



# Board of Directors Meeting

## A G E N D A

April 17, 2025

2:00 p.m.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

1. First Nations Acknowledgement .....	3
2. Call to Order .....	3
3. Adoption of Agenda .....	3
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest .....	3
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes .....	4
5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025 .....	4
6. Business Arising from the Minutes .....	12
7. Presentations .....	12
7.1) 2024 Audited Financial Statements .....	12
7.2) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan .....	12
7.3) Summary of Spring 2025 Flood Conditions .....	12
8. New Business .....	12
9. Business for Approval .....	13
9.1) 2024 Audited Financial Statements .....	13
9.2) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan - Draft .....	14
9.3) Appointment to Committees .....	17
9.4) Update to the Administration By-law – 2025-03 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Final Reading .....	18
9.5) Appointment of a New Provincial Offences Officer .....	19
9.6) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2025 .....	20
10. Business for Information .....	23
10.1) LTVCA and SCRCA Compensation Review .....	23
10.2) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report .....	25
10.3) Water Management .....	27
10.4) Planning and Regulations .....	31
10.5) Conservation Lands .....	44
10.6) Conservation Services .....	46
10.7) Communications, Education and Outreach .....	58
10.8) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes March 20, 2025 .....	66
10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association February 13 Minutes .....	70
10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association March 6 Minutes .....	71
11. Correspondence .....	72
11.1) Muskoka first in Ontario to call for provincial action on road salt pollution .....	72

11.2) City of London 2026 Budget .....	77
12. In Camera Session .....	79
12.1) A matter addressing one of the following: .....	79
13. Other Business .....	80
14. Adjournment.....	80

## Appendix A: LTVCA 2024 Audited Financial Statements

# 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, Caldwell Nation and Walpole Island First Nation. We acknowledge the first nations people within the villages, towns and cities of our communities. 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.

## 2. Call to Order

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## 3. Adoption of Agenda

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## 4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

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# 5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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## 5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025



### Board of Directors Meeting

#### *DRAFT MINUTES*

The Annual General 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 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 20, 2025. The following directors were in attendance: S. Emons, T. Thompson, K. Loveland, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, S. Hipple, P. Tiessen, and R. Leatham. M. Vink, P. Van Meerbergen, A. Finn, and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock read the First Nations Acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: AGM-2025-04

4. R. Leatham – T. Thompson

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Sarah Emons, welcomed the Board of Directors, staff and guests to the Conservation Authority's 2025 Annual General Meeting.

In attendance:

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

Regrets sent:

Paul Van Meerbergen, City of London  
Mike Bondy, Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
Martin Vink, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex  
Amy Finn, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

## 6. Introduction of Guests

### Guest Speaker:

Larry Cornelis

### Award Winners:

Mark Gagner

Bob and Moira Kerr

Tara Cote

Stephane Cote

Augie Cote

George Arenque

Matthew Arenque

### Volunteer Hero Award Winners:

Anne Velle

Kathy Flanagan

John and Jan Everett

Glenn Smith

### Committee Groups:

Don Hector, Chatham-Kent and Lambton Waterfestival

Dan McKillop, LTVC Foundation Director

Bonnie Carey, LTVC Foundation Administrator

Gary Eagleson, Source Water Protection

### Conservation Ontario:

Kate Franken, GM's Office, Projects Coordinator

### Member Municipalities:

Hilda MacDonald, Mayor of Leamington and Essex County Warden

Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor of Leamington

Robin Greenall, CAO Municipality of West Elgin

Edward Soldo, GM Infrastructure and Engineering Services, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Blaise Chevalier, Drainage Superintendent, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Rob Pollock, Director, Parks, Fleet and Facilities, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Grant Jones, Mayor of Southwold and Elgin County Warden

### Community Members and Agencies:

Faith Hale, Ska:na Family Learning Centre

Julie MacDonald, Ridge Landfill Community Trust

Nikki Borst, landowner

John Lawrence, Urban Stewardship, Sunrise Rotary

## 7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

### Motion: AGM-2025-05

5. L. Vogler – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors minutes of the December 19, 2024 and February 3, 2025 meetings be approved.

CARRIED

## 8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None Declared.

## 9. Presentations

### 9.1) 2024 Annual Report

Amanda Blain provided a Power Point Presentation on the 2024 Annual Report for the LTVCA programs, services and events to the Board of Directors and guests.

### 9.2) The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program

Andrew Mickle, on behalf of Donna Small, provided a presentation on the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program.

## 10. New Business

None noted.

## 11. Business for Approval

### 11.1) 2024 Annual Report

Motion: AGM-2025-06

6. S. Hipple – T. Thompson

Moved that the LTVCA's 2024 Annual Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

### 11.2) Election of Officers and Appointments to Committees

Motion: AGM-2025-07

7. K. Loveland – R. Leatham

Moved that Mark Peacock, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer be appointed to chair the 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 2025.

K. Loveland nominated P. Tiessen. P. Tiessen accepted the nomination.

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

Motion: AGM-2025-08

8. S. Emons – S. Hipple

Moved that nominations for Chair be closed.

CARRIED

P. Tiessen was declared to be elected as Chair.

**b) Vice-Chairs**

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for 1st Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2025.

P. Tiessen nominated S. Emons. S. Emons accepted the nomination.

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

**Motion: AGM-2025-09**

9. R. Leatham – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2025.

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

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

**Motion: AGM-2025-10**

10. K. Loveland – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

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

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

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the LTVCA's Executive Committee for 2025.

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

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

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

**Motion: AGM-2025-11**

11. S. Emons – 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 2025.

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

L. Vogler nominated K. Loveland. K. Loveland accepted the nomination.

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

**Motion: AGM-2025-12**

12. K. Loveland – L. Vogler

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 for 2025.

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

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

**Motion: AGM-2025-13**

13. T. Thompson – K. Loveland

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

CARRIED

L. Vogler was declared a member 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 2025.

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

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

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

**Motion: AGM-2025-14**

14. R. Leatham – L. Vogler

Moved that nominations for the Ice Management Committee be closed.

CARRIED

L. Vogler and T. Thompson were declared members of the Ice Management Committee.

Mr. Peacock congratulated those elected and turned the chair over to P. Tiessen, the Chair for 2025, to continue with the rest of the meeting.

11.3) 2025 Budget and Apportionment

**Motion: AGM-2025-15**

15. K. Loveland – S. Emons



Moved that the 2025 Municipal Apportionment be approved;

And That the participating municipalities be assessed for payment of \$1,973,916 which is comprised of Category 1 expenses of \$1,880,049; Category 3 expenses of (\$119,333) and Special Apportionment of \$213,200 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent);

And That each participating municipality's share of the 2025 Total municipal apportionment be calculated using "Modified Current Value Assessment." As shown in the table appended to this motion.

CARRIED

At the LTVCA the apportionment is approved with a weighted vote based on Current Value Assessment as calculated by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Eight of twelve members were present at the board meeting. The eight members represented 50.29 percent of the total weighted vote. All members of the board voted to approve the apportionment (100% of the 50.29% present). The motion carried.

**Motion: AGM-2025-16**

16. L. Vogler – T. Thompson

Moved that the 2025 proposed budget totalling \$8,175,032 be approved as presented in the accompanying budget tables.

CARRIED

#### 11.4) Appointment of Auditor

**Motion: AGM-2025-17**

17. L. Vogler – R. Leatham

Moved that the firm of Baker Tilly be appointed as the auditor of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority until the next Annual Meeting in February 2026.

CARRIED

#### 11.5) Appointment of Bank

**Motion: AGM-2025-18**

18. K. Loveland – S. Hipple

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 2026.

CARRIED

#### 11.6) Appointment of Solicitor

**Motion: AGM-2025-19**

19. L. Vogler – S. Emons

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 2026.

CARRIED

11.7) Authorization to Borrow

Motion: AGM-2025-20

20. H. Aerts – K. Loveland

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

11.8) Appointment to Conservation Ontario

Motion: AGM-2025-21

21. L. Vogler – T. Thompson

Moved that the Chair be appointed as Voting Representative; and the CAO as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative.

CARRIED

11.9) 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, June 19, 2025 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, October 16, 2025 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, December 18, 2025 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, February 19, 2026 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Motion: AGM-2025-22

22. S. Emons – S. Hipple

Moved that the meeting schedule for 2025 and the Annual General Meeting for 2026 be endorsed.

CARRIED

11.10) Administrative By-Law - Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers – Update Second Reading

Motion: AGM-2025-23

23. S. Emons – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors approves the second reading of the revised Administrative By-law and Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers Policy – updated By-law 2025-03; and

That the By-law continue to be posted on the Authority's website for public consultation and feedback.

CARRIED

12. Business for Information

12.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

- 12.2) 2024 Permit Statistics, Timelines and Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24
- 12.3) Water Management
- 12.4) Planning and Regulations
- 12.5) Conservation Lands
- 12.6) Conservation Services
- 12.7) Communications, Education and Outreach
- 12.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association December Minutes

**Motion: AGM-2025-24**

24. S. Emons – L. Vogler

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the above reports, 12.1 through to 12.8, for information.

CARRIED

### 13. Correspondence

- 13.1) Update: Proposed regulation regarding Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act
- 13.2) Conservation Authority Agricultural Sector Representative – Advertisements Posted

**Motion: AGM-2025-25**

25. S. Hipple – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors receive correspondence 13.1 and 13.2, for information.

CARRIED

### 13. Other Business

None noted.

### 14. Adjournment

**Motion: AGM-2025-26**

26. R. Leatham – T. Thompson

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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Paul Tiessen  
Chair

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

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes

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## 7. Presentations

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### 7.1) 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Laura Poland, from Baker Tilly, will provide information on the 2024 Audited Financial Statements.

### 7.2) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan

Mariah Alexander will provide a presentation to the Board of Directors on the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan.

### 7.3) Summary of Spring 2025 Flood Conditions

Jason Wintermute will provide to the Board of Directors a summary of 2025 spring flood conditions.

## 8. New Business

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# 9. Business for Approval

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## 9.1) 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **2024 Audited Financial Statements**  
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Attached for the Board of Directors information and approval is the Audited Financial Statements for the year-ended December 31, 2024.

**Note:** The 2024 Audited Financial Statements are attached as a separate document. **Refer to Appendix A.**

<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> That the LTVCA's 2024 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.
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The report aligns 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, Corporate Services

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

## 9.2) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan - Draft

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: The Draft Preliminary C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan Report  
From: Mariah Alexander, Indigenous Educator

### Background

Formerly known as the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village, the building, now referred to as the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, was established within C.M. Wilson Conservation Area in 2006 with the goal to provide fire, road, and bicycle safety education to youth. The building features three offices, two classrooms, a boardroom, a hall, and "Sparky's Apartment" which consists of a kitchen, bedroom, and an escape route. The lands outside of this main building consist of an outdoor mini city, with paved roads, street lights and signs, small buildings funded by local businesses, and a railway.

As a result of the pressures of COVID-19, the Safety Village was unable to maintain the mini city, and safety programming came to an end. In late 2022, the Safety Village building came under the possession of the LTVCA due to a default on the original lease.

Currently, a Montessori Eco-Academy school has become a tenant renting out the classroom off of "Sparky's Apartment". LTVCA staff have transformed the other classroom into an education space of their own. The garage at the back of the building has been converted into a lab to accommodate the needs of the water quality team. The large hall space serves as additional educational programming space, and as a rental venue for community group events providing further revenue generation opportunities. Chatham-Kent EMS and Fire Departments do not currently have the means to provide safety education, and most funders of the outdoor mini buildings no longer show interest in supporting their maintenance costs.

### C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee

The C. M. Wilson Learning Centre Village Advisory Committee provides direction on the short and long term direction of the Learning Centre through input into the Strategic Plan, including Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals; and through its Operational Policies. The Advisory Committee meets at least quarterly or as often as necessary to conduct its business. The committee has met twice to consider development of the strategic plan and will provide direction as plan development continues.

### Purpose of Strategic Plan

The purpose of the 5 Year Strategic Plan, 2025-2030 (hereafter 'the plan') is to guide the work done at the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre. It will act to align the work with the Mission, Vision, and Values of the learning centre and the LTVCA. The strategic goals of our 10 member municipalities (1) are also taken into consideration during the development of the plan.

Ultimately, the purpose of this plan is to restore the space back into must-see destination for the community where they can connect deeply to the land and each other, while honouring its roots as the safety village it is fondly remembered as.

### Draft Guiding Statements

#### Draft Mission Statement

The C.M. Wilson Learning Centre is an educational facility that connects the public to the local environment through Indigenous and scientific ways of knowing, through experiences offered both on-site and in the community.

## **Draft Vision Statement**

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre will foster a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the environment, as well as Indigenous knowledges and culture through innovation, inclusivity, and stewardship.

**Innovation:** Create inspiring opportunities to learn on the land through the development of native habitat surrounding an outdoor gathering space and a Three Sisters Garden.

**Inclusivity:** Our learning centre acknowledges our location on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg Nation, and recognizes the importance of Indigenous representation in education and on the land. Our lands and learning centre will be reflective of this through programming and creation of native habitats in a way that the whole community can enjoy.

**Stewardship:** We are committed to creating a more environmentally conscious community by ways of Indigenous and scientific knowledge of our local environments.

## **Draft Strategic Goals**

1. Grow the use of the Learning Centre, Safety Village, and lands of C.M. Wilson Conservation Area
2. Receive community input on our plans for the Learning Centre and Safety Village through community consultation and engagement
3. Expand programming and events provided at the Learning Centre
4. Build Relationships

## **Additional Elements of the Plan**

1. SWOT analysis of current business strategy and environment
2. Draft Long Term Budget/financial plan.
3. Input from committees.
4. Input from community.
5. Recommendations regarding program revival and revision/development.
6. Recommendations regarding future events.
7. Timelines.
8. Recommendations regarding the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee Relationship Framework.

## **Next Steps:**

1. Consult with Public regarding this 2025-2030 C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan,
2. Develop additional elements of plan,
3. Obtain Board Approval of the plan,
4. Implementation Plan to achieve the Strategic Plan goals.

## **Recommended Resolution:**

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan Report and preliminary draft C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan be received for information purposes, and

That the Board direct staff to begin public consultation of the plan, and

That staff bring results of the consultation back to the board together with the plan for approval.

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Respectfully Submitted

Mariah Alexander, Indigenous Educator



### 9.3) Appointment to Committees

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: Appointment to Committees Report  
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng. CAO / Secretary-Treasurer

#### Background

During the annual general meeting held In February of this year, appointments to committees were undertaken and all but a few positions were filled. Two appointments could not be made, as these appointments were required from members representing the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and only one representative from that municipality was able to attend the AGM.

Amy Finn, representative from Chatham-Kent was not at the AGM but in 2024 sat on the two committees in question. She has let staff know that she is willing to be on the committees should the board of directors choose to appoint her to them.

The committees in question are:

1. The Ice Management Committee
2. The C.M Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee

#### Recommended Resolution:

That Amy Finn be appointed to the Ice Management and C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Committees.

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

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

## 9.4) Update to the Administration By-law 2025-03 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Reading

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner  
Subject: Update to the Administration By-law – 2025-03 – 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Reading

### **Background**

As a result of changes to the CA Act, an update to our existing 2023-02 Administrative By-Law - Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers is required to keep in compliance with the requirements set out in the Act. This policy update was directed by information provided by Conservation Ontario to all CA's, with a revised updated word version with changes that needed to be incorporated into our existing Administrative By-law 2023-02.

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.

The edits are administrative in nature, primarily to bring it up to date with language in Ontario Regulation 402/22, Budget and Apportionment. The draft By-law has been available for review by the public and the Board of Directors via our website located here: [https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Administration-By-law-2025-Draft-Policy\\_Hearing-Guideline-amended.pdf](https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Administration-By-law-2025-Draft-Policy_Hearing-Guideline-amended.pdf). Note: Initially we did not include the Best Management Practices section in the By-law, but is now included in this updated Policy. At the writing of this third and final report, no comments from the public or Board of Directors has 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 December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting, the second undertaken the February 20<sup>th</sup> AGM, with this being the third and final reading at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Recommendation:**

**That** By-law 2023-02 be repealed on April 17, 2025; and

**That** the Board of Directors approves the third and final reading of the Administrative By-law and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Procedure for Election of Officers Policy – 2025-03, to take effect on April 17, 2025; and

**That** a copy of the By-law be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and posted publicly on the LTVCA's website under the 'governance' section.

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

## 9.5) Appointment of a New Provincial Offences Officer

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner  
Subject: **Designation of Provincial Offences Officers**

Genevieve Champagne, the LTVCA's Manager of Conservation, Lands and Services, undertook the CA Compliance Training course from April 1<sup>st</sup> through to the 11<sup>th</sup> via on-line and in class training sessions. Genevieve successfully completed the training and has obtained the Compliance certification. She will be going in to get her criminal record check shortly.

Badge Number	Last Name	First Name	Date of Training	Board Endorsement	Status	Section
01	Wintermute	Jason	March 2, 2012	November 27, 2014	active	28
03	Towsley	Valerie	March 31, 2016	April 21, 2016	active	28
04	Homewood	Jason	March 31, 2016	April 21, 2016	active	28
07	Gibb	Adam	2011-2020 (yearly through MNRF)	June 25, 2020	active	29
08	Shore	Mike	April 3-15, 2024	April 18, 2024	active	29
09	Champagne	Genevieve	April 1-11, 2025	April 17, 2025	active	29

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors designate Genevieve Champagne as a Provincial Offences Officer (P.O.O.), on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, under the Conservation Authorities Act and associated relevant Regulations. Genevieve Champagne is designated as a P.O.O. for enforcement of Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

## 9.6) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2025

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2025**  
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

### **Background:**

Review the 2025 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 2 months ended February 28, 2025.

REVENUE	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	5,368,352	894,725 *	553,378	(341,347)
GENERAL LEVY	1,760,716	1,760,716 ^	0	(1,760,716)
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	213,200	213,200 ^	0	(213,200)
GENERAL REVENUES	832,764	138,794 *	78,307	(60,487)
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0 *	5,387	5,387
RESERVES	0	0 *	0	0
<b>CASH FUNDING</b>	<b>8,175,032</b>	<b>3,007,435</b>	<b>637,072</b>	<b>(2,370,363)</b>
OTHER	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>8,175,032</b>	<b>3,007,435</b>	<b>637,072</b>	<b>(2,370,363)</b>

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

^-Invoiced as of March 5, 2025

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 invoiced as of March 5, 2025.

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 is partially off-set by interest income.

Foundation Grants and Revenues are above budget due to the payment of memorial trees for 2025 versus the uncertainty of funds available when budgeting.

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

EXPENSES	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	224,158	37,360	20,446	(16,914)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	2	6	4
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	111,333	18,555	14,962	(3,593)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	197,211	32,869	17,261	(15,608)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	464,496	77,416	41,397	(36,019)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	169,902	28,317	22,380	(5,937)
SOURCE PROTECTION	28,312	4,719	2,080	(2,639)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
<b>Water Management Subtotal</b>	<b>1,195,421</b>	<b>199,238</b>	<b>118,532</b>	<b>(80,706)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</b>				
<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>	<b>871,678</b>	<b>145,280</b>	<b>112,083</b>	<b>(33,197)</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	149,477	24,913	9,291	(15,622)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	134,671	22,445	11,487	(10,958)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	126,990	21,165	4,105	(17,060)
<b>Community Relations &amp; Education Subtotal</b>	<b>411,138</b>	<b>68,523</b>	<b>24,883</b>	<b>(43,640)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</b>				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	246,071	41,012	59,936	18,924
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	584,604	97,434	74,717	(22,717)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	4,742,504	790,417	270,460	(519,957)
SPECIES AT RISK	123,616	20,603	39,014	18,411
<b>Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal</b>	<b>5,696,795</b>	<b>949,466</b>	<b>444,127</b>	<b>(505,339)</b>
<b>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
<b>Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>8,175,032</b>	<b>1,362,507</b>	<b>699,625</b>	<b>(662,882)</b>

### *Water Management*

Flood Control Structures is below budget due to no flood events on the Thames River to February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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>, 2025.

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 some larger expenses incurred later in the year.

Source Protection is below budget due to less time spent on this program at this time of year.

### *Conservation Areas*

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

### *Community Relations and Education*

Community Relations, Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs one position being hired early in the year and one part time position not hired yet.

### *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.

### *Capital/Miscellaneous*

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

### **Summary:**

	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	8,175,032	3,007,435	637,072	(2,370,363)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,175,032	1,362,507	699,625	(662,882)
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,644,928</b>	<b>(62,553)</b>	<b>(1,707,481)</b>
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
<b>NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,644,928</b>	<b>(62,553)</b>	<b>(1,707,481)</b>

At February 28, 2025, 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, 2025.

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, Corporate Services

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

# 10. Business for Information

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## 10.1) LTVCA and SCRCA Compensation Review

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: LTVCA and SCRCA Salary Review Report  
From: Todd Casier, Manager, Corporate Services  
Title of RFP: Request for Proposals, Salary Review For Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) And St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA)

### Background

In 2024 the Board of Directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) directed staff to conduct a salary compensation evaluation. This was in response to high staff turn over as a result of the current wage grids used by the authority being below market rates. Based on this direction, staff included the cost of a salary review in the 2025 budget that was approved by the board in February 2025. In preparation for this study, it was determined that the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) was also going to market to complete a salary review. In order to minimize cost to conduct the study, the LTVCA and SCRCA have gone together to complete this review.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) have issued a Request For Proposals to retain a qualified consultant to provide job evaluation criteria and a competitive salary grid. Currently the two authorities utilize salary grids comprised of a number value groups (levels) with each group having five steps on the grid. Within the two authorities there are 58 positions to be evaluated.

### Project Overview

The consultant will provide a suitable job evaluation system including compensable factors, and the scoring and weighting of those factors. Conservation authority staff will be responsible for updating all job descriptions which will be completed prior to the start of the consultant's work. The consultant will provide training to specific Conservation staff on the job evaluation process. The Consultant will then, with input from trained Conservation authority staff, evaluate defined positions using the updated job descriptions and the provided job evaluation system. There be 26 positions evaluated for the LTVCA and 32 positions evaluated for SCRCA as part of this review.

In summary, the consultant will compare current salary compensation used in both CAs with suitable market comparators and provide an updated salary grid ensuring compliance with pay equity legislation.

### RFP Schedule

RFP issued: April 04, 2025  
Closing date and time: April 25, 2025, at 4 p.m.  
Anticipated award: May 05, 2025

### Scope of Work and Key Deliverables

#### RFP Deliverables

Provide job evaluation system to project team: May 30, 2025  
Collect and analyze market data from other comparable organizations: June 13, 2025 (Conservation Authorities, Municipalities and similar organizations)  
Ensure compliance with Pay Equity legislation June 13, 2025  
Prepare an updated salary grid with positions on grid & provide to project team July 11, 2025  
Prepare a final report & provide to the project team July 18, 2025  
Present final report to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Executive Committee: July 23, 2025 (TBD)  
Present final report to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors August 21, 2025

**Recommended Resolution:**

The LTVCA and SCRCA Salary Compensation Review Report be received for information purposes.

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, Corporate Services

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



## 10.2) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: April 17, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: CAO /Secretary-Treasurer Report  
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

### Change in Ministries Responsible for Conservation Authorities Program

With the appointment of the new provincial cabinet, the Conservation Authorities program has been moved to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Additionally, MPP Todd McCarthy, has been appointed minister of the environment, conservation and parks. No significant changes to the program will result in this change as the CA program has moved between the two ministries a number of times in the last number of years.

### Continuing Construction

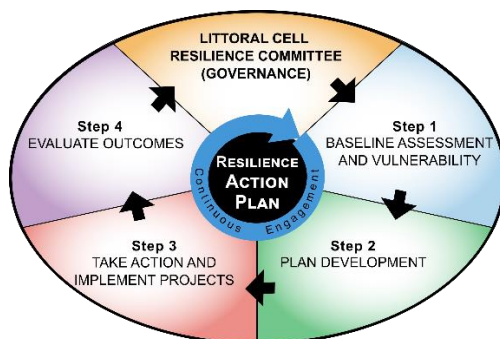
Two major construction projects are being completed at the LTVCA in early 2025. These projects being the construction of an elevator, gallery, and refurbishing of washrooms at the Longwoods Resource Centre and the repurposing of a shop into a water quality lab at the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre. Both projects are moving to completion within the next 2 months and are on budget.

### Peele Coastal Project

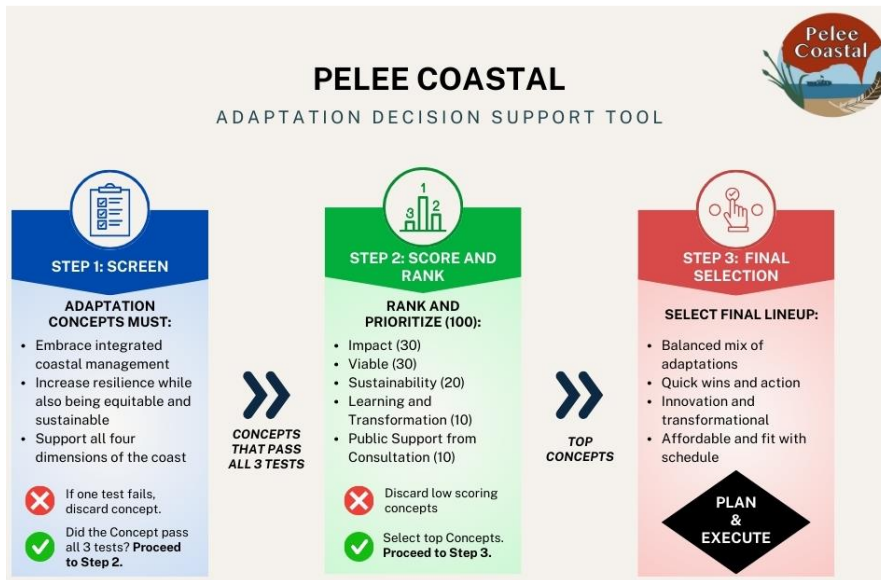


The Pelee Coastal Resilience Committee was formed in the fall of 2023 with funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada. The Committee made a successful application to Natural Resources Canada's Climate Resilience Coastal Communities Program to develop a Coastal Resilience Action Plan for the Pelee Coast. This area (Littoral Cells that move sediments in the near shore to Point Pelee) includes coastal lands / shorelines along Lake Erie from the mouth of the Detroit River to east of Wheatley. Over the next three years the Pelee Coastal Resilience Committee, which includes representatives from organizations across the project geography, will lead the development of a Coastal Resilience Action Plan in consultation with communities and stakeholders.

The Action Plan will follow the four steps in the Resilience Framework, outlined in the adjacent graphic, including: 1) assessment and vulnerability, 2) plan development, 3) implement projects, and 4) evaluate outcomes



The committee has developed a number of projects (adaptations) that are being evaluated and prioritized for implementation. The process of this evaluation is summarized as follows:



Important in this evaluation is public consultation. The public is being asked to provide input into potential projects that can be undertaken to make the shoreline more resilient through a series of open houses. The next open houses are as follows:

**MONDAY APRIL 14, 2025**

The Village Resource Centre

108 Talbot Road E, Wheatley, Ontario

afternoon session from 2 to 4 pm, evening session from 6 to 8 pm

and

**TUESDAY APRIL 15, 2025**

Lakeside Park Pavilion

315 Queen St., Kingsville, Ontario

afternoon session from 2 to 4 pm, evening session from 6 to 8 pm

### Recommended Resolution:

That the CAO 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 fifteen flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in February. One was a general Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook issued at the beginning of March. Ten messages were Flood Outlook messages. Two of the messages were Flood Watch messages related to this year's 'Spring' freshet and ice breakup on the Thames River. Two other Flood Watch messages were related to a high-water event caused by excessive rain. The last message was a Safety Bulletin issued after water levels had peaked but water levels were still expected to be high for a few days.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the general Flood Outlook message was issued discussing the possible risks of flooding and ice jams when the 'spring' melt would eventually occur. The message discussed how much snowpack there was in the upper watershed, ice thickness on the river, and areas that have historically seen ice jams.

Flood Outlook messages were issued on February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>, for moderate rainfall events that would be starting to melt the snow and lead to breakup of the ice. They were followed by a Flood Watch on March 5<sup>th</sup>, as the ice on the Thames River broke up and began moving downstream. The local rain and melt also required the operation of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel from the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> through to the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>. On the morning of March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Flood Watch was downgraded to a Flood Outlook when flows in the upper watershed didn't reach as high as expected, the Thames River downstream of Chatham had opened up enough that it didn't look like a jam in the river channel was possible any longer, and the ice on Lake St. Clair had opened up and it looked like the ice from the river would be able to push out into the lake. Early that evening, the message was upgraded again to a Flood Watch when an ice jam appeared at the river mouth. But that ice jam only lasted a few hours before it managed to push out into the lake, and the flood message was again downgraded to a Flood Outlook. Another three Flood Outlook messages were issued on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, as the rest of the snowpack melted out of the upper watershed and high-water levels were anticipated. During the March melt event, water levels peaked at around 375 m<sup>3</sup>/s at Byron the evening of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 400 m<sup>3</sup>/s near Dutton the morning of March 8<sup>th</sup>, and 390 m<sup>3</sup>/s at Thamesville on the evening of March 8<sup>th</sup>. Water levels in Chatham peaked at an elevation of around 177.5 m (CGVD28) on the morning of March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Another Flood Outlook message was issued on April 1<sup>st</sup>. A Special Weather Statement, later upgraded to a Rainfall Warning, had been issued by Environment Canada calling for 30 to 50 mm of rain. The watershed was already wet from rain a few days earlier and the forecast amount of rain would lead to localized flooding and operation of the Diversion Channel. Between 35 and 50 mm of rain fell around the watershed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Diversion Channel was operated from the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> through to the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Flood Watch messages were issued on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, as the flood peak worked its way downstream from the upper watershed. There was quite a bit of concern for this event, as forecasts were calling for significant rain overnight on the 4<sup>th</sup> and throughout the day on the 5<sup>th</sup>. At one point, the forecasts were as high as 40-60 mm of additional rain. In Chatham-Kent, the runoff from this rain would have reached the river about the same time as the peak flows from the previous rain was predicted to arrive at Thamesville. The combination of high water on the Thames River, with additional runoff from excessive rain, would have produced flooding not seen in decades. In the end, the weather system predicted for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> completely missed the lower Thames River watershed, with the Ridgeway climate station only recording 1.1 mm of rain. As the peak flow on the Thames River produced by the rain on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reached Chatham, the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station was operated from the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>, through the evening on the 7<sup>th</sup>. For this event, flows at Byron peaked at 665 m<sup>3</sup>/s the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, near Dutton at 625 m<sup>3</sup>/s around noon on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and at Thamesville at 562 m<sup>3</sup>/s during the late afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Water levels in Chatham peaked at an elevation of around 178.63 m (CGVD28) in the early morning of April 7<sup>th</sup>. A Safety Bulletin message was then issued around noon on April 7<sup>th</sup> to advise that the peak had passed, that water levels were falling, and that residents should still be careful around the river over the next few days while water levels remained high.

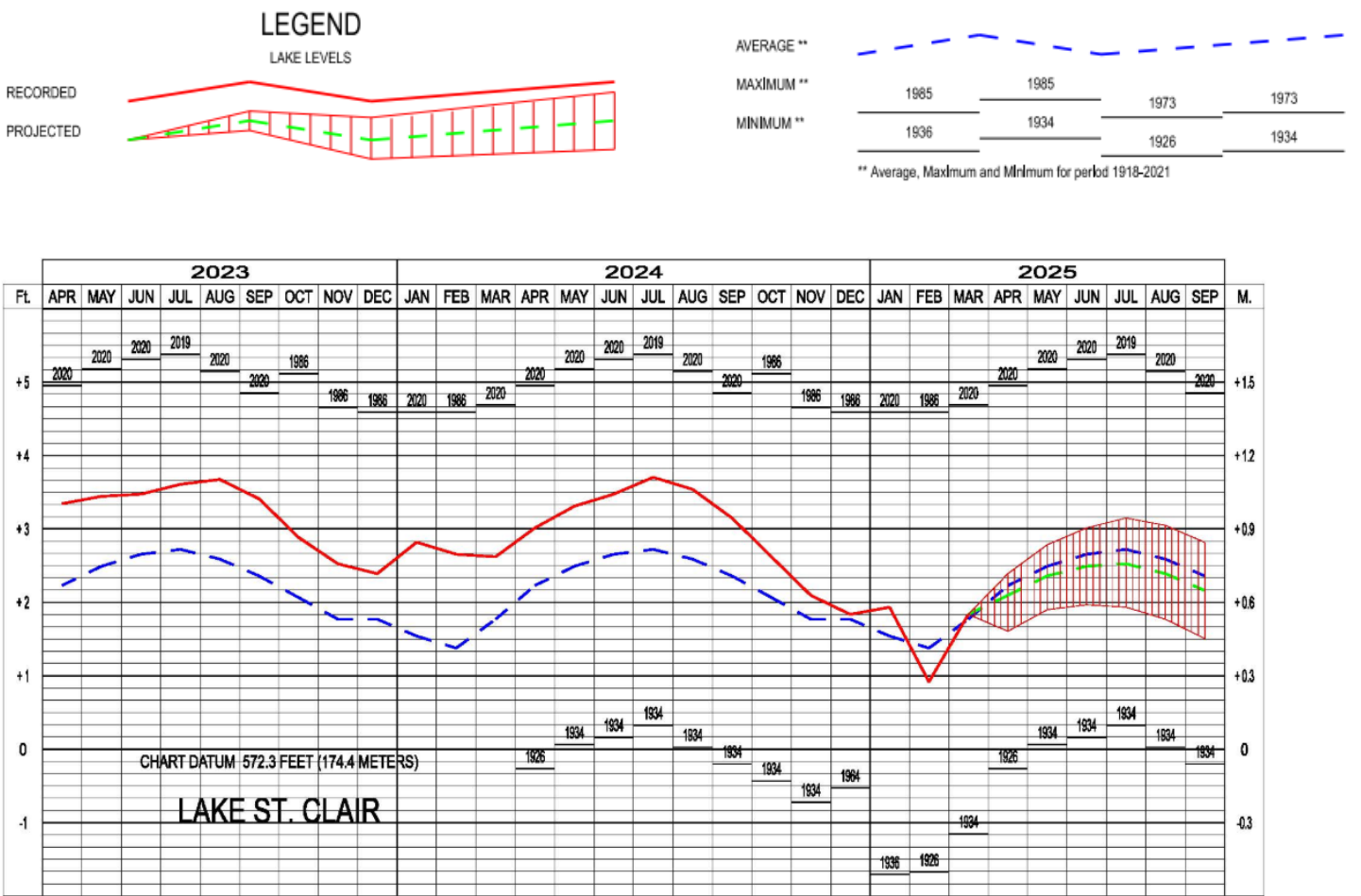
Report on Lake Conditions

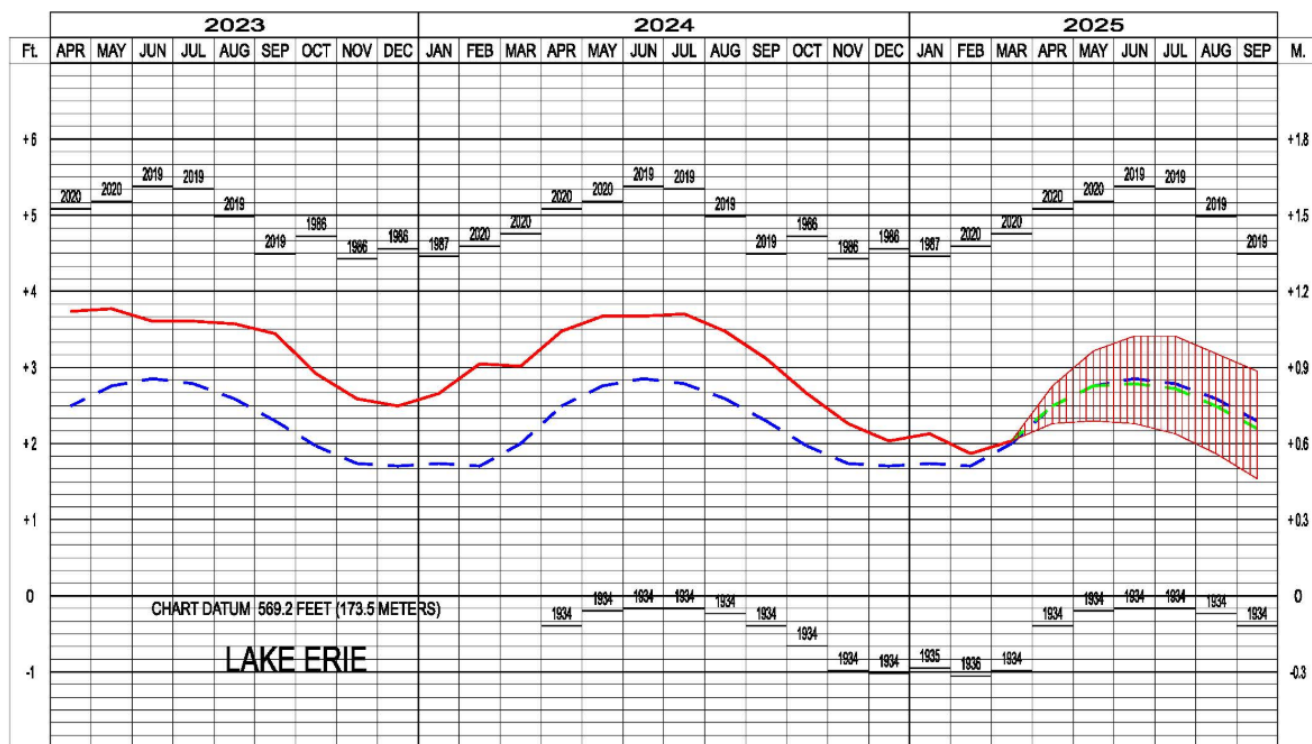
Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of April were around 174.22 m (I.G.L.D.). However, recent rain events have brought water levels up 13 cm to 174.35 m as of April 6<sup>th</sup>. The record high monthly average for April was 175.05 m, set in 2020. The long-term average water level for April is 174.26. Forecasts suggest water levels will rise around 10 cm by the beginning of May.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of April were around 175.02 m (I.G.L.D.). However, recent rain events have brought water levels up 22 cm to 175.24 m as of April 6<sup>th</sup>. The record high monthly average for April was 175.91, set in 2020. The long-term average water level for April is 175.08. Forecasts suggest water levels will rise around 5 cm by the beginning of May.

Water levels on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair began rising in 2017, creating conditions that made the shorelines in the LTVCA more susceptible to flooding. Water levels on the lakes have been above average since that time. After lake levels reached record highs in 2019 and 2020, they have been slowly dropping back towards normal. Lake levels are now finally back down to the point where they could be called normal. However, due to the prolonged period of high lake levels, many in the public are feeling that the lake levels are low. Before the sudden jump in lake levels, the long-range forecasts of lake levels suggested that Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair would continue to see near normal conditions over the next 6 months. Next month’s forecast will include these impacts.

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 and do not account for the sudden rise in water levels during the first week of April.





### 10.3.2) Flood Control Structures

As previously noted, the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was in operation from the afternoon of March 5<sup>th</sup> through to the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> and from the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup> through to the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Regular seasonal maintenance and minor repairs for the flood control have continued as per usual. This included activities such as greasing the equipment as well as vegetation and debris management. In what appears to have become a regular occurrence, in preparation for operating the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Dam, staff had to remove large trees that had fallen into McGregor Creek and lodged themselves in the gates. This occurred twice, once during the March melt event, when the dam was not required to be operated, but then again before the April event when the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Dam was required to be operated.

### 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 spring thresholds are: Level 1, 100% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 70% LASF; and Level 3, 50% 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.

Provincial screening issued in early April did not suggest any concerns with flows in the Thames River. However, it did suggest that there could be a Level One Low Water Condition based on the 3-month total rainfall. The climate station at Ridgetown showed only 72% of normal rainfall during the Jan-Feb-Mar time period. This calculation did not include the significant rainfall that occurred during the first week of April. It is quite likely that the recent rains would affect the interpretation of whether the region is in a Low Water Condition. A more detailed analysis will be conducted at the beginning of May.

Further information on the Provincial Low Water Response Program can be found at <https://www.livapplications.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. 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. Maintenance on autosamplers that collect during events continues, with repairs being made to the autosamplers and intake lines being replaced on a regular schedule.

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program also continues. LTVCA staff maintain the sites and download the information from data loggers. Sites are typically visited once every 3 months. While water quality sampling is usually collected in the Fall or early Winter, the program has requested an additional spring sample from the Bothwell well. Staff have also had quite a bit of work managing repairs to the well on Campbell Road near Wheatley that was damaged by vandalism.

Health Canada is also looking at extending a contract where the LTVCA samples several locations for pesticides on their behalf. The LTVCA expects to be sampling at 6 locations in the western portion of the watershed. Samples will be collected on Jeannette's Creek, Big Creek, and McGregor Creek as well as at the Rivard, Deary and Dauphin municipal pump stations.

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. LTVCA staff are going to try to get to benthic sampling in late April or early May this year to better match the timing for water temperature. 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.

### 10.3.5) Geographic Information Systems

Annual updates to the LTVCA's regulated screening area (O.Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) are underway. These edits provide greater accuracy with respect to where natural hazards like flooding, erosion and unstable slopes may impact peoples' lives and properties. A valley toe layer, produced through on-screen digitization and computer coding, is nearly complete and will satisfy requirements associated with identifying unstable slopes and appropriate setbacks throughout the watershed. Minor errors identified by our technical team have been resolved to ensure watercourses inappropriately flagged as regulated areas are no longer viewed as regulated.

A partnership project with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, requested and funded by MECP, is being undertaken which will produce a natural heritage system for the entire Thames River watershed. The project is anticipated to be completed in December. This project has enabled the LTVCA to update natural heritage feature layers based on 2020 SWOOP aerial imagery. This update will enable staff to understand what has changed in terms of land cover over the years, identify where changes have occurred and produce a layer describing a full natural heritage systems study. This review is approximately 1/4 complete and is on track with project timelines

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 2025 through to the end of March 2025, there were 27 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 41/24. 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 52 phone calls and over 356 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2024 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	2025 Totals
Chatham-Kent	197	5	16	7	28
Elgin	33	5	0	1	6
Essex	31	0	0	0	0
Middlesex	28	7	2	1	10
Total Numbers	289	17	18	9	44

### 10.4.2) Planning Fees

There were no planning fees receive yet for the time period between February 1, 2025 through to March 31, 2025.

MUNICIPALITY	FEB TO MAR 2025	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
<b>Chatham-Kent</b>			\$3,300.00
<b>Elgin County</b>			
Southwold		\$10,000.00	\$1,215.00
Dutton Dunwich			\$0
West Elgin			\$900.00
<b>Essex County</b>			
Lakeshore			\$1,400.00
<b>Middlesex County</b>			
Middlesex Centre			\$0
<b>YTD Total</b>		<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,815.00</b>

### 10.4.3) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

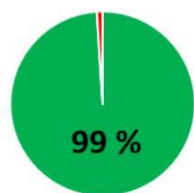
With respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24, the LTVCA received a total of 99 new permit applications in the months of February and March.

Of the 99 new applications and, combined with previously submitted “incomplete” applications, a total of 119 applications were deemed to be “complete” in February and March and could be reviewed. Those 119 applications were in addition to the previous queue of 193 “complete” applications leading into this reporting period. 244 of those 312 “complete” applications were processed and all were approved by staff with or without conditions. As of the end of March, 68 “complete” applications were in the queue for processing.

\$27,075 in permit application fees had been, or was to be, collected as of the end of March.

#### 10.4.4) Application Timelines:

##### Review for Completeness:



Ontario Regulation 41/24 requires that conservation authorities are to make a determination on whether an application is considered to be “complete” or “incomplete” and provide a response of such to the applicant within 21 calendar days. For the months of February and March, the average response time with respect to this was 3 days (ranging between 0 and 34 days). 99% of all applications met the required timeline for a “completeness” response.

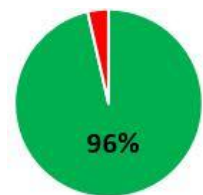
##### Permit Processing:

For applications issued in February and March, the table and charts below indicate that 100% of “routine” applications, 96% of “minor” private property applications, 2% of all other “minor” applications, and 0% of the two “major” permit applications met their applicable LTVCA customer service standard for turnaround time.



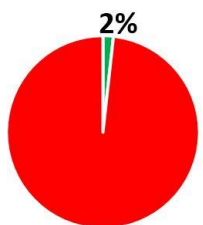
##### **Routine Applications:**

For the months of February and March, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was 2 days (ranged between 0 and 4 days). The customer service standard for routine permits is a turnaround within 14 days. The processing time for routine permit applications is meeting the customer service target.



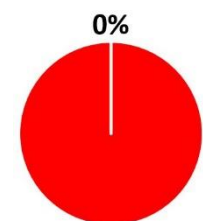
##### **Minor Applications – Private Property Owners:**

For the months of February and March, the average turnaround time was 5 days (ranged between 0 and 29 days) for minor private property related permit applications. The customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days.



##### **Minor Applications – Municipalities and Utility Companies:**

For the months of February and March, the average turnaround time was 52 days (ranged between 0 and 75 days) for minor applications from municipalities and utility companies. The customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. The processing time for most minor permit applications is not meeting the customer service target primarily due to the large backlog of permit applications related to the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology projects.



##### **Major Applications:**

For the months of February and March, the average turnaround time for a major permit application was 109 days (ranged between 70 and 147 days). The processing time for the major permit applications did not meet the customer service target.

#### 10.4.5) Property Inquiries:

Up to the end of March, 414 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Technician which is 275 more since the last board report. The February and March inquiries were responded to with ~690 e-mails and ~20 phone calls.



At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is up to 3 business days for e-mails and 21 days for phone calls. The length of time to respond to e-mails has significantly improved since the last board report. The length of time to respond to phone calls has increased.

#### **10.4.6) Policies & Procedures Update:**

Given the current workload, there has been no work completed on the Policy & Procedures Manual and, therefore, no additional municipal or public consultations on the Manual have been undertaken. The Manual hasn't been updated since the original draft from the March 2024 board meeting. The Manual still requires multiple new sections and revisions to meet the requirements of Section 12 of Ontario Regulation 41/24.

#### **10.4.7) Section 28 Enforcement:**

In the first three months of 2025, only one complaint / tip was received from the public about a possible enforcement issue.

## 10.4.8) O. Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications

### O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications (Permits Issued in February and March 2025)

B.D. 04/17/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
<b>2024 Permits</b>					
442-2024	20803 Cemetery Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 05, 2025	147
682-2024	20851 Cemetery Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 05, 2025	70
789-2024	10965 to 11016 Pinehurst Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
790-2024	Pinehurst Line at Harold Smith Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
791-2024	11103 Pinehurst Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
792-2024	11058 to 11261 Pinehurst Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
793-2024	11183 Pinehurst Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
794-2024	11199 Pinehurst Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
795-2024	11261 Pinehurst Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
796-2024	Pinehurst Line at Galbraith Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
797-2024	21757 to 21761 Kent Bridge Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
813-2024	McLarty Line at Alexander Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
814-2024	Howard Road at McGregor Creek Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
815-2024	McLarty Line at West Birkenshaw Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
816-2024	12077 McLarty Line to Whitman Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
817-2024	McLarty Line at Campbell Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
818-2024	McLarty Line at Whitman Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
819-2024	Scane Road at McGregor Creek Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
820-2024	21630 to 21710 Scane Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
821-2024	McLarty Line at Crouch Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 07, 2025	51
822-2024	Kent Bridge Road at Fields Creek Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
823-2024	Kent Bridge Road at McDowell Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
824-2024	Kent Bridge Road along Robertson Nooyen Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
825-2024	22269 Kent Bridge Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
826-2024	22167 Kent Bridge Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
828-2024	Kent Bridge Road along Clark Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
829-2024	Kent Bridge Road east of #21903	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
830-2024	Kent Bridge Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
831-2024	Kent Bridge Road at McGregor Creek Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
832-2024	Kent Bridge Road at Alexander Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	50
857-2024	Thames River between 3rd and 5th Street Bridges	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 13, 2025	31
881-2024	Middle Line along East Branch of Graham Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	38
882-2024	Oak Road at East Branch of Graham Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	38
883-2024	Middle Line at Grant Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	38
884-2024	4202 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	38
885-2024	Middle Line at Sharp Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	38
889-2024	5241 to 5453 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
890-2024	4803 to 5241 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
891-2024	4301 to 4803 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
892-2024	Tecumseh Line at Jeannettes Creek	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
893-2024	4089 to 4301 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
894-2024	Roels Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
895-2024	Dashwheel Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
896-2024	6058 5th Line East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
897-2024	6141 5th Line East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
898-2024	Ninth Line near Symon Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
899-2024	Ninth Line at Government Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
900-2024	Ninth Line along Harold Warwick Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
901-2024	6926 Ninth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
903-2024	Kent Bridge Road at Brown Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
904-2024	Shewburg Road along West Drain Outlet	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
905-2024	Shewburg Road along Ingram Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
906-2024	20521 Shewburg Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
907-2024	Shewburg Road near Tabacek Drain #2	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
908-2024	Scane Road at Scane Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
909-2024	Scane Road at Scane Drain Extension	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
910-2024	Ridge Line at Rushton Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	29
911-2024	Ridge Line at Rushton Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	28
912-2024	Ridge Line at Van Wade Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	28
913-2024	Ridge Line at Scane Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	28
914-2024	Golf Course Line along Ralph Brien Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
915-2024	Golf Course Line at Goldhawk Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
916-2024	74 Marsh Street	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
917-2024	Erie Street South at Ralph Brien Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	40
920-2024	Hill Road at McDiarmid Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
923-2024	12833 to 12849 Evergreen Line	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
924-2024	13015 to 13081 Evergreen Line	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
925-2024	Jane Street at Industrial Road	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
933-2024	22707 and 22839 Victoria Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
934-2024	12858 Fysh Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
935-2024	22564 Scane Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
936-2024	71 to 79 Victoria Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
943-2024	5729 to 5781 Queens Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
944-2024	6073 to 6151 Queens Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
945-2024	22969 to 22989 Drake Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
946-2024	Drake Road at Fojtik Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
947-2024	5th Line East between Drake Road and Centre Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
948-2024	5th Line East between Centre Road and Bell Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
949-2024	6718 5th Line East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
950-2024	6736 5th Line East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
951-2024	5th Line East at Bell Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
952-2024	5th Line East between Bell Drain and Raleigh Plains Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	42
953-2024	6869 5th Line East to Hitchcock Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
954-2024	Hitchcock Drain to 7142 5th Line East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 24, 2025	39
959-2024	6280 to 6433 7th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
960-2024	6280 7th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
961-2024	6308 7th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
962-2024	20475 to 20785 Merlin Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
963-2024	Merlin Road at 16th Concession Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
964-2024	Merlin Road at Simpson Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
987-2024	Centre Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	31
988-2024	6th Line East at Centre Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	31
989-2024	6144 6th Line West to Drake Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
990-2024	6144 6th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
991-2024	Middle Line at Snell Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
992-2024	5904 Middle Line to Snell Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
993-2024	6052 Middle Line to Doane Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
994-2024	Middle Line at Kersey Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
995-2024	Middle Line at 6th & 7th Sideroad Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43



**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
996-2024	Middle Line at Graham Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
997-2024	Middle Line at Roe Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
998-2024	Middle Line at Dolson Broadbent Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
999-2024	Middle Line at Dillon Road Drain 12-13	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
1000-2024	Middle Line at Bentley Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
1001-2024	Middle Line by Simmons Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	43
1002-2024	5694 to 6336 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
1003-2024	5000 to 5148 Talbot Trail	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
1004-2024	4619 to 5000 Talbot Trail	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
1005-2024	Talbot Trail at Askew Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
1006-2024	22444 to 22455 Drake Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
1007-2024	6664 Seventh Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
1008-2024	7226 9th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	65
1009-2024	7342 Middle Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1010-2024	Middle Line at Upper Portion Doyle Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1011-2024	Middle Line at Brush Drain and Vail Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1012-2024	6716 to 7004 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1013-2024	Talbot Trail at Burns Gully Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1014-2024	Talbot Trail at Sandison Brush Outlet Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1015-2024	Talbot Trail between Radmore Road and Port Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1016-2024	Talbot Trail at Cooper Drain Outlet Portion	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1017-2024	Talbot Trail between #3874 and #3990	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1018-2024	Talbot Trail at Cooper Drain West	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1019-2024	3299 to 3474 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1020-2024	3088 to 3288 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
1021-2024	1400 to 2725 Baptiste Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1022-2024	2725 Baptiste Road to 177 Queen Street North	Tilbury West	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1023-2024	231 Erie Street South to 20847 Merlin Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1024-2024	6336 to 6739 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1025-2024	5593 to 5705 11th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1026-2024	5535 Merlin Road to Hoy Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1027-2024	5535 Merlin Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1028-2024	Swanton Line at Mancell Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1029-2024	21756 Merlin Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1030-2024	21670 Merlin Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1031-2024	Merlin Road at 10th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	70
1032-2024	21422 Coatsworth Road to Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	59
1033-2024	Coatsworth Road at Hutchinson Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	59
1034-2024	3021 3rd Concession Line to Coatsworth Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	59
1035-2024	3022 3rd Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	59
1036-2024	Merlin Road at HWY 401	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1037-2024	6360 Queens Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1038-2024	4896 to 5051 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75
1039-2024	Middle Line at Eight Creek Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75
1040-2024	Haskell Road at Eight Creek Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75
1041-2024	5051 to 5265 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1042-2024	5078 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1043-2024	5150 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1044-2024	5178 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1045-2024	5230 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1046-2024	Middle Line at Hickey Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1047-2024	5458 Middle Line to Hickey Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1048-2024	Merlin Road at Lahey Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
1049-2024	Merlin Road at Finn and Cooper Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1050-2024	21187 Merlin Road to Finn and Cooper Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1074-2024	Tasker Road at Joyce Mifflin Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1075-2024	Badder Line at Hickey Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1076-2024	5207 Badder Line to Gray Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1077-2024	4332 Badder Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1078-2024	Badder Line at Conley Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	71
1079-2024	VanEdie Road at Glenwood Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75
1080-2024	Glenwood Line along Nelson Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75
1081-2024	4214 Glenwood Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75
1082-2024	Glenwood Line along Driver Drain West	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75
1083-2024	4396 Glenwood Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	75



**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
<b>2015 Permits</b>					
011-2025	204 Prince Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 03, 2025	18
012-2025	Longwoods Road, East of #7931	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 14, 2025	29
015-2025	Fleuren Drain at McMillan Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Feb 14, 2025	30
016-2025	17560 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Feb 13, 2025	21
018-2025	22089 Talbot Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Feb 13, 2025	19
021-2025	4605 Woodhull Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: Feb 14, 2025	16
048-2025	Sinclair Line at Clendenning Drain East Branch	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 17, 2025	45
049-2025	852, 854, 856 Hiawatha Beach Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 13, 2025	2
063-2025	Keith Cameron Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 14, 2025	9
064-2025	19251 Fargo Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
065-2025	Fargo Road at New Scotland Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
066-2025	Bisnett Line at Hartford Mead Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
067-2025	18293 Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
068-2025	18049 Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
069-2025	18405 Sykes Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
070-2025	18171 Sykes Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
071-2025	Fingal Line at Lakeview Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
072-2025	24233 St. Clair Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
073-2025	24651 Baldoon Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
074-2025	24573 Baldoon Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
075-2025	24517 Baldoon Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
076-2025	Southeast of 24517 Baldoon Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
077-2025	24379 Baldoon Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
078-2025	8084 St Andrews Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
079-2025	Pine Line at Pain Court Creek Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
080-2025	6720 St. Philippes Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	1
081-2025	Knights Line at Baird Drain Open	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	53
082-2025	Knights Line at McPhail Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	53
083-2025	88 O'Neil Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 06, 2025	0
084-2025	23127 Kent Bridge Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 12, 2025	2
087-2025	3356 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 28, 2025	7
088-2025	220 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 25, 2025	0

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
089-2025	224 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 25, 2025	0
090-2025	460 Keil Drive South	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	6
091-2025	4891 Talbot Trail	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 18, 2025	6
093-2025	Eddie Drain - Branch D	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: March 26, 2025	29
094-2025	63 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	1
095-2025	Allison Line at Fargo Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
096-2025	20043 Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
097-2025	8957 Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
098-2025	7834 Sixteenth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
099-2025	7793 Seventeenth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
100-2025	Sixteenth Line at Miller Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
101-2025	19867 Charing Cross Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
102-2025	19881 Charing Cross Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
103-2025	19799 Charing Cross Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
104-2025	19727 Charing Cross Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
105-2025	19671 Charing Cross Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
106-2025	Allison Line at Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
107-2025	5017 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 05, 2025	2
109-2025	57 Parkwood Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 28, 2025	2
110-2025	35844 Rose Avenue	Shedden	Southwold	Granted: Feb 26, 2025	2
111-2025	12483 Furnace Street	Morpeth	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 27, 2025	0
113-2025	535 Bayview Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 10, 2025	0
114-2025	19525 Lakeshore Road 303	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: March 17, 2025	0
115-2025	167 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 17, 2025	0
116-2025	240 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 17, 2025	0
117-2025	244 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 17, 2025	0
122-2025	5633 Balmoral Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 25, 2025	5
123-2025	Bear Line Road by Gregory Drive West	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
124-2025	6377 Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
125-2025	East of 23726 Winter Line Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
126-2025	7676 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
127-2025	5861 to 5882 Tecumseh Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
128-2025	Gowrie Drain & Pump Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 26, 2025	8
130-2025	Stella Meadows Subdivision	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: March 25, 2025	6
131-2025	Dymock Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: March 20, 2025	0

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in February and March 2025)**

**B.D. 04/17/2025**

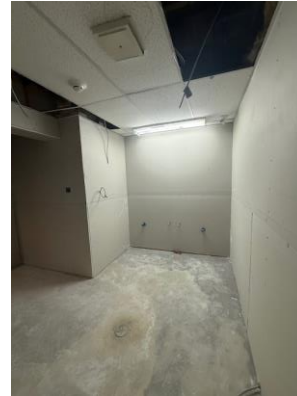
App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
132-2025	Tecumseh Road @ Big Creek Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: March 21, 2025	0
133-2025	77 Vanier Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 21, 2025	0
134-2025	535 Bayview Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 28, 2025	4
135-2025	25 Victoria Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	4
137-2025	176 London Road	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 27, 2025	0
140-2025	Between 32884 & 32996 Aberdeen Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: March 31, 2025	0
143-2025	34 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	0
144-2025	2128 Mersea Road 10	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: March 28, 2025	0
146-2025	146 Murray Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	0
147-2025	5987 Rivard Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	0
148-2025	11824 Bates Drive	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: March 31, 2025	0

## 10.5) Conservation Lands

### 10.5.1) Conservation Areas

#### Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The Longwoods Resource Centre elevator, washroom and gallery renovation are well underway. The Elevator pieces are on site at this time and will be installed over the next couple weeks while the washroom, gallery and lobby areas are constructed. The majority of the work is due to be completed by the end of this month with a project completion in May.



*Photos of Longwoods Road Resource Centre- gallery, washroom, windows and elevator shaft*

#### CM Wilson Conservation Area

Westhoek Construction has been working throughout the month of March and into April to ensure that the new Phosphorus/Agricultural Workspace is completed as soon as possible for staff to hit the ground running this spring. The workspace will house three of our sampling staff with one wall featuring desks/work spaces while the other wall will feature stainless steel countertops, commercial sink and dishwasher to help increase efficiency in their day to day tasks.





*Photos of CM Wilson Learning Centre- Agricultural Workspace.*

### **Camping**

Camping season is gearing up and seasonal agreements have gone out to our seasonal campers at Big Bend and C.M Wilson. Staff are working on cleaning up the campgrounds and prepping and updating washroom facilities.

### **Rental Houses**

Our Lighthouse Property currently does not have any renters at this time, contractors are working on this property currently as we remedy the property construction. Annual walk throughs are scheduled in May for the rental houses to ensure they are in good working order and maintain good working relationships with the tenants.

### **Team Building & Events**

Lands staff are scheduled to take an RX 100 Low Complexity Prescribed Burn Course. This course will help ensure staff are familiar with this process when we need to undertake this activity on our properties. This does not necessarily mean they will plan and run a prescribed burn but it provides the overall guidance to ensure they are trained and aware of the procedure.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy**.

Healthy and Climate Resilient Watersheds  
Connecting People to Nature  
Organizational Excellence

## 10.6) Conservation Services

### 10.6.1) General Update

#### Urban Stewardship

Over the past several months, we have been diligently planning and preparing for the spring field season, coordinating nearly 25 community events for this spring alone, and engaging various groups such as schools, rotary & horticultural clubs, and businesses. We also recently participated in a seed paper-making workshop with the CKSS Environmental Club, fostering hands-on learning experiences that inspire youth to engage in sustainability efforts.



*CKSS students participating in seed paper making workshop*

Our recent community engagement efforts have seen outstanding participation. Both of our tree giveaways sold out within just two days each, demonstrating a strong demand for native tree planting and a growing public interest in environmental action. Additionally, our over-the-counter large stock tree sales continued during this period, with demand exceeding expectations. This strong interest underscores the program's growth potential and further supports our efforts to enhance urban and rural green spaces. A radio advertisement highlighted our initiatives, while a morning show featured discussions detailing the great work that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is doing in urban environments.



We also hosted two additional webinars, "Grounded in Nature" and "Invasive Species 101," which rounded out our 4th annual Winter Webinar Series. This series has proven to be an excellent way to engage community members throughout the colder months, offering accessible and informative sessions that keep environmental stewardship at the forefront year-round.



Planning is also well underway for the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)-funded Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) program. This initiative is progressing in collaboration with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to select communities for implementation, ensuring that neighbourhoods most in need of sustainable solutions receive targeted support.

Our Urban Stewardship Technician has embarked on a year-long training course through the Young Conservation Professionals Leadership Program. Administered by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the University of Guelph, this program will enhance leadership capabilities and provide advanced training in conservation efforts, ultimately strengthening our team's ability to execute impactful environmental programs.

### ALUS Elgin

It's been a productive and rewarding few months here in ALUS Elgin!

I successfully passed my performance review in March! Further, at the request of the PAC, I pursued and received my Ontario pesticide certification in Agriculture this February. This additional qualification will help support our ongoing work with participants, particularly as we look at managing invasive species and maintaining pollinator habitat across some of our established sites.

Since January, I've completed 14 site visits across Elgin County, meeting with a range of farmers and landowners to explore new project opportunities and check in on established sites. These visits have helped build relationships, grow interest in ALUS, and identify exciting restoration and enhancement possibilities. From these, I have a growing list of participants interested in wetland projects set to be established later this year, including a big project I'm quite eager to get started—transforming Mike Oden's flooded farmland in collaboration with the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.



*The photo shows a low-lying section of Mike Oden's farmland which holds standing water after snowmelt and rain. This area is well-suited for wetland restoration—its bowl-like topography, surrounding tree cover, and proximity to natural runoff make it ideal for habitat creation, water filtration, and flood mitigation.*



I attended the Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) Conference in March, where I had the chance to connect with numerous farmers from across the province and even a few from the U.S. border states. The conversations were engaging and informative—many producers were curious about ALUS, and I was able to refer several potential participants to ALUS communities across Ontario. It was also a great opportunity to learn more about innovative cropping systems, conservation tillage practices, and cross-border trends in sustainable agriculture that could inform our local work.



*Russell Vey (ALUS Elgin) and Erica Ion (ALUS Middlesex) at their booth in the GFO Conference.*

So far this year, we've held two PAC meetings—one conducted through a virtual survey to keep approvals moving forward, and another hosted at the Burwell House, which was a big success. Across the two meetings, the PAC approved 10 new projects that will now move into the establishment phase. The PAC also voted in Andrew McCallum for another term as Vice Chair.

I've been doing my best to manage and organize essential project files—recovering and restoring documents where needed to ensure operations continue smoothly. Having our files in order has been key for processing annual payments and ensuring each project is correctly documented in the database and remains on track with their respective conservation agreement.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we're aiming to keep momentum strong and continue supporting producers in creating meaningful, nature-based solutions across Elgin.

### **Eastern District**

Our Eastern District Stewardship Technician, Tyler Thornton has been busy working in liaison with contractors and landowners planning wetland, trees, grassland, and soil erosion control projects throughout the eastern district of the watershed during the winter-spring months. Tyler has been actively conducting site visits with landowners interested in future land stewardship projects, to which there has been heavy engagement. Tyler has applied and received funding from all partnership organizations to which he applied to for upcoming stewardship projects to be implemented this year. Tyler has attended the Elgin Clean Water Program Meeting & the ALUS Middlesex Pac meeting to discuss his projects with the affiliated organizations for funding. Tyler continues to manage and the over-the-counter tree orders for this upcoming spring season and organize a tree pick up day out of Longwoods Conservation Area for some of the –over-



the-counter orders. Tyler has participated in collecting viable native tree seeds, which will be shipped to our affiliated nurseries. Tyler has been busy applying for permits for some of his stewardship projects that fall within regulated areas and is awaiting approval. Tyler has attended a two-week soil erosion control course where he obtained his advanced soil erosion certificate through The University of Guelph, which furthered his understanding of erosion control measures to assist rural landowners. Tyler presented the best project maintenance award to a corresponding landowner who participated in a stewardship project within the eastern district of the watershed at the AGM meeting, which was held in March. Tyler also further promoted stewardship outreach via a radio ad campaign, which focused on soil erosion issues for rural landowners within the local watershed. Tyler is currently organizing a large stock tree giveaway event in liaison with Trees Canada and the Municipality of Dutton, which is to be held April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Dutton Community Centre. Tyler is continuing to assist the Species at Risk team with a livestock exclusion fencing project, which is scheduled to be completed between April 21-25. Tyler is communication with two different high schools from the local area to construct both wood-duck & bluebird boxes that will go to landowners who engage stewardship projects with the LTVCA. Tyler is getting prepared for the upcoming tree planting season.

### **ALUS Middlesex**

As we enter spring and the weather begins warming up, ALUS Middlesex has started the field season, attending site visits with new and returning ALUS Middlesex program participants. Through continued collaboration with the LTVCA, other local Conservation Authorities and community partners, ALUS hopes to establish many new grassland and tree plantings projects, as well as wetland habitats in 2025.



*Photo from a site visit to a current participants property in Middlesex County. This wetland was completed in 2024 and is about 1.5 acres in size.*

In February, ALUS Middlesex actively engaged in many outreach activities, driving project interest through farm shows and local events. We attended a Landowner Workshop hosted by St. Clair Region Conservation Authority highlighting the types of projects available for funding this year to educate local landowners, and we attended the London Farm Show hosted at the Western Fair Agriplex. In addition, ALUS Middlesex partnered with ALUS Elgin to host a booth at the Grain Farmers of Ontario March Classic on March 18<sup>th</sup>.



***Erica Ion (ALUS Middlesex Program Director) and Graham Moddle (ALUS Middlesex Project Coordinator) at the ALUS Booth at the Grain Farmers of Ontario March Classic Event held at RBC Place in Downtown London.***

On top of the attendance at local events, ALUS Middlesex was busy presenting as guest speakers. A Professor of the Agri-Business program at Fanshawe College invited Erica to be a Guest Speaker for the Issues in the Agri-Food Industry course. Here she spoke to students about the ALUS Program and some recent projects that were completed. Graham was also invited by ALUS Canada to present at the ALUS National Program Conference showcasing some unique prescribed burn projects from the ALUS Middlesex Program.



***Erica Ion, ALUS Middlesex Program Director, presenting to the Issues in the Agri-Food Industry Class at Fanshawe College.***

Lastly, since the last report, ALUS Middlesex has held two PAC meetings, the first and second of the year. During the first meeting, an election occurred where PAC members voted for a new ALUS Middlesex treasurer, and both the first and second meetings saw many new projects approved. We are excited to establish these projects in the coming months.



### Wetlands and Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership

All wetland 2024 projects have been completed and wrapped up, with staff hard at work completing site visits and working on 2025 project designs. In a push to get projects ready before tree season, permits are being submitted and approved for this year's wetland and erosion control projects. With the completion of the Ag Erosion Control course, staff are now better equipped at assessing and completing erosion control projects.

Staff have been in liaison with a contractor for clover seeding, and anticipation is building as we wait for the right day to see the drone in action prepping some tree project sites with ground cover.

Materials have been purchased to assist in the seed collection process, with wood to build multiple trays and racks for storing and drying. In addition to multiple wood planks purchased with the intent to build wood duck nesting boxes.

Multiple meetings with funding partners have taken place to discuss this year's projects and line up projects, including Ducks Unlimited Canada, Elgin Clean Water Program, ALUS CK and ALUS Elgin.

Once the fields start to dry and flooding concerns are gone, staff will look to seed grass and oats on completed wetland projects to ensure vegetation is established as soon as possible.

#### Completed Wetland Projects:



*Muirkirk (Hastings Line) Wetland – 2 acres*

### ALUS Chatham-Kent

With winter behind us, farmers in Chatham-Kent are eager to plan stewardship projects for 2025 and 2026, and leads continue to come in. One delayed wetland project was started, and a funder offered assistance for phragmites control, so we brought a consultant out to create a plan to tackle this troublesome invasive species.



*New wetland during construction, near Highgate*

The ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and on March 10<sup>th</sup>. A new sub-committee was formed to investigate fundraising and outreach opportunities. The PAC approved fourteen new projects for 2025, including: seven new tree projects, where 12,155 trees will be planted on 20 acres; four projects that will establish 10.8 acres of buffers along Queen’s Line and municipal drains; and annual payments for three new wetlands, totaling 3.6 acres, that were excavated in late 2024. With the last round of approvals, we can comfortably hit our funder targets for 2025.

Funding is limited this year, due to many factors, including uncertainty with tariffs and a possible change in the federal government, resulting in many funders pushing pause on their programs. Despite this, we continue to meet with farmers and plan projects.

#### 2025 Targets.

NRCAN – 16,000 trees / 28 new acres of tree projects only. There are currently 16,455 trees approved to proceed with establishment this spring.

ECCC-Precision Conservation – 25 new acres of wetland and riparian projects. There are currently 24.75 acres of projects, with fifteen participants, that have been approved to proceed.

ECCC-Priority Place – 41 new or renewed acres, of any project type. There are 40 acres up for renewal this year and so far, seven participants with 22 acres of projects have signed up for another 5-year term.



*Checking up on a 5-year old wetland up for renewal, near Blenheim*

## 10.6.2) Agricultural Initiatives

### Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP)

#### Best Management Practices

January and February of 2025 were spent wrapping up deliverables for the 2024 of the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP). The Agricultural Administration Assistant was busy with processing final applications, GIS mapping of the cover crop projects, and issuing cheques to participants. All staff are contributing to the 2024 annual report that will be submitted to the Canada Water Agency. The 2025 PPRP program was officially launched on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. In the first month of the 2025 program, staff have received over 80 applications across the eight different BMP grant opportunities. Staff will continue to process and review the applications as they are submitted in the coming weeks and months and are developing a process for project audits and approval letters.

Agricultural staff members attended training courses in Guelph for certification on primary drainage and agricultural erosion control. These courses focused on survey techniques, agricultural drainage, and the design and suitability of various erosion control structures. In March, the Agricultural Stewardship Specialist and Agricultural Program Coordinator conducted soil testing for the Oneida clan mothers to assess fertility and contamination in community gardens, with the goal of reviving traditional farming practices using indigenous crop varieties. Additionally, the Agricultural Stewardship Specialist visited a project site in collaboration with the stewardship team, which involves multiple wetlands and a rock chute spillway overflow. Other site visits included meeting with landowners to discuss a grassed waterway and tree planting windbreaks. Staff continue work to review all applications to the PPRP and finalizing the process for project audits and approval letters.

#### Outreach and Education

LTVCA's Agricultural Outreach and Communications Technician has actively promoted the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program by designing branded products, hosting industry events and creating content for both digital and traditional media.

In February, LTVCA engaged the regional agricultural community by organizing Precision Ag, an educational luncheon. Attendees gained insights from three industry experts on soil testing, best management practices, and the impact of sustainable agriculture. A survey collected feedback on the event and program, revealing future topics of interest and assessing the success of the launch. Soil testing and land health were reported as key interests, along with requests for clarification on program eligibility. These findings led to assistance planning two April events focused on addressing program questions and challenges. Survey data found participants travelled across the watershed to attend the event in February and therefore, a decision was made to host two sessions across the region in April to promote participation watershed wide.



To kick off the 2025 PPRP program, the Agricultural Communications and Outreach Technician has designed and printed program guidebooks to walk farmers through the application process, financial incentives, and program requirements. These guidebooks were distributed to all applicants and event attendees. Feedback provided praised the clarity and conciseness of the information.



Our analysis of the PPRP audience revealed key insights to enhance communication impact. Audiences have responded best to email news blasts and in-person advertisement. Flyers distributed in rural communities have proven most effective in reaching the Lower Thames agricultural community. A targeted distribution of flyers was conducted in the Newbiggen Creek subwatershed. Additionally, personal visits to agri-businesses, external digital community calendars and traditional media have shown higher engagement than social media promotions.

### **Water Quality Monitoring and Analysis**

As part of the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program, monthly sampling at monitoring stations initiated under the PWQMN and GAP projects is currently ongoing by Water Quality staff members. Notably, the program has established two new monitoring sites due to high nutrient concentrations within these subwatersheds. Both Newbiggen Creek and East Two Creeks now feature ISCO 6712 portable samplers, which are collecting water samples biweekly to better understand changes in water quality parameters (Figure 1).

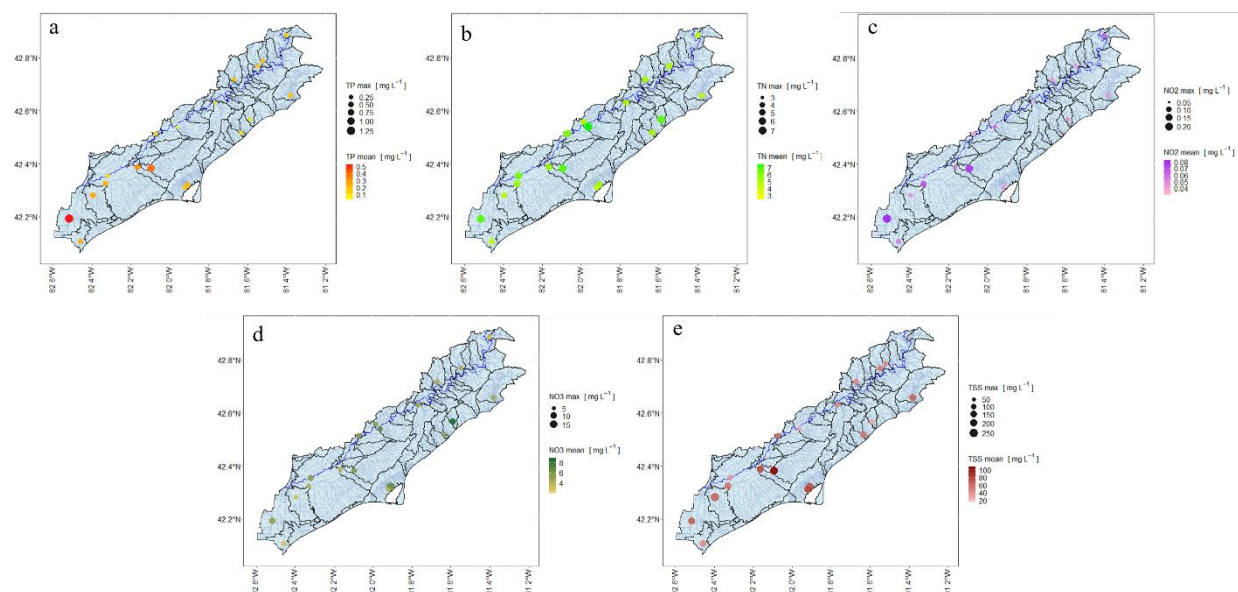
Additionally, the Water Resource Analyst has been busy organizing and analyzing historical data alongside new data to identify patterns and trends across subwatersheds. This information is essential for understanding hydrological functioning and other ecological dynamics in these areas. It will also help identify what subwatersheds should be prioritized in the future. Figure 2 displays the spatial distribution of average concentrations for total phosphorus (TP, mg L<sup>-1</sup>), total nitrogen (TN, mg L<sup>-1</sup>), nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub>, mg L<sup>-1</sup>), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>, mg L<sup>-1</sup>), total suspended solids (TSS, mg L<sup>-1</sup>). The analysis shows that indeed higher nutrient concentrations are primarily found in previously designated priority subwatersheds, including Big Creek (noted for a higher number of greenhouse establishments), McGregor Creek, and Jeannettes Creek. These subwatersheds are characterized by more than 80% of their land dedicated to agriculture.

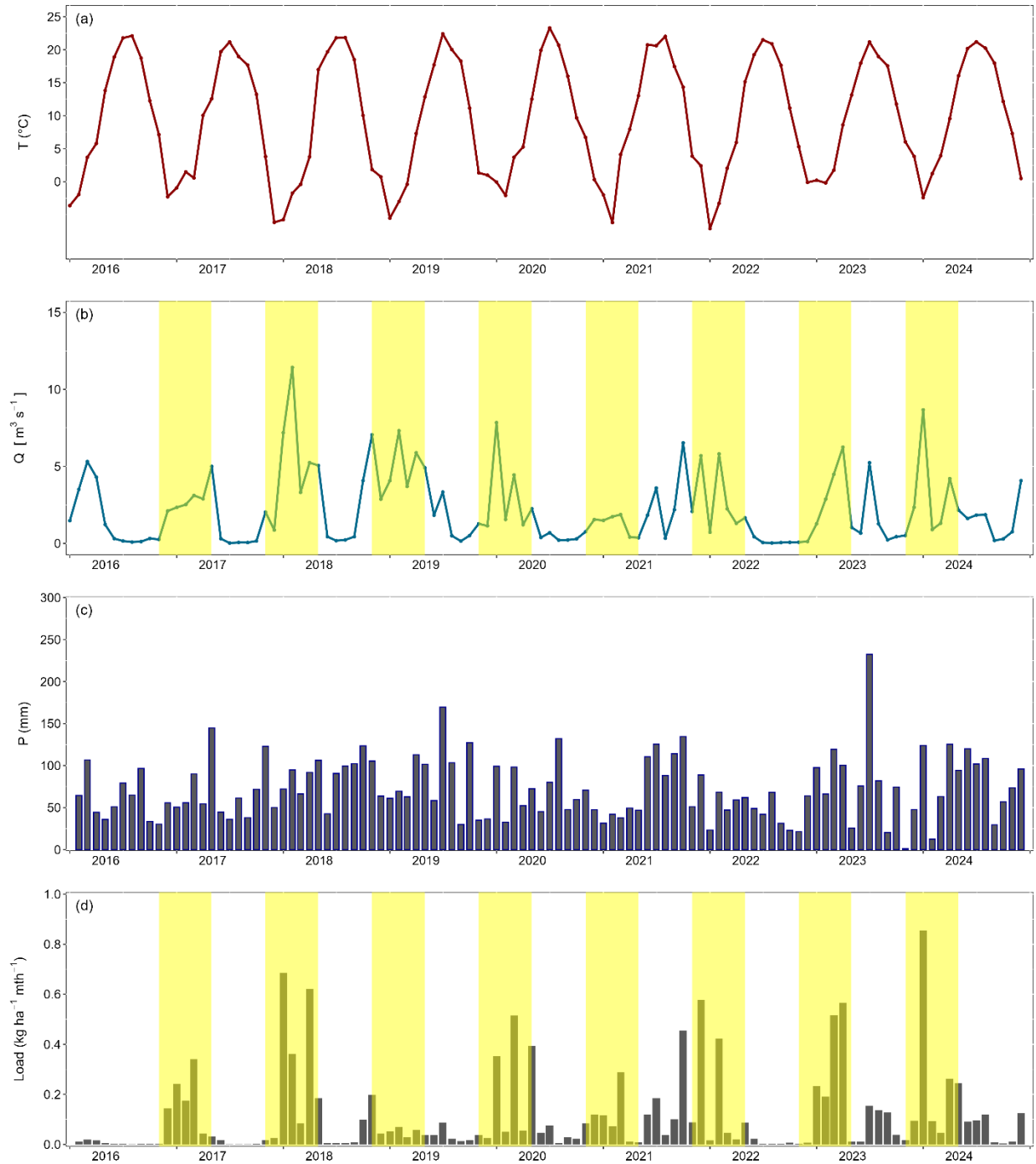
While the information from these concentration patterns is useful to assess water quality because it has biological significance to organisms of concern, at the watershed level, it is more relevant to analyze loads as it represents the mass of a nutrient discharged into a water body over a given period (e.g., tons of sediment per year). Generally, higher flow rates result in higher nutrient loads. Consequently, the PPRP is currently working on estimating loads for subwatersheds where flow data is available, starting with McGregor Creek (Figure 3). Further analysis will be needed to estimate loads in areas where flow data is not accessible.

Ongoing discussions with professors from the University of Guelph and the University of Toronto are expected to lead to research collaborations that will combine a diverse range of skill sets. This collaboration aims to enhance our understanding of non-point source pollution in the watershed by integrating data, modeling, and more advanced statistical methods.



***Figure 1. Photographs of the field crew installing ISCO 6712 autosampler at East Two Creeks.***





**Figure 3. Interannual variability of meteorological variables and load calculations. (a) Monthly air temperature (°C); (b) Monthly mean discharge ( $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ); (c) Monthly total precipitation (mm); (d) Monthly load calculation for phosphorus ( $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{month}^{-1}$ ). The highlighted months in yellow correspond to the non-growing season.**

This project is undertaken with the financial support of Canada Water Agency, a Government of Canada Department of Environment and Climate Change program. The LTVCA has been approved for \$13,000,000.00 in funding to administer the program from 2024-2028. The majority of the funding will be allocated to provide incentives to farm businesses for implementing Best Management Practices. The LTVCA will also receive funds for outreach and education, water quality monitoring and to offset the cost of administering the program.



The ONFARM program, developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and LTVCA staff have been busy conducting edge-of-field sample collection and data compilation.



The LTVCA Soil and Water Quality Technician conducted sampling during 3 events from late February to early April, with 112 samples collected across 7 sites. In February, and March, events were primarily caused by rain events and above 0 temperatures causing snow melt. This also led to multiple surface water collection opportunities. In late March/Early April, there was a total of 62 mm of rain on three different days. This led to a multiple peak event to be sampled and analyzed.

The LTVCA staff were also hard at work by quality controlling and calculating the 2024 nutrient load data for the Fairview and Merlin sites. This data was used in the formulation of the 2024-2025 ONFARM Water Quality Technical Report. In this report, four 2024 events at the Fairview site were highlighted including their tile discharge and phosphorus loads. This data depicts preliminary results on water quality and organic amendment use.

To improve sample collection efficiency, new equipment was purchased for the Merlin ONFARM plots. Modems were purchased for the MA plots to enable sampler initiation via the internet. New sensors were also purchased for the surface water flumes, so that samplers could be triggered based on water level changes. These automatic or remote initiated equipment upgrades will reduce mileage and travel time to sites, while increasing reliability especially with unpredictable summer thunderstorm events.

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

Thirteen of sixteen temperature and dissolved oxygen data loggers were returned to the manufacturer for operational checks, repairs and recalibration in preparation for the 2025 field season. Additional sensors have been purchased. New ways of deploying the units have been devised to make them easier to deploy and retrieve in the future.

A review of aquatic SAR recovery strategies and management plans, along with the LTVCA's aquatic SAR threat assessment, is being undertaken to identify the greatest impacts on these SAR and recommended strategies for recovery that the LTVCA is capable of undertaking with funding support.

Lamprey, Fishing in Rondeau Bay and seven aquatic plant Invasive Species Alert factsheets, as well as three Aquatic Species at Risk guidebooks (fish, mussels and threats) have been distributed in the Rondeau Bay watershed.

## 10.7) Communications, Education and Outreach

### 10.7.1) Communications

#### **Staff Newsletter**

In January, a monthly staff newsletter was introduced. This newsletter is distributed to all staff members and provides updates on relevant information, including upcoming events, statutory holidays, social committee initiatives, and staff recognition for years of service. The newsletter is scheduled for release on the first of every month.

#### **Conservation Area Guidebook**

The 2025-2026 Conservation Area Guidebook has been distributed to Windsor, Tilbury, and Toronto Tourism Centres, as well as all libraries within our watershed. Conservation Area Parking Passes have also been given to Middlesex County Library and West Perth Public Libraries to continue our commitment to accessibility into our conservation areas.

#### **Public Newsletter**

The quarterly public newsletter was released in April for the spring edition. The newsletter is available for review on the following page.

#### **New Handouts and Materials**

Several new informational handouts have been created, including a guide on sandbag wall construction, a guide to potted stock, and a flyer for the Big “O” Birding event. The Communications Specialist has been actively working with all departments to develop a variety of public-facing materials.

#### **Website Launch**

The new website is on track to be launched on May 1, 2025. We are very excited about the final product and look forward to its release.



# Lower Thames Conservation

## NEWSLETTER

### Update on Seedlings

If you ordered seedlings they will arrive shortly. An e-mail will be sent out with information about tree pick-up dates, times and locations. Please keep an eye out.

### Field Season

Spring for staff is extremely busy and many are out doing field work with little access to e-mail or cell service. Please be patient during this time, we will get back to you as soon as we can!



### Urban Stewardship

Large stock tree order updates will be emailed with dates and locations for pickup within a few weeks.

### 2025 Parking Passes

With warm weather approaching don't forget to get your 2025 Conservation Area Parking Pass; \$65 each or two for \$100. Many local libraries have them available to borrow free of charge with a library card, contact your library to find out more!



### Conservation Areas

Want to start birding? There are many viewing opportunities at our Conservation Areas! Pick up a copy of our 2025 Conservation Area Guidebook today.



[www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)



### Upcoming Spring Events

- East Free Tree Giveaway: April 12 - Registration Required
- West Free Tree Giveaway: April 19 - Registration Required
- Breakfast & BMPs: April 24 & 25 - Details Below
- Big 'O' Birding: May 17 - Details Below

For more details on our upcoming events follow us social media!

### Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The renovations at the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum are nearing completion. A key objective of these renovations is to establish an inclusive and accessible environment for everyone. To achieve this, an elevator is being installed to ensure that all visitors can access every exhibit. If you'd like to contribute to the elevator funding, please check the link below to make a donation.



### Camping

Camping season starts on May 16, 2025 at C.M Wilson Conservation Area and Big Bend Conservation Area. If you are looking for a campsite, you can book online at [letscamp.ca](https://letscamp.ca).

If you are interesting in becoming at seasonal camper at C.M Wilson Conservation Area please email [adam.gibb@ltvca.ca](mailto:adam.gibb@ltvca.ca) and for Big Bend Conservation Area email [nicole.clark@ltvca.ca](mailto:nicole.clark@ltvca.ca) to be added to the waitlist.

### Nature Notes

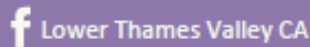
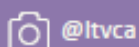
Birding in Southwestern Ontario is a BIG deal. You may be wondering why. The Lower Thames Watershed is located in two migratory flyways: The Atlantic and the Mississippi. That means when birds fly to their summer breeding grounds many come through our area to stay or for a rest break during this long journey.

### Website

Something new and exciting is coming soon! LTVCA has a full website redesign in the works, and we hope all of the work being done will improve accessibility and navigation for the public. The URL will stay the same ([www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)), but we are looking forward to a new, modern design with improved user experience. We anticipate the launch of the new site will be May 1, 2025, so stay tuned for updates and don't forget to follow us on our social media channels in the meantime!

### Conservation Tip

Delay garden clean-up until soil temperatures are consistently 10°C to support pollinators.





# Birding BIG 'O'

When: May 17, 2025

Time: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Big O Conservation Area  
ON-77, Comber, ON, N0P 1J0



- ✓ Wild Ontario Bird Show 10 a.m- 12 p.m.
- ✓ Nature Walks
- ✓ Children's Activities

Contact Us  
[info@ltvca.ca](mailto:info@ltvca.ca)



 **Lower Thames  
conservation**



# Breakfast & BMPs



**Rise & Shine! Join LTVCA for a Q&A session over a hot breakfast.**

We're hosting two events in April to help answer your questions about the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP).

**SIGN UP NOW**

**Please note:** pre-registration is required for both events.



Questions about the program or event?  
**AGRICULTURE@LTVCA.CA**

**24**

APRIL

## WESTERN EVENT

🕒 8:00AM – 10:00AM

📍 Links of Kent – River Room  
120 Indian Creek Road W  
Chatham, ON. N7M 2E2

**25**

APRIL

## EASTERN EVENT

🕒 8:00AM – 10:00AM

📍 Arrowwood Farm & Events  
6460 Riverside Drive.  
Melbourne, ON. N0L 1T0

**The Lower Thames Valley PPRP is offering regional farmers the chance to apply for financial incentives to implement agriculture best management practices (BMPs).**

## 10.7.2) Education

Our education team recently met with the education teams of St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. SCRCA was courteous enough to share their program guides for some of their most popular programs., with the hope that when LTVCA staff learn them, schools in the Chatham-Kent area will be able to come to C.M. Wilson Area instead of having to leave their watershed.

As a follow-up to these meetings, and discussions with board representatives, program descriptions are being adapted to fit the “catalogue” format that the Lambton-Kent District School Board uses to share credible field trip programs with their teachers. Once these new programs are secured, LTVCA staff will share that with the local school boards.

A focus of the education programs recently is helping to reinforce that there are many Indigenous communities in our area with distinct traditions, cultures, and languages. It has been beneficial to this endeavour to share how communities differ through stories and teachings.

### *Longwoods Road Conservation Area*

Following a brief hiatus due to construction, education programs have resumed at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Bookings resumed almost immediately following a very successful March Break. The intention was to utilize the pavilion washrooms for groups throughout the spring, but due to plumbing issues, portable washrooms and a hand wash sink have been brought on site.

Program bookings remain strong despite the Museum being closed and a wait list has started for visits to Longwoods Road.

A trend towards group sizes above our capacity, or just greater than is feasible for a single educator, has been noticed. The Curator/Team Lead for Education has reached out to other organizations to compare notes. This seems to be a trend across organizations.

The Curator will be going to Fanshawe Pioneer Village to provide programming at the London District Catholic and Thames Valley District School Boards Heritage Fair at the end of April. They have also been asked to circulate during project viewing to provide students a chance to share their work and practice their presentation skills.

### *C.M. Wilson Learning Centre*

The C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Advisory Committee met in January and February, reviewed the relationship framework and the first draft of the 5-year strategic plan for C.M. Wilson. Ideas for the future of the safety village and programming were well received at the meetings. We await feedback in order to update the draft.

The Indigenous Community Educator out of C.M. Wilson has partnered with the Walpole Island Heritage Centre to generate educational resources to be utilized by both organizations.

We continue to promote education program availability at the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre. To support this endeavor the Corporate Services Department is currently undertaking the hiring process for a Casual Conservation Educator. Following initial training this individual will be engaged on a by booking basis with the hopes that the role will expand as more programming is scheduled at C.M. Wilson.

The storytelling workshops delivered at C.M. Wilson towards the end of the winter received positive feedback, with the CK Museum department reaching out about the potential for the delivery of a presentation to them at their next department meeting in the fall as a result.

### *Battle of Longwoods Education Day*

Attendance has dropped for the Battle of Longwoods Education Day given scheduling conflicts for a number of schools. At the moment approximately 300 students will be in attendance.



## Community Connections



The STEAM Centre from St. Thomas was onsite with us for another engagement recently and dropped a gift off to the education team. Earlier this year they joined us to take a look at the longhouses to get inspiration for a project the iSTEAM program had in mind. This little longhouse model was the result!

Our friends from Six Nations Tourism attended the museum for a nice visit. Our guests got to experience the village and the individuals who are involved with telling the Haudenosaunee Confederacy story. Overall, it was a great start to a new friendship and we look forward to building these connections with folks doing similar work.

Following a very successful March Break, supplies of clay needed to be replenished so a trip had to be made to Oakville following a long wait for stock to be available. It was a wonderful opportunity for our team to see more of where our clay is produced. The replenishment of these supplies have allowed us to continue our pottery workshops this spring.

The Education Team visited the Walpole Island Heritage Centre to discuss connections, collaborations. It was also an opportunity to visit another location with a traditional structure. The lodge built close to the centre is made in a similar fashion to the Longhouse Village. This granted an opportunity to compare experiences and techniques.

Fishing Friendly has also reached out to us about them delivering a learn to fish program out of C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, as they have done in the past. We are awaiting their confirmation.

## Programs and Events

### March Break



During March break, we hosted drop-in pottery and Bluebird box making activities at both the Longwoods and C.M. Wilson locations. They were wildly successful, and having 132 participants at the pottery day alone at C.M. Wilson. This has demonstrated the demand for more drop-ins for families in that part of the watershed. As such future drop-in programs are being planned to test the engagement levels of week night drop-ins.

### Outreach



The Indigenous Community Educator for Longwoods was on hand at the Middlesex Centre Archives Heritage Fair in Delaware at the end of March. They were able to speak with over 50 individuals that had shown interest in Ska-Nah-Doht and the Longwoods Road Conservation Area. We proudly displayed some museum pieces, a poster for the Battle of Longwoods to be held in May, as well as a flyer promoting membership in the Village Advisory Committee. The Heritage Fair is a wonderful opportunity to appreciate other local organizations and connect with community. We look forward to more community engagement sessions in the future.

### *Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival*

Water festival planning is going well! Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER) and the Walpole Island Heritage Centre have agreed to join us as activity centres, and we are currently looking into securing another native reptile booth.

### *Battle of Longwoods*

Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4, 2025 the Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society, in partnership with the authority, will present the Battle of Longwoods. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

## **10.7.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum**

As of April 7, 2025 the Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook page has 3,973 Followers. The Instagram page for the Village has 732 Followers.

### ***Digital Strategy***

The 2025 requirement for the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) is a Digital Strategy. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Gaming has just released expectations for this document which include: digital content, collections documentation and digitization, programs, online marketing and opportunities for improvement. This document is due June 30. As such, the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee will be meeting in early June to allow for document approval at the June Board of Directors Meeting.

### ***Strategic Plan***

The 2026 CMOG requirement is a copy of the Museum's Strategic Plan. The current plan runs through 2026.



## Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

### *DRAFT MINUTES*

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held via zoom at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 20, 2025. The following members were in attendance:

D. Fairbairn, B. Bruinink, C. Parker, K. Loveland, and M. Peacock. Regrets G. Bogart, S. Hipple. Also, in attendance: A. Klages

#### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SND-2025-1 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved that the minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

#### 2. Business for Approval

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

SND-2025-2 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved that Mark Peacock chair the Ska-Nah-Doht Committee 2025 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.

C. Parker nominated B. Bruinink, he accepted the nomination.

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

SND-2025-3 K. Loveland – C. Parker

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.

K. Loveland nominated C. Parker, he accepted the nomination.

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

SND-2025-4 B. Bruinink – D. Fairbairn

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

CARRIED

C. Parker was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.

## 2.2) Appointment of Sub-Committees\*

a) Education (2 members): S. Hipple, C. Parker

b) Village Build (2 members): D. Fairbairn, K. Loveland

c) Policy (1-2 members): B. Bruinink, M. Peacock

d) Events/Fundraising (2 members): as SND is currently supporting the fundraising endeavours of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation as part of the construction process for the Indigenous Learning Centre the entirety of the Advisory Committee will sit on the Events/Fundraising Committee for 2025.

The Curator noted that G. Bogart may be retiring from the committee. They have been contacted but no definitive answer has been received.

SND-2025-5 C. Parkier – K. Loveland

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

Tyler French, has been hired as the Indigenous Community Educator for Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

The LTVCA Education Team, have been scheduling meetings with new partner organizations and other departments within the organization to see who we can better assist with their goals. They are continuing to work on strategic planning for the future of programming, the integration of new exhibits into programs, and revitalization of current offerings.

New exhibits continue to be developed. The new fishing exhibit is nearing completion.

The Curator is currently completing the course Connecting for Climate Change through the University of Western Ontario.

### 3.2) Grant and Funding Updates

Applications for Canada Summer Jobs 2025 have been submitted. We await funding decisions.

Reporting for Enabling Accessibility is due in the coming month. The Curator has drafted the report and will submit it following final approval of the CAO and Manager, Conservation Lands and Services.

Funding for the Assistant Curator role was received from Canadian Tourism HR in early/mid-March.

Our application to the Westminster College Foundation was not approved.

The Curator attended two grant / funding workshop and networking events in late 2024 / early 2025.

### 3.3) Education Programs

Over the summer months the Curator hopes to connect with the Education Committee to discuss updates and changes to programs.

Education programming has limited dates available following March Break. We anticipate late May and June dates being filled. We have had teachers send regrets for the spring with the Museum being closed.

On April 24, 2025 the Curator will be going to Fanshawe Pioneer Village to participate as an activity station for the Thames Valley District and London District Catholic School Boards Heritage Fair.

Registration is currently open for Battle of Longwoods Education Day. The Education Team will be providing 1 station that day.

### 3.4) Events and Workshops

2025 Confirmed Events/Outreach:

- March Break Drop-In Activities, March 10, 12, 2025
- March Break at Westmount Mall, March 14, 2025
- Middlesex Centre Archives Heritage Fair, March 29, 2025
- Battle of Longwoods, May 3-4, 2024
- Artifact Day, July 6, 2025
- London Public Library Programming

Future events are being explored.

### 3.5) Update on the Indigenous Education Centre

The annex for the elevator has been created, the wall on the lower level of the building has been removed to allow elevator access. The wall that used to separate the old staff office / centre theatre has been removed and a false floor added to make the floor flush throughout. The washrooms on the lower level have been removed in order for renovations to occur.

### 3.6) Village and Cabins Update

Repairs at the Village have been delayed because of the true winter weather experienced in 2024/25. It is anticipated that these will take place as weather improves.

Cabin roofs are scheduled to be replaced in 2026.

SND-2025-6 D. Fairbairn – C. Parker

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.6 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Digitization Plan Update

The Curator will be dedicating more time to the Digitization Plan in the coming weeks. We are still awaiting further details on what will be required by CMOG for the June 2025 application.

SND-2025-7 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved that item 4.1 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting Dates

June 5, 2025- New Date

September 18, 2025

November 20, 2025

March 19, 2026

6. Adjournment

SND-2025-8 C. Parker – K. Loveland

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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B. Bruinink  
Chair

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



## 10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association February 13 Minutes

### WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

**General meeting** held February 13 2025 at the Jackson residence.

**Attendance:** Mark Peacock, Gerry Soulliere, Rick Taves, Mike Diesbourg, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Pauline Sample, Sheilah Marans, Roger Dundas, Lorna Bell, Ken Hatt, Joe Pinsonneault.

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

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

**Memorial Groves:** We can plant more trees along the trails and have many trees that could be chosen as memorial trees. We may put memorial pavers around some of the sidewalks.

**Prop. & Equip. :** We will ask Bubba to come in to trim some trees around and near the stage while the ground is frozen. The new posts have been installed in the pavilion, some cleanup will need to be done. L.T.V.C.A. held a cleanup day at Two Creeks at the end of January, it was organized by Genevieve. 69 donation letters have been mailed out. The pavilion has been rented out for events in June, July and September. The Delta Water Fowl group wants to install some wood duck boxes in the creek which they will clean out. Rick moved, Joe seconded. The Fish Fest organizers have booked a band at Two Creeks for June 27.

**Concerts:** The Wheatley Swans will make a \$5000.00 to Two Creeks in May. All 14 concerts have been booked.

**Financial Report:** Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Nov. 31 2024 was \$45,600.57. Account balance as of Dec. 31 2024 was \$25,424.86. Moved by Roger, sec. by Lorna report be accepted as read. ( Carried ).

**Correspondence:** Kyra Knapp wants to hold a concert in downtown Wheatley to support Wheatley along with our help. It was decided to give Brian Cobby \$400.00 per week to provide sound for our concerts. Rick moved, Mike seconded ( Carried ).

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Joe moved for adjournment at 8:04pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.



## 10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association March 6 Minutes

### WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

**General** meeting held March 6 2025 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

**Attendance:** Gerry Soulliere, Sheilah Marans, Joe Pinsonneault, Lorna Bell, Lee & Linda Pearce, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Rick & Forest Taves, Roger Dundas, Ken Hatt.

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

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

**Memorial Groves:** It was decided that we will hold off on installing the memorial paving stones.

**Prop. & Equip.:** If Bubba cannot do the tree trimming we will try to get Goudreau's instead. There are 2 groups that would like to use the pavilions for Easter egg hunts. A \$5000.00 grant from the Windmill Group was applied for. We need a letter from L.T.V.C.A. allowing us to remove the old Willow bridge culvert, we have applied for a grant to help pay for it.

**Concerts:** Kyra Knapp will hold her support Wheatley concert on June 7 2025, we will supply the sound which they will pay for. The concert flyers have been printed. There will be 2 more indoor concerts and our buttons will be for sale at each one.

**Financial Report:** Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Feb. 2 2025 was \$25,424.86. Account balance as of Feb. 28 2025 was \$36,277.62. Moved by Roger sec. by Joe report be accepted as read ( Carried ).

**Correspondence:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** It was decided to move the meeting time back to 7:00pm from now on.

**Adjournment:** Joe moved for adjournment at 7:08 pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

# 11. Correspondence

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## 11.1) Muskoka first in Ontario to call for provincial action on road salt pollution

### Muskoka first in Ontario to call for provincial action on road salt pollution

Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition also raising issue with conservation authority, City of Barrie, Town of Georgina  
OrilliaMatters Staff  
Mar 19, 2025 10:30 AM



Stock photo

#### NEWS RELEASE

#### ONTARIO SALT POLLUTION COALITION

\*\*\*\*\*

As the dust settles from the provincial election, Muskoka is wasting no time when it comes to tackling road salt impacts.

On Monday, Muskoka became the first Ontario jurisdiction to pass a resolution declaring the need for provincial action on salt pollution from road salt.

The District of Muskoka council passed a resolution which asks the province to both advance limited liability for the snow and ice management sector and to create a

stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province on managing salt pollution in Ontario's lakes and rivers.

The resolution was initiated and moved by Muskoka District chair Jeff Lehman, who issued the following statement: "The district is pleased to work with local cottage associations, the landscaping industry, and environmental groups to help mitigate the impacts of salt and ensure the right amount is used in the right way in the right places. Building on previous district work and commitments, we look forward to continuing to improve lake health and provide leadership in reducing the environmental impact of road salt in Muskoka."

Groups across Ontario are coming together with clarity to make sure the impacts of winter road salt are on the provincial agenda of Ontario's newly re-elected government.

Ontario is Canada's No. 1 user of winter salt, applying approximately two million to three million tonnes of salt each winter. Road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats including serious, irreversible environmental and public health damages. Other impacts to drinking water sources, critical public infrastructure (roads, bridges, buildings), and private property are also important concerns.

Currently, there are no provincial policies or regulations for road salts, including no salt use standards, required training, enforcement mechanisms, or protections against salt pollution.

This policy void has created liability issues for snow and ice management contractors and has left municipalities out in the cold to deal with salt pollution issues locally. People across Ontario are coming together to work together toward provincial action on salt pollution which protects water-based ecosystems and drinking water sources.

Joe Salemi, executive director of Landscape Ontario, says, "Landscape Ontario has been urging the provincial government to make legislative changes to alleviate the disproportionate liabilities currently shouldered by Ontario's snow and ice contractors. We are also developing training and accreditation programs to establish a standard of professionalism for everyone working in this critical sector. Once a legislated mechanism is in place that more equitably addresses liabilities, snow and ice management professionals will be free from fear of litigation and therefore will be able to use the right amount of road salt with appropriate application rates. To the benefit of the environment, this legislative change is estimated to reduce the amount of road salt used every winter by nearly 30 per cent."

Municipalities, conservation authorities, non-governmental organizations, and businesses alike have been warning about the growing impact of salt pollution and over-salting for decades, to no avail. Now, they're banding together to ensure this issue gets the attention and action it needs.



The Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition is leading this initiative to pass resolutions of support for provincial action on salt pollution to get the provincial government to take this issue and need action seriously. They say Ontario will soon see many more jurisdictions passing these resolutions.

Dani Lindamood, campaigns director at Water Watchers and lead organizer of the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition, shared, "Municipal leaders see this issue as a no-brainer to support because they've been dealing with the impacts for decades. We have strong support in critical jurisdictions like Waterloo and Hamilton, where the resolution is making its way through the municipal review process and will soon be before councils for support. We have meetings in Toronto and many other cities with committees and conservation authorities who are keen to learn how they can support our work. We are optimistic other municipalities, conservation authority boards, and businesses will join us in ensuring this issue is taken on by the province by passing their own resolutions."

"I'm headed to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority at the end of March, and am already in discussions with Barrie and Georgina, on Lake Simcoe," says Claire Malcolmson, executive director of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition. "Lake Simcoe is the poster child for what you don't want to happen: The entire lake is projected to be at the chronic salt pollution level within a generation, in 33 years. Councils with waterfront should be shouting from the rooftops for provincial action on this issue."

A draft resolution can be seen [below](#). The Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition invites anyone invested in mitigating the impacts of salt pollution to consider passing this resolution of support for provincial action on winter salt pollution. Other cities considering resolutions include Waterloo, Hamilton, and Durham with high hopes for Toronto, Ottawa, and Sudbury to follow soon.

Salt pollution needs a provincial-level solution to make meaningful, long-term strides to reduce water, land, and human health impacts. Individuals can help elevate this issue by going to [www.saltcoalition.ca](http://www.saltcoalition.ca) and submitting a comment to Ontario officials that we need urgent action on this issue. Businesses can support the campaign goals, too, by signing a letter to the province [here](#).

**DRAFT MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION**  
**to Support the Need for Provincial Action on Salt Pollution from Road Salt**

Whereas road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental and health damage from road salt; and

Whereas salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

*Whereas - add local statements on salt pollution, local municipal actions taken to minimize salt impacts, local salt concerns, economic damages from salts, etc. if available for that municipality*

Whereas the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

Whereas numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and %

Whereas increased numbers of slips and falls claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

Whereas unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

Whereas the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government-approved BMPs for salt application; and

Whereas many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. *This municipality* urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially-endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management; and
2. *This municipality* urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and



3. This municipality commits to the % as much as possible while maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and

This resolution be sent to all municipalities in xxx Region, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local MPPs, Conservation Ontario, Minister Andrea Khanjin (MECP), Interim Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP), Attorney General Doug Downey, and Premier Doug Ford.

## 11.2) City of London 2026 Budget

**From:** Murray, Kyle <kmurray@london.ca>

**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 4:33:42 PM

Hi everyone,

I hope this e-mail finds you well and that you are enjoying the early days of spring.

While we are only a few months into 2025, I wanted to reach out to provide some early information regarding the City of London's 2026 budget process. As you may know, in February, London Mayor Josh Morgan issued a Mayoral Direction that indicated "the Civic Administration, along with Agencies, Boards, and Commissions, **BE DIRECTED** to bring forward options for consideration that, if adopted, would produce a 2026 property tax levy increase under 5%." With the tax levy increase for 2026 currently sitting at 6.4% after the 2025 Budget Update, this means that a reduction of at least 1.5% is required to achieve a tax levy increase under 5%. 1.5% translates into a total required reduction of approximately \$13 million. As part of this Mayoral Direction, Civic Administration was also instructed to develop a proposed process for achieving this direction, which was outlined in a recent report to the Budget Committee. Here is the link to that report: <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=114636> Also attached is the Council resolution related to this report, particularly drawing your attention to part c): "Agencies, Boards and Commissions BE REQUESTED to submit budget amendments for the 2026 Budget Update totaling a minimum reduction of 1.5% of each entity's net property tax-funded budget, with priority to options resulting in permanent budget reductions."

While we considered multiple approaches to achieve the desired budget reduction, we ultimately decided on the relatively simple approach of requesting that each entity (i.e. the City and each agency, board and commission) put forward budget reduction opportunities totalling a minimum of 1.5% of the net property tax-funded budget for each respective entity. It should be noted that this is a minimum amount and that each entity is encouraged to submit reduction opportunities in excess of 1.5% where identified. As noted in the report, budget reduction opportunities could take various forms, including the following, but must be realistic and achievable in 2026:

- Budget "right-sizing" opportunities with no service impacts;
- Delays to previously approved additional investments;
- Adjustments to programs, services or service levels; or,
- Additional revenue generation opportunities

The timelines for the 2026 budget process will be similar to last year and will be finalized (along with the 2026 Budget Guidelines document) in the coming weeks, however it is expected that 2026 budget amendments will be due in late August. However, Civic Administration has committed to providing regular updates to the Budget Committee on the progress towards identifying budget reductions. The next meeting of the Budget Committee is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a subsequent meeting planned for June 11<sup>th</sup>. I have attached the template that Civic Administration is utilizing to capture and assess budget reduction opportunities – please feel free to utilize this template in your review for potential reductions in your respective organizations. While we recognize that it will take time for your respective organizations to review your budgets and operations for potential options, we also recognize that there may be budget reductions ideas that you may wish to obtain Council input on before formally putting them forward through the budget process. As a result, if there are potential budget reductions that you would like to include in Civic Administration's May 22<sup>nd</sup> report to the Budget Committee, please send the particulars to me by **May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the latest**. Please note, if that deadline is too soon, there will also be the opportunity to include potential ideas in the June 11<sup>th</sup> report to the Budget Committee as well.

If you wish to discuss this direction or the 2026 budget process in general, I am very happy to schedule individual discussions with you as required. Please note that Mayor Josh Morgan and Budget Chair Elizabeth Pelosa are also intending to schedule individual discussions with each of your organizations to discuss the 2026 budget.

As always, please reach out with any questions or to discuss further.

Thanks,

Kyle



**Kyle Murray (he/him), CPA, CA**  
Director, Financial Planning & Business Support



Finance Supports  
City of London

300 Dufferin Ave., P.O. Box 5035, London, ON, N6A 4L9

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The City of London is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (AUh-nish-in-ah-bek), Haudenosaunee (Hoden-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ah-pay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run). We honour and respect the history, languages and culture of the diverse Indigenous people who call this territory home. The City of London is currently home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people today. As representatives of the people of the City of London, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

## 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.
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CARRIED

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

## 13. Other Business

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## 14. Adjournment

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