>4,760,337</u>	<u>4,035,490</u>
<b>ANNUAL SURPLUS BEFORE AMORTIZATION AND OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>461,419</u>	<u>357,376</u>
<b>AMORTIZATION AND OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>			
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	(255,593)	(254,720)
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets (note 4)	-	9,950	442
Amortization of deferred capital contributions (note 7)	-	40,015	29,255
Donations of tangible capital assets (note 4)	-	-	70,000
Writedown of tangible capital assets (note 4)	-	(5,795)	(1,380)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(211,423)</u>	<u>(156,403)</u>
<b>ANNUAL SURPLUS</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 249,996</u>	<u>\$ 200,973</u>

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	INVESTMENT IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (note 10)	RESERVES (notes 10 and 12)	OTHER (note 10)	Total 2022	Total 2021
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 6,608,254	\$ 508,868	\$ 540,920	\$ 7,658,042	\$ 7,457,069
Annual surplus (deficit) (notes 9 and 11)	(56,933)	-	306,929	249,996	200,973
Transfer from reserves (note 12)	-	9,101	(9,101)	-	-
<b>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 6,551,321</b>	<b>\$ 517,969</b>	<b>\$ 838,748</b>	<b>\$ 7,908,038</b>	<b>\$ 7,658,042</b>

Draft - April 2023

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash (note 3)	\$ 2,176,974	\$ 1,814,520
Accounts receivable (note 8)	<u>1,217,294</u>	<u>1,024,172</u>
	<u>3,394,268</u>	<u>2,838,692</u>
<b>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 5)	271,416	412,504
Deferred revenue (note 6)	1,539,420	1,224,039
Deferred capital contributions (note 7)	<u>254,221</u>	<u>172,301</u>
	<u>2,065,057</u>	<u>1,808,844</u>
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS (note 9)</b>	<u>1,329,211</u>	<u>1,029,848</u>
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Prepaid expenses	27,507	19,941
Tangible capital assets (note 4)	<u>6,551,320</u>	<u>6,608,253</u>
	<u>6,578,827</u>	<u>6,628,194</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (note 10)</b>	<u>\$ 7,908,038</u>	<u>\$ 7,658,042</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice Chair

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	2022	2021
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Annual surplus	\$ 249,996	\$ 200,973
Adjustments for		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	255,593	254,720
Loss (gain) on sale of tangible capital assets (note 4)	(9,950)	(442)
Writedown of tangible capital assets (note 4)	5,795	1,380
Amortization of deferred capital contributions (note 7)	(40,015)	(29,255)
Contributed land (note 4)	-	(70,000)
	<u>461,419</u>	<u>357,376</u>
Change in non-cash working capital items (note 13)	(26,395)	53,938
	<u>435,024</u>	<u>411,314</u>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITY</b>		
Tangible capital assets funded by capital contributions	<u>121,935</u>	<u>68,452</u>
<b>CAPITAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(204,455)	(166,034)
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	9,950	442
	<u>(194,505)</u>	<u>(165,592)</u>
<b>INCREASE IN CASH</b>	362,454	314,174
<b>CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>1,814,520</u>	<u>1,500,346</u>
<b>CASH, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 2,176,974</u>	<u>\$ 1,814,520</u>

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

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### 1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is a not-for-profit organization established on February 2, 1961 under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario in the area over which it has jurisdiction. The Authority undertakes a program designed to further the conservation, preservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals. The Authority is exempt from income taxes provided that certain requirements of the Income Tax Act are met.

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The significant accounting policies are detailed as follows:

#### (a) CASH

Cash consists of balances with financial institutions, certificates of deposit, and short-term investments with maturities of 90 days or less.

#### (b) TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

Tangible capital assets are significant economic resources that are managed by the Authority and are a key component in the long-term delivery of the Authority's programs. Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Cost includes the purchase price of the asset and all other costs incurred to make the asset available for use. The Authority provides for amortization using the straight-line method at rates designed to amortize the cost of the tangible capital assets over their estimated useful lives. The annual amortization rates are as follows:

Buildings	10-50 years
Equipment	5-40 years
Automotive	6-25 years
Furniture and fixtures	10 years
Computer equipment	3 years

Tangible capital assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in the circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. If the total of the estimated undiscounted future cash flows is less than the carrying value of the asset, an impairment loss is recognized for the excess of the carrying value over the fair value of the asset during the year the impairment occurs.

Tangible capital assets under construction are not yet available for use and accordingly, are not being amortized. The assets will be placed into use as they are completed.

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

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### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

#### (c) RESERVES

Reserves for future expenditures and contingencies are established as required at the discretion of the members of the Authority. Increases or decreases in these reserves are made by appropriations to or from operations and, where appropriate, upon approval of the Board of Directors.

The reserve for vehicle and equipment acquisitions is used for the purchase of vehicles and equipment.

The reserve for capital and maintenance projects on Authority lands and structures is used to hold royalties received from lands purchased using provincial funding to fund capital and maintenance projects on Authority lands.

The reserve for provincially eligible and mandated projects is used to hold royalties received from lands purchased using provincial funding to fund provincially-eligible expenditures.

The reserve for insurance deductibles is used to hold funding to pay the deductible on insurance claims and cover expenses related to the self-funded short-term disability policy.

The reserve for restructuring is used to hold funding to pay severance costs in the event of organizational restructuring.

The reserve for eastern district properties is used to hold funds for the improvement of eastern district conservation areas.

#### (d) REVENUE RECOGNITION AND GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS

The Authority follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions and government transfers. Restricted contributions and government transfers are deferred and are recognized as revenues in the year in which the related expenses are incurred or services performed. Unrestricted contributions, including direct benefitting revenues, and government transfers are recognized as revenues in the period in which events giving rise to the revenue occur, provided that the transactions are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and a reasonable estimate can be made of the amount to be received.

Contributions and transfers related to tangible capital assets are credited to deferred capital contributions and are recognized as revenue on the same basis as amortization on the related asset is charged against operations. Contributions and transfers related to tangible capital assets that are not subject to amortization are recognized as a direct increase in net assets.

Conservation area revenues, rental recoveries, royalties and interest revenue are recognized as they are earned.

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

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### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

#### (e) SEGMENTATION OF EXPENSES

The Authority's expenses are segregated into several key program areas in the statement of operations and supporting schedules. These segments are identified and segregated on the basis of the programs operated by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and expenses are allocated to these segments according to the program to which they relate.

#### (f) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Revenues and expenses of the Authority have been recorded on an accrual basis and are recognized in the statement of operations in the year in which they have been earned and incurred, respectively, regardless of whether or not such transactions have been settled by the payment or receipt of cash.

#### (g) CONTRIBUTED MATERIALS AND SERVICES

Contributions of materials and services are recognized in the financial statements at fair value at the date of contribution, but only when a fair value can be reasonably estimated, when the materials and services are used in the normal course of operations, and when the materials and services would otherwise have been purchased. When a fair value cannot be determined, the contributed materials and services are recorded at a nominal value.

#### (h) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial instruments are financial assets or liabilities of the Authority where, in general, the Authority has the right to receive cash or another financial asset from another party or the Authority has the obligation to pay another party cash or other financial assets.

The Authority's financial assets consist of cash and accounts receivable. The Authority's financial liabilities consist of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, deferred revenue and deferred capital contributions.

The Authority initially measures these financial instruments at fair value except for certain non-arm's length transactions that are measured at the exchange amount.

The Authority initially measures its financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value. Financial assets and liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the organization is in the capacity of management, are initially measured at cost.



# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

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### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

#### (h) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, continued

The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. If repayment terms exist, the cost is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. Otherwise, the cost is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Authority in the transaction.

The financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost and are evaluated for impairment at each statement of financial position date with the write down recorded in excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures. Impairment reversals may occur and the asset can be written up to its original cost.

#### (i) USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions, such as the allowance for doubtful accounts, useful life of tangible capital assets, amortization of tangible capital assets, accrued liabilities and deferred revenues that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of certain revenues and expenditures during the year. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future. These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become known, they are reported in the periods in which they become known.

### 3. BANK INDEBTEDNESS

The Authority has available a revolving demand operating credit line in the amount of \$300,000. This credit facility bears interest at the rate of prime less 0.75% per annum and is unsecured. At year end, \$nil, (2021 - \$nil) of this demand operating credit line has been used.

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

### 4. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	2022		2021	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Cost	Accumulated amortization
Land	\$ 3,698,006	\$ -	\$ 3,698,006	\$ -
Buildings	7,453,019	4,970,196	7,409,292	4,807,935
Equipment	944,995	802,168	955,165	803,134
Automotive	518,821	387,239	507,439	381,945
Furniture and fixtures	99,540	64,946	82,663	58,584
Computer equipment	76,005	61,296	82,641	75,355
Construction in progress	46,779	-	-	-
	<u>12,837,165</u>	<u>6,285,845</u>	<u>12,735,206</u>	<u>6,126,953</u>
Net book value	<u>\$ 6,551,320</u>		<u>\$ 6,608,253</u>	

During the year, the Authority acquired \$nil, (2021 - \$77,297) of land, \$43,727, (2021 - \$65,679) of buildings, \$41,130, (2021 - \$30,739) of equipment, \$39,216, (2021 - \$58,954) of automotive equipment, \$19,377, (2021 - \$1,452) of furniture and fixtures, \$14,226, (2021 - \$1,913) of computer equipment, and \$46,779, (2021 - \$nil) of construction in progress tangible capital assets. Land with a value of \$nil, (2021 - \$70,000) was acquired through a donation of capital property.

During the year, the Authority disposed of automotive equipment with a cost of \$27,834, (2021 - \$29,373) and accumulated amortization of \$27,834, (2021 - \$29,373) for cash proceeds of \$9,950, (2021 - \$442). This disposal resulted in a gain on sale being recognized in the amount of \$9,950, (2021 - \$442).

During the year, the Authority wrote off buildings with a cost of \$nil, (2021 - \$11,000) and accumulated amortization of \$nil, (2021 - \$9,620), equipment with a cost of \$51,300, (2021 - \$nil) and accumulated amortization of \$47,380, (2021 - \$nil), furniture and fixtures with a cost of \$2,500, (2021 - \$nil) and accumulated amortization of \$625, (2021 - \$nil), automotive equipment with a cost of \$nil, (2021 - \$2,000) and accumulated amortization of \$nil, (2021 - \$2,000), and computer equipment with a cost of \$20,863, (2021 - \$nil) and accumulated amortization of \$20,863, (2021 - \$nil). In the opinion of management, these assets were no longer being used by the Authority and provided no future economic benefit. These writedowns resulted in the Authority recognizing an impairment loss of \$5,795, (2021 - \$1,380) in the current year. The impairment loss was recorded in other income on the statement of operations.

The balance in construction in progress tangible capital assets relates to costs incurred for the upgrades being performed on the Longwoods Resource Centre. At December 31, 2022, these upgrades were not yet completed. The assets will be placed into service as construction is completed. These construction costs are not being amortized.

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Accounts payable	\$ 125,222	\$ 290,882
Accrued liabilities	132,277	110,658
Government remittances payable	<u>13,917</u>	<u>10,964</u>
	<u>\$ 271,416</u>	<u>\$ 412,504</u>

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority receives certain amounts, principally from other public sector bodies, which may only be used in the conduct of certain programs or completion of specific work. These amounts are deferred and are recognized as revenues in the year in which the related expenses are incurred or services performed.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,224,039	\$ 999,026
Amounts received and deferred in the year	1,633,516	851,860
Amounts recognized as revenue in the year	<u>(1,318,135)</u>	<u>(626,847)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 1,539,420</u>	<u>\$ 1,224,039</u>

7. DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred capital contributions related to tangible capital assets represent the unamortized amount of funding received for the purchase of capital assets. The amortization of deferred capital contributions is recorded as revenue in the statement of operations on the same basis as amortization is charged against the associated tangible capital asset.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Opening balance	\$ 172,301	\$ 133,104
Amount received during the year	121,935	68,452
Less: amount recognized in revenue in the year	<u>(40,015)</u>	<u>(29,255)</u>
	<u>\$ 254,221</u>	<u>\$ 172,301</u>

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

8. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Authority is related to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation by way of a common management team.

Included in accounts receivable at year end is \$6,095, (2021 - \$5,499) due from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.

Transactions with related parties are recorded at the exchange amount. Management is of the opinion that these transactions were undertaken under the same terms and conditions as transactions with non-related parties. Amounts included in accounts receivable are held at normal trade terms.

9. CHANGES IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Net financial assets, beginning of year	\$ 1,029,848	\$ 811,220
Annual surplus (deficit)	249,996	200,973
Change in tangible capital assets	56,933	20,066
Change in prepaid expenses	<u>(7,566)</u>	<u>(2,411)</u>
Net financial assets, end of year	<u>\$ 1,329,211</u>	<u>\$ 1,029,848</u>

10. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Investment in tangible capital assets	\$ 6,551,321	\$ 6,608,254
Reserves	517,969	508,868
Other	<u>838,748</u>	<u>540,920</u>
	<u>\$ 7,908,038</u>	<u>\$ 7,658,042</u>

11. CHANGE IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	\$ 204,455	\$ 236,034
Amortization of tangible capital assets	(255,593)	(254,720)
Gain on sale of capital assets	9,950	442
Proceeds on disposition of tangible capital assets	(9,950)	(442)
Loss on writedown of tangible capital assets	<u>(5,795)</u>	<u>(1,380)</u>
	<u>\$ (56,933)</u>	<u>\$ (20,066)</u>

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

12. RESERVES

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority sets up internal reserves for operations, capital replacement, legal and other items in order to ensure funds are available to finance shortfalls. These reserves are replenished from operating surplus and, where appropriate, as directed by the Board of Directors.

	<u>BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR</u>	<u>TRANSFER FROM SURPLUS</u>	<u>TRANSFER TO SURPLUS</u>	<u>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</u>
Reserve for vehicle and equipment acquisitions	\$ 38,390	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,390
Reserve for capital and maintenance projects on Authority lands and structures	180,436	4,550	-	184,986
Reserve for provincially eligible and mandated projects	35,507	4,551	-	40,058
Reserve for insurance deductibles	30,000	-	-	30,000
Reserve for restructuring	216,677	-	-	216,677
Reserve for eastern district properties	<u>7,858</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,858</u>
	<u>\$ 508,868</u>	<u>\$ 9,101</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 517,969</u>

Through acceptance of these financial statements, the Board of Directors approves a transfer of \$9,101, (2021 - \$7,094) from the annual surplus to reserve accounts and approved a transfer of \$nil, (2021 - \$nil) from reserve accounts to the statement of operations.

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

### 13. CHANGE IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL ITEMS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Accounts receivable	\$ (193,122)	\$ (271,687)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(141,088)	103,023
Deferred revenue	315,381	225,013
Prepaid expenses	<u>(7,566)</u>	<u>(2,411)</u>
	<u>\$ (26,395)</u>	<u>\$ 53,938</u>

### 14. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation used in the current year. The changes do not affect prior year earnings.

### 15. BUDGET FIGURES

The figures shown in the 'budget' column of the statement of operations and schedules to the financial statements are provided for information purposes only. The budget was prepared and approved by the board of directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and is unaudited.

### 16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Transactions in financial instruments may result in an entity assuming or transferring to another party one or more of the financial risks described below. The required disclosures provide information that assists users of financial statements in assessing the extent of risk related to financial instruments. In management's opinion, there has been no change to the Authority's risks during the year.

#### (a) MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether the factors are specific to the instrument or all instruments traded in the market. These risks are generally outside of the control of the Authority. In management's opinion, the Authority is not exposed to significant market risk.

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2022

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### 16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, continued

#### (b) CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a transaction will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The Authority is exposed to credit risk in the event of non-payment by customers for their accounts receivable. The Authority believes there is minimal risk associated with these amounts due to the diversity of its customers and there are no significant concentrations of accounts receivable with any group of customers that are related to each other. The Authority reduces its exposure to credit risk by regularly monitoring outstanding accounts receivable and creating an allowance for bad debts when applicable. In the opinion of management, the credit risk exposure to the Authority is low and is not material.

#### (c) CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Concentration risk is the risk that a customer has more than ten percent of the total accounts receivable balance and thus there is a higher risk to the Authority in the event of a default by one of these customers. At December 31, 2022, receivables from 1, (2021 - 1) customer comprised approximately 32%, (2021 - 23%) of the total outstanding receivables. The Authority reduces this risk by regularly assessing the credit risk associated with these accounts and closely monitoring any overdue balances. In the opinion of management, the concentration risk exposure to the Authority that is associated with their customers is low and is not material.

#### (d) INTEREST RATE RISK

Interest rate risk is the risk that future cash flows will be impacted by changes in interest rates. The Authority is exposed to interest rate risk on its bank indebtedness as the interest rate applicable to the Authority is variable based on the bank's prime rates. This exposure may have an impact on earnings in future years. The Authority reduces its exposure to interest rate risk by regularly monitoring published bank prime interest rates. The Authority does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to interest rate risk. In the opinion of management, the interest rate risk exposure to the Authority is low and is not material.

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

SCHEDULE OF SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES Schedule 1

	2022 Budget (note 14)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Donations	\$ -	\$ 816	\$ 1,815
Gate receipts	32,500	54,576	19,734
Grants	22,992	22,997	57,699
	<u>55,492</u>	<u>78,389</u>	<u>79,248</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Administration	-	227	20
Administration overhead	17,515	12,647	14,477
Events and activities	-	329	5,822
Materials, supplies, taxes, insurance, utilities	8,150	2,611	17,379
Wages and benefits	104,940	109,883	89,391
	<u>130,605</u>	<u>125,697</u>	<u>127,089</u>
<b>ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$ (75,113)</u>	<u>\$ (47,308)</u>	<u>\$ (47,841)</u>

SCHEDULE OF SOURCE PROTECTION EXPENDITURES Schedule 2

	2022 Budget (note 14)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Administration overhead	\$ -	\$ 2,404	\$ 4,642
Wages and benefits	31,885	21,493	36,106
	<u>\$ 31,885</u>	<u>\$ 23,897</u>	<u>\$ 40,748</u>



LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

**SCHEDULE OF WATERSHED MONITORING EXPENDITURES** **Schedule 3**

	<b>2022 Budget (note 14)</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>
Administration overhead	\$ 16,646	\$ 15,028	\$ 18,870
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance and utilities	53,015	45,870	57,391
Wages and benefits	54,463	88,468	89,388
	<b>\$ 124,124</b>	<b>\$ 149,366</b>	<b>\$ 165,649</b>

**SCHEDULE OF FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES EXPENDITURES** **Schedule 4**

	<b>2022 Budget (note 14)</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>
Administration overhead	\$ 41,268	\$ 30,488	\$ 33,197
Aerial photography	-	-	10,287
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	68,702	100,297	84,252
Wages and benefits	197,758	172,233	163,685
	<b>\$ 307,728</b>	<b>\$ 303,018</b>	<b>\$ 291,421</b>

**SCHEDULE OF FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING EXPENDITURES** **Schedule 5**

	<b>2022 Budget (note 14)</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>
Administration overhead	\$ 27,198	\$ 11,368	\$ 18,734
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	25,791	12,850	9,565
Wages and benefits	149,820	88,771	136,161
	<b>\$ 202,809</b>	<b>\$ 112,989</b>	<b>\$ 164,460</b>

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

**SCHEDULE OF REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW EXPENDITURES** **Schedule 6**

	2022 Budget (note 14)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Administration overhead	\$ 50,835	\$ 43,745	\$ 39,083
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	28,077	38,131	44,801
Wages and benefits	300,143	351,498	258,365
	<u>\$ 379,055</u>	<u>\$ 433,374</u>	<u>\$ 342,249</u>

**SCHEDULE OF CONSERVATION SERVICES - STEWARDSHIP EXPENDITURES** **Schedule 7**

	2022 Budget (note 14)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Administration overhead	\$ 247,315	\$ 235,689	\$ 205,647
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	868,765	1,258,261	899,002
Wages and benefits	728,065	850,031	687,359
	<u>\$ 1,844,145</u>	<u>\$ 2,343,981</u>	<u>\$ 1,792,008</u>

**SCHEDULE OF MAINTENANCE AND OTHER NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES** **Schedule 8**

	2022 Budget (note 14)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Community relations	\$ 161,756	\$ 144,856	\$ 167,849
Conservation area maintenance	626,269	957,074	780,889
Conservation education	84,130	21,748	57,762
Vehicle and equipment	-	144,337	105,366
	<u>\$ 872,155</u>	<u>\$ 1,268,015</u>	<u>\$ 1,111,866</u>

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

MUNICIPAL LEVY FOR 2022

Schedule 9

MUNICIPALITY	CURRENT VALUE ASSESSMENT IN THE WATERSHED	% OF LEVY	MATCHING LEVY 2022	NON- MATCHING LEVY 2022	SPECIAL LEVY 2022	TOTAL LEVY 2022	TOTAL LEVY 2021
Chatham-Kent	\$ 8,379,820,825	56.6712 %	\$ 46,168	\$ 807,653	\$ 205,000	\$ 1,058,821	\$ 1,047,284
Dutton-Dunwich	547,037,234	3.6995 %	3,014	52,724	-	55,738	54,080
Lakeshore	1,403,849,279	9.4940 %	7,734	135,304	-	143,038	138,738
Leamington	349,895,198	2.3663 %	1,928	33,723	-	35,651	34,296
London	1,711,834,456	11.5768 %	9,431	164,988	-	174,419	170,309
Middlesex Centre Southwest	247,519,452	1.6739 %	1,364	23,856	-	25,220	24,637
Middlesex	440,680,719	2.9802 %	2,428	42,473	-	44,901	44,088
Southwold	163,529,970	1.1059 %	901	15,761	-	16,662	16,099
Strathroy-Caradoc	902,564,512	6.1039 %	4,973	86,989	-	91,962	88,698
West Elgin	640,021,339	4.3283 %	3,526	61,686	-	65,212	63,853
	<u>\$14,786,752,984</u>	<u>100.0000 %</u>	<u>\$ 81,467</u>	<u>\$ 1,425,157</u>	<u>\$ 205,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,711,624</u>	<u>\$ 1,682,082</u>

## 9.2) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2023

Date: April 20, 2023  
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
 Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2023**  
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

### Background:

Review the 2023 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 2 months ended February 28, 2023.

REVENUE	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2023 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	1,665,079	277,513 *	296,489	18,976
GENERAL LEVY	1,581,955	0 ^	0	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	0 ^	0	0
GENERAL REVENUES	748,450	124,742 *	59,017	(65,725)
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0 *	0	0
RESERVES	0	0 *	0	0
<b>CASH FUNDING</b>	<b>4,200,484</b>	<b>402,255</b>	<b>355,506</b>	<b>(46,749)</b>
OTHER	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>4,200,484</b>	<b>402,255</b>	<b>355,506</b>	<b>(46,749)</b>

\*-based on a 2 of 12 month proration of the budget

^Not approved or invoiced as of February 28, 2023

Grant income is greater than budgeted due to the reversal of deferred revenue for ongoing programs and the timing of grants invoiced.

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 was not invoiced as Budget was approved as of March 2, 2023 at LTVCA Annual General Meeting.

General Revenue is below budget due to the following factors:

- Conservation Areas, Education, Conservation Services and Chatham-Kent Greening are below budget as most activities and income are received later in the year and partially off-set by interest income.

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

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

EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2023 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	187,142	31,190	22,579	(8,611)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	1	5	4
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	132,280	22,047	13,792	(8,255)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	179,707	29,951	19,941	(10,010)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	485,409	80,902	68,139	(12,763)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	205,315	34,219	18,339	(15,880)
SOURCE PROTECTION	30,519	5,086	2,479	(2,607)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
<b>Water Management Subtotal</b>	<b>1,220,381</b>	<b>203,396</b>	<b>145,274</b>	<b>(58,122)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</b>				
<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>	<b>712,741</b>	<b>118,790</b>	<b>76,989</b>	<b>(41,801)</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	185,449	30,908	7,605	(23,303)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	33,941	5,657	13,047	7,390
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	145,817	24,303	12,073	(12,230)
<b>Community Relations &amp; Education Subtotal</b>	<b>365,207</b>	<b>60,868</b>	<b>32,725</b>	<b>(28,143)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</b>				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	174,493	29,082	7,025	(22,057)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	522,336	87,056	46,425	(40,631)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	1,077,985	179,664	131,818	(47,846)
SPECIES AT RISK	127,341	21,224	59,849	38,625
<b>Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal</b>	<b>1,902,155</b>	<b>317,026</b>	<b>245,117</b>	<b>(71,909)</b>
<b>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
<b>Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>4,200,484</b>	<b>700,080</b>	<b>500,105</b>	<b>(199,975)</b>

### *Water Management*

Flood Control Structures is below budget due to no flood events on the Thames River to February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due to several large annual invoices received later in the year and no flood event on the Thames River to February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Technical Studies are below budget due to one position being hired shortly into the new year.

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

Watershed Monitoring is below budget due to one grant not being renewed and the expenses for that grant not being incurred

Source Protection is slightly below budget due to the timing of staff working on this program.

### Conservation Areas

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

### Community Relations and Education

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

### Conservation Services/Stewardship

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

Phosphorous Reduction is below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Species at Risk is above budget due to March 31 year-end budget expenditures and the payment of two large service contracts.

### Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

### Summary:

	2023 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2023 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	4,200,484	402,255	355,506	(46,749)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,200,484	700,080	500,105	(199,975)
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(297,825)</b>	<b>(144,599)</b>	<b>153,226</b>
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
<b>NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(297,825)</b>	<b>(144,599)</b>	<b>153,226</b>

At February 28, 2023, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable mostly due to less expenditures compared to budget because of the seasonal nature of a large amount of the Conservation Authorities expenses.

### Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 28, 2023.

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

### 9.3) Update to the Administration By-law 2023-02 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Date: April 20, 2023  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner  
Subject: Update to the Administration By-law – 2023-02 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

#### **Background**

As a result of proclamation of governance-related clauses under Section 19.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, changes to the current Administrative By-law and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers Policy is required. This policy update was directed by information provided by Conservation Ontario (CO) through their development of the 'Conservation Authority Best Management Practices (BMP) and Administrative By-Law Model' which guided the content of our policy. The goal was to ensure a high level of consistency between conservation authorities with respect to governance issues, based on a single model.

By-laws are considered a legal governing document. In the spirit of best management practices of transparency and accountability, the approach to the language and layout of the Administrative By-law is to ensure it is understandable to all who wish to review the document.

Changes to the 2018-01 Policy consist of either added/removed text, complete repeals of sections due to changes in the Act, and general word smithing. The following sections had amendments undertaken to them: Section II, Introduction, Section A: definitions, Section B: Governance [subsections 1a), 1b), 1c). 4, 6, 10, 13, 19, 21], Section C: Meeting Procedures [subsections 1 a & b, 2, 4, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18], Appendix E [11], and Sections III, IV, V, VI which are new to this policy. As directed at the February AGM, staff sent the Board a copy of the By-law with the changes noted on the document for comparison purposes.

The draft Policy has been posted to the LTVCA's website under our 'Public Consultation' section for any feedback from the public ([https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Administration-By-law-2023-02\\_Draft-Final-Policy.pdf](https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Administration-By-law-2023-02_Draft-Final-Policy.pdf)). At the writing of this report, no comments from the public have yet been submitted to this office.

The By-law requires three readings, with posting to the Authority's website for public review and commenting. The first reading was undertaken at the February AGM, with this being the second reading at the April meeting, and the final reading and passing of the By-law will take place at the next meeting in June.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors approves the second reading of the revised Administrative By-law and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers Policy – 2023-02; and That the By-law continue to be posted on the Authority's website for public consultation and feedback.

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

- 7) Improve Internal Communications
- 9) Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities

Respectfully Submitted  
Valerie Towsley  
Watershed Resource Planner

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

## 9.4) Draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOUs

### Report to Board

Date: April 20, 2023  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner  
Subject: Draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and Planning MOU's

#### **Draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreement**

Under Ontario Regulation 687/21 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/210687>) Conservation Authorities are required to enter into an agreement with our member Municipalities in order to levy members for services provided, other than mandatory services. As of January 1, 2024, Conservation Authorities will only be able to levy municipalities for Provincially mandated services unless they have an agreement with their member municipalities regarding additional services.

Staff initially brought the draft of the Categories of Programs and Services Agreement before the Board of Directors on October 20, 2022 (<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/LTVCA-Board-Package-October-20-2022.pdf> - Section 9.5). At that meeting, the Board moved the approval of the Agreement and that it be provided to our members for their consideration. However, due to the November election, this process was put on hold until the new councils had been elected. After that, Bill 23 came into play, which put a further hold on this process as staff reviewed the Agreement again to make sure there would be no issues given the restrictions by the Province.

The LTVCA services listed in the attached Categories of Programs and Services Agreement are structured according to the LTVCA's current budgetary framework and encompasses the entirety of services currently offered by the LTVCA. As of February 24, 2022, the LTVCA had shared our draft inventory (<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Table-for-LTVCA-Inventory-of-Programs-AGM-approved.pdf>) with our participating member Municipalities. The LTVCA has not received any comments or concerns on the service and program areas, nor on how components of these services and programs have been classified by the LTVCA within Category 1, 2, and/or 3.

As a result, staff have finalized a draft of the Categories of Programs and Services Agreement (attached). The draft Agreement will be sent out to our five neighbouring CA's for their information for consistency purposes, and then sent to all of our member Municipalities (Mayor's, CAO's and Clerks) before the end of April.

We are looking to have the Categories of Programs and Services Agreement signed by all of our member Municipalities by mid-October, 2023. That provides municipalities with roughly 6 months to review the Agreement and get back to us with any changes or concerns. Staff will attend any council meeting to speak to the Agreement upon request. We are hoping that we don't have to seek an extension from the Province, but it may be required for the City of London agreement.

#### **Planning MOU's**

The introduction of Bill 23 changed the CA's ability to comment about Natural Heritage aspects for planning applications submitted to us by our member municipalities. The Planning MOU's (with three having already been signed) that CA staff had been in discussions with our municipal members was put



on hold until we understood the implications of this restriction. We are now revising all of the Planning MOU's and will be sending them out shortly to our members for review and feedback. We will also be reaching back out to the three municipalities that had already signed the original MOU to undertake a revision, removing all references to Natural Heritage review by the CA.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors approves the attached draft Categories of Programs and Services Agreement and the steps taken by Authority staff to circulate it to our member Municipalities for their review and eventual signing; and that the Board of Directors endorses staff to continue working with our Municipal planning partners around the Planning MOU process.

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

Financial Objectives

- 4) Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Capacity Building Objectives

- 12) Strengthen Program Review Policy(s)

Respectfully Submitted:

Valerie Towsley

Watershed Resource Planner

Reviewed By:

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

**DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES**

**MUNICIPAL / LTVCA CATEGORIES OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT dated this        day of        , 2023.

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                      , 2023.

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      , 2023.

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      , 2023.

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      , 2023.

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      , 2023.

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      , 2023.

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      , 2023.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX

Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor –

Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk –

I/we have the authority to bind the Corporation



**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 the CA's Flood Contingency Plan, including:
  - LTVCA will continue to update the Flood Contingency Plan for the Thames River as needed, and provide it to our emergency services contacts and our municipal members. (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 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 and increased number of complaints receivedThe flood plain / erosion mapping / modeling that is currently in place for LTVCA watercourses requires 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(s) 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 and Disposal 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"> <li>i) Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii) Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) (MECP funded network installation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii) Thames River Clearwater Revival, Watershed Wide Strategic Resource Management Plans, Watershed Report Cards, individual Watershed and Sub-watershed Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Governance – Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thames - Sydenham &amp; Region Drinking Water Source Protection Authority, Source Protection Committee and Joint Management</li> <li>• Maintenance of local source protection program, including issues management</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the local source protection program</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) Program implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing support of local source protection program</li> <li>• Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies where applicable</li> <li>• Review of local applications / planning proposals / decisions in vulnerable areas to ensure source protection is considered</li> </ul> </li> <li>d) Technical Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the preparation of amendments to local assessment reports and source protection plans to incorporate regulatory changes as well as technical assessment completed for new and expanding drinking water systems</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <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"> <li>a) Governance and Leadership Responsibilities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Setting priorities and policies</li> <li>ii) Financial planning and monitoring</li> <li>iii) Services and project development</li> <li>iv) Conservation Ontario Council and Committees</li> <li>v) Reporting to member municipalities</li> </ul> </li>   <li>b) Administration / Human Resources / Equipment               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Human resources planning and administration</li> <li>ii) Workspace and equipment management</li> <li>iii) Records retention and management</li> <li>iv) Compliance with legislation related to employment, health and safety, accessibility, etc.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>c) Financial Management               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Bookkeeping, investments, banking, financial planning</li> <li>ii) Tangible capital asset management</li> <li>iii) Management of financial agreements with external funders</li> </ul> </li>   <li>d) Communications               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Communications strategy development and implementation</li> </ul> </li>   <li>e) Information technology management and geographic information system               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Provide IT and GIS support</li> </ul> </li>   <li>f) Vehicles, Equipment and Infrastructure               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Provide and maintain vehicles and equipment</li> <li>ii) Maintain and upgrade buildings and related infrastructure</li> </ul> </li>   <li>g) Strategic Development               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) An updated Strategic Plan is required by January 2024</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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"> <li>1. Best Management Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Mitigate flood and erosion hazards on private lands (overlaps Cat 1 program)</li> <li>ii. Improve and protect water quality</li> <li>iii. Restore flood plains and river valleys (overlaps Cat 1 program)</li> <li>iv. Reduce nutrient contamination</li> <li>v. Restore and enhance wetlands to reduce flooding peaks and augment low flow (overlaps Cat 1 program)</li> <li>vi. Management of terrestrial non-native invasive species</li> <li>vii. Protect groundwater</li> <li>viii. Improve aquatic species at risk habitat</li> </ul> </li>   <li>2. Tall grass prairie establishment, tree planting and forestry services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Forestry services including planting, plan development, tree and shrub planting</li> <li>ii. Private woodlot stewardship, technical assistance</li> <li>iii. Tall grass prairie plan development and implementation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Apply for and maintain external funding</li> </ul>

### 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

- Support Natural Heritage work / implementation within the watershed (within the bounds of the prohibitions as set out by the Province)

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 Report Card / Watershed Health Monitoring and Reporting:

- 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)
- 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. 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

14. 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

## 9.5) Request of Fundraising Loan - LTVCF

Date: April 20, 2023  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: Request of Fundraising Loan – LTVCF Report  
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

### **Background**

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is moving forward with the Revitalization of the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum and Creation of an Indigenous Community Education Centre. This work will be completed in 2 phases. The items to be completed and the budget includes the following:

### **Capital Budget Breakdown Phase 1: (entire phase approved by board)**

#### **Indigenous Community Education Centre and Resource Centre Revitalization**

Building Indigenous Community Education Centre	\$610,000
Existing Resource Centre Revitalization	\$226,000
Total Construction / Revitalization Costs	\$836,000
Equipment	\$78,000
Architecture / Engineering	\$60,000
Labour- In-Kind	\$6000
Project Management, LTVCA Staff- In-Kind	\$30,000
<b>Total Phase 1</b>	<b>\$1,010,000</b>

### **Capital Budget Breakdown Phase 2: (Elevator Approved by board, other elements to be approved subject to funding)**

#### **Experiential Learning Expansion, Elevator, Artifact Storage Area, and Staff Facilities**

New Addition- Artifact Storage / Staff Facilities	\$400,000
Existing Resource Centre Display Expansion and Elevator	\$270,000
Furnishings	\$100,000
LTVCA- In-Kind Project Management Costs	\$20,000
<b>Total Phase 2</b>	<b>\$790,000</b>

### **Where are we to Date Financially:**

Phase 1- Indigenous Community Education Centre / Resource Centre Revitalization		
Federal Grant Received		\$750,000
LTVCA In-Kind Services Committed		\$34,000
Funds Through Fundraising by LTVCF	To Be Raised	\$204,000
Phase 2- Experiential Learning Expansion, Elevator, Artifact Storage Area, and Staff Facilities		
LTVCA In-Kind Services Committed		\$20,000
Federal Grant: (50% of Elevator Cost)		\$100,000
Funds Through Fundraising by LTVCF	To Be Raised	\$670,000
Phase 1 and 2 Contingency		\$26,000
Goal of Funds to be Raised by Foundation for Construction		\$1,000,000

**Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Approvals to Date:**

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has, to date, approved funding of \$204,000 for completion of phase 1 of this project and \$100,000 for matching funding received for the elevator portion of Phase 2. If successful, the foundation will be raising these funds and additional funds to complete all elements of Phase 2.

**The Request:**

Representatives from the foundation will be providing a presentation to the board and requesting a loan of \$75,000 to begin the fundraising project. These funds will be used to hire a fundraiser and marketing specialist to support the LTVCF fundraising committee in securing the funds. Should the Board support this request, the following resolution is recommended:

**Resolution:**

That the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority provide a loan to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation and that  
This loan will be for the purposes of raising funds for the Phase 1 Indigenous Community Education Centre and Resource Centre Revitalization and the Phase 2 Longwood Rd Resource Center Experiential Learning Expansion, Accessibility, Artifact Storage Area, and Staff Facilities Capital Projects.

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. Business for Information

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## 10.1) Housing Supply Bill 97 and PPS ERP posting

Date: April 20, 2023  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner  
Subject: Housing Supply Bill 97 and PPS ERO posting

### Background

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has undertaken a review and revision to the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) as part of a new Bill, Bill 97, Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6813> Bill 97: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-97>.

The new draft 2023 PPS is a merger of the current PPS and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe document to 'support the achievement of housing objectives across Ontario'. CA staff are in the process of reviewing the draft PPS and Bill 97. Conservation Ontario will be coordinating comments to respond to this posting which has a due date of June 5th.

The proposed combined and updated Policy will provide policy direction to municipalities, counties and CA's on matters of provincial interest.

There is also a new section within the 2023 PPS that applies only to Ontario's largest and fastest growing municipalities, which have the greatest need for housing, London being one of the 29 listed on Schedule 1 of this Policy Statement.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors receives the report for information purposes.

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

- 1) Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Respectfully Submitted:  
Valerie Towsley  
Watershed Resource Planner

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

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

Date: April 20, 2023  
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
 Subject: C.A.O.'s Report  
 From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

### Conservation Ontario 2022 Annual General Meeting

#### Elections / Appointments

The Annual General Meeting of Conservation Ontario occurred on April 3, 2023 at the Sheraton Parkway North Hotel & Suites in Richmond Hill. Chair Emons and I attended this meeting in person. Elections were held and Mr. Chris White was elected as Chair of Conservation Ontario. Chris White has a BA from the University of Toronto and has worked at IBM, in the hospitality industry, as an ISO auditor and in publishing. Chris completed his second term as Warden of Wellington County in 2014 and is in his fifth term as Mayor of Guelph/Eramosa Township. Chris is currently the Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority, and he is also the past Chair of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), past Chair of the Rural Caucus of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a founding member of the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI). For Vice Chair, the members elected Mr. Robert Rock, Mayor of Scugog Township and Chair of Kawartha Conservation for the upcoming year. Standing Committees were appointed including: Budget and Audit Committee, Group Insurance and Benefits Committee, and Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management Committee. Conservation Ontario had a successful 2022 with a budget of \$1,860,237 and a small surplus of \$8,779 by the end of the year.

The following list shows the number of appointed working boards and committees that Conservation Authorities across the province are involved in through Conservation Ontario.

Appendix A: TABLE 1. Standing Interagency Committees/Councils/Boards (ongoing) & Representatives for Related Working Groups (April 2022-March 2023)			
Committee Name	Committee Purpose	CO Rep/ Membership	Date Endorsed or Est.
<b>4R Nutrient Stewardship Advisory Committee (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food)</b>	To develop and implement a 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification program for Ontario agri-retailers.	P. Esson (TRCA)	Jun/15
<b>Biodiversity Council (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)</b>	To promote the understanding that "Protecting the diversity of life on Earth - of which we humans are an integral part" - requires broad societal consensus and participation.	K. Gavine (CO) - 2022; A. Coleman (CO)	Apr/23 TBC
<b>Carolinian Canada Coalition, Board</b>	To advance a collaborative conservation strategy for healthy ecosystems in Ontario's Carolinian Life Zone.	M. Veliz (ABCA)	Apr/17
<b>Certified Crop Advisory Association Board of Directors</b>	To provide oversight of certification and input to programs involving CCAs; CO holds a non-voting liaison members seat.	M. Dick (ERCA)	Oct/12 Dec/15 Apr/19
<b>Class Environmental Assessment Proponents Group (multi-stakeholder)</b>	To provide a discussion forum for staff representing EA proponent ministries and agencies to dialogue on items of common interest, to generate ideas on improving EA approaches used by respective proponents and to establish a network of contacts.	N. Fischer (CO), L. Rich (CO)-2022	Est. 2013
<b>Climate Proof Canada Coalition</b>	To protect Canadians from the growing effects of Climate Change and help communities prepare for and adapt to future challenges including the risk of natural disasters.	J. Rzakki (CO)	Apr/23 TBC
<b>Drains Action Working Group</b>	To protect fish and fish habitat in municipal drains without diminishing the need for improved drainage in Ontario.	L. Rich (CO), D. Heinbuck (ABCA)	Dec/07
<b>Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Communications Working Group (multi-stakeholder)</b>	To collaborate on provincial scale communications messaging and products, share communications resources with partner stakeholders, and communicate on source water protection locally.	D. Balika (CO) Chair, A. McIntyre (CVCA), B. Carey (LTVCA), A. Richards (SVCA), C. Ropeter (SSMRCA), C. Jacques (CVC), A. Dickens (QCA), C. Ross (LTC), C. Percival (MRCA), D. Stuebing (ERCA), D. Clarkson (MVCA), E. De Cloet (SCRCA), E. Jackson (RVCA), E. Scime (Halton), E.	Est. 2013

		Navarro (NPCA), I. Feldmann (GrandRCA), J. Thompson (MVCA), T. Bos (LTC), J. Stephens (KC), J. Chambers (KC), J. Mesman (SN), J. Welker (UTRCA), K. Gillan (GSCA), K. Halley (ORCA), K. Ebel (UTRCA), K. Stammler (ERCA), K. Taylor (LTCA), K. Guerette (CRCA), K. Holt (CVC), K. Geisler (Quinte), K. Fazackerley (CRCA), K. Bristow (CO), L. Vanderluit (TRCA), L. Dool (RVCA), L. Hastings (CLOCA), L. Stocco (GrandRCA), L. Van De Ligt (RRCA), M. Keegans (NDCA), M. Leung (NVCA), M. Livingston (MRCA), M.L. MacDonald (ABCA), M. Levogiannis (KCCA), M. Venne (NDCA), M. Wilson (LSRCA), N. Mohammed (CO), C. Smith (GRCA), R. Hull (NPCA), R. Wellwood (CCCA), R. Post (NVCA), S. Gauden (HRCA), S. Gutoskie (SNC), S. Buckle (NBMCA), S. Jagminas (LSRCA), J. Doyley (LSRCA), T. Cook (LRCA), T. Cumming (ABCA), V. Pilon (RRCA), Z. Cox (LPRCA)	
<b>DWSP Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) (CO co-chairs with Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks)</b>	To provide long term strategic direction recommendations for MECP senior management consideration, issues management, work planning discussions including eligibility criteria. Discussions include program streamlining, efficiencies and regulatory burden reduction.	S. Casgrain-Robertson (RVCA), C. Sharma (NPCA), C. Jorgensen (CS), S. Lawson (GRCA), D. Balika (CO), K. Gavine (CO) Apr-Jun/22	Est. Jan/13 Endorsed Dec/16 Apr/18 Jun/18 Sept/19 Apr/20 BOD
<b>DWSP Project Managers Working Group (multi-stakeholder)</b>	Forum for source protection Project Managers to collaborate on items that affect Source Protection Regions/Source Protection Areas across the province and receive regular updates on MECP and CO activities. The working group discusses the progress in DWSP technical studies, source protection plans, implementation, annual progress reporting. The working group also discusses long term program changes and needs, and feeds the DWSP Joint Advisory Committee through CO.	D. Balika (CO), K. Bristow (CO), A. Dickens (QCA), B. Thompson (LSRCA), B. Stratton (RVCA), C. Seider (GSCA), M. Keller (CH), C. Jacques (CVC), B. Doulatyari, C. Percival (MRCA), D. Ellingwood (NBMCA), D. Clarkson (MVCA), T. Cook (LHCA), I. Feldmann (GRCA), J. Ivey (CVC), J. Welker (UTRCA), K. Stammler (ERCA), K. Taylor (LTC), K. Guerette (CRCA), L. Van De Ligt (RRCA), M. Keegans (NDCA), M. Livingston (NDCA), M. McKinnon (SSMRCA), M.L. MacDonald (ABCA), R. Wilson (CO), T. Proks (NPCA)	Est. 2005
<b>EcoHealth Ontario Steering Committee</b>	To strengthen and build new collaborative relationships, build a common agenda, identify	Chair P. Ronan, N. Gaetz (TRCA), D. Cheriton (TRCA) J. Rzakdi	2013

	knowledge gaps, and determine research needs, develop and promote policy and program tools as well as share communication, education and outreach tools.	(CO)	
<b>Ecohealth Ontario Communications Work Group (multi-stakeholder)</b>	To develop and implement a collaborative communications strategy to increase awareness of the benefits of healthy ecosystems and green spaces to human health among Ontario residents and the health, social, planning and environmental sectors.	J. Rzakdi (CO), D. Cheriton (TRCA), N. Gaetz (TRCA)	Mar/14
<b>Forest Gene Conservation Association Board Representative</b>	To support a number of initiatives of importance to Forest conservation and management and specifically related to the maintenance of the genetic resource in the face of changing climate in Ontario.	R. Davies (UTRCA)	Apr/23 TBC
<b>Forests Ontario Board of Directors</b>	Given CAs are one of the largest tree planters for the 50 Million Tree Program (a key program for Forests Ontario), CO had an appointment on the Board of Directors until June 2022.	K. Gavine (CO) – Apr-Jun 2022	Mar/14
<b>Great Lakes Fishery Commission Committee - Canadian Advisors</b>	To provide advice to the Canadian section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.	B. McNevin (Quinte)	April/21
<b>Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) (Env and Climate Change Canada co-chair)</b>	Binational committee to assist Canada and the US in making decisions for implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.	B. Fox (CO)	Apr/ 13
<b>GLWQA Annex 2 Lakewide Action Management Plans (LAMPs) Sub-Committee (Env and Climate Change Canada co-chair)</b>	Binational sub-committee to implement commitments under Annex 2 of the GLWQA related to nearshore assessments and development and implementation of LAMPs.	B. Fox (CO)	Jun/13
<b>GLWQA Annex 4 Nutrients Sub-Committee (Env and Climate Change Canada co-chair with US EPA)</b>	Binational sub-committee to implement commitments under Annex 4 of the GLWQA related to managing the impacts of phosphorus and other nutrients.	J. Rzakdi (CO)	Jun/13
<b>GLWQA Annex 4 (Nutrients) Targets and Objectives Task Team</b>	To advise Annex 4 sub-committee on Nutrient Targets and Objectives for Lakes Erie and Lake Ontario.	M. Anderson (GrandRCA), S. Mugalingam (LTC), J. Diamond (NPCA), A. Wallace (TRCA)	Apr/20 BOD Sept/20

<b>GLWQA Annex 8 Groundwater Sub-Committee (Env and Climate Change Canada co-chair)</b>	Binational sub-committee to implement commitments under Annex 8 of the GLWQA related to groundwater quality.	K. Anderson (TRCA)	Jun/13 Dec/16
<b>GLWQA Annex 9 Climate Change Sub-committee (Env and Climate Change Canada co-chair)</b>	Binational sub-committee to implement commitments under Annex 9 of the GLWQA related to climate change.	S. Shifflett (GrandRCA) – 2022-Feb 2023 A. Singh (CVC)	Mar/14 Apr/23 TBC
<b>GLWQA Annex 10 Science Sub-Committee (Env and Climate Change Canada co-chair)</b>	Binational sub-committee to implement commitments under Annex 10 of the GLWQA related to science.	D. Balika (CO) – 22/23	Sept/14 Sept/20 Apr/23 TBC
<b>Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition (GIOCO) Steering Committee (multi-stakeholder)</b>	To promote awareness and understanding of green infrastructure, and to support policy and activities that increase implementation of green infrastructure across Ontario.	J. Rzakki (CO)	Dec/15 Dec/21
<b>International Joint Commission (IJC) – Great Lakes Water Quality Board</b>	To assist the IJC and provide opinion or advice on matters related to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement including identification of emerging issues and recommended approaches for resolution	G. Wood (retired) – Apr-Oct 2022; B. Fox (CO)	Nov/22
<b>Lake Erie Action Plan Implementation Team</b>	Ontario Committee of Stakeholders signed on to implement actions in the Lake Erie Action Plan. Includes development of Implementation Plan and subcommittees to support. implementation, evaluation and adaptation.	T. Byrne (ERCA), K. Phillips (SRCA), N. Drumm (alt) (SCRCA), S. Lawson (GRCA), M. Anderson (GrandRCA) T. Annett (UTRCA), T. Lozier (UTRCA), M. Peacock (LTVCA), J. Wintermute (LTVCA), J. Rzakki (CO)	Apr/2019 Apr/23 TBC
<b>Latonnell Conservation Symposium Steering Committee (multi-stakeholder) (NOTE: J. Joudrey, Ontario Heritage Trust, 2023 Committee Chair)</b>	To plan and deliver a successful Latonnell Conservation Symposium that is relevant to conservation authorities and their partners.	2022 Past Chair: J. Ivey (GrandRCA) N. Mohammed (CO), L. McPherson (CO), E. VanHooren (KCCA), K. Furlanetto (CRCA), J. Stephens (SVCA), K. Bavrlic (CVC), S. Hodgkiss (UTRCA), C. Irvine (GrandRCA), D. Goodyear (LSRCA), C. Jones (CLOCA),	Apr/22

<b>Ontario Dam Owners' Advisory Committee (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)</b>	To provide informed and direct input into the development and administration of government policies and initiatives, identify opportunities to clarify provincial requirements for the construction, operation and alteration of water control infrastructure, to provide a forum to raise new ideas for modernizing provincial policies and regulatory approaches, and to discuss other matters relating to the regulation of water control infrastructure in Ontario.	D. Boyd (GrandRCA) – Apr/22 – Jan/23, K. Lynch (GrandRCA)	Mar/14 Sept/19 Apr/23 TBC
<b>Ontario Hydrometric Program Coordinating Committee (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Water Survey Canada)</b>	This Committee gives CAs a direct voice on the day-to-day operation of the hydrometric network. It also is very important for maintaining working relationships with staff from MNR and WSC as everyone tries to get information from the network to fulfill their individual mandates.	K. Watson (SNC) M. Churly (GrandRCA) E. DeCloet (SCRCA)	Jun/17 April/22 June/22 April/23
<b>Ontario Invasive Plant Council Board (OIPC)</b>	A multi-sector, non-profit group committed to the collaboration of organizations and citizens in order to more effectively respond to the threat of invasive plants in Ontario.	B. Williamson (UTRCA)-2021	Dec/18
<b>Ontario Society of Professional Engineers Land Drainage Committee</b>	To discuss current practices and activities involving Ontario drainage engineers and plan the annual Drainage Engineers Conference.	D. Heinbuck (ABCA)	Mar/06
<b>Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Committee (PFFWC) (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)</b>	To guide the flood forecast and warning program. Represents the program partners, to review and make recommendations on matters of policy standards, agreements, criteria, funding, training requirements to facilitate discussion and dissemination of matters related to flood forecasting and warning which may include tech advancements, current challenges, training and education and other relevant topics to promote the PFFWC implementation guidelines.	South-West: D. Heinbuck (ABCA), E. De Cloet (SCRCA) South-Central: K. Lynch (GrandRCA); V. Taleban (Grand RCA) - 2023; Northern: T. Cook (Lakehead CA) - 2023 GTA: J. Wong (CVC); M. Hartley (NVCA) - 2023; Eastern: K. Watson (SNC); C. Phillibert (QC) - 2022/23	Apr/19 Sept/19 Apr/20 BOD Apr/21 Apr/22 Apr/23 TBC
<b>The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TORAC) Board (multi-stakeholder)</b>	To develop systems for the collection and disbursement of aggregate resources charges. The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association is the sole shareholder of the corporation. However, the seven-member Board of Directors pursuant to the Trust	L. Burnside (HRCA)	Sept/16 Apr/20 BOD

	Indenture administers the affairs of the corporation. TORAC, in its role as trustee, is responsible only to fulfill the Trust purposes as outlined in Bill 52.		
<b>Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Committee - (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)</b>	To provide and implement a transparent and coordinated process to review transfer payment funding submissions and Mid-Year status reports for infrastructure repairs or studies.	G. Rungis (GrandRCA, Chair) – 2022-Feb/23, C. Mitchell (TRCA, Chair – 2023+), S. Mancini (SNC), C. Tasker (UTRCA), M. Smith (QC) - Mar/23, G.Sankar (SCRCA) – Mar/23), B. Fox (CO), R. Wilson (CO) – database management	Sept/15 Sept/16 Apr/23 TBC

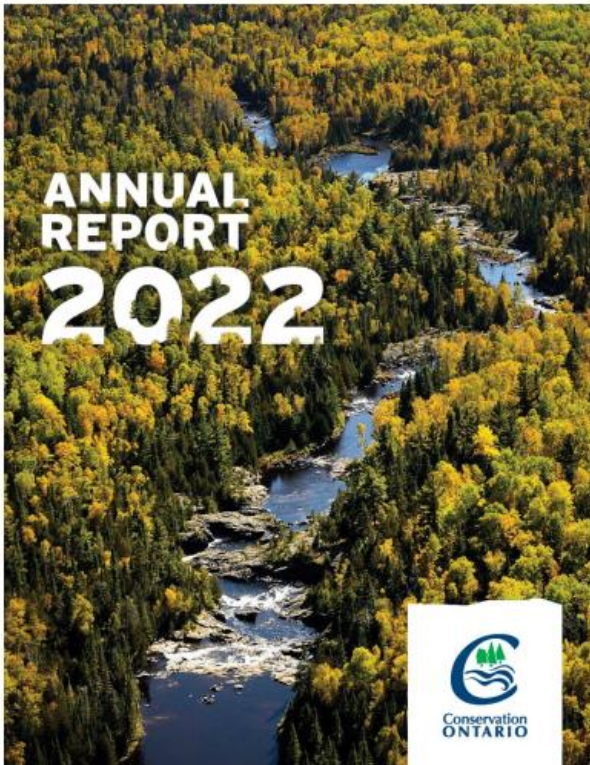


## **Conservation Ontario 2022 Annual Report**

The Annual Report highlights Conservation Ontario's (CO's) programs and accomplishments throughout 2022. It provides partners and stakeholders with reports on the organization's financial performance, Board of Directors membership, and project updates.

The featured topics in the 2022 Annual Report are summarized below:

- Conservation Authorities Act, Federal and Provincial Consultations, Client Service and Streamlining Initiative, Flooding, Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Funding, Partnerships, Information Management, Drinking Water Source Protection, Events, and Education and Training.
- Financial summary and Board of Directors membership.



The Annual Report will be posted on CO's website and social media and distributed by e-newsletters.

### **Recommended Resolution:**

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

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

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

## 10.3) Water Management

### 10.3.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

#### Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have been 12 flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in February.

Three of the messages related to potential shoreline flooding along Lake Erie and in particular along Erie Shore Drive in Chatham-Kent. Two of these messages were Shoreline Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages (March 31<sup>st</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>) and one was a Flood Watch (March 24<sup>th</sup>). The majority of Erie Shore Drive has seen little flooding recently, other than some lakeside rear yard water ponding due to wave uprush and spray. However, one location has seen increased flooding including water accumulation in the front yards of up to 10 homes, water passing over the road to depths greater than 10 cm, and erosion of the road shoulder. This degree of flooding has not been seen since the high lake levels of 2019 and 2020. Initial inspections by municipal staff have led to the conclusion that a combination of activities on one property have increased the flood vulnerability in the area. Shoreline works were being undertaken on the property to improve flood resiliency, however it appears that the works have not yet been completed to the specifications submitted for the LTVCA permit. In addition, home renovations and lot grading had been undertaken without permits from either the municipality or the LTVCA. The incomplete shoreline works appear to be allowing excess water to come over the shoreline and modified grading on the property is now directing that water towards the road rather than back towards the lake. While the municipality and LTVCA have been working to resolve the issue, the process is slow and in the interim the municipality has been spending an increased amount of time and resources in the area.

The other 9 messages were related to potential flooding on the Thames River and other smaller watercourses. Heavy rains in the forecast led to a couple Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages on February 22 and March 3. A combination of rain and snowmelt in the Upper Thames watershed led to a Flood Watch on March 24<sup>th</sup> as well. The other 6 messages were all related to a prolonged event that began on March 31<sup>st</sup> and finally wrapped up around April 9<sup>th</sup>. What was initially predicted to be a rain event bringing 10 to 30 mm of rain on the 31<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> ended up dropping substantially more, with some areas of the Thames River watershed seeing 70 to 75 mm of rain. This led to the operation of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel in Chatham. The Thames River was already high from the event noted in the March 24<sup>th</sup> Flood Watch. As a result, the river rose rapidly and higher than typically would be expected for that amount of rain. Additional rain on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ensured that water levels remained high as the peak worked its way downstream. The river flats along the Thames River all the way from Delaware to Chatham were flooded for an extended period of time due to this. The 6<sup>th</sup> St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station in Chatham was also operated to protect the south end of Chatham from flooding. Some businesses along King St. in Chatham that back onto the river were impacted by the high river levels, but residential areas were not impacted. Operations wrapped up on the 7<sup>th</sup>, but the river still remained high for a couple of days. Of the 6 flood messages issued for this event, two were Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages, one was a Flood Watch, two were Flood Warnings, and one was a wrap up Watershed Condition Statement – Safety Bulletin. Further information on this flood will be part of a presentation at this April Board of Directors meeting.

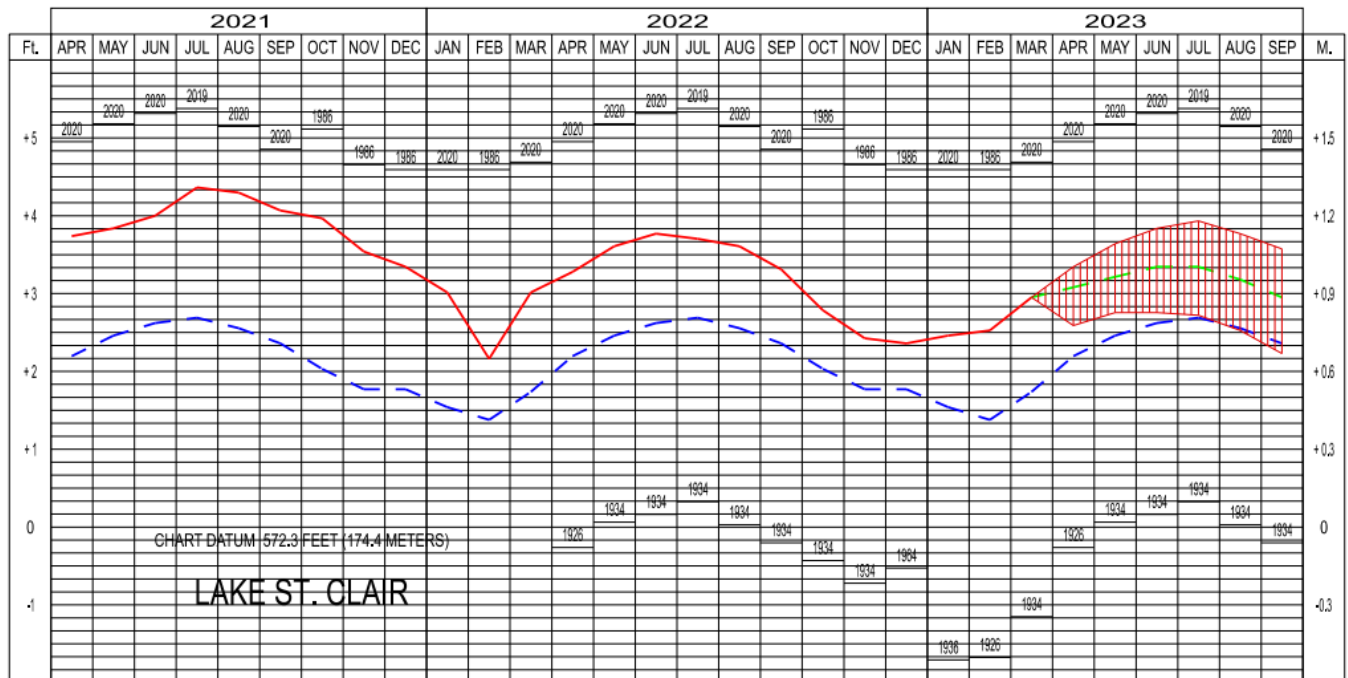
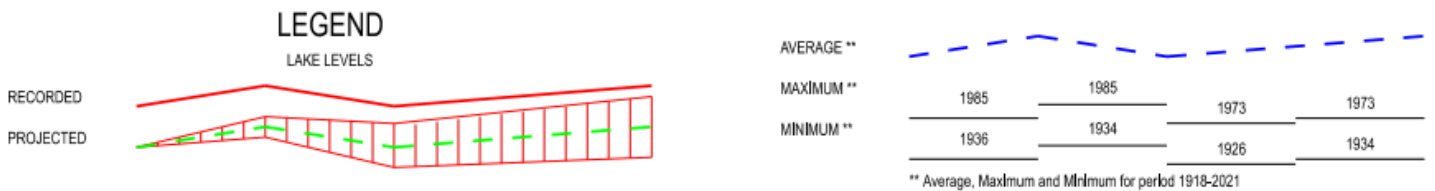
#### Report on Lake Conditions

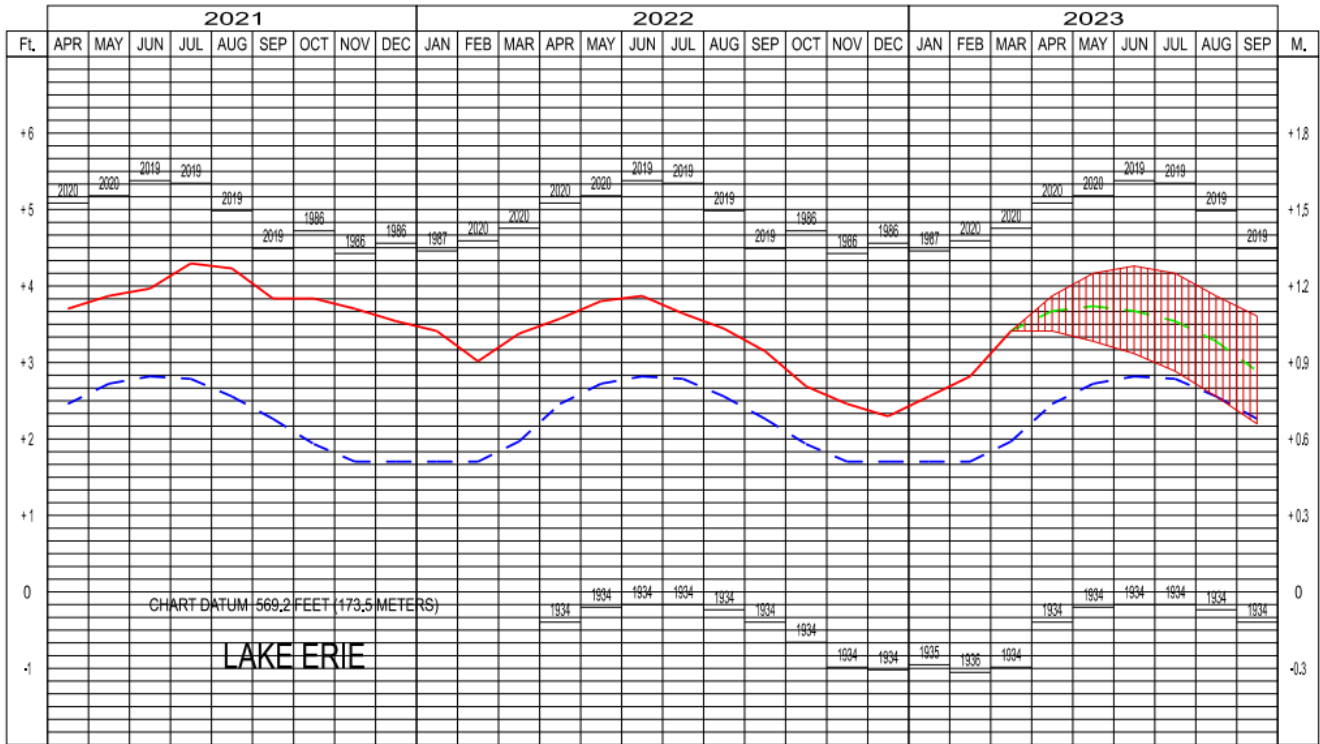
Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of April were around 174.58 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for April was 175.05 m, set in 2020. Water levels at the beginning of April were still 33 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of April. While Lake Erie water levels had dropped more than normal during the latter half of last year due to dry conditions, they began an early rise in January and are now back above where they were at this time of year in 2021 or 2022. Forecasts suggest water levels will rise around 7 cm by the beginning of May.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of April were around 175.39 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for April was 175.91, set in 2020. Water levels at the beginning of April were 32 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of April. Water levels on Lake St. Clair had been steadily rising since February with several boosts and drops related to high rainfall events. Forecasts suggest water levels will drop around 7 cm by the beginning of May, mostly due to the drop after the heavy rains and high runoff seen in the first week of April.

Stronger wind events (most likely gale force wind events lasting several hours in duration) are now required to cause minor flooding along the LTVCA's Lake St. Clair shoreline and along most of its Lake Erie shoreline. However, the damage caused by high lake levels over the last few years along Erie Shore Drive means it's likely still more vulnerable at lower wind speeds. In addition, some recent changes to the shoreline mentioned in the Flood Messaging and Flood Events section above have also made the road more vulnerable in one location. LTVCA staff will be monitoring wind events to determine what the new thresholds for flooding are.

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 April.





### 10.3.2) Flood Control Structures

There have been several significant rainfall events since the last report to the Board of Directors that have impacted operations of the LTVCA’s flood control structures. The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated from March 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and again from April 1<sup>st</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> St. Dam and Pumping Station was also operated between April 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to some ancillary maintenance, debris management has been a significant issue this year. Both the Diversion Dam and 6<sup>th</sup> Street needed to have debris removed this spring. Despite having divers in on December 21<sup>st</sup>, LTVCA staff have had to remove debris from the gates of 6<sup>th</sup> St. Dam twice in the leadup to the early April flood and still had to call in divers again during the April flood in order to close the gates. Further discussion of the debris removal will be part of a presentation at this April Board of Directors meeting.

### 10.3.3) 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/winter 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. Outside of the growing season, the LTVCA relies on provincial level summary reports provided by the MNRF to keep up-to-date. Due to a long-standing Low Water Level 1 Condition that ran from last June through February, a summary report was created by LTVCA staff in February and March. However, due to recent flooding, there was not time to prepare an April summary report in time for this agenda.

The Low Water Level 1 Condition declared last June was finally lifted in March. Looking at 7 rain gauges around the watershed, all the rain gauges showed 3-month (Dec-Feb) accumulated rainfall totals between 80% and 125% of normal. When looking at the 18-month rainfall accumulation, only 2 gauges showed rainfall totals below the 80% threshold and only by 2-3%. This was not deemed enough to justify continuing with the Low Water Condition. Given the spring-like conditions, flows in the Thames River for February were roughly 5.9 to 6.5 times the LASF and therefore well above the threshold for any kind of Low Water Condition.

While a summary report has yet to be generated which incorporates March rainfall and flows, the provincial screening does not suggest any concerns with low water levels and a cursory examination of rainfall and flows suggests rainfall was well above normal and there was no concern with river flows.

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/>

#### 10.3.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. The winter break has ended for the Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN) and analyses for 11 of these samples are now being covered by that program. Preliminary negotiations are underway with the MECP to see about another program to cover the remaining 11 samples. However, bacterial analyses and Total Suspended Solids analyses will still likely need to be covered by the LTVCA. In addition to regularly scheduled sampling, now that the region is starting to see some more rainfall, there have been several sampling runs to capture event-based runoff. This type of sampling is important as studies have shown increased nutrient runoff during winter and spring melt events, with larger runoff events leading to larger algae blooms later in the year.

Preparations are also being made for benthic sampling this spring. Benthic sampling usually occurs in late May or early June. Ideally, benthic sampling should occur before water temperatures reach 12 C, but logistical considerations often have a larger impact on when samples are collected. The results of benthic sampling are a well known and often used indicator of ecosystem health. The data is used for Watershed Report Cards and by partner agencies. A partnership with the University of Windsor will continue this year where they identify and enumerate the benthic organisms found in the samples.

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

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

## 10.4) Planning and Regulations

### 10.4.1) Planning

From the end of January 2023 through to the end of March 2023, there were 89 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 66 phone calls and over 84 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2022 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	2023 Totals
Chatham-Kent	204	21	17	37	
Elgin	92	14	7	18	
Essex	32	4	0	2	
Middlesex	44	5	5	3	
<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>60</b>	

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

### 10.4.2) Planning Fees

Planning fees generated from the signing of three of our Municipal MOU's in 2022 resulted in \$600 from Southwold, \$2,445 from Dutton Dunwich, and \$1,430 from West Elgin between February 1<sup>st</sup> through to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

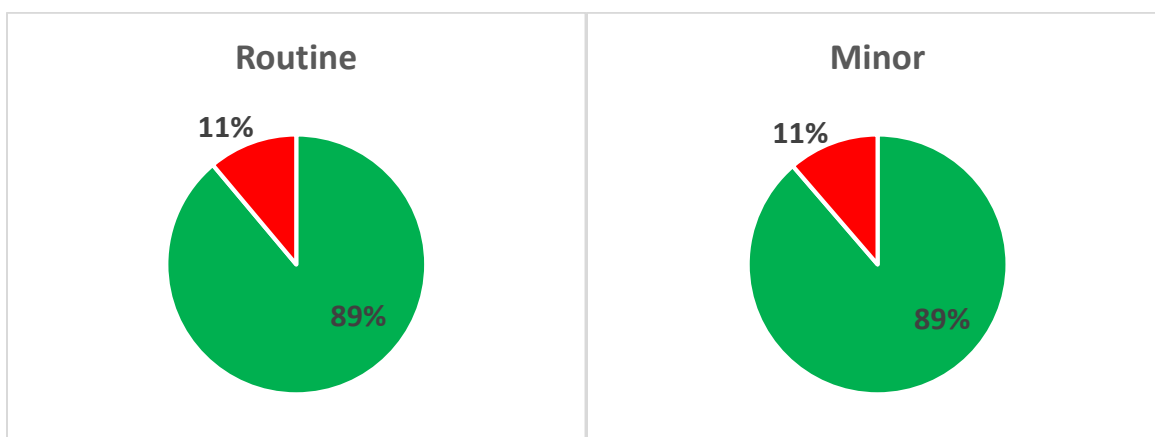
### 10.4.3) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

In the months of February and March, the LTVCA received 53 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. Of the 87 permit applications received in the first three months of 2023, all but 16 had been approved by staff. Those 16 applications had yet to be reviewed and processed by staff as of the end of March.

\$17,400 in permit application fees had been collected thus far this year (as of the end of March).

### 10.4.4) Permit Processing Timelines

For applications issued up until the end of March, the charts and table below indicate that 89% of "routine" and 89% of "minor" permit applications met their applicable customer service standard for turnaround time.



Complexity of Application	# of Days to Review Permit Applications				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	16	1	1	0	0
Minor	39	8	3	3	0
Major	0	0	0	0	0

For the months of February and March, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was 5 days (ranged between 0 and 26 days). The customer service standard for routine permits is a turnaround within 14 days. On average, 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 February and March, the average turnaround time for a minor permit application was 13 days (ranged between 0 and 41 days). For private property minor complexity permits, the average turnaround time was 15 days. The customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. On average, the processing time for minor permit applications is meeting the customer service targets.

#### 10.4.5) Property Inquiries

Up to the end of March, 409 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Program which is 336 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 3-8 business days for e-mails and up to 10 business days for phone calls.

#### 10.4.6) Section 28 Enforcement

In the first three months of 2023, six complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. Five of six 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  
(Permits Issued in Feb 2023 and Mar 2023)

B.D. 04/20/2023

App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
003-2023	4 Sherbrooke Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 08, 2023	41
010-2023	79 Victoria Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 07, 2023	26
011-2023	128 Sherwood Court	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 08, 2023	23
012-2023	34 Kingsway Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 08, 2023	26
013-2023	Between 1289 and 1299 Bluff Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 08, 2023	23
025-2023	13355 Jane Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 10, 2023	18
026-2023	9362 Kent Centre Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 10, 2023	18
027-2023	Tweedsmuir North Subdivision	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 13, 2023	20
029-2023	22499 Gray Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Feb 10, 2023	16
034-2022	26 Oriole Parkway	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 16, 2023	20
035-2023	Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Feb 17, 2023	15
036-2023	11520 Meadowview Road	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 16, 2023	13
037-2023	19260 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Feb 06, 2023	3
038-2023	1400 Kerr Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 16, 2023	13
039-2023	19085 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Feb 06, 2023	0
040-2023	5314 Talbot Trail	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 07, 2023	5
041-2023	159 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2023	20
042-2023	Lakeshore Road 309 at West Branch of Big Creek	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Mar 10, 2023	30
043-2023	29771 Zone Road 7	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 16, 2023	8
044-2023	445 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 16, 2023	7
045-2023	Alison Line at Wetherford Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 22, 2023	9
046-2023	Alison Line at Walker Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 22, 2023	9
047-2023	Alison Line at McGregor Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 22, 2023	9
048-2023	Alison Line at Cameron Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 22, 2023	9
049-2023	Duke Drain near 20028 Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 22, 2023	9
050-2023	152 & 154 Colborne Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 23, 2023	9
051-2023	Lowrie Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 22, 2023	8
052-2023	175 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2023	11
053-2023	6914 Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2023	10
054-2023	593 Indian Creek Road West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2023	7
055-2023	North Branch of Cruickshank Drain	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 22, 2023	0
056-2023	11793 Bates Drive	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 06, 2023	11



App No.	Location	Community/ Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
057-2022	6th and 7th Side Road Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 10, 2023	11
058-2023	25464 Queens Line	West Lorne	West Elgin	Granted: Feb 28, 2023	0
059-2023	17665 Erieau Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 13, 2023	12
060-2023	38 Dundee Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 10, 2023	7
061-2023	171 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 10, 2023	7
062-2023	Parkhouse Drive	Mount Brydges	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Mar 10, 2023	3
063-2023	1001 Park Avenue West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 28, 2023	21
066-2023	3875 Parkhouse Drive	Glencoe	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Mar 27, 2023	13
067-2023	Grodon Campell Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Mar 15, 2023	0
068-2023	11520 Meadowview Road	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 22, 2023	7
071-2023	Orchard Carroll Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Mar 22, 2023	1
072-2023	Orchard Carroll Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Mar 23, 2023	2
078-2023	1761 Concession Dr	Newbury	Middlesex	Granted: Mar 27, 2023	0
080-2023	14678 Largie Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 28, 2023	0
083-2023	65 Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 30, 2023	1

## 10.5) Conservation Area Lands

### 10.5.1) Conservation Areas

#### Longwoods Road Conservation Area

New tenants have been living in the Livermore House for the last quarter. The renovations to the Burwell House are coming to a close and staff are making headway on moving their offices into the building.

The Longwoods Resource Centre will soon commence with windows, doors and furnace repairs/upgrades as these will be completed prior to construction of the addition.

The Canada Revitalization Grant that was approved has begun, with RFP being posted and reviewed by engineers. Plans are 95% completed with some minor edits and the project is anticipated to go to tender mid April for construction during 2023/2024.

#### Sharon Creek



The graphic is a 'Fee Schedule' for Passport Parking Canada. It features a blue header with the title 'Fee Schedule'. Below the header, it lists 'Day Use Parking' at '\$5/day'. A large section titled 'PAY BY PHONE' includes a 'ZONE 3022' and a 'DOWNLOAD Passport Parking Canada' button. A red banner at the bottom of this section says 'or go to passportca.com'. The second section lists 'LTVCA Parking Pass \$60/year (January-December)'. It provides contact information: 'Online : www.ltvca.ca', 'Phone : 519-264-2420', and 'In Person : Longwoods CA'. There is also a small logo for LTVCA.

The day use parking fee of \$5.00 will be implemented May 1, through Passport Parking Canada. This new platform allows the general public to pay their day use fee through the app or online prior to arriving.

The May 1<sup>st</sup> implementation date is currently being advertised on social media. New signage to be installed over the next few weeks.

London Canoe Club continues to provide a presence and offer their own programming.

#### Big Bend

Camping will begin the May long weekend. Bookings can be made online through Let's Camp.

#### E.M Warwick

Had a busy winter season for hunting rentals which concluded mid December, a short-term lease was created as a pilot project with the West Elgin Community Health Centre to offer shelter to those who required assistance. The program has successfully concluded and staff will start the analysis of the pilot program and whether it will continue in the future.

#### Walter Devereux

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been working on preliminary plans to create a trail through the Reynolds Tract property which is adjacent to Walter Devereux. The Municipality invited the Authority to take part in the site meetings to discuss creating a connection between the two properties to allow for diversified experience for the users. This would have minimal cost to the Authority as staff can create an entrance in line with the entrance to Reynolds Tract that would connect to existing trails within Walter Devereux.



Map of site between Walter Devereux and Reynolds Tract.

### C.M. Wilson

Staff have been hard at work with transforming the CK Safety Village into the C.M Wilson Learning Centre.

The education staff are expected to move into the building later this month and will proceed with additional hiring for the Indigenous Educator.

Program development will start this summer and allow for school programming to be active starting in September for the 2023-2024 school year.



The Four Season Display set up within the new C.M Wilson Learning Centre.



### Diversion Channel

Ongoing maintenance is required at the Diversion Channel and at this time staff have been meeting with potential contractors to get estimated quotes for fencing of the Channel. Once we have the estimated quote for the fence work to be completed, it will allow staff to look for and apply for appropriate grants to cover a portion of this repair.

### Big 'O'

With the change in staffing for the hosting of this event, the event is still trying to progress however, staff are finding it hard to contact past participants to take part in the event.

## 2023-2024 Guidebook

Staff decided to run a pilot of producing a guidebook every 2 years as the information within the guidebook generally remains static and can be produced for 2 years in a row with dating remaining accurate.

With the economic climate at this time businesses are finding the ever-increasing inflation rate difficult to afford the same resources. To offer a more economical method we offered a deal to sponsors to pay an increase in order to obtain a two-year presence in the guidebook. As you can see below the pricing did not double but offered a saving for companies to invest in their sponsorship with us.

Producing a guidebook every two years allows staff to reduce the hours spent on the guidebook. Revisions for the 2025-2026 guidebook will begin in the fall of 2024 with the final product being printed for a January release date. Having the guidebook available in January falls in line with the LTVCA Parking Passes, January – December.

Currently, we have exceeded \$10,000 in sponsorships and will be closing the Sponsorship Order by mid April.

<b>2022 Pricing</b>	<b>2023-2024 Pricing</b>
Gold Package- \$2000	Gold Package- \$2500
Silver Package- \$1000	Silver Package- \$1200
Bronze Package- \$500	Bronze Package- \$550
Supporter Package- \$250	Supporter Package- \$275

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

## 10.6) Conservation Services

### 10.6.1) General Updates

Project planning and tree sales for reforestation is winding down and we are getting ready to implement our projects during April and May. Currently we are at 93 acres of reforestation projects; equating to 50,000 seedlings and an additional 21,000 seedlings sold over the counter.

Wetland project recruitment is just getting started and we have 5 acres so far. Prairie is also just getting started with 2.4 acres.

We have signed a contract with Planning Intelligence to upgrade our data system to track projects, funding, and tree sales. Implementation will be in the coming months and the goal is to be operational for the 2024 project season. To go along with this we have initiated a consistent mapping tool Arc Map for everyone on the Stewardship team. This will allow us to link projects with the new database, keep mapping styles consistent, and organize our records for better management and reporting.

Heuvelmans Chevrolet has signed on for an additional year for the Conservation Services Blackburn Radio Campaign. They contribute 50% of a \$12,000 cost and this has been a great partnership.

### **ALUS Middlesex**

Throughout March, ALUS Middlesex had a heavy on-the-ground presence, as staff were busy conducting site visits, coordinating with landowners, and organizing project plans with partners in preparation for springtime establishment. Through different community engagement opportunities (Ilderton Rural Landowner Info Night, Elgin-Middlesex OWA AGM, Erosion and Sediment Control Field Day), ALUS Middlesex has been able to gather new interest in the program and is excited to be working with 19 Middlesex county farmers.

Data integrity exercises with the ALUS database and GIS program finished up in March, with the Field Monitoring Specialist ensuring all records are up to date and accurate. Updated drone photography of project sites continues to be on going.



Figure 1: After a dry summer, newly created wetlands are starting to fill with water from the winter/ spring precipitation.

*In the eastern district*, plans for planting season are almost all set. The total number of trees planned currently rests at 51,130. Of this total, 31,650 are expected to be planted during the 2023 season, with the remainder on hold by requests of landowners until 2024. All project sites have had reports submitted to and approved by Forests Ontario. Projects account for 25,840 trees being planted on 45.5 acres, while over-the-counter seedling orders make up the remaining 5,810 trees. A few late expressions of interest continue to come in, so these numbers may rise slightly in the coming weeks, if orders can be accommodated by over-the-counter seedling sales.

Outside of trees, five wetland projects totalling almost 2 acres are expected to proceed in 2023, as are 4 prairie projects covering over 9 acres. Two more prairies totalling 6.4 acres and two more wetlands covering 0.6 acres are also on hold by landowners' request until 2024.

### **ALUS Elgin**

As we enter spring, ALUS Elgin has been busy working out our 2023 financials (including grant applications) and finalizing upcoming projects for 2023. ALUS Elgin has completed our 2023 Eco-Action grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada, reporting on projects that have improved water quality in Elgin County. We have also sent in grant applications to Elgin Clean Water, Elgin Stewardship, and other local environmental organizations to help support our 2023 projects. Finalizing our 2023 funding allocation for this year's projects has been the priority as of March and into April.

ALUS Elgin is working on finalizing our 2023 projects. To date 55 project acres have been approved for establishment in 2023, and with 56 acres more pending approval, 2023 is shaping up to be a busy year. Spring marks the start of tree planting season, to which ALUS Elgin is set to plant over 20,000 trees over 34 acres throughout Elgin County. We are in the beginning phase of organizing two community-planting events in Elgin County, with a local school and nearby scout group. Wetland and tree planting events will give them the opportunity to learn how to plant trees, plugs, and about their environmental importance.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> ALUS Elgin had our first PAC meeting of the year, during which 2 new PAC members were selected and our current VP was re-elected for two more years. 42.5 acres of 2023 projects have been approved for establishment during our first meeting. Our next meeting in 2023 scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, during which new projects, upcoming events and more will be discussed.

### **ALUS Chatham-Kent Update**

Spring has arrived and ALUS Chatham-Kent has been busy finalizing project plans for the upcoming tree planting season. Nine projects have been approved by the ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC and the landowners are eager to get the trees in the ground.

As planning for tree projects winds down, focus will now shift to tallgrass prairie and wetland projects. Interested landowners have already been in contact and a number of site visits have taken place. As the weather warms and the land dries up, more interested is anticipated.

The ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC welcomed five new members at the March meeting. Each member brings invaluable expertise in both agriculture and environmental stewardship.

### ***Imagine McGregor***

The Imagine McGregor program has been preparing for the upcoming field season, and has been largely in a planning phase for the past couple of months. So far, there are 21 events planned for the spring and summer, including tree plantings, pollinator garden creation, garbage clean ups, giveaways, outreach events, and fundraisers. Through these events, over 20 groups/businesses will be engaged in restoring the McGregor creek watershed.

To show appreciation for such volunteer efforts, one volunteer group; Twin Dolphin/Strong House Canada was honoured at the 2022 LTVCA Annual General Meeting in March. This group was pivotal in the success of the 2nd Annual CK Paddle & Clean, through providing a large number of the paddlers as well as recycling bins to correctly sort the collected waste. The clean up resulted in over 700 lbs of garbage cleaned out from the Thames River & McGregor Creek.

Three grants totalling ~\$13,000 were recently approved to plant pollinator gardens on school grounds this coming spring, which will help to increase pollinator habitat and awareness about the importance of pollinators. These grants were received from Together CK, CK Community Foundation, and Wildlife Habitat Canada.



The last few months also saw the continuation of the Winter Webinar series, with an inspiring webinar given by community educator Thomas Martel, who spoke about traditional usage of native plants. Just under 40 individuals attended the webinar, bringing the series total to approximately 250 live views. All of the webinars received amazing feedback, and will pick up again next winter with new topics.

Through a partnership with the Chatham-Kent Secondary School, the Imagine McGregor program hosted a bluebird nesting box giveaway, which saw just over 60 nesting boxes given away to members of the public. These will assist in recovering bluebird populations in our community, especially urban areas. The article below was featured in the Chatham Daily News.

## **CKSS environmental club, LTVCA team up to offer free blue bird boxes**

*Spring is here and with it comes the return of the beautiful blue bird, a favourite of bird watchers.*

Author of the article:

[Ellwood Shreve](#)

Published Mar 30, 2023



*Grade 9 Chatham-Kent Secondary School students Jennica Grainger, left, and Sadie Williams work on constructing a blue bird box. The two students are members of the school's environmental club that made dozens of the boxes that will be given away.*

Spring is here and with it comes the return of the beautiful blue bird, a favourite of bird watchers.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is giving away about 50 blue bird boxes thanks to its long-standing relationship with the Chatham-Kent Secondary School Environmental Club.

Alyssa Broeders, wetland and urban stewardship technician, said the students have done an “absolutely amazing” job building the blue bird boxes.

“They are constructed beautifully, all the edges are sanded down,” she said. “It’s a really good group we had building them.”

CKSS tech teacher Gord Williams, who leads the environmental club, said students from grade 9 to 12, along with life skills students, worked on constructing the bird boxes.

The students also get to take home a blue bird box “as long as they promise to hang it up,” he said.

Broeders said the bird houses are available free to the public.



“Anyone who wants one is more than welcome to have one,” she said.

If you are interested in a blue bird box, contact Broeders at 519-354-7310 ext. 246 or by email at [alyssa.broeders@ltvca.ca](mailto:alyssa.broeders@ltvca.ca).

The boxes can be picked up at C.M. Wilson Conservation Authority or the LTVCA office at 100 Thames St. in Chatham, she said.

Broeders said the blue bird boxes do best in large grassy areas.



*Members of the Chatham-Kent Secondary School Environmental Club display some of the blue bird boxes they constructed as part of a stewardship project with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. (Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News)*

But she added, “Just increasing that habitat community-wide is something that we’re really trying to do.”

The CKSS Environmental Club has also made wood duck boxes and bat boxes along with wood boxes for tree seeds for LTVCA stewardship programs.

Besides building structures, the environmental club that began about 15 years ago also goes on hikes in the spring and fall to see the duck migration, Williams said.

He added they do builds in the winter for the LTVCA and other organizations.

The club’s next event will be a shoreline cleanup at Rondeau Provincial Park “just to get the students out and clean up our shorelines after winter,” Williams said.

The club is open to students interested in the environment, he said.

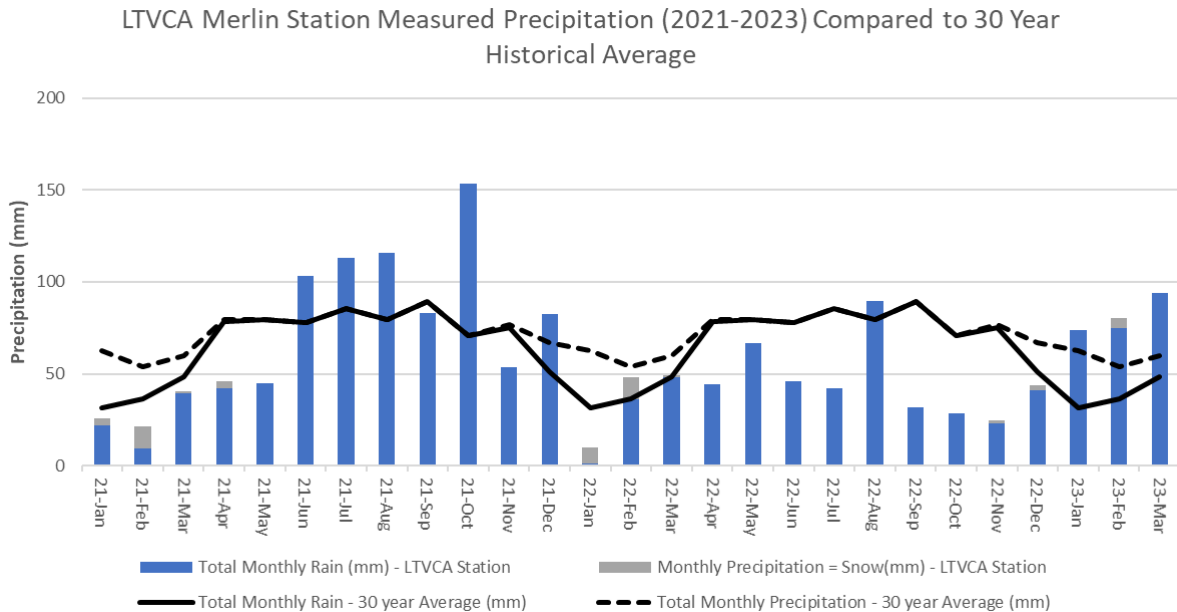
“We’ll show you areas in the community that are beautiful and do a little stewardship education at the same time,” Williams said.

## 10.6.2) Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

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



From February of 2023 to March of 2023, LTVCA project staff continued to collect water quality and quantity data in the Jeannettes Creek ONFARM study subwatershed. Approximately 174 mm of precipitation was recorded at the Merlin edge of field sites during the period.



High levels of precipitation have been observed to start the 2023 calendar year, which has resulted in multiple flow events in the Jeannettes Creek study subwatershed. During February and March, 6 significant flow events were observed and sampled.

The ONFARM project officially concluded on March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2023. At the conclusion of the project multiple resources that highlight the results and findings of the initiative have been released publicly and are available via the program website:

1. ONFARM Technical Water Quality Technical Report:
  - a. [ONFARM Water Quality Technical Report.pdf \(osciaresearch.org\)](https://osciaresearch.org)
2. 2023 ONFARM Forum – Presentation Recordings:
  - a. [ONFARM Forum \(osciaresearch.org\)](https://osciaresearch.org) (Includes presentation of LTVCA results).

The LTVCA will maintain monitoring operations at the Merlin edge-of-field sites in Jeannettes Creek beyond the ONFARM agreement, as the sites are part of a NSERC project lead by Dr. Merrin Macrae evaluating the efficacy of 4R Nutrient Stewardship practices at reducing nutrient loads across the Great Lakes region. It should also be noted that the LTVCA has had multiple preliminary discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs to conceptualize the scope of a “ONFARM 2.0” project, if funding were to become available for such an undertaking.



## **LTVCA: Soil Health Program 2022-24 – Update**

The objective of the Soil Health 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.

During February, LTVCA staff concluded with the processing of 2022 project claims and payments. LTVCA project staff are now focused on collecting 2023 cover crop planting information from the farm businesses that were approved for 2 years of funding through the program. The LTVCA anticipates that this process will be completed by May. If all 2023 projects proceed as planned, a total of 9,300 acres of cover crops will be planted. This could equate to a total financial contribution \$140,000.00 to watershed farm businesses.



The LTVCA is also working with Planning Intelligence Inc to develop a web platform database to manage all the information associated with the project. Once the database is completed and functional it should increase the efficiency of LTVCA operations that involve processing project applications and claims. Furthermore, it will provide an enhanced functionality to quickly evaluate and analyze program data for reporting.

*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.*

### 10.6.3) Species at Risk (SAR) Programs

Anticipatory interviews have been conducted to fill four short-term contract positions (two Aquatic Biology Technicians, one Wildlife Technician and one Environmental Technician) related to this year's proposed SAR programs. Reference checks are underway. Hiring is dependent upon the outcome of funding proposals previously submitted.

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

Vicki McKay attended the Society of Canadian Aquatic Sciences Conference and the American Fisheries Society (Ontario Chapter) to learn the latest in the aquatic sciences field in Canada. Vicki gave a presentation at the later conference summarizing the process taken to assess threats to aquatic SAR in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority watershed and prioritize subwatersheds for restoration to benefit fish and mussel SAR. A Threats Guidebook has been added to the LTVCA's Aquatic Species at Risk Guidebook series. The fish and mussel guidebooks have been updated to include trackable QR codes. All three guidebooks are available in print form as well as in digital form on the LTVCA's Species at Risk webpage.



**Figure 1: 18" model of a Black Carp, an invasive fish species poised to invade the Great Lakes through the Chicago Shipping Canal.**

Models of invasive fish species (Grass Carp, Black Carp, Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Common Carp, Round Goby and Tubenose Goby) and a Wavy-rayed Lampmussel, a SAR, displaying its lure to attract fish hosts, have been produced by Savi Made in Windsor for use in interpretive programs. Staff work is currently focussed on completing year-end reports for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The 2022/23 season of work was generously supported by DFO's Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk.

## Terrestrial Species at Risk (SAR)



Three interpretive signs were completed for the Mosa Forest Conservation Area. These signs will raise awareness of the importance of core forest habitat to bird SAR like the Cerulean Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker, the overall significance of the forest and why it is important to stay on designated trails. Dynamic QR codes will track public engagement generated by the signs. These signs will be installed shortly. A bat banner displaying the eight bat species native to Ontario was also developed for interpretive use. Printing costs were covered by Evolugen. Final reports related to habitat assessment, bat and bird use of Mosa and Ashton Forest CAs have been received from contractors Myotistar and Jeremy Bensette. The information in these reports will inform the development of property management plans. A final report is being completed for Environment and Climate Change Canada who generously supported this program over the past two years through its Habitat Stewardship Program.

Figure 2: Bat banner for interpretive use.

## 10.7) Communications, Education and Outreach

### 10.7.1) Social Media

As of April 4, 2023 the **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Facebook** page has 3,298 Followers, the **Instagram page for the Authority** has 1,141 Followers, and the Authority has 1,254 Followers on **Twitter**. The Communications, Education, and Outreach team is currently assessing the format and continuation of daily departmental posts and the circulation of these by email. Timely content and the promotion of Authority activities continues as usual.

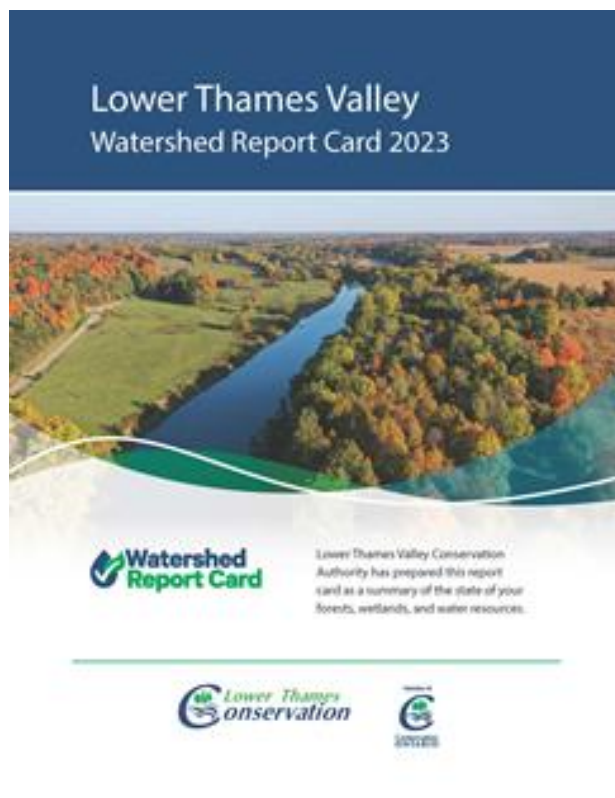
### 10.7.2) Communications Media Releases

Five media releases were distributed:

- Make Memories at Longwoods Road Conservation Area (March Break)
- LTVCA Holds Annual General Meeting
- LTVCA Releases their 2023 Watershed Report Card
- LTVCA Receives Government of Canada support of Community Infrastructure and Tourism
- Dive into River and Creek Safety at Longwoods Road Conservation Area (River and Creek Safety programming)

### 10.7.3) Watershed Report Card

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, World Water Day, the 2023 Watershed Report Card was released. The watershed report card, facilitated through Conservation Ontario, is produced every five years. Conservation authority watershed report cards provide us with a picture of the health of watersheds in terms of four resource categories: surface water quality, forest conditions, groundwater quality and wetland cover. The document includes the steps the LTVCA is taking to help improve that score, what local governments can do to support these efforts, and ways in which the community can take an active role in the maintenance of our watershed.



Cover Page of the LTVCA's 2023 Watershed Report Card

#### 10.7.4) Conservation Area Guidebook

The 2023 Guidebook is currently under production.

#### 10.7.5) Flooding Radio Campaign

The annual flooding radio campaign ran in March on CFCO '92.9 FM and 630 AM.

#### 10.7.6) Recent and Upcoming Public Events and Opportunities at Longwoods Road Conservation area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village

##### March Break

During March Break timed happenings and drop-in activities were offered at Longwoods Road Conservation Area / Ska-Nah-Doht Museum. The following chart includes a breakdown of participant numbers.

Date	Visitors			Tour	Tour AM			Tour PM			Workshop	Participants
	A	S	C		A	S	C	A	S	C		
13-Mar	39	6	63	Sensational Seasons	10	1	30	8	3	15	Pottery	35
14-Mar	12	2	19	N/A							Cookie Excavation	12
15-Mar	31	8	62	SND Exp	6	0	12	23	1	25	N/A	
16-Mar	30	16	61	Habitats and Communities	4	2	5	6	2	8	Owl Pellet Excavation	20
17-Mar	8	2	14	Medicine Walk	2	1	3	2	0	4	Clay Footprint	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>219</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>76</b>

##### River and Creek Safety Day

While the LTVCA has hosted a complimentary River and Creek Safety Program for local schools over the past 2 decades a community version of this program has not been offered. To help keep our water-loving community safe a public program was offered on Sunday, April 2, 2023.

##### Longwoods 'Spring Tidy'

On Sunday, April 30, 2023 the second Longwoods 'Spring Tidy' will be held. This is a public volunteer opportunity, which invites the local community to help tidy up the grounds around Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum, the Heritage Log Cabins, and Longwoods Road Conservation Area!

##### Battle of Longwoods

The Battle of Longwoods returns to the Longwoods Road Conservation Area on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday May 7, 2023! Come and experience the sights and sounds of life in the 19th century. This event is presented through a partnership between the Royal Scots – Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society (UTMRS).

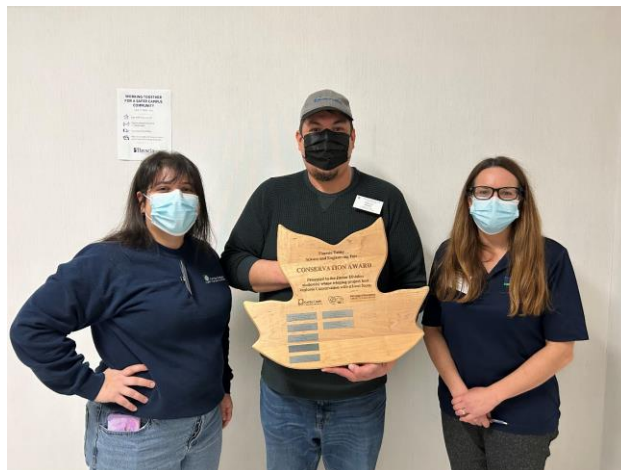


*Red Coats charge at the Battle of Longwoods*

**Twilight Tuesdays** and **Artifact Day** will return in July and August.

#### 10.7.7) Education Programming

The week of March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Community Educator, Thomas Martel, participated in the Thames Valley Science and Engineering Fair. On Friday evening they judged the grade six projects, 10 medals were awarded: 3 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze. On Saturday, the Community Educator and staff from Kettle Creek Conservation Authority interviewed students whose projects fell within the conservation, with a local focus, category.



*Community Educator, Thomas Martel (centre), with representatives from Kettle Creek Conservation Authority*

Education program bookings remain strong at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. January through March we provided programming for approximately 33 groups. Space in April through June is limited at this time, and we anticipate bookings will be at capacity for the spring.

The River and Creek Safety Program, offered at select schools, continues to travel throughout the watershed.

On Friday, March 31, 2023 Conservation Educators, Alyssa Broeders and Amanda Blain, presented initial plans for the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre (CMWLC). The Education Team will be meeting to discuss these plans in the coming weeks.



The intention is for there to be a ‘soft’ start to programming during the summer, with programming opening further in the fall.

Support for the initiation of programming at the CMWLC has been sought from a number of sources. Funding from the Community Services Recovery Fund through United Way / Centraide Windsor-Essex County has so far been received.

#### 10.7.8) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of April 4, 2023 the **Ska-Nah-Doht Village’s Facebook** page has 3092 Followers. The **Instagram page for the Village** has 537 Followers.

#### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Plans for the commemoration of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary continue to be made. We await funding decisions from the Visit Middlesex Tourism Initiative Sponsorship program.

#### **Middlesex Centre Archive’s Heritage Fair**

On April 1, 2023 the Curator brought a display to the Delaware Community Centre as part of the Middlesex Centre Archive’s Heritage Fair and celebration of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many positive conversations were had and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ska-Nah-Doht. Upcoming opportunities were also promoted.



*Curator, Alison Klages, chatting with visitors to the Middlesex Centre Archive’s Heritage Fair*

#### **Heritage Log Cabin Revitalization Project**

Extra funds, amounting to \$2,374.17, were awarded to the LTVCA by Ontario's Southwest Tourism Relief Fund to help make up the difference in the amount previously awarded (\$60,000) and those spent on the project.

#### **Enabling Accessibility**

The application to the 2022 Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) – Small Projects Component was accepted and the LTVCA will receive \$100,000 towards the installation of a Limited Use, Limited Application elevator at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum.



## Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

### *DRAFT MINUTES*

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held in person and via zoom at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 23, 2023. The following members were in attendance: D. Fairbairn, B. Bruinink, G. Bogart, K. Loveland and M. Peacock. Also, in attendance: A. Klages and A. Vriends.

#### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

**SND-2023-1 D. Fairbairn – G. Bogart**

Moved that the minutes of the September 15, 2022 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

#### 2. Business for Approval

##### 2.1) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

**SND-2023-2 D. Fairbairn – K. Loveland**

Moved that Mark Peacock chair the Ska-Nah-Doht Committee 2023 elections.

CARRIED

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

##### a) Chair

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

G. Bogart nominated B. Bruinink. B. Bruinink accepted the nomination.

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

**SND-2023-3 K. Loveland – G. Bogart**

Moved that nominations for Chair of the committee be closed.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink was declared to be elected as Chair.

##### b) Vice-Chair

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

G. Bogart nominated K. Loveland. K. Loveland accepted the nomination.

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

**SND-2023-4 K. Loveland – G. Bogart**

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

CARRIED

K. Loveland was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.

## 2.2) Appointment of Sub-Committees\*

### a) Education (2 members)

G. Bogart volunteered to be on this sub-committee. A. Klages to reach out to S. Hipple to see if she will stand on this sub-committee.

### b) Village Build (2 members)

D. Fairbairn and K. Loveland volunteered to be on this sub-committee. A. Klages to reach out to D. Fallon to see if he wishes stand on this sub-committee.

### c) Policy (1-2 members)

B. Bruinink and M. Peacock volunteered to be on this sub-committee.

### d) Events/Fundraising (2 members)

Defer appointments to this sub-committee until the next meeting.

**SND-2023-5 K. Loveland – D. Fairbairn**

**Moved to accept all appointments to the sub-committees.**

CARRIED

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

M. Peacock turned the chair over to B. Bruinink to continue with the meeting.

## 3. Business for Information

### 3.1) Staff Update

The Curator has taken on the additional role of Team Lead for Education and Communications.

### 3.2) Grant and Funding Updates

Canada Summer Jobs application was submitted.

Log Cabin Revitalization Project is complete. An additional \$2300 of funding was received to cover extra funds spent.

Funding has been received to install a Limited-Use-Limited-Application Elevator in the Resource Centre. Details have not been announced at this time.

Ska-Nah-Doht received the 2022 Community Museum Operating Grant in the amount of \$22 992.

The Museum Assistance Program funding to support recovery from Covid-19 was received in 2022/23.

### 3.3) Education Programs

School and weekend programming have been filling up for this spring. It is anticipated that we will be fully booked to the end of June.

### 3.4) Events and Workshops

Many public events have been planned for the next several months. Ska-Nah-Doht is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023. Staff hope to plan several events throughout the year, including a larger commemorative event.

### 3.5) Future Projects

The Curator has begun working on enhancements and changes to museum exhibits. A work plan for village repairs will be drafted.

### 3.6) Update on the Indigenous Education Centre

It has been announced that, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is to receive \$750,000 to support the expansion of the Longwoods Road Conservation Area Resource Centre and the creation of an Indigenous Community Education Centre.

It is anticipated that renovations and construction will begin in the coming weeks.

**SND-2023-6 D. Fairbairn – K. Loveland**

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.6 be received for information.

CARRIED

## 4. Other Business

### 4.1) Policy Review

Final drafts of the updated policies will be provided to the Advisory Committee for information and approval following discussion and approval at the sub-committee level.

**SND-2023-7 D. Fairbairn – K. Loveland**

Moved that item 4.1 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Thursday, November 23, 2023

6. Adjournment

SND-2023-8 D. Fairbairn – K. Loveland

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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B. Bruinink

Chair

## 10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes February 2, 2023

Minutes of regular meeting held on Feb. 2 2023 at the Wheatley Friendship Club.

**Attendance:** Pauline Sample, Rick Taves, Joe Pinnsonnealt, Mike Diesbourg, Gerry Soulliere, Mike Foldesi, Lorna Bell, Linda & Lee Pearce, Roger Dundas, Ken Hatt, Bruce & Marj Jackson.

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

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

**Mem. Groves:** Many trees have been trimmed, there are still a few to be cut. The spikes have been working well for the posts.

**Prop. & Equip.:** Joe talked to a company in Merlin who said that they could construct the shed for the Early On group for \$5000.00 or less which the group would pay for. Joe motioned and Roger seconded. Gerry has applied for a grant for a sidewalk and electrical hookup for the Chapel. A \$5000.00 grant was also applied for regarding the concerts. A rail needs to be repaired on the Walnut bridge. Vines in the woods need to be cut on many trees. Roger purchased a new battery charger.

**Concerts:** All concerts dates have been filled.

**Financial Reports:** Submitted by Roger. Account Balance as of Dec. 31 was \$23,158.41. Account balance as of Jan. 31 was \$29,652.86. Moved by Roger sec. by Phil report be accepted as given.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Roger moved for adjournment at 6:45pm

Phil Humphries, secretary.

## 10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes March 2, 2023

### WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL** meeting March 2 2023 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

**ATTENDANCE:** Rick Taves, Gerry Soulliere, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Lee & Linda Pearce, Mike Diesbourg, Lorna Bell, Joe Pinsonneault, Bob Niven, Mark Peacock, Ken Hatt.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Submitted by Roger

Opening Balance: \$29,652.86

Revenues: \$38,300.00

Operating Expenses: \$31,210.00

Capital Expenses: \$26,863.29

Closing Balance: \$ 36,742.86

Moved by Roger, sec. by Rick report be accepted as given ( Carried )

**NEW BUSINESS:** Election of 3 three year board members

Gerry opened nominations for 3 three year board members

Joe Pinsonneault nominated by Rick

Marj Jackson nominated by Linda

Bob Niven nominated by Gerry

Roger Dundas nominated by Joe

Ken Hatt nominated by Rick

With no other nominations Gerry declared nominations closed. With Ken and Marj declining and Joe, Bob and Roger accepting we have our 3 year board members.

#### **Our Board members for 2023-2024**

3 year term: Joe Pinsonneault, Bob Niven, Roger Dundas.

2 year term: Mike Diesbourg, Phil Humphries, Rick Taves.

1 year term: Gerry Soulliere, Linda Pearce, Lee Pearce.

Roger moved for adjournment at 6:45 pm

Phil Humphries, Secretary

# 11. Correspondence

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## 11.1) Who should pay when development causes floods?



### ANALYSIS

## *Who should pay when development causes floods?*

Ontario is gearing up to build intensely, while the federal government wants to cut its ballooning disaster assistance budget. Is the cost of flood recovery being passed on to people without the power to protect themselves?



By Denise Balkissoon  
March 4, 2023 19 min. read

Flooding along the north shore of Lake Erie in 2018. Recent changes to Ontario development policy mean that watershed management bodies can no longer review development applications that could impact significant woodlots, valley lands, fish habitat or species at risk — even though many of those concerns are intertwined with flood prevention.

Photo: Essex Region Conservation Authority / [Flickr](#)



Here's a thing I learned recently: developing a floodplain or wetland doesn't just create new homes at high risk of floods. It also increases the flood risk of existing neighbourhoods, near and not-so-far.

It makes sense when you think about it, I just hadn't before — when spongy wetlands upstream from my house absorb heavy rain or melting snow, they keep that water from rushing down swollen rivers to the shores and sewers near me, perhaps right into my basement. Unpaved floodplains, or the flat areas around waterways, are similar: they go underwater so that everything around them doesn't.

What this means is that brand new **neighbourhoods on wetlands** or floodplains aren't just a concern for the people who live there, they're a concern for everyone in the area, even the region. So if you live in southern **Ontario**, you should probably be concerned.

For months now, the provincial government has been making **big changes to development processes** — changes conservationists say are weakening oversight over flood risk. At the same time, the federal government is working hard to cut its ballooning disaster aid budget, which largely goes to the aftermath of floods. Its plan is to make Canadians more aware of their individual flood risk — and then get them to shoulder more individual responsibility.

Which is a tricky proposition: sure, I spent thousands fixing up my basement knowing full well I live a kilometre away from a river that often spills over in spring. But it's not my choice to pave over land two hours away. A few years from now, water that's no longer absorbed over there could start the chain reaction that fills my river up to the last drop, after which it flows into my house.



Flooding along western Lake Erie in 2018. Windsor-Essex is Ontario's most flood-prone region, with the insurance premiums to prove it. Photo: Essex Region Conservation Authority / [Flickr](#)

My mind has ridden a merry-go-round since I realized just how far the effects of environmentally short-sighted development could reach. It goes like this: it's 2030, there's a giant storm, and my basement fills up after the river overflows. Two big reasons are that the city I live in can't adequately handle stormwater, and a town an hour away built houses on former farmland.

The municipal governments say they can't afford to spend more money on stormwater management or environmental planning because the province eliminated the **development charges** they once used to fund those things. The provincial

government says it killed those fees because **federal population targets** left no choice but to accelerate housing construction by any means necessary.

And the federal government says I shouldn't be living so close to the river, even if a dramatic increase in low-density development paved over many of the spaces that used to absorb water when I first moved in. The one bit of assistance that the feds will hopefully be able to offer by 2030 is helping me get re-insured, because claiming these damages will raise my premiums, perhaps so high I can't afford them.

At the end of the carousel ride, I land on two questions. First, just who should pay if environmentally unsound development causes floods? Second, have Canadian governments decided the answer to that question is individuals, even if we don't have the information or power to protect ourselves?

## **Feds plan to make Canadians more aware of flood risk — and more responsible for recovery costs**

Right now, no province or territory requires real estate sellers — whether developers or individuals — to provide flood risk information. And if a diligent buyer wanted to know the chance their dream home could go under water, it's difficult to get a clear answer, said Jason Thistlethwaite, an associate professor in the school of environment, enterprise and development at the University of Waterloo. In most of the country, he said, floodmaps are outdated, confusing and hard for non-professionals to find.

Thistlethwaite is associate director of the research group **Partners for Action**, which aims to bring accessible flood prevention information to the public. A few years ago, it did a study where it "played the role of the average Canadian, trying to find information on flood risk to their property," he said. Finding publicly available maps required "quite a bit of internet sleuthing and detective work," Thistlethwaite said. Of those they found, over 62 per cent failed to meet "very basic criteria."

It's better if you pay, but even on the institutional level, there's no set of flood maps considered the national standard. Researchers, insurers and lenders each buy maps from one of three companies, all of them based outside of Canada, Craig Stewart of the Insurance Bureau of Canada told me.



Canada's bill for disaster relief is skyrocketing. To have homeowners in high-risk areas shoulder some of the cost, the federal government is considering a national flood insurance program, which exists in countries like the U.S.A., the U.K. and France. Photo: Justin Tang / The Canadian Press

Stewart is the bureau's vice president of climate change and federal issues, and said that because those maps are proprietary, insurers have limits on what information can be shared with potential clients. Some governments purchase the same flood maps, while others make their own. This means that when different organizations discuss risk or mitigation, they could be working off of different information.

This lack of accessible, standardized maps was one of two key problems **identified last August** by a **federal task force** on flood insurance and relocation, which Thistlethwaite advised. Led by Public Safety Canada, it included representatives

from the B.C. and Ontario governments, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the insurance industry, including the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

One of the task force's main goals was to figure out how to cut the federal government's ballooning bill for Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, the money it sends to provinces and territories to cope with the aftermath of natural disasters. Since the program was created in 1970, it's paid out over \$12 billion. And, as *The Globe and Mail* reported in November, the pace of eligible disasters keeps speeding up. The most common are storm-related floods.

The lack of flood mapping flows directly into the second key problem the task force dove into in its report: ignorant of their flood risk, a worrying number of homeowners lack adequate flood insurance. Most have decent sewer-back up insurance, said Stewart, but aren't covered for overland floods. That's essentially what it sounds like — when a big storm causes a lake, river or coastline to overflow, sending water over land into your house. "That's the one we're most concerned about," he said.

The mapping problem has an obvious solution: the federal natural resources department is leading a three-year, \$63.8 million **flood hazard identification and mapping program**, a Public Safety Canada spokesperson told *The Narwhal* in an email. Focused on the country's "higher-risk areas," the program is being done in collaboration with Public Safety and Environment and Climate Change Canada, as well as provinces, territories and Indigenous communities.



Right now, no province or territory requires real estate sellers — whether developers or individuals — to provide flood risk information. A three-year, \$63.8 million federal flood hazard identification and mapping program is part of a long-term strategy to make Canadians aware of their flood risk. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / *The Narwhal*

Public Safety said the federal government intends to build a public portal where this flood data is easy for citizens, smaller governments, researchers and businesses to find and understand. The department didn't include a timeline, but Stewart hopes to see funding for the portal project announced in the federal budget this March.

Thistlethwaite said this mapping is a monumental task, and long overdue. In England and some American states, he said, it's easy to plop an address into a government website to learn its flood risk. Some foreign sites also prompt users to buy better flood insurance.

Which leads us to the federal government's attempt to solve the second problem: inadequate insurance coverage. Resolving this issue will be complicated. About 20 per cent of homeowners find overland flood insurance inaccessible, said Stewart. For about half, it's unaffordable. The other half are simply ineligible.

"The risk is just too high. It's predictable," Stewart said. "We know these places are going to flood." One sticking point, he said, is reinsurance: after a disaster payout, private insurance is often unavailable or unaffordable. The only way around this, he believes, is a national flood insurance program.

These exist in other countries, and the Public Safety report noted the pros and cons of various systems. In France, homeowners pay 12 per cent on top of their insurance policy towards natural disaster relief. Mortgage holders are required to have specific flood insurance, and the government underwrites reinsurance provided by private companies. The U.S. requires mortgage holders in designated flood-prone areas to have specific coverage from private insurers, which it underwrites. The U.K. has capped premiums in an attempt to keep flood insurance affordable: there, homeowners pay a levy on insurance policies, which private insurers put into a pool used for payouts in high-risk areas.

The department told The Narwhal that “a suite of anticipatory financing tools, including insurance options, will be made available ... to support those Canadians at medium and high risk,” but didn’t offer more information on possible timelines or structures.



Municipalities in Ontario and beyond are often cut off from the decision-making that sets long-term environmental outcomes in motion. They can also lack the resources to protect themselves. Photo: Justin Tang / The Canadian Press

Throughout the report, the idea that homeowners need to be made aware of their risk and then become responsible for it is repeated, often. In other countries, subsidized insurance premiums will grow over time. The U.K.’s affordability caps are in place until 2039, after which the expectation is that “properties would be sufficiently de-risked by this time to move towards risk-based pricing.”

The message is that Canada relies too much on reactive measures — mainly expensive post-disaster government assistance — and needs to shift to proactive measures. High insurance premiums would be a “price signal” about neighbourhood-level flood risk that might just convince people to live somewhere drier. For some, the report says, de-risking will ultimately mean **relocation**, a whole other kettle of fish that will disproportionately displace Indigenous communities.

To Thistlethwaite, the federal goal of reducing costs by sharing risk makes sense. But it’s also somewhat unfair to the little guys — not just individuals but, sometimes, municipalities. On one hand, he said, cities need to think twice about allowing fancy development on waterfronts, factoring in flood recovery costs along with property tax revenues.

On the other, municipalities are often cut off from the decision-making that sets long-term environmental outcomes in motion. In its report, Public Safety notes that spreading Canada’s \$2.9 billion in flood risks costs around doesn’t reduce it. Only prevention and mitigation can do that, and only higher levels of governments can do that meaningfully. “Governments in Canada, for the most part, are finding being responsible for the recovery associated with flooding and climate risk, no longer socially ... politically and economically sustainable, so [they’re] trying to find ways to get out of it,” Thistlethwaite said.

“And one of the principal ways that they’re doing that is by very quietly downloading responsibilities that were once handled by, let’s say, the federal government, provincial government, to municipalities, even homeowners.”

In its email, Public Safety Canada said its interest in insurance programs is “not necessarily focused on reducing costs, but rather making communities less vulnerable and ensuring Canadians have the support and resources they need to recover after a flooding event.” It also said that “While the Government of Canada completes its work on creating a low-

cost national flood insurance program, Canadians living in high risk areas where flood insurance is currently unavailable are still fully eligible under the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, though specific terms of eligibility are set by provinces and territories.”



Researchers and municipalities in B.C. had long warned that many dikes were on the verge of failure, especially those maintained by small towns with few resources. In November 2021, the Sumas dike in Abbotsford failed, resulting in floods and landslides that killed five people. Photo: Province of British Columbia / [Flickr](#)

## Is Ontario repeating mistakes made prior to major flooding in B.C.?

A national insurance program could include carrots as well as sticks, the Public Safety report notes. The U.S. and France both reward local action, often offering communities that actively reduce flood risk cheaper insurance.

It’s a nice idea, if locals have the power and money to protect themselves. That wasn’t the case in [British Columbia](#) in the lead-up to the fall 2021 atmospheric river. Researchers and municipalities had long warned that many of the province’s dikes were on the verge of failure, as reported by [The Globe and Mail](#) and [CBC](#). In fact, reported the [Vancouver Sun](#), those warnings began soon after the B.C. government downloaded responsibility for dikes to municipalities in the early 2000s. By 2013, the province’s own reports noted that downloading had created a haphazard patchwork of maintenance. Small towns with low property tax revenues were especially under-resourced for the job.

In 2020, politicians in Abbotsford, population 150,000, noted the need for other levels of government, including [south of the border](#), to help lessen the city’s flood risk. They didn’t receive it. So, in November 2021, the Sumas dike in Abbotsford failed. It put an entire region under water, resulting in floods and landslides that [killed five people](#).

That storm and its aftermath catapulted B.C. to the top of the list for federal [Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement](#) payments. As of November 2022, B.C. had been allotted nearly \$5 billion since the program’s inception. More than half of that — \$3 billion-plus — are costs incurred in late 2021.



The B.C. government has committed more than \$2 billion towards flood recovery. It also updated its Emergency Program Act last year to state that compensation for future disasters will not include expenses “for which insurance was reasonably and readily available.” Photo: Darryl Dyck / The Canadian Press

The B.C. government has committed more than \$2 billion of its own budget towards flood recovery. It also updated its **Emergency Program Act** last year to state that compensation for future disasters will not include expenses “for which insurance was reasonably and readily available.” It’s a move that illustrates why the insurance industry supports a federally-backed program: the 2021 disaster resulted in \$675 million in insurable losses, the province’s most costly weather event ever.

Over to Ontario which, as Premier Ford likes to mention, hasn’t received a Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements payment from the federal government in 15 years. This is true. Canada’s most populous province has the lowest payments, per capita, than everywhere else.

As of last November, Ontario had received just under \$239 million in assistance through the federal disaster program in the 50-plus years it’s been running. Even tiny New Brunswick, at \$382 million, outstripped Ontario. And sure, we don’t have an ocean coastline, but neither does Saskatchewan, which sits at \$902 million.

Some of it is luck, absolutely. But there’s broad consensus that our good luck has been made better thanks to conservation authorities, Ontario’s unique watershed management bodies. Thistlethwaite, Stewart, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the federal government and — wait for it — the **Ford government** have all credited conservation authorities with dramatically reducing the risk and damage of floods, in part because of their commitment to accurate, regular flood mapping.



Volunteers help clear out a house that was flooded in Princeton, B.C. The 2021 storm and its aftermath catapulted the province to the top of the list for federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement payments. Photo: Government of British Columbia / [Flickr](#)

Yet, despite his own government’s acknowledgement of their importance, Ford is currently **weakening or eliminating** much conservation authority oversight of development.

More than two weeks before this story was published, The Narwhal sent a list of detailed questions to Ford, Natural Resources Minister Graydon Smith, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Steve Clark and staff in both ministries, including Helen Collins, an acting director in the housing ministry who was on the Public Safety task force.

None acknowledged receipt of the questions, which concerned changes to development policy and conservation authority oversight; whether the province accepts the findings of the Public Safety task force, including cautions against overdevelopment; what flood maps the government refers to in its policy-making; and how the Ford government believes developers should receive information on flood plains, flood maps and flood mitigation when planning new developments.

On February 27, Smith did answer questions in the legislature about Ontario's flood strategy posed to him by a colleague, Progressive Conservative MPP Goldie Ghamari. When asked about the government's mitigation of flood risk, Smith pointed to \$30 million designated for "wetland recovery." The Narwhal has **previously reported** that experts find this commitment contradicts the government's dismantling of many wetland protections: when deciding which wetlands deserve provincially significant status, the province no longer considers species at risk or how small wetlands might contribute to a larger system.



The Garner Marsh in, Hamilton, Ont., is one of the wetlands in southern Ontario that helps mitigate flood risk. Experts say the province is spending money to protect wetlands while also dismantling many of the mechanisms for protection. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

"Here we are, recognizing the vital nature based solutions that wetlands provide on the one hand," Rebecca Rooney, an associate professor at the University of Waterloo who researches wetland ecology, told The Narwhal last October. "But then we're going to simultaneously greenlight a lot of irrevocable wetland loss ... Right now I'm just reeling from the juxtaposition."

During Question Period, Smith also told Ghamari that the government has given individuals, communities and businesses \$26 million in disaster recovery funds, but did not specify the time period. He said the government has committed \$4.7 million to "help" municipalities carry out flood forecasting, but didn't specify what funding he is referencing.

Smith also said that the government has committed an extra \$2 million to extend Build Back Better, a pilot project meant to help municipalities rebuild infrastructure after extreme weather. He did not clarify how that \$2 million would be split up among the province's 444 municipalities.

## Environmental experts in Ontario are 'demoralized and almost exhausted'

In the legislature earlier this week, Ghamari and Smith also referenced a flooding strategy the province released in 2020, a year after huge spring floods led municipalities in Smith's riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka to declare a state of emergency. That strategy mentions the need to maintain wetlands and unpaved surfaces. It also states that "the most cost-effective and sustainable way of reducing risks is to keep people and property out of high risk areas."

The province's flood strategy also references conservation authorities 46 times, usually emphasizing the importance of cooperation between the province, municipalities and the watershed management bodies. But over the past few months, staff at conservation authorities all over southern Ontario have told The Narwhal that any **cooperation that had been happening** has essentially broken down, especially since the province announced **massive reductions** in the authorities' powers last fall.

It was Tim Byrne, chief administrative officer of the Essex Region Conservation Authority on the southwest tip of Ontario, who clued me in that thoughtless development could increase flood risk for all homes. "I'm demoralized and almost exhausted," he said in November, soon after the government unveiled a slew of changes that will affect the work he's done for 38 years.

For nearly seven decades, conservation authorities like his have protected drinking water, preserved endangered species habitat and helped shield people from the worst effects of natural hazards like floods, largely through oversight of the development process. And, if federal disaster payments are an indication, much of what they've been doing works.



Ontario Premier Doug Ford visited Bracebridge, Ont., during severe floods in May 2019. The premier has said that his government's plan to accelerate development will not mean building on floodplains, though he also said the responsibility to ensure that lies with developers. Photo: Fred Thornhill / The Canadian Press

Yet the Ford government followed through with stripping many of their powers **in late December**. Now, conservation authorities can only review development applications that could cause flooding, erosion or other natural hazards. They can no longer review applications that could impact significant woodlots, valley lands, fish habitat or **species at risk**, even though many of those concerns are intertwined with leaving land able to absorb water.

Byrne said these limits set him up to fail. Imagine a subdivision proposal located on land that isn't a known floodplain, but that Byrne still believes could increase flood risk: without proving direct cause-and-effect, he can't mandate, or even suggest, specific stormwater infrastructure. Without oversight of full watersheds, he feels he's being left to watch as water flows from newly paved-over areas to the small patches still under his purview.

"How am I going to mitigate the damaging effect of runoff from destroying natural heritage features as it bowls and runs towards my rivers, creeks and streams, aimed at me from development in the headwater region?" he said. "You limit my capability to comment ahead of time, then you still pretend — wink, wink — that I can issue a permit for it at the tail end of the planning process."



Wanting to live near a bustling shipping port, early European settlers in the Windsor-Essex region drained wetlands for farming. Then came the post-World War II housing boom, and decades of sewer construction and engineering less sophisticated than it is today. Photo: Essex Region Conservation Authority / [Flickr](#)

The Windsor-Essex region, where he lives, is an example of poor planning, or lack of planning. It's on the banks of the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair, with Lake Erie to the south and Lake Huron to the north. "We are this little blob that sticks right out into the Great Lakes," Byrne said.



The region is very flat, and its low-lying coast is very developed. Wanting to live near a bustling shipping port, early European settlers drained **wetlands** for farming. Then came the post-World War II housing boom, and decades of sewer construction and engineering less sophisticated than it is today.

Long story short, water no longer has anywhere to go — except for basements, **6,000 of which** were flooded in the city of Windsor after a two-day storm in 2017. Windsor-Essex is Ontario's most flood-prone region, with the insurance premiums to prove it. Last year, the insurance site Rates.ca listed Windsor as the second most **expensive place** to get house insurance in Ontario, at \$2,111 annually. The most pricey place is LaSalle, 13 km south of Windsor: at \$2,400, annual premiums are more than double than in the province's cheapest place, Ajax (where the push to **develop the headwaters** of a local creek has locals worried about their own increased flood risk).



Late last year, the Ontario government forced both Hamilton and Halton Region to allow development applications on farmland and greenspace both local governments wanted to protect. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

Windsor-Essex is a sobering case study as Ontario gears up to build intensely across its southern regions. There are unsettling echoes of B.C.'s dike issue, too. Rural towns with smaller property tax bases will have the hardest time replacing conservation authority expertise. And some communities that want to protect themselves can't — late last year, the province forced both **Hamilton and Halton Region** to allow development applications on land local governments wanted to protect.

Perhaps fearing the only reasonable line item on its disaster budget is about to spike, Canada has tried to slow Ontario down, a bit. In December, federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault **told The Canadian Press** that Ontario can't count on federal help if areas known to flood are built on irresponsibly. In response, Ford shot back that **no floodplains** would be developed — though he also said the responsibility to ensure that lay with developers.

Leaving aside the eagerness of any industry to regulate itself properly — what floodplains are we talking about, exactly? While conservation authorities have provided Ontario with better flood maps than most provinces, there's no guarantee those are the ones being used. Even when federal maps become available, Public Safety's email only stated that provinces "may use" them, not that everyone has agreed to work off of the same set of material.

It seems a bit like "floodplain" is becoming a buzzword that reduces the scope of the problem. In a region with this many basements, other types of unpaved areas are needed to absorb water. That means wetlands and farmland and forests, yes, but even soccer fields can help, said Byrne. Well, another recent bit of policy decreed that playgrounds on top of buildings can fulfill development requirements to build "**parks.**"

Thistlethwaite said Public Safety's flood portal will provide residents, communities and municipalities with data they can use to advocate for resilience-building, or push back against thoughtless development. But the federal flood mapping program is a three-year project, meaning a portal launch date is at least that far away: this leaves Ontario a bit of a "regulatory purgatory," Thistlethwaite said.

Three years is plenty of time for small, local governments to get overwhelmed by development applications that they don't have the environmental expertise to analyze. It's more than long enough for homebuyers to put down pre-

construction dollars for a future that might turn out **differently than they imagine**. With **319 acres** of Ontario farmland disappearing daily, it's a totally plausible timeframe in which farmers whose fields are deluged as concrete gets poured around them could shrug, sell their land and leave.

Ten, 20 or 100 kilometres away from these decisions lies my basement and all the priceless and meaningless things I keep down there. In two, five or 10 years, if it all gets soaked, will there be anyone but myself to blame?

*With files from Emma McIntosh.*

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**PUBLISHED BY**



**Denise Balkissoon**

## 11.2) Cities push Ontario to roll back environmental cuts, commit to truly affordable housing in new budget



Colin Best, president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, has said the Doug Ford government's cutting of environmental protections in the More Homes Built Faster Act will increase costs for cities in the future.

Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

In the 37 years that he's been a politician in Ontario's Halton Region, Colin Best says he's never seen a law as surprising or as broad as the Ford government's latest development plan, **Bill 23** or the More Homes Built Faster Act.

Six months ago, Best was elected president of the **Association of Municipalities of Ontario**, which represents nearly all the municipalities in the province, from the city of Mississauga (population: 717,961) to the town of Latchford in northeastern Ontario (population: 327). Two months into his tenure, on October 24, almost every town and city in Ontario elected a mayor that promised constituents their number one priority would be housing.

The very **next morning** — weeks before the new mayors and councils of 444 municipalities would be officially sworn in — Premier Doug Ford and Housing Minister Steve Clark introduced the legislation, which proposed an **unprecedented weakening of local decision-making** and oversight over development as well as a **massive gutting of environmental protections**.

"It was such a rush," Best, a regional councillor in Halton and a local councillor in Milton, said. "We had no consultation. We weren't invited to any meetings. In 125 years, it's the biggest affront to Ontario's municipalities that I've ever seen." With city councils in limbo so soon after the election, municipalities were largely unable to make immediate decisions on how to respond or adapt to Bill 23.

Best's predecessors are now the ones taking municipalities' power away. Clark and Graydon Smith, the minister of natural resources who is overseeing **the gutting of conservation authority powers** proposed by Bill 23, are both former presidents of the association, with long careers in municipal politics before moving to the province. Best says the municipal leaders-turned-ministers have to "show cabinet solidarity and follow the party line which the premier espouses," but he was still taken aback by the extent of Bill 23's impact.

In mid-February, Best sat down for a Zoom interview with The Narwhal. He was joined by the association's executive director, Brian Rosborough, a long-time policy advisor to past Ontario governments who now ensures the association acts as a bridge between cities and the province.

In the months since Bill 23 dropped, Best, Rosborough and a long list of mayors and councillors have become the canaries in the coal mine of Ontario politics, sounding the alarm on the unintended consequences of Ford's housing plan and urging the province to recalibrate its approach. Most focus on the devastation to local governance, though many also highlight the environmental damage potentially set in motion by Bill 23, which weakens or eliminates wetland protections, expert oversight of watersheds and protection of species-at-risk habitat, among other measures aimed at accelerating development.

"Bill 23 was a complete surprise, and did not reflect consultation with Ontario's cities in any way," Rosborough said.

As Ontario nears a budget day on March 23, leaders at towns and cities are nervous about what other bombshells the Ford government might be preparing to drop. But they also hope some moves might be positive, since the Ford government has assured cities help is coming to support their ability to create sustainable, emissions-free, transit-friendly cities and maintain the environment. The province has also promised cities won't be handcuffed by Bill 23.

Here are some issues Best and Rosenborough raised during their hour-long conversation with The Narwhal.



In January, people gathered outside the annual meeting of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association protested against Bill 23, or the More Homes Built Faster Act. Inside, municipal politicians voiced their concerns to provincial ministers. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

# Ontario cities and towns want affordable, equitable housing — but many feel the province isn't listening

Last February, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario released a [20-page “blueprint”](#) to address the provincial housing crisis. It had 91 recommendations, the very first of which was a call to work collaboratively across “all orders of government.”

The second recommendation was that the crisis be addressed with “a human rights approach” to address inequities faced by Black, Indigenous, racialized and other marginalized people. The third was that housing be “treated as an essential social good ... rather than as a primary means to store and accumulate wealth.”

Best and Rosborough told The Narwhal that Ontario cities have been sounding the alarm on housing affordability — and the effects on the most vulnerable — for many years. The pandemic, and the subsequent massive spike in demand for larger, spacious housing it created, made the issue more urgent for all levels of government. “That took everyone by surprise, and reflected that we didn’t have a supply ... and suddenly became a hot political issue for the federal and provincial government,” Rosborough said.

In December 2021, the Ford government put together a housing affordability [task force](#) of nine people, including members of the banking, development and real estate industries as well as academic and non-profit representatives. Former Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak was on the task force — but not one city official. Rosborough said cities were “categorically excluded,” despite the task force’s focus on changing a planning and infrastructure regime that municipalities shape and execute.

The association was shut out even though it has had a unique [memorandum of understanding](#) with the provincial government for over 20 years, which is rooted in collaboration and consultation. Per the agreement, municipal representatives are to meet regularly with cabinet members to ensure the province is making “fully informed decisions,” Rosborough explained. While the association and various mayors and councils are still trying to have those conversations, some have also taken the fight to the public sphere after being locked out of the process.

Best said that because the province’s development plan doesn’t include input from local governments, it fails to help people who need housing most. Since he became president, Ontario mayors have been urging the province to consider development that will address “a massive homelessness crisis” that cities have been trying to address independently through social programs.

In a recent call to action, the association said that while the pandemic exacerbated the problem, the lack of affordable housing is a “[made-in-Ontario crisis](#)” caused by three decades of disinterested governments. Its research finds that on any given night at least 16,000 Ontarians experience homelessness, and a disproportionate number of them are Indigenous. Rosborough said he has heard from rural communities that people are “living in seasonal trailer parks and encampments in the woods” and Bill 23 does not address their core needs. [Greater Sudbury](#), [Waterloo Region](#) and [Peterborough](#), among many other communities, have been struggling to house encampment residents.

Rosborough told The Narwhal that Ontario spends \$2,000 less per person on services and programs than the average of all 12 provinces and territories.

“The homelessness crisis in Ontario is the direct result of provincial indifference and provincial underinvestment,” Rosborough said. “And it can only be solved properly if the [provincial] government is prepared to come to the table with us ... and do something about it.”



The first gathering of municipal leaders after the Doug Ford government passed Bill 23 into law was the January 2023 Rural Ontario Municipalities Association conference. Many residents and local leaders wore protest stickers. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

## Ontario cities want the ‘essential environmental protections’ Doug Ford is removing

The gutting of conservation authority powers has put more responsibility to minimize the environmental impact of development on municipalities and **First Nations**, without any increase in resources. Because of this, and fear of damage to the natural environment, municipalities **and the Chiefs of Ontario** have urged the province to roll Bill 23 back.

In its initial **response** to Bill 23, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario said the bill is “undermining the financial capacity of municipalities to support growth and diminishing essential environmental protections.” At a rural municipal conference in January attended by every provincial minister, Best said “eliminating environmental protections in order to build housing is a false economy” — a term that describes an action that saves money initially but which, over a longer period of time, results in more money being spent. The association **has also said** that the province is perpetuating “a false premise” that the housing crisis can be fixed by lessening infrastructure funding and environmental protections.

Among the 91 recommendations in its housing blueprint, the association repeatedly asks all levels of government to “foster complete communities,” where the public is made “more aware of the negative impact of sprawl on the environment [and] traffic congestion ...”

Rosborough told The Narwhal all Ontario cities are concerned that Bill 23 will create unfettered development where people don’t have access to the green space “that they need in order to be a healthy community.”

## Ontario cities want Doug Ford to think about poop before he scoops the ground for housing

With Bill 23, Best said the province is helping the **development sector but** leaving municipalities to build and establish the essential services needed before construction can get started — water, sewage, transit, parks, electricity, waste — again, without more money.

“I’m a former property appraiser. I know that without those services, those houses can’t be built,” Best said. “You can plan all you want, you can do [minister’s zoning orders, known as] MZO, and open the Greenbelt, and everything else, but unless you have the water and sewers, nothing will be built. We take care of all that.”

“We seriously question whether the province’s equation makes sense,” Rosborough added, saying this essential infrastructure is unaffordable without the development charges eliminated by Bill 23. “We think there are some very serious flaws in the equation that says you just need to undermine our existing planning and infrastructure financing framework that has worked for generations to support rapid growth in this province.”



More homes can only be built fast once stormwater, wastewater and energy infrastructure are in place. Those services are funded and constructed by municipalities, whose budgets took a huge hit when Bill 23 cut or froze many development charges. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

## Ontario cities want to spend their budgets on residents, not developers

By removing municipalities’ ability to charge developers for construction, Bill 23 has also removed much of the funding used for social housing and other services. The association has calculated the More Homes Built Faster Act would transfer \$1 billion in costs from developers to taxpayers.

With the costs of providing services increasing, development charges were actually well below what municipalities need to keep up, Best said — they should be rising, not falling. To make up for the shortfall, a number of municipalities have announced property tax increases, the lowest so far at 3 per cent, in Mississauga, and the highest announcement of an 8.55 per cent hike, in Waterloo Region. NDP MPP Jessica Bell is **tracking** property tax increases and has found that 33 municipalities that have made decisions within this range.

Since 1997, municipalities have been subject to an annual financial audit, as cities manage half a trillion dollars in public assets. In the wake of Bill 23 outrage, Housing Minister Steve Clark has **said** he will be doing a closer

audit to find ways to help municipalities after the association asked for consultation and support. Rosborough and Best say they are “very confident in our numbers.”

The challenges are great. The province wants Best’s municipality of Milton to build 2,000 homes every year over the next decade. The town has only reached that number twice in the last 20 years. And today, there are 150 planning positions across Ontario cities that are struggling to attract talent and get the construction process started.

When asked in the legislature on March 1 what the government would do to help pay for this infrastructure, Clark didn’t answer directly. Instead he cited an 800 not-for-profit home project in Scarborough that is “moving forward” because of the changes proposed in Bill 23.

Best remains skeptical. “If you’re going to cut a billion dollars out of provincial municipalities, we’re going to be in dire straits,” he said. “We’re on the frontlines here.”

*Updated: This story was updated on March 7, 2023, at 10:51 a.m. ET to reflect that the City of Toronto is not a member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, as it is governed by its own provincial act.*

**PUBLISHED BY**



**Fatima Syed**

Fatima Syed is a Mississauga-based journalist. She was the founding host of The Backbench podcast. She has worked for The Walrus, ...



# 12. In Camera Session

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## 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

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## 14. Adjournment

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