



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

June 19, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area
Indigenous Learning Centre

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1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, 21799 Fargo Road, Blenheim, ON at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 17, 2025. The following directors were in attendance: P. Tiessen, S. Emons, K. Lovcland, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, M. Vink, A. Finn, R. Leatham, S. Hipple and P. Van Meerbergen. T. Thompson and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

Mark Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2025-27 A. Finn – K. Loveland

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2025-28 R. Leatham – S. Emons

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of February 20, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Jennifer Libbrecht, from Baker Tilly, provided information around the 2024 Audited Financial Statements.

7.2) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan

Mariah Alexander presented the Draft C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan

7.3) Summary of Spring 2025 Flood Conditions

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

BD-2025-29 S. Hipple – L. Vogler

Moved that presentations 7.1) to 7.3) be received.

CARRIED

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) 2024 Audited Financial Statements

BD-2025-30 H. Aerts – K. Loveland

Moved that LTVCA's 2024 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

CARRIED

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

BD-2025-31 S. Hipple – A. Finn

Moved that 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.

CARRIED

9.3) Appointment to Committees

BD-2025-32 M. Vink – K. Loveland

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

CARRIED

9.4) Update to the Administration By-law – 2025-03 – 3rd and Final Reading

BD-2025-33 A. Finn – S. Emons

Moved 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.

CARRIED

9.5) Appointment of a New Provincial Offences Officer

BD-2025-34 L. Vogler – K. Loveland

Moved 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 28 and Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

CARRIED

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

BD-2025-35 H. Aerts – R. Leatham

Moved that the Board of Directors received the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ending February 28, 2025.

CARRIED

10. Business for Information

10.1) LTVCA and SCRCA Compensation Review

BD-2025-36 S. Hipple – M. Vink

Moved that the LTVCA and SCRCA Salary Compensation Review Report be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

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

BD-2025-37 A. Finn – K. Loveland

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

CARRIED

- 10.3) Water Management
- 10.4) Planning and Regulations
- 10.5) Conservation Area Lands
- 10.6) Conservation Services
- 10.7) Communications, Education and Outreach
- 10.8) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes March 20, 2025
- 10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association February 13, Minutes
- 10.10) Wheatley Two Creeks Association March 6, Minutes

BD-2025-38 S. Emons – L. Vogler

Moved that Business for Information items 10.3) to 10.10) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

- 11.1) Muskoka first in Ontario to call for provincial action on road salt pollution
- 11.2) City of London 2026 Budget

Mark provided the Board of Directors with a brief outline of the City of London request. It was noted that the Chair, Paul Tiessen and CAO, Mark Peacock will request a meeting with the Mayor of London to discuss the request to lower our budget percentage.

BD-2025-39 L. Vogler – A. Finn

Moved that Correspondence items 11.1) and 11.2) be received for information.

CARRIED

12. In Camera Session

BD-2025-40 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

BD-2025-41 K. Loveland – M. Vink

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

CARRIED

BD-2025-42 L. Vogler – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors approve the donation of the property, 3182 Talbot Trail, Wheatley On., to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority based on the reviewed conditions; and

That the CAO and Chair be authorized to sign documents to permit this donation.

CARRIED

Regarding BD-2025-42: Board member Martin Vink requested that it be recorded in the minutes that he voted against this resolution.

BD-2025-43 S. Emons – K. Loveland

Moved that the board approve the negotiation of a donation agreement; and

That the LTVCA receive the lands known as Parts 2 and 4 of Part Lot 15, Concession South of the North Branch of Talbot Road, Township of Southwold, County of Elgin, Plan 11R-11349; and

That the Board directs the Chair and CAO to sign legal documents to allow for this donation.

CARRIED

13. Other Business

None noted.

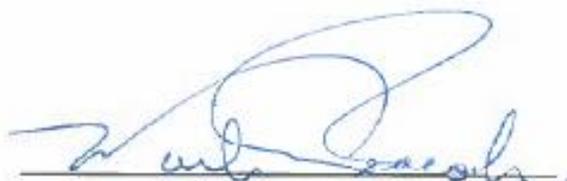
14. Adjournment

BD-2025-44 K. Loveland – M. Vink

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

P. Tiessen
Chair



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

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Presentations

7.1) Summary of 2025 Tree Planting

Greg Van Every will provide a presentation to the Board of Directors on the 2025 Tree Planting season.

7.2) LTVCA Climate Change Strategy

Mark Peacock and Valerie Towsley will provide a presentation on the LTVCA Climate Change Strategy.

7.3) Knowledge Mobilization at Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Alison Klages, Curator of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum / Team Lead for Education will provide a presentation on how knowledge is shared with the public at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

8. New Business

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2025

Date: June 19, 2025
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to April 30, 2025**
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Background:

Review the 2025 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 4 months ended April 30, 2025.

REVENUE	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	5,368,352	1,789,451 *	679,895	(1,109,556)
GENERAL LEVY	1,760,716	1,760,716 ^	1,328,814	(431,902)
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	213,200	213,200 ^	213,200	0
GENERAL REVENUES	832,764	277,588 *	183,211	(94,377)
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0 *	5,387	5,387
RESERVES	0	0 *	0	0
CASH FUNDING	8,175,032	4,040,955	2,410,507	(1,630,448)
OTHER	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	8,175,032	4,040,955	2,410,507	(1,630,448)

*-based on a 4 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on cash received to date

Grant income is less than budgeted due to timing of grants invoiced. A large portion of the difference is due to the Clean Water Program-Precision Phosphorous Reduction Program not making payments to participants until later in the year and the revenue for those payments not being 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 is shown on a cash basis. The following municipalities are paid in full as of June 12th, 2025: Chatham-Kent, Dutton/Dunwich, Middlesex Centre, Southwold, Strathroy-Caradoc, and West Elgin.

General Revenue is below budget due to camping season revenues starting to come in.

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 APR PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	224,158	74,719	64,726	(9,993)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	3	5	2
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	111,333	37,111	43,265	6,154
TECHNICAL STUDIES	197,211	65,737	40,356	(25,381)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	464,496	154,832	150,597	(4,235)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	169,902	56,634	62,429	5,795
SOURCE PROTECTION	28,312	9,437	8,611	(826)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,195,421	398,473	369,989	(28,484)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	871,678	290,559	282,244	(8,315)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	149,477	49,826	42,092	(7,734)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	134,671	44,890	33,979	(10,911)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	126,990	42,330	22,988	(19,342)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	411,138	137,046	99,059	(37,987)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	246,071	82,024	100,566	18,542
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	584,604	194,868	162,157	(32,711)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	4,742,504	1,580,835	490,234	(1,090,601)
SPECIES AT RISK	123,616	41,205	100,659	59,454
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	5,696,795	1,898,932	853,616	(1,045,316)
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,175,032	2,725,010	1,604,908	(1,120,102)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures expenses are slightly below to budget due to some larger annual expenses are incurred later in the year.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are above budget due to flooding events and partially off-set by several large annual invoices received later in the year.

Technical Studies expenses are below budget due to staff time being spent in other areas like Flood Forecasting above.

Planning and Regulations expenses are comparable to budget.

Watershed Monitoring expenses are comparable to budget.

Source Protection expenses are comparable to budget.

Conservation Areas

Conservation area expenses are comparable to budget.

Community Relations and Education

Community Relations, Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to staff spending time in other programs.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

Conservation Services (Forestry) expenses are slightly above budget and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are slightly below budget mostly due to staff time spent between the two programs. Overall the programs are slightly below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Phosphorous Reduction is below budget mostly due to the Clean Water Program-Precision Phosphorous Reduction Program not making payments to participants until later in the year/year-end and most activities and related expenses are completed during the summer months.

Species at Risk is above budget due to March 31 year-end budget expenditures and extra grant funding at the end of the 2024-2025 year.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO APR 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	8,175,032	4,040,955	2,410,507	(1,630,448)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,175,032	2,725,010	1,604,908	(1,120,102)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,315,945	805,599	(510,346)
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,315,945	805,599	(510,346)

At April 30, 2025, LTVCA's operating surplus is unfavourable generally due to some municipal apportionment outstanding. The total income and expenses are less than 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 April 30, 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

10.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: June 19, 2025

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: CAO /Secretary-Treasurer Report

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

Continuing Construction

Two major construction projects are being worked on at the LTVCA in May 2025. These projects being the refurbishing of campground washrooms at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Campground and the refurbishing of the Lighthouse Conservation Area residence. Both projects are moving to completion at the time of writing of this report.

C.M. Wilson Water System Upgrades

Approximately 20 years ago an engineering report recommended major upgrades to the C.M. Wilson principal water system (C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Well Supply System) that is housed in the shop. The C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Well Supply System is the sole water system that provides fresh treated water for drinking and other purposes to the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, visiting groups, students and staff members. The C.M. Wilson Learning Centre houses a private school which is classified as a designated facility. The water supply system receives its raw groundwater from a drilled well. The raw water is treated through a treatment system before being released through underground pipes to the following buildings:

- C.M. Wilson Learning Centre;
- C.M. Wilson Shop;
- C.M. Wilson Gate House;
- Residence (found on-site);
- Stenton Barn (events building);
- Day Use Washroom Building; and,
- Seasonal Campground (top up if the campground system cannot provide enough water for campers).

A second water system provides water to the campground.

The original engineer proposed works were never completed. With the rental of a portion of the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre to the school these works are now required. Due to the presence of the school the water system must be upgraded from compliance with Ontario Regulation 319/08 to compliance with Ontario Regulation 170/05. Additionally, an old heating fuel tank must be decommissioned as it is too close to the source well to meet either of the regulations. Also, the furnace that is fed by this tank is at end of life and needs replacement.

To address the above issues the LTVCA staff have moved forward with extending the existing natural gas line to the shop to be able to decommission the fuel tank and replace the old oil furnace with a new natural gas furnace. This change will result in significant cost savings over the next few years.

To address the change in governing regulation, staff have prepared an Engineering Evaluation Report in conformity with Ont. Reg. 170/05. The existing system is being upgraded to have primary UV disinfection and secondary Chlorination disinfection. Additionally, the water storage is being upgraded to ensure contact times consistent with requirements of Ont. Reg. 170/05. A preliminary MOECP inspection of the site was conducted in May and further to the recommendations by the inspector, revision to the Engineering Evaluation Report have been undertaken and resubmitted for approval.

Construction of the upgraded system is scheduled to begin in July and be completed by the end of August 2025, pending final approval of the Engineering Evaluation Report by MOECP.

Additional Water System Documentation

The work completed on the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Well System has demonstrated that further documentation is needed on the other two drinking water systems operated by the LTVCA. These systems pass annual inspections but much of the knowledge regarding each system is held by LTVCA certified operations staff. These two systems in question are governed by Ontario Regulation 319/08 and are the Longwoods Road Water Supply System and the Big Bend Water Supply System. A draft of an Engineering Evaluation Report has been prepared for the Longwoods Road system and a report will be prepared for the Big Bend system in the next few months.

The drinking water supplied to the Administration office and the E.M. Warwick Conservation Area facility are both from municipal systems and are not the responsibility of LTVCA operations staff.

Compensation Review Update

Pesce Consulting is progressing well with the development of the Compensation Review. Staff have updated all position descriptions and provided all background material required by the consultant. An updated salary grid system has been prepared and reviewed by staff. The next steps involve a comparison of salaries for positions engaging a number of conservation authorities and municipalities. The study is on track to meet the deadlines established. This will allow the Board to consider its recommendations for the 2026 budget.

Letter to Mayor Morgan of the City of London

A letter has been prepared and sent to Mayor Morgan of the City of London from the Chair requesting a meeting regarding the 2026 budget. This is in response to Mayor Morgan's request to cut the levy request from LTVCA for the 2026 budget year,

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

10.2) Water Management

10.2.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have been no flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in April. While there have been severe thunderstorms that passed through the region those storms were not widespread enough to cause regional flooding or to require flood control structure operations. In addition, the region has not seen any strong wind events that lasted long enough to generate significant shoreline flooding.

Report on Lake Conditions

Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of June were around 174.47 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for June was 175.14 m, set in 2019. Water levels at the beginning of June were still 10 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. Through March, lake levels had been near normal. Two events, one at each of the monthly transitions, produced more rapid water level rises. Between the events, water levels were relatively stable. Forecasts suggest that water levels should reach their peak soon and begin their seasonal decline. Water levels are predicted to drop around 2 or 3 cm by the beginning of July.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of June were around 175.24 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for June was 176.02, set in 2020. Water levels at the beginning of June were only 3 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of June. After a large event at the beginning of April that saw water levels rise to where they were last April, water levels dropped back down to just slightly above average. Since then, water levels have been rising this spring at a relatively normal rate, with water levels just slightly above average. Forecasts suggest that water levels should reach their peak soon and begin their seasonal decline, slightly earlier than their usual July peak. Water levels are predicted to drop around 5 cm by the beginning of July.

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. 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.

Stronger wind events (most likely gale force wind events lasting several hours in duration) are now required to cause minor flooding along the LTVCA's Lake St. Clair shoreline and along most of its Lake Erie shoreline. However, the damage caused by high lake levels over the last few years along Erie Shore Drive means it's likely still more vulnerable at lower wind speeds.

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

LEGEND

LAKE LEVELS

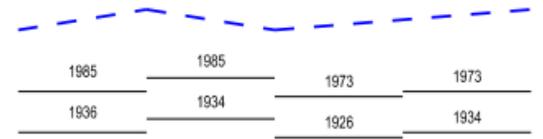
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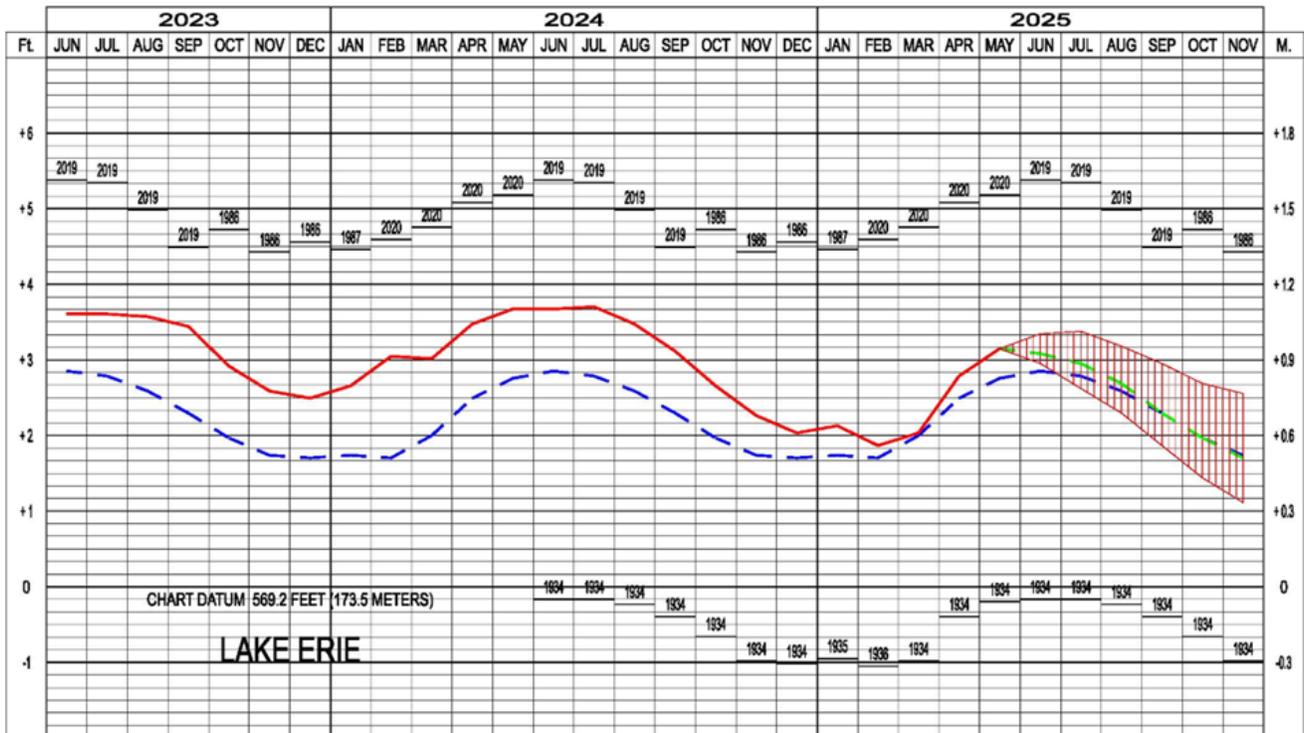
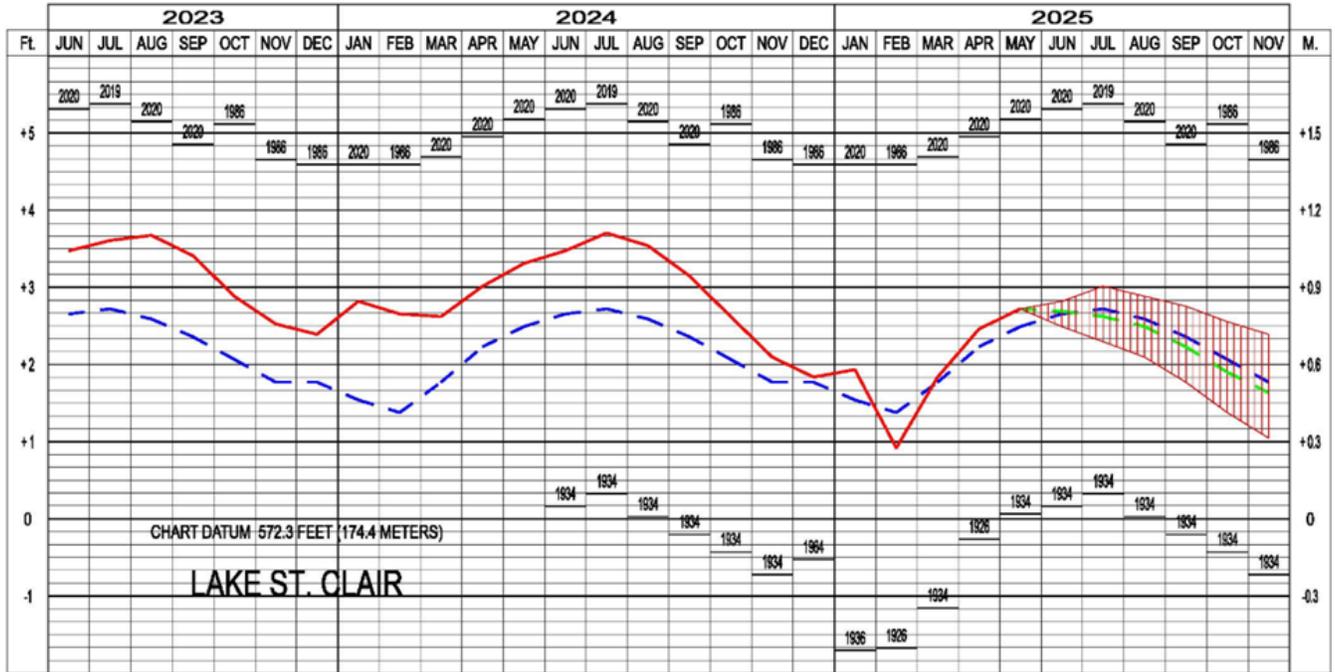
AVERAGE **

MAXIMUM **

MINIMUM **



** Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2021



10.2.2) Flood Control Structures

With no significant rainfall events over the last two months, there has been little activity around the LTVCA flood control structures. Activity has mostly been routine maintenance. Now that we have settled into camping season, additional effort is being put into vegetation control on the Diversion Channel.

10.2.3) Low Water Response Program

The Low Water Response Program looks at both precipitation and flow in local watercourses in determining whether there is a Low Water Condition. For precipitation, both 18-month and 3-month rainfall totals are examined and the program thresholds are: Level 1, 80% of average; Level 2, 60% of average; and Level 3, 40% of average. For flows, the average flow over the last month is examined and the 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.

After an unusually dry February, rainfall returned to near normal for March, April and May. There was a small area south of the city of Chatham that saw slightly dryer conditions, down into the Level 1 Low Water Condition range, but it did not seem to have a significant impact of flows. Throughout May, flows in the Thames River and its tributaries rose above and fell below their long-term median values as the region saw rainfall events and dry periods between the rains. Other than a very brief period at the beginning of May, flows remained above the 25th percentile. Flows on the Thames River also remained above the lowest average summer monthly flow (LASF) for the entire month of May. Overall, the flow indicators in the LTVCA do not suggest a Low Water Condition. There were no concerns indicated by the 18-month rainfall totals. While there was an area of dryer conditions south of Chatham, it does not seem to be representative enough of overall watershed conditions to justify declaring a Low Water Condition based on rainfall conditions.

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

10.2.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. In addition to regularly scheduled sampling, staff are also sampling to capture event-based runoff. This type of sampling is important as studies have shown increased nutrient runoff during larger runoff events. Some maintenance is still being undertaken on the autosamplers that can collect samples during events when staff are unable to get there in-person. The sampling is funded by the MECP through the PWQMN program as well as a grant through the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA).

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 requested an additional spring sample from the Bothwell well. That sample was collected on May 26th.

Health Canada extended its contract with the LTVCA to collect pesticides at 6 locations in the western portion of the watershed. Samples are being collected on Jeannette's Creek, Big Creek, and McGregor Creek as well as at the Rivard, Deary and Dauphin municipal pump stations. Sampling frequency varies by site.

Benthic sampling was conducted in May this year. Benthic organisms are small animals that live on the bed or in the surficial sediments of the bed of our waterbodies. The abundance and type of organisms found in a sample can be used as an indicator of ecosystem health. The data is used for Watershed Report Cards and by partner agencies. The intention is to sample at 12 stations this year. The partnership with the Health Headwaters Lab at the University of Windsor will continue this year. Students participate in the sampling and then identify and enumerate the benthic organisms found in the samples.

10.2.5) Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

Lake Erie Blooms

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues Western Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Early Season Projections in May and June leading up to their Seasonal Lake Erie HAB Forecast in early July. The Early Season Projections give coastal managers and drinking water facility operators a general sense of how “bad” the upcoming bloom season has the potential to be. The forecast is an ensemble of models based largely upon phosphorus discharge from the Maumee River. The Early Season Projection from June 5th is included in this agenda.

With observations through June 2, NOAA continues to predict a potential bloom severity range of 2.5-4.5 (Mild to Moderate bloom conditions), similar to the 2016 (Mild) or 2022 and 2024 (Moderate) blooms.

10.2.6) Geographic Information Systems

Annual updates to the LTVCA's regulated screening area (O.Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) have been completed and the information is under review by internal staff. These edits provide greater accuracy with respect to minor errors, natural hazards (unstable slopes) and wetlands, ensuring evaluated wetlands are included.

The review of our natural heritage layer based on 2020 SWOOP aerial imagery is more than 75% complete. This update, produced to satisfy requirements for an MECP grant, 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. The resulting data will be collated based on ecosystem features, modeled to determine connectivity across the landscape and incorporated into a StoryMap produced jointly between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the LTVCA that focusses on goals associated with our Clear Water Revival / Shared Waters Approach, a watershed strategy that aims to collaboratively improve watershed conditions.

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

Western Lake Erie HAB Early Season Projection

Bulletin 05 2025-06-05

Summary: The Western Lake Erie HAB Early Season Projection provides an estimate of potential *Microcystis* harmful algal bloom (HAB) severity. The projected severity depends on input of total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) from the Maumee River during the loading season (March 1-July 31), and uses a combination of measurements and forecasts of Maumee River discharge from the U.S. Geological Society and the National Weather Service - Ohio River Forecast Center (through July) combined with TBP loads measured by the Heidelberg University National Center for Water Quality Research.

With observations through June 2, we continue to predict a potential bloom severity range of 2.5-4.5 (Mild to Moderate bloom conditions), similar to the 2016 (Mild) or 2022 and 2024 (Moderate) blooms. Through the spring, conditions have been near normal, which included a large precipitation and associated river discharge event in early April and another moderate precipitation event in early May. The projected bloom severity incorporates the predictions of near normal precipitation and river discharge for the remainder of the loading season (June-July). We plan to issue the next bulletin in three weeks, on June 26.

The range in forecasted severity reflects the uncertainty in forecasting precipitation through June and July. We will issue a comprehensive seasonal forecast on June 26. Any bloom that does develop will move throughout the summer due to wind and currents. We will provide information on the presence and location of the bloom via monitoring and forecasts that are [posted daily on the web](#), and emailed to subscribers weekly, in collaboration with NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL).

Predicted Bloom Severity

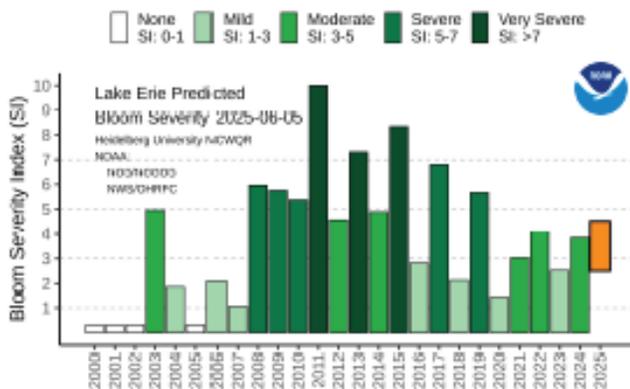


Fig. 1. Predicted bloom severity as compared to previous years. The wide orange bar is the likely range of severity based on current forecast uncertainty (2.5-4.5; Mild to Moderate bloom). The uncertainty in the bloom severity forecast is due to uncertainty in both the bloom severity models and the forecast river flow and TBP loads through the end of July.

Cumulative Total Bioavailable Phosphorus



Fig. 2. Cumulative TBP loads for the Maumee River (Waterville, OH). Each line denotes cumulative load for different years. 2025 is in orange: the solid line is the measured load to June 2 and predicted load for the rest of the loading season (thru July); the orange shading shows the possible load range for the remainder of the season.

Total Bioavailable Phosphorus

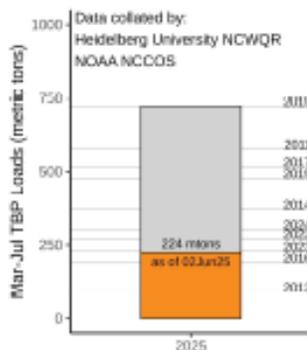


Fig. 3. Total bioavailable phosphorus (TBP) load accumulated from the Maumee River near Waterville, OH to date. The right axis denotes the TBP load from selected previous years.

Satellite Image - True Color



Fig. 4. True color image for 03 June 2025 derived from the Copernicus Sentinel-3a/b satellite. The haze over the region was caused by smoke from wildfires. Residual sediment from recent high river flow produces brown and tan water in the western basin.

For more information visit: coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/ or www.nwr.gov/

Questions? Contact: hab@noaa.gov
1305 East West Hwy, Rm 8110
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
coastalscience.noaa.gov

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10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.3.1) Planning

From the end of March 2025 through to the end of May 2025, there were 73 planning submissions reviewed by staff for this reporting season with respect to the Provincial Planning 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 48 phone calls and over 286 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2024 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	2025 Totals
Chatham-Kent	197	5	16	7	22	30	80
Elgin	33	5	0	1	5	4	15
Essex	31	0	0	0	4	2	6
Middlesex	28	7	2	1	3	3	16
Total Numbers	289	17	18	9	34	39	117

10.3.2) Planning Fees

There were 2 planning submission fees received from member municipalities for the time period between April 1, 2025 through to May 31, 2025.

MUNICIPALITY	APR TO MAY 2025	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Chatham-Kent	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$3,300.00
Elgin County			
Southwold		\$10,000.00	\$1,215.00
Dutton Dunwich			\$0
West Elgin			\$900.00
Essex County			
Lakeshore			\$1,400.00
Middlesex County			
Middlesex Centre			\$0
YTD Total	\$450.00	\$10,450.00	\$6,815.00

10.3.3) Bill 5 and Bill 17

Bill 5 and Bill 17 were brought forward within the last couple of months that have implications on planning matters. They are as follows:

Bill 5, ERO No.: 025-0380 – ‘Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025’. Under this Bill there are two areas of interest.

Schedule 2 – Endangered Species Act, 2007 - it looks like they are defunding certain parts of the Species Conservation Program (SCP) (formerly SAR – such as recovery strategies, management plans, response statements), and now are making \$20 million per year available for stewardship programs supporting SCP protection and conservation.

Schedule 3 – Environmental Assessment Act – for this act it’s very Chatham-Kent specific and deals directly with the removal of Part II.3, of the Act, ‘Comprehensive Environmental Assessments’, which would normally require an application to the Ministry for the development of a terms of reference (TOR) for the proposal and submission of an EA for approval. This section of the Act will be amended to provide that specified activities relating to the Chatham-Kent waste disposal site are exempt from Part II.3 of the Act. This would remove the ability for municipal and landowner input and review of the TOR, the EA and ultimately objections to the proposal.

Bill 17, ERO No.: 025-0461 – ‘Proposed Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006 Changes (Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17 - Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025)’ aids to help make it easier and faster to build new homes and infrastructure like transit, roads, and water and wastewater systems as part of the proposed Bill 17, the proposed Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 and associated regulations.

Schedule 3 and 7 of Bill 17 propose a number of amendments to the Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006. If passed, proposed changes would:

- **Minor Variances:** remove municipal zoning by-law barriers for as of Right Variation from Setback Requirements if a proposal is within a prescribed percentage of the required setback on specified lands. The proposed changes would work with Ontario Regulation 299/19: Additional Residential Units to help remove barriers related to setbacks from property lines for ADU’s.
- **Minister’s Zoning Order:** would allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to impose conditions (i.e., on municipalities or proponents) that must be met before a use permitted by a Minister’s zoning order comes into effect.
- **Study Requirements (Complete Application) and Certified Professionals:** these changes would limit municipal complete application requirements to what is currently identified in municipal official plans, any new or revised requirements would have to be approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It would also create regulation-making authority to create rules to: List topics that could not be required for a complete application; List the only studies that could be required as part of a complete application; and Specify certified professionals from whom municipalities would be required to accept studies.
- **Streamline Planning Approval for Schools:** it would exempt the placement of all portable classrooms at public school sites from site plan control, not just those built prior to Jan 1, 2007. It would also amend the Planning Act to provide explicit permission for the use of Kindergarten to Grade 12 public schools and ancillary uses (such as associated childcare) on urban land zoned for residential uses “as-of-right”.

Note: All ERO notes had similar wording as the following: *All regulations proposed above could and/or would have a neutral impact on the environment, as they would be permitted only in specified lands/areas while maintaining protections for areas such as the Greenbelt and continuing to restrict development on hazardous lands.

10.3.4) 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 142 new permit applications in the months of April and May.

Of the new applications and, combined with previously submitted “incomplete” applications, a total of 87 applications were deemed to be “complete” in April and May and could be reviewed for permitting. Those 87 applications were in addition to the previous queue of 68 “complete” applications leading into this reporting period. 152 of those 155 “complete” applications were processed and all were approved by staff with or without conditions. As of the end of May, three “complete” applications were in the queue for processing.

\$50,600 in permit application fees had been, or was to be, collected as of the end of May which is an increase of \$23,525 over the first four months of the year.

10.3.5) 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 April and May, the average response time with respect to this was 3 days (ranging between 0 and 55 days). 99% of all applications met the required timeline for a “completeness” response.

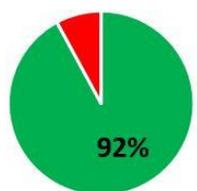
Permit Processing:

For applications issued in April and May, the table and charts below indicate that 100% of “routine” applications, 92% of “minor” private property applications and 17% of all other “minor” applications met their applicable LTVCA customer service standard for turnaround time.



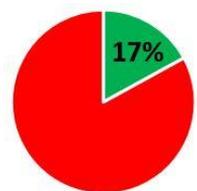
Routine Applications:

For the months of April and May, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was 1 day (ranged between 0 and 8 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 April and May, the average turnaround time was 6 days (ranged between 0 and 27 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 April and May, the average turnaround time was 60 days (ranged between 0 and 103 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. Over the last two months, improvements have been made in processing municipal-related permit applications.

10.3.6) Property Inquiries:

Up to the end of May, 769 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Technician which is 355 more since the last board report. The April and May inquiries were responded to with ~680 e-mails and ~30 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 5 business days for phone calls. The length of time to respond to e-mails is similar, but slightly less than, the last board report. The length of time to respond to phone calls has significantly decreased.

10.3.7) 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.

10.3.8) Section 28 Enforcement:

In the first five months of 2025, 13 complaints / tips were received from the public about possible enforcement issues. This is an increase of 11 from the last board report in April.

10.3.9) O. Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in April and May 2025)

B.D. 06/19/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
2024 Permits					
1084-2024	20866 Haskell Road to Simpson Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1085-2024	4833 Badder Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1086-2024	Badder Line at Haskell Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1087-2024	East of 20806 Haskell Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1088-2024	East of 20722 Haskell Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1089-2024	20667 Haskell Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1090-2024	East of 20650 Haskell Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1091-2024	4716 Simpson Line to Haskell Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1092-2024	4632 Badder Line to Port Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1093-2024	Badder Line at David Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1094-2024	20757 Port Road to Glenwood Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1095-2024	21069 Port Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1096-2024	Port Road at Badder Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1097-2024	20757 Port Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	103
1098-2024	24682 Poppe Road to Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	98
1099-2024	Popper Road at Buchanan Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	98

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in April and May 2025)

B.D. 06/19/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
2025 Permits					
013-2025	Harwich Road along McArthur East Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
022-2025	4705 to 4747 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	89
024-2025	River Line, ~109.3 m west of driveway into #10752	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	32
025-2025	10516 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	32
026-2025	10503 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	32
027-2025	10516 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	32
028-2025	23257 Mull Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	32
029-2025	Harwich Road at McGregor Creek	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
030-2025	Harwich Road at Tedford Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
031-2025	Harwich Road at Martin VanBommel Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
032-2025	Knights Line at McPhail Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
033-2025	Creek Road at McGregor Creek	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
034-2025	9228 Maynard Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
035-2025	Harwich Road at Downie Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
036-2025	Boundary Line at Hartwick Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
037-2025	Blind Fourth Line at Hartwick Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
038-2025	Tenth Line at Lowrie Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
039-2025	Tenth Line at Lewis Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
040-2025	Middle Line at Caldhoun Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
041-2025	Fifteenth Line at McDowell Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
042-2025	Fifteenth Line at McGuigan Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
043-2025	Horton Line at Cantlay Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
044-2025	Drury Line at Wm. Walker Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	81
046-2025	Kent Bridge Road at Bates Bloomfield Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 6, 2025	96

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in April and May 2025)

B.D. 06/19/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
047-2025	12307 to 12443 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 6, 2025	96
050-2025	5823 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
051-2025	5927 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
052-2025	Jacob Road, 132 m S of Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
053-2025	6815 to 6950 Creek Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
054-2025	7373 Creek Line to Winterline Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
055-2025	7639 to 7646 Creek Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
056-2025	7756 to 7841 Creek Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
057-2025	7841 Creek Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
058-2025	7891 Creek Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
059-2025	23644 Bear Line Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
060-2025	7978 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
061-2025	7489 to 7501 Pain Court Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	98
062-2025	8035 to 8143 Seventeenth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 9, 2025	92
086-2025	Shrewsbury Drainage	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	75
092-2025	Rosedale Line over King and Whittle Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 11, 2025	44
108-2025	Zion Road at Yellow Creek Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 2, 2025	35
118-2025	119 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 15, 2025	26
119-2025	111 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 11, 2025	23
120-2025	135 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 11, 2025	16
121-2025	Rhone Crescent/Cremant Place Subdivision	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	27
129-2025	19118 Douglas Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 9, 2025	38
136-2025	Marsh Line at 11th Conc Pump Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 9, 2025	43
138-2025	530 Ross Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 1, 2025	0
139-2025	22962 Scane Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 24, 2025	1
142-2025	24377 Gray Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: April 25, 2025	8
145-2025	32785 Thomas Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: April 15, 2025	18
149-2025	10176 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 3, 2025	1
150-2025	11272 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 3, 2025	1
151-2025	11670 Bates Drive	Morpeth	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 10, 2025	8
152-2025	4191 Carriage Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: April 10, 2025	3
153-2025	13502 Selton Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	20
154-2025	93 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 8, 2025	0
155-2025	12513 Longwoods Road	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 8, 2025	0
156-2025	6544 Mallard Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 10, 2025	1

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in April and May 2025)

B.D. 06/19/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
157-2025	Stinson-McCallum Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: April 11, 2025	9
158-2025	36 Lantern Lane	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 10, 2025	0
159-2025	79 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 10, 2025	0
161-2025	Westdel Bourne @ SHA-CU-W-013	Westminster & Delaware	London	Granted: April 15, 2025	5
162-2025	55 Lincoln Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 10, 2025	0
163-2025	Gardiner Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: April 15, 2025	13
164-2025	Gould Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: April 14, 2025	9
165-2025	11952 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 11, 2025	0
166-2025	236 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 15, 2025	4
167-2025	232 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 15, 2025	4
168-2025	228 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 15, 2025	4
169-2025	11 Cornerstone Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 23, 2025	12
170-2025	15 Cornerstone Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 23, 2025	12
171-2025	12 Cornerstone Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 23, 2025	12
172-2025	16 Cornerstone Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 23, 2025	12
173-2025	Brigham Road, ~800 m S of Longwoods Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
174-2025	Brigham Road, ~1.9 km S of Longwoods Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
175-2025	Bells Road, ~300 m N of Sharon Drive	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
176-2025	Bodkin Road, ~470 m N of Littlewood Drive	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
177-2025	Bodkin Road, ~755 m S of Littlewood Drive	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
178-2025	Bodkin Road, ~1.27 km S of Littlewood Drive	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
179-2025	Bodkin Road, ~170 m S of Elijah Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
180-2025	Westminster Drive, ~55 m E of Carriage Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
181-2025	Bodkin Road, ~580 m S of Elijah Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 20, 2025	28
182-2025	199 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 17, 2025	1
183-2025	203 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 17, 2025	1
184-2025	13563 Jane Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 17, 2025	0
185-2025	Rosalie Robert Drain Extension	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 22, 2025	6
186-2025	157 Tuscany Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 24, 2025	2
187-2025	11958 Rose Beach Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 23, 2025	6
188-2025	95 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 23, 2025	1
189-2025	20013 Pook Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 23, 2025	0

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in April and May 2025)

B.D. 06/19/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
190-2025	Gregory Drive West at Brown Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 24, 2025	0
191-2025	11461 Rondeau Drive	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 24, 2025	8
192-2025	Prince Albert Road at Arnold Creek Drain	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 24, 2025	0
193-2025	872 Hiawatha Beach Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 28, 2025	0
194-2025	24030 Gray Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: April 28, 2025	3
195-2025	Arkwood Road Drains	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 29, 2025	1
196-2025	5667 to 5695 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2025	15
197-2025	Rice Drain - R. Starkman Culvert	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 02, 2025	3
198-2025	588 Indian Creek Road West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 30, 2025	1
199-2025	301 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: April 30, 2025	0
200-2025	745 Lefaive Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: April 30, 2025	0
201-2025	McCahon - Trillium Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: May 2, 2025	2
202-2025	0 Admiral Drive, East of #21070	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: May 28, 2025	0
203-2025	1648 Tilton Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 23, 2025	8
231-2025	Luisterman and Bell Drains	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 5, 2025	3
252-2025	Skipper Drain - C.S. Gleeson Farms Ltd. Culvert	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 23, 2025	21
253-2025	Plum Point Road & Lakeview Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: May 5, 2025	0
260-2025	McKoy Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 6, 2025	1
261-2025	6 Bea Crescent	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 6, 2025	0
262-2025	7 Bea Crescent	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 6, 2025	0
263-2025	345 Island Crescent	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 7, 2025	1
264-2025	4190 Springer Road	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Granted: May 8, 2025	0
265-2025	Depot Road over McCord Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 8, 2025	0
266-2025	McGill Branches of the McMillan Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: May 14, 2025	5
267-2025	10664 Lakeview Drive	Lake Morningstar	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 13, 2025	0
268-2025	Joseph Julian Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 15, 2025	2
270-2025	7371 Fifth Line East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 23, 2025	3
271-2025	175 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2025	1
272-2025	179 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2025	1
273-2025	107 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 21, 2025	0
274-2025	Bloomfield Road at Moody and Earley Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 21, 2025	0

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in April and May 2025)

B.D. 06/19/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
275-2025	English Line at McGregor Creek	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 22, 2025	0
276-2025	Creek Road at McGregor Creek	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 22, 2025	0
277-2025	Fingal Line at Talbot Creek	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: May 23, 2025	2
278-2025	King Street West between Lacroix Street and Second Street and First Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2025	7
279-2025	160 John Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 22, 2025	1
280-2025	19115 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 23, 2025	0
282-2025	19175 Crest River Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: May 30, 2025	2
286-2025	6676 West Street	South Buxton	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2025	0
288-2025	134 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: May 28, 2025	0

10.4) Conservation Lands

10.4.1) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The Longwoods Resource Centre elevator, washroom and gallery renovation are in the final stages of completion with the final inspections and deficiencies the last to be taken care of. We are working on obtaining an additional phone line to meet TSSA regulations for a call out number associated with the elevator.

CM Wilson Conservation Area

Westhoek Construction has completed the work at the CM Wilson Learning Centre and we are just working on the final stages of closing out the building permit and obtaining full occupancy of the space. Staff have moved their items into this location. We have received rave reviews of the efficiency of the dishwasher and how much it has improved our staffs time allocation in terms of getting their materials ready for field work.



Photos of CM Wilson Learning Centre Agricultural Workspace

Camping

Camping season is underway and moving forward. The staff have done a wonderful job getting the campgrounds ready and have done some major work on the CA's. At CM Wilson, the campground washroom received a complete facelift from a new roof, tile, sinks, taps, plumbing, partitions and paint. The public washroom has a new roof and the gate house also received a new roof and a new pay parking sign. At Big Bend Campground the washroom plumbing was redone and new toilets were installed.



Photos of CM Wilson Campground Bathroom Renovation

Rental Houses

Our Lighthouse Property currently does not have renters, contractors are almost completed and we will be working with a realtor to get the house rented as soon as possible.



Photos of Lighthouse Rental House, Kitchen Renovation after mould remediation

Team Building & Events

Staff are scheduled to part-take in Canoe Training this summer with some of our Stewardship staff leading the course as they are ORKA Trained Instructors. Our land supervisors are well versed in the use of canoes and the training around them however, other staff that may be in the canoes with them are not; this training opportunity is a great team building experience to gather knowledge and training in one area and teach each other new skills.

Big O Birding at the Big O Conservation Area had another successful year, and the families seem to love coming out and seeing the bird show put on by the Wild Ontario Education program from the University of Guelph. We had some give away items and a craft for the kids to make pollinator houses out of recycled materials.

Our Eastern District Supervisor also came up with a wonderful idea for our staff newsletter to send in photos of staff on the job, so that we can see the joys and tasks each of our co-workers are doing on a daily basis. This helps build relationships, foster a work place culture of understanding of what our staff are engaging in each day while working with the public.



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

10.5) Conservation Services

10.5.1) General Update

Urban Stewardship

Over the past several months, our team has led a range of environmental initiatives focused on community engagement, habitat restoration, and climate resiliency across the watershed. A key highlight was the Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today program, which saw 200 native trees planted at 10 schools in Chatham-Kent. Delivered in partnership with students, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, and funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF), the program provided students with hands-on learning in environmental stewardship while improving schoolyard biodiversity.



To further support local greening efforts, we hosted two tree giveaways, one in the eastern and one in the western portion of the watershed, through which 400 trees were distributed to residents. These events were well-received, with community members eager to contribute to local environmental health and climate resilience. Additionally, 150 trees were given away during the trail opening celebration at the Wheatley Arboretum, and another 150 trees were distributed to residents during the Ridgeway 150th anniversary celebration, marking the town's milestone with a focus on the future.

In addition to these giveaways, 40 native trees were planted at Rowsom Conservation Area with students from Ursuline College Chatham, combining education with hands-on restoration. Another meaningful youth engagement opportunity took place at Thames Grove Conservation Area, where 55 Ursuline students helped remove invasive species from approximately one acre of tallgrass prairie habitat, aiding in the recovery of this rare and ecologically valuable ecosystem.



In partnership with Enbridge and the Chatham Horticultural Society, a drain cleanup in Chatham led to the removal of over 200 pounds of garbage from a key urban waterway. We also partnered with the Kiwanis Club of Chatham-Kent to plant 37 native trees in municipal and community spaces, continuing our efforts to increase tree cover and improve local green infrastructure.



Finally, a pollinator garden was planted at Henry Smyth Park as part of Enbridge’s “Fueling Futures” initiative. This garden will support pollinator species while serving as an accessible and educational example of native plant gardening for the community.



Western District

Michael Young: Two notable projects of larger size were completed in the first two weeks of May giving us an excellent start to the season. Chatterton site of 10 acres near Wheatley and the Laprise site of 10 acres near Pain Court were completed. These are exceptionally big sites for the Western district. An additional site of 10 acres was the Vogler site near Kent Bridge. These sites indicate an **increased demand for restoration by landowners in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.**

50,603 trees were planted in Chatham-Kent this spring. This includes over 1200 larger stock trees planted with local community groups and citizens. Over **63 acres watershed wide** were reforested by the LTVCA Conservation Services team. Currently 40 tree projects were completed, 9 grassland projects are in progress. 165.5 acres worth of projects are being worked on watershed wide so far in 2025.



Michael Young, Wetland and Stewardship technician, responsible for overseeing and completing the western tree planting sites.



Above pictures show the completed Kusalik wetland, and active tadpole community in the pond.

Now with tree season wrapping up, efforts will shift towards wetland erosion control projects. Permits are being completed, and work is being scheduled for the summer into the fall.



Above shots show the tractor view while completing a tree planting project at two different locations.

ALUS Elgin

Russel Vey: May has been a busy month for ALUS Elgin and LTVCA, with tree planting season in full swing! I spent the first few weeks of the month assisting with tree planting efforts across numerous sites throughout the Lower Thames, supporting habitat restoration and long-term ecological benefits across the watershed.

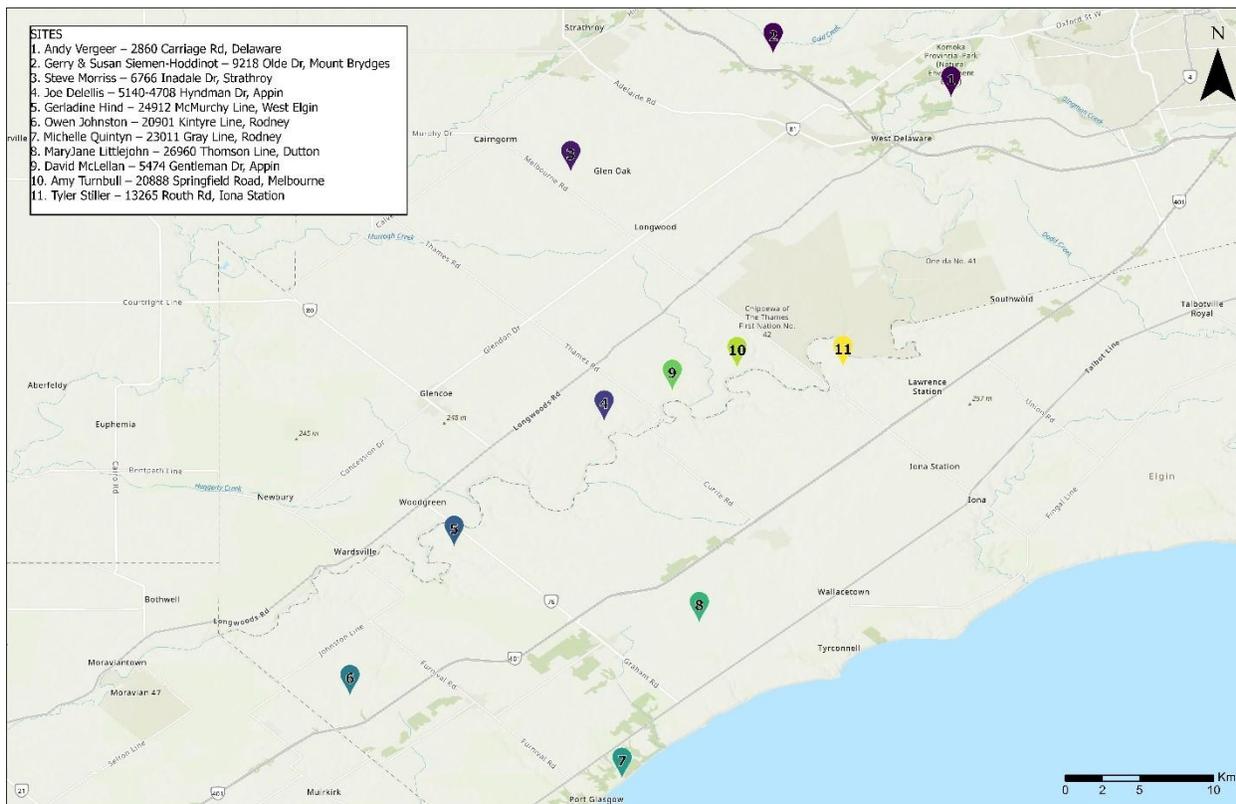


Completed tree planting at Tyler Stiller's farm. The bare soil next to the trees was later seeded with tallgrass prairie and forbs.

In between tree planting days, I managed to complete five site visits across Elgin County. These visits continue to be a great opportunity to engage with interested participants, monitor existing projects, and keep momentum going as we head into the summer establishment season.

I also completed grassland seeding around a previously installed wetland at Bill Ostrander's farm. The site is already showing promise and should provide excellent pollinator and bird habitat once established.

In preparation for several grassland projects set to be completed at the end of May, I created an ArcGIS map that compiles grassland sites from ALUS Middlesex, ALUS Elgin, and the LTVCA. This map was developed to support planning and coordination with our grassland contractor, Joe Csoff, and will be useful for scheduling, navigation, and recordkeeping across all programs involved. Unfortunately, one participant decided to plant over their prepared grassland area and has withdrawn from the program until next year—but overall, the grassland schedule is moving ahead smoothly.



ArcGIS map of grassland projects for ALUS Middlesex, ALUS Elgin, and the LTVCA.

Lastly, I drafted an updated Terms of Reference for the ALUS Elgin Partnership Advisory Committee. This updated document will help clarify PAC responsibilities, improve transparency, and ensure alignment with ALUS Canada guidelines as we continue to grow our local program.

Eastern District

Tyler Thornton: The month of May is the busiest time of the year for our Conservation Services Team and it is where all the prior months of planning and preparation for spring restoration projects are implemented. During May field work has been extensive. LTVCA along with ALUS partners combined efforts to plant a total of 16,070 trees on 12 sites within the eastern district of our watershed. Simultaneously, collaboration with contractors and landowners to establish grassland & wetland projects throughout the eastern district of the watershed was also happening. Approximately 30 acres of native grassland habitat was established across 10 project sites. Two wetland & soil erosion control projects were constructed in the month of May, which were both approximately 0.5 acres in size. A third wetland project, which is to be approximately 0.4 acres in size is currently ongoing and should be completed by June 13th, weather permitting. This year there were two pickup days for over-the-counter tree sales. One at Longwoods & C.M. Wilson on May 1st and 2nd.

A livestock exclusion fence project outside of Wardsville was also completed for the Species at Risk Team. The fencing project protected 4,000 square meters of tributary from cattle entry. This now protected section of the tributary, which flows directly into the Lower Thames River will assist in providing protection for some species at risk located within that area.

Strathroy District Collegiate Institute was commissioned to build 20 wood duck & 20 blue bird boxes, which have already been constructed and picked up. The bird box builds are to be given out to landowners who have conducted stewardship projects with LTVCA in 2025, and they will serve as valuable homes for future habitat.

Current tasks include reporting, invoicing, and other pertinent documentation that is required by affiliated funders with stewardship projects and completing deliverables within a timely manner. The LTVCA has a contract with Trees Canada to assist in tree survival assessments for the partnered projects completed during the 2024 season. Seasonal hires Gabe Argenti and Lukas Munn will assist in completing these assessments and plans to complete these within the month of June, along with the necessary documentation required for submission. Seasonal staff will also be tasked and monitored with providing some herbicide treatment for selective sites within our watershed.

There has been a large uptake locally to conduct restoration projects on their respective properties watershed-wide. Site visits for future 2025 & 2026 stewardship projects continue and have been increasingly common.

Over the next few weeks there will be a shift toward a focus on constructing wetlands during the suitable drier months of the year. Please see below for pictures encapsulating some of the work conducted in the eastern district this spring.

Spring Tree Planting Sites 2025



Quintyn Tree Planting Site near Port Glasgow - 4500 trees



Turnbull Tree Planting Site near Melbourne- 1800 Trees



Kruppe Windbreak Tree Planting Site near Fingal- 700 Trees



Betts Tree Planting Site near West Lorne- 2050 Trees

Spring Grassland Seeding Sites 2025



Stiller Grassland Site near Iona- 2.8 acres of native TGP & Forbs



Quintyn Grassland site near Port Glasgow- 8.8 acres of native TGP & Forbs

Spring Wetland Sites 2025



*Vowel Wetland & Erosion Control Site near Fingal- 0.4-acre wetland
(picture taken after day of completion)*



*McCallum Wetland & Erosion Control site near Iona- 0.5-acre wetland
(picture taken after day of completion for wetland area)*



*McCallum Wetland & Erosion Control site near Iona- WASC0B #1
(picture taken after day of completion for WASC0B)*



*McCallum Wetland & Erosion Control site near Iona- WASC0B #2
(picture taken after day of completion for WASC0B)*

Species at Risk-Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Spring 2025



Schweitzer Livestock Exclusion Fencing site near Wardsville- 4,000 m²

ALUS Middlesex

Erica Ion; Graham Moddle: The past few months have been quite busy for us at ALUS Middlesex with lots of outreach planning and events, in addition to tree planting season. On May 5th, our summer student from the Western University Master's of the Environment and Sustainability (MES) Program, Rowan Deckert, began his position as Monitoring and Research Assistant. His first few weeks involved plenty of training and tree planting, but he has now settled in well and has started to monitor our existing projects. In addition to monitoring existing ALUS projects over the summer and assisting with event preparation, Rowan plans on establishing a standardized monitoring protocol to allow for continuity and easier comparison of database entries over time.



Rowan Deckert, ALUS Middlesex Monitoring and Research summer student from the Western University Master's of the Environment and Sustainability (MES) Program, helping with tree planting in May.

During the month of May, ALUS Middlesex established the tree projects for the 2025 season through continued collaboration with the LTVCA, other local Conservation Authorities, and community partners. This year we planted more than 16,000 trees and we aim to continue the establishment of many new tree plantings projects in 2026. Over the past couple of weeks, as tree planting season has dampened, we also began planting some spring grasslands projects in collaboration with LTVCA.



Graham Moddle (ALUS Middlesex Project Coordinator) at a field site that has just been planted into a grassland buffer strip in collaboration with the LTVCA.

Over the past year, ALUS Middlesex has been a part of the Environmental Action Incubator Program that is hosted by the London Environmental Network (LEN). We received funding for a Wildlife Monitoring Program to promote community engagement in local wildlife by making data publicly available. On April 16th, we attended the LEN Green Leader Awards Night, and we were honoured to be presented with the Community Impact Award, sponsored by London Hydro. This was a great accomplishment for our team, and since then, we have continued to work with LEN in creating a short video to showcase the project.



Erica Ion, ALUS Middlesex Program Director, receiving the Community Impact Award on behalf of ALUS Middlesex for our Wildlife Monitoring Program at the London Environmental Network Green Leader Awards.

Another highlight of the past few months at ALUS Middlesex was hosting our Strong Roots Community Planting Event. In April, through the generous support of Nature London, collaboration with students in an Outdoor Education Course at a local high school, and other community groups, we hosted a community planting event at the Crump Family Farm. The students were first introduced to the program through a presentation in their class by Erica Ion (ALUS Middlesex Program Director) and were then invited out to the planting site. The students helped with project planning and created a list of native species to plant at the site. Advertisement via email and social media helped to assemble 50+ community members for the planting event, and on June 4th, participants planted native wildflowers and shrubs surrounding the Crump’s new wet meadow restoration project. A local, farm-to-table meal was enjoyed by those who attended the event, and members of several community organizations were able to interact and connect. Overall, the event exemplified ALUS’ values of nature-based solutions and community engagement.



Strong Roots Community Planting Event hosted by ALUS Middlesex on June 4th.

Jennifer Evans speaking on behalf of Nature London



Members of the local high school, ALUS, and Chippewa of The Thames First Nation can be seen planting, just to name a few.

ALUS Chatham-Kent

Rashel Tremblay: We have big news at ALUS Chatham-Kent! Our longstanding PAC secretary, Jordan Sinclair, was named the new CEO of ALUS Canada and officially started her new role on April 1, 2025! We announced the news at our PAC meeting on April 14, where ALUS Canada also informed us that Chatham-Kent was chosen to host the annual ALUS East Hub Conference in October 2025! The PAC also discussed a proposal for a new, annual, educational tallgrass prairie event (to prevent the loss of projects due to maintenance issues), and approved ten projects – six new tree projects, two wetlands, and two new tallgrass prairie projects.



Checking up on 2024 tallgrass prairie projects near Louisville and installing funder signs; a bluebird was spotted at a new nesting box

Three of the approved new projects are for a new demonstration project for the proposed Tallgrass Prairie event that ALUS CK is planning. An existing 10-acre prairie, being taken care of by a PAC member, was chosen as the demonstration site for the proposed event, to demonstrate the proper care and maintenance of a tallgrass prairie project. The PAC decided to create a new tallgrass planting on the site, to add to the educational experience and improve the curb appeal of the demonstration sign on the site. Additionally, the landowner suggested using the site as a demonstration site for tree planting, and the PAC agreed. The site now has 1-acre of new tree seedlings, which have been set up to demonstrate how different maintenance techniques and care can affect seedling growth and survival.



New demonstration tree site, on Middle Line near Merlin



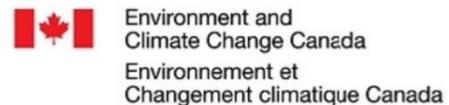
Preparing to plant trees, the last step of the Kerr-Wilson Re naturalization Project on Middle Line, near Charing Cross

In total, ALUS CK funded the establishment of 11 acres of tallgrass prairie, and 22,640 new trees and shrubs on 36 acres of marginal farmland, across Chatham-Kent in the Spring of 2025. We secured \$25,862 from Enbridge Gas Ontario to help fund an 11-acre tree project on a gravelly farm near Wheatley, which freed up enough funds to cover all our 2025 tree projects!

Site visits continued during tree-planting season, where we checked up on existing projects and started planning projects for the Fall of 2025 and the Spring of 2026.

10.5.2) Agricultural Initiatives

Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP)



The Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP), developed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and delivered by the Canada Water Agency (CWA) through the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative – Precision Conservation Substream. PPRP is a four-year program funded by Canada Water Agency (CWA). The 14,000,000.00 contribution enables the LTVCA to address the issue of phosphorus loading in the Lower Thames River watershed by prioritizing best management practice adoption in areas at highest risk of phosphorus loss.

At the end of April, the Agricultural Program Coordinator successfully submitted the annual reporting requirements to the Canada Water Agency, covering all activities for year one of the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP). As a result, the program has received \$1,000,000.00 for the 2024/2025 period. The report outlined performance measures for the Best Management Practices Incentive Program, Phosphorus Outreach and Education, and Water Monitoring activities. During the 2024/2025 funding year, 92 Best Management Practices (BMP) projects were implemented across the watershed, covering a total of 10,633 acres. The estimated phosphorus load reduction is 5,316 lbs/year. Water monitoring achievements include the installation of monitoring equipment at three new priority subwatershed sites and the completion of construction of a new water quality facility. Additionally, events and outreach efforts helped promote the program, with over 4,000 individuals reached through social media posts about the LTVCA PPRP. With year two of the program launched PPRP staff continue to advance the program and strengthen partnerships with other conservation authorities and organizations receiving funding through the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative - Precision

Conservation Substream. The Agricultural Program Coordinator attended an event on May 13, 2025 coordinated by the University of Western Ontario, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation, and Caldwell Nation. The event focused on fostering relationships with the Land Guardian youth and raising awareness of environmental concerns related to the Thames River. The Water Monitoring Specialist assisted at the event to demonstrate water monitoring equipment that is used to monitor and collect water quality data in the Thames River.

Andrew Mickle – Agricultural Stewardship Specialist

Andrew reviewed new PPRP applications submitted by landowners for the 2025/2026 program, approving submissions following the outlined criteria set on the application forms. Applicants were reviewed based on projects showcasing environmental merit and ensuring project standards were defined as requested.

Letters of approval were created, approved by program coordinator and sent out to all authorized first round funding projects. After project approvals were sent, funding categories were reviewed to ensure accurate totals of all project budgets moving into the next round. To date over 126 farmers have submitted applications for the 2025/2026 PPRP BMP incentive program.

At the April outreach events hosted by the PPRP team, Andrew created a presentation to appeal to both a new audience of the program and those who already received funding or were previously aware of the program. The presentation was presented to event attendees in the Eastern and Western regions of the Lower Thames Valley, creating new relationships with farmers and drawing project interest from several new participants. Andrew coordinated site visits with landowners and farmers to secure interest in potential funding opportunities. Site visits varied from PPRP opportunities in erosion control, buffer strips and wind breaks. With the expansion of BMP categories these site visits required Andrew to document site details and coordinate with landowners and local contractors. While also using these visits to promote new opportunities to partner with LTVCA's stewardship team to implement tall grass prairies, wetlands, marginal land retirement and new tree planting projects.

The stewardship team has assisted the PPRP team with attending site visits and gaining an understanding of how to guide landowners through the entire process of project completion including the external partnerships required.

Other opportunities involved attending field-work days to learn about tree planting processes and water quality through benthic monitoring.

Amber Frak – Water Quality Technician

Amber maintained monthly water quality sampling for the specific Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program sampling sites throughout the Lower Thames Valley region. Additional sampling of rain events occurred at Newbiggan Creek and East Two Creeks using the new ISCO automatic samplers.

Installation of SIM cards to the Dura Trackers at both new ISCO sampling sites was completed. Now, technicians can control and monitor equipment at these two locations remotely. This practice is improving efficiency while keeping technicians informed about any updates from the ISCO at these two locations. Amber completed routine maintenance at sampling stations, including desiccant replacement, replacement of intake lines, pest control and grass cutting.

New construction of the PPRP water lab was completed at the Learning Centre within C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Equipment was moved into the lab, including the new fridge, freezer and stainless-steel countertops. This new equipment is providing the water quality department with a dedicated and clean workspace to process samples efficiently.

Office equipment including desks, chairs, shelves and computers were relocated into the water lab to create an office environment for Amber and water department staff, to contain all their work to C.M. Wilson in one centralized area.

Amanda Doucette – Agricultural Outreach & Communications Technician

The Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP) hosted two events in April, one at the Western and Eastern ends of the watershed. Survey data was collected from event attendees to analyze the projects audience and their chosen forms of communication. This data, along with metrics from the LTVCA Meta platforms and website helped influence the first draft of the PPRP communications plan. This plan is a guide, to be changed as the program develops, to prioritize outreach and communications goals going forward.

The analysis showed LTVCA’s audience is out of the PPRP scope. After consulting management, the decision was made to create agriculture themed social media channels to further digital media reach to the specific audience of the PPRP. Current communication priorities are to build an online following through regular engagement and creating a photo bank of agriculture content to use for project advertisement and digital marketing purposes.

Amanda has secured sponsorship of summer community agriculture events to build PPRP brand awareness through targeted outreach. Education materials are being developed following the curriculum guidelines outlined in regional Agriculture in the Classroom resources. Created materials are scheduled to be presented to local 4H programs this summer, with additional planning occurring alongside the LTVCA education team to deliver high-school age education programs for the 2025-2026 school year.

During April Amanda promoted the PPRP BMP incentive program on two local radio stations. This outreach was successful in reaching new applicants, with over 25 new applications received in the weeks following the advertisement.

Production of a water quality video is underway with a local videographer. This content will play at future education or promotional events to create an engaging approach to market water quality health towards youth, the public and agriculture producers. Amanda is coordinating the project by arranging video structure, selecting and preparing staff members for on-camera interviews, deciding filming locations and contributing to the final production by reviewing every clip of footage to ensure it aligns with the planned outcome.

Additionally, Amanda is assisting the LTVCA Communications Specialist with creation of the organization’s new website by attending meetings with hired website designers, finalizing product SEO, design layout and providing feedback to the overall site structure.

Elizabeth Arango Ruda – Water Resource Analysis

Elizabeth mapped all BMP projects implemented across the region in 2024. These included cover crops and erosion control projects, as seen in Figure 1.

Collaboration began with professors from the University of Toronto and the University of Guelph to enhance our understanding of water quality patterns across the Lower Thames Valley region. On May 2, 2025 Elizabeth and Donna visited Dr. George Archontitsis and his team at the University of Toronto Environmental Science and Chemistry laboratory to learn how to use the Lake Erie Loading Tool and discuss various statistical methods using in water quality/quantity calculations.

Connections with academic organizations assist to enhance knowledge on how to identify priority areas for the implementation of programs that enhance the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. For instance, the use of BMPs can help reduce phosphorus loads. Currently, water quality data has been shared with Dr. Yang, and regular meetings are scheduled with Dr. Archontitsis to advance research efforts, with the intention of publishing scientific papers.

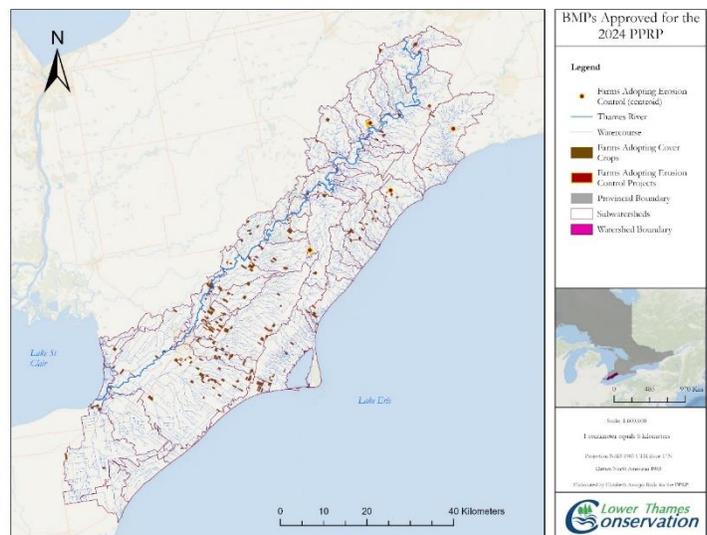


Figure 1-BMPs implemented in 2024 as part of the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program.

Additional progress is underway in calculating loads for the gap report. We have compared calculations from the Erie Loading Tools with other methods to validate and select the most accurate results (Figure 2, Figure 3).

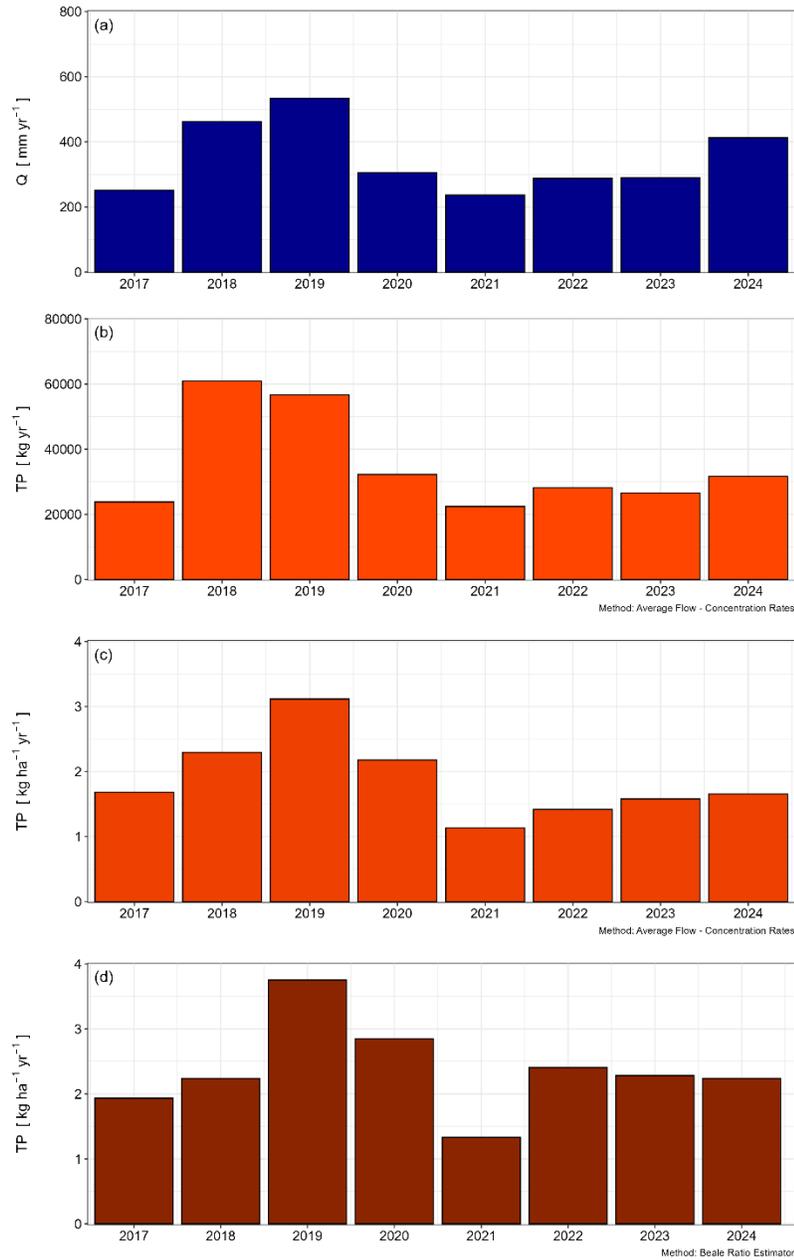


Figure 2 - Phosphorus loads calculated for McGregor Creek from 2017 to 2024 using various methods: (a) Annual discharge in mm yr⁻¹; (b) Phosphorus load calculations in kg yr⁻¹ using average flow concentration rates; (c) Phosphorus export loads in kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ from average flow concentration rates; and (d) Phosphorus export loads in kg h⁻¹ yr⁻¹ using the Beale Ratio Estimator.

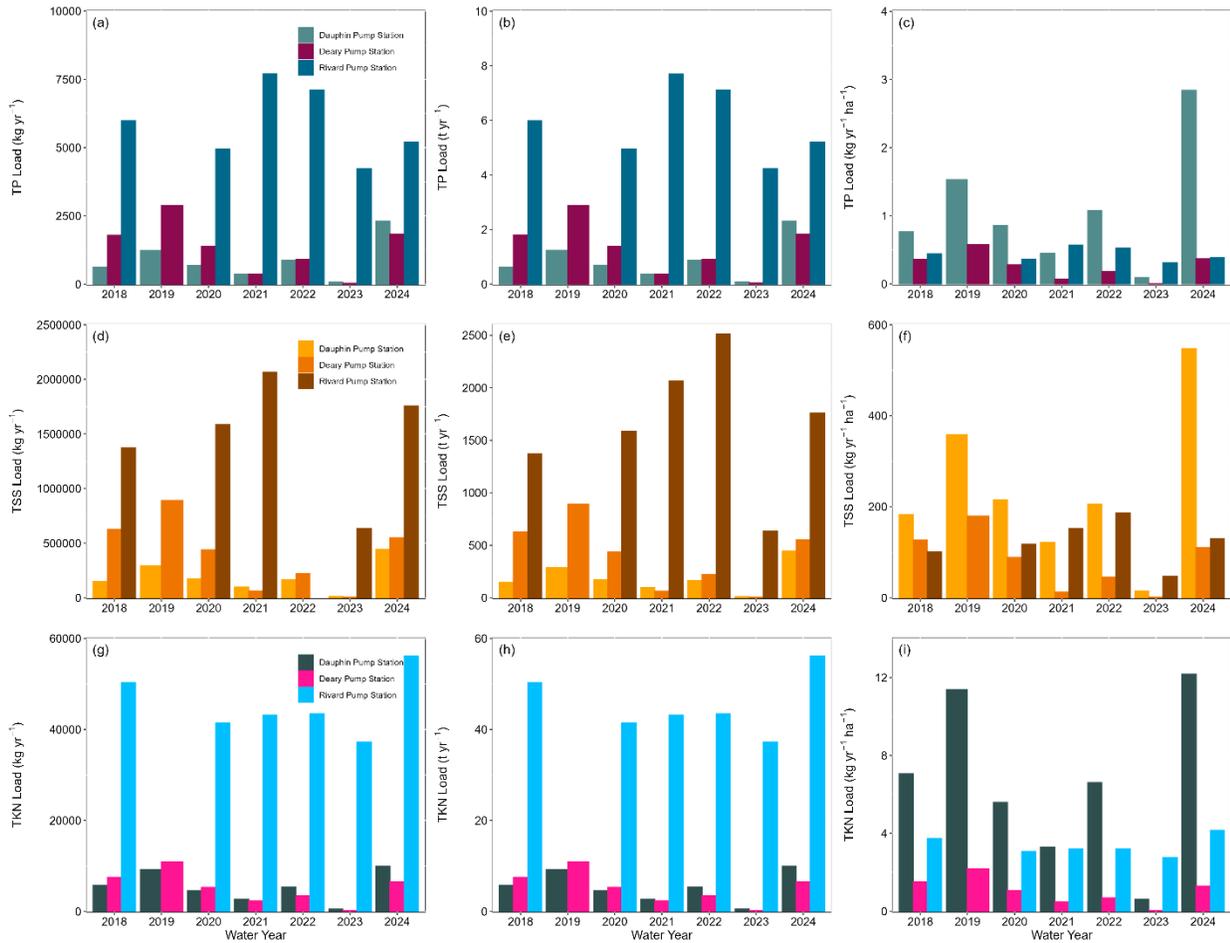


Figure 3 - Nutrient and sediment loads calculated for three pump stations from 2017 to 2024 using the Beale Ratio Method from the Erie Loading Program. Panels (a-c) display the total phosphorus loads measured in various units; panels (d-f) show the total suspended solids in different units; and panels (g-i) illustrate the total Kjeldahl nitrogen loads in various units.

Simultaneously, we conducted exploratory data analysis on other water characteristics to understand patterns and identify instances of guideline exceedances (Figure 4).

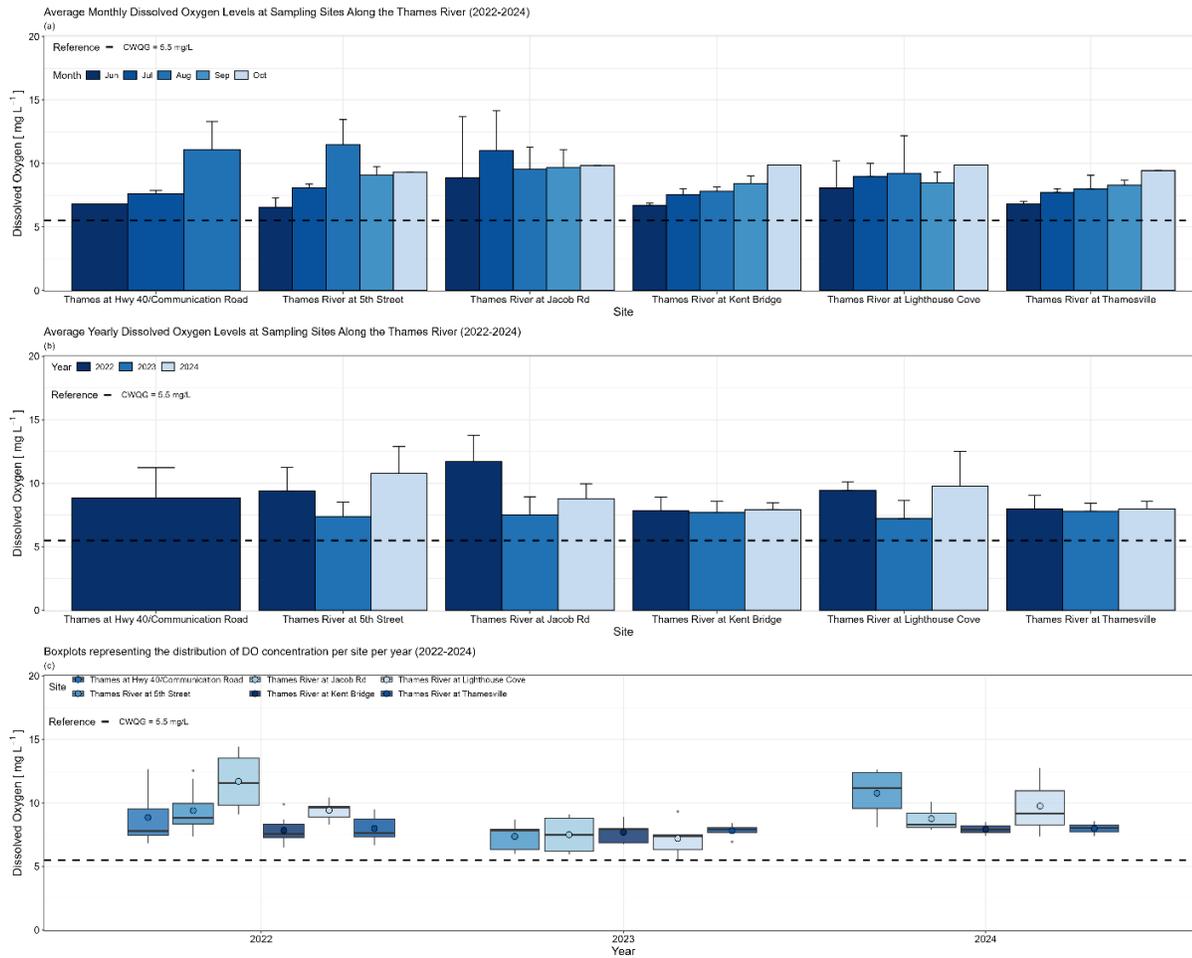


Figure 4- Temporal and spatial patterns of dissolved oxygen (mg L⁻¹) in the Lower Thames River.

Creation of an initial draft of the story map, a PRRP deliverable, was designed to begin communicating the results of the water quality sampling conducted across the lower Thames River tributaries. (Figure 5).

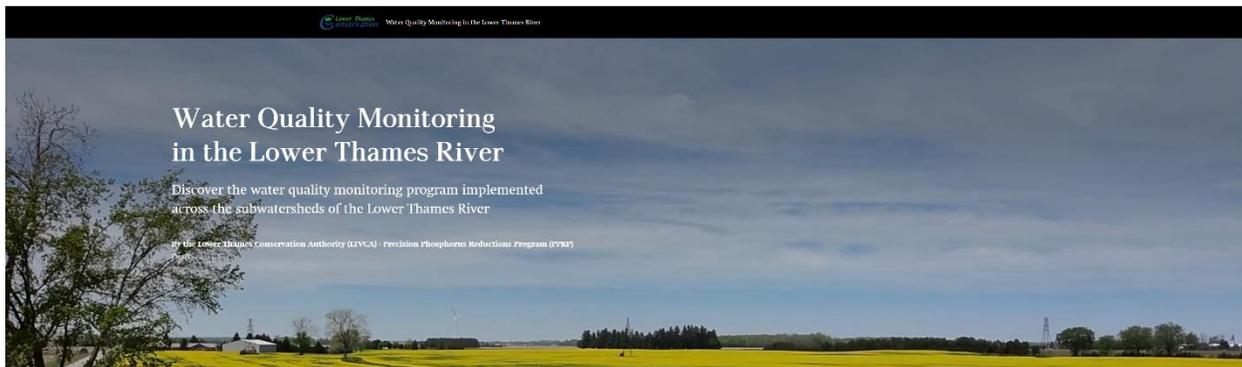


Figure 5. An introductory view of the story map as one of the deliverables of the PRRP.

The ONFARM program, developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is a five-year research program.

Soil and Water Quality Technician – Brittney Littlefield

Brittney has been busy conducting edge-of-field sample collection and equipment installations. Three sampling events were conducted in May and June with 51 samples collected across 5 sites. Moderate rain events on relatively dry fields led to one small and two medium events. Merlin tile samples collected at the end of May were prioritized as soybeans were planted on both sites a few days before the rain. This event will provide valuable data on how the nutrients move due to rain post fertilizer application.

To improve sample collection efficiency, new equipment was purchased and installed for the Merlin ONFARM plots. Modems were purchased and installed at the Merlin A plots to enable sampler initiation via the internet. Programs are now able to be changed from the office to reduce mileage and travel time. New level sensors and high-tech cameras were installed at the Merlin surface water flumes. This enables us to trigger sample collection based on water level changes and to record real-time field conditions for monitoring and report formulation.



10.6) Communications, Education and Outreach

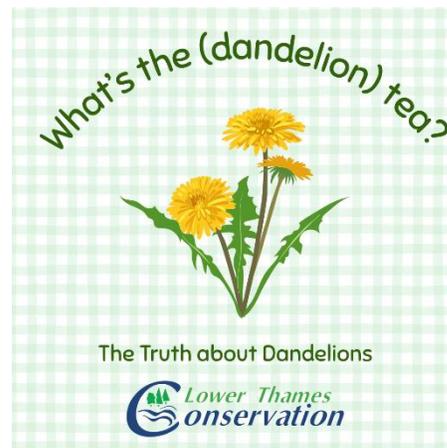
10.6.1) Communications

Social Media

Instagram and Facebook remain the primary social media platforms used by the LTVCA to engage with the public. Over the past few months, a new series of fun and informative long-format posts has been published monthly. These posts aim to educate a broad audience on various environmental and conservation topics.

In April, the featured post recognized Bat Appreciation Day (April 17) and highlighted native bat species as well as LTVCA's ongoing bat monitoring efforts. May included two posts: "A Week in the Life of a Tree Planter," offering a behind-the-scenes look at fieldwork, and a post for Endangered Species Day focused on turtles. June's post explored the role of dandelions in pollinator support, asking whether they truly serve as early food sources.

Beyond raising awareness, this content series is designed to spark interest in conservation, showcase the work of the LTVCA, and encourage the community to take part in their own environmental stewardship journeys.



Communication Strategy

A first draft of the LTVCA Communications Strategy has been completed and submitted to the CAO/ Secretary-Treasurer and the Manager of Corporate Services for review and feedback. This strategy represents a foundational step toward strengthening and streamlining internal and external communications across the organization.

The Communications Strategy is intended to serve as a guiding document for the future direction of all LTVCA communications. It outlines clear roles and responsibilities for staff involved in communications, ensuring accountability and coordination across departments. Additionally, the strategy establishes measurable goals aligned with the LTVCA's mission and strategic priorities, along with actionable strategies and tactics to achieve those goals.

Key focus areas of the strategy include public engagement, stakeholder relations, social media and website presence, branding and messaging consistency, and internal communications. Once finalized, the strategy will provide a framework to help the organization communicate more effectively with the public, partners, and internal teams. This will enhance transparency, increase awareness of programs and services, and support conservation efforts through stronger community relations.

Website Update

The new website has had a few delays and the launch date had to be postponed. The expected completion date and launch date is now set for late June or early July. We promise it will be worth the wait!

10.6.2) Education

The Education Team would like to welcome our new conservation educator, Mitchell Boggs. We're excited to for the ideas that Boggs brings to our team and look forward to collaborating, editing programs, and developing new ones over the coming months.

From late April through mid-May, the team working out of Ska-Nah-Doht Museum / the Resource Centre were relocated to Burwell House. This recent move was to facilitate construction requirements that took place overhead as a result of elevator installation.

The Team Lead has been connecting with educators at Upper Thames River, St. Clair Region, Essex Region, Catfish Creek, and Kettle Creek Conservation Authorities in regards to a multi-authority education grant related to the impact of our watersheds on Lake Erie. The program will provide students throughout the region with in-class learning, on-the-ground stewardship actions to take part in, and an opportunity to participate in a student summit. Given the program content, the Team Lead has connected with the Authority's Agricultural Program Coordinator, Agricultural Outreach & Communications Technician, and Urban Stewardship Technician to facilitate participation across departments.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht have been busy with education programs throughout the spring. There are students on-site daily through the end of the school year. Some days were more challenging to maneuver than others as resources were unavailable, or have been stored in alternative locations, because of construction. We have drawn on experiences acquired during the pandemic, as students once again are not able to enter the Museum, to ensure smooth program execution.

Educators out of this location will be providing both on-site and on-the-road programming to a number of organizations throughout the summer months, with bookings once or twice a week throughout the summer.

Teachers are already looking towards the fall, with a handful of holds already in place for early in the 2025/26 school year.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

Following the positive reception of the Indigenous Community Educator (C.M. Wilson) presentation of the vision for the Safety Village at the April meeting of the board they have begun further planning related to: outreach options, budget, and timelines.

On June 24th, the Indigenous Community Educator (C.M. Wilson) will be leading an environmental art workshop at a land-based field trip to Fighting Island being hosted by the Greater Essex Country District School Board. Naomi Beauchesne, the First Nations, Metis & Inuit Support Worker for the board had heard of their art from Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research and the Ojibwe Nature Centre. Beauchesne reached out to see if they would be able to participate. They are looking forward to sharing!

Further bookings have come through for C.M. Wilson Learning Centre this spring. These programs have been well received. Through the summer the educators out of C.M. Wilson will be providing on-the-road programming to a number of local day camps.

Battle of Longwoods Education Day

A meeting will be held between our staff and our partners, the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society, to discuss the future of the special education program. The Commander from UTMRS and Team Lead for Education have reached out to participating school boards for feedback but have had little response.

Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival

Volunteer recruitment for this years' CKL Children's Water Festival is underway! The Indigenous Community Educator (C.M. Wilson) has been reaching out to community members, staff, and partners to build up the team for this October.

Community Connections

The Indigenous Community Educator (Longwoods) attended Rendez-vous Canada the week of May 26-30 in Winnipeg. This gathering brings people from all over the world together to share insights on what International Tourists wish to experience when they visit Canada. Valuable information as we complete renovations.

Fishing Friendly will be hosting their Jr. and Sr. Division fishing groups on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from June 18 - July 10 at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. The Indigenous Community Educator (C.M. Wilson) will provide their participants with educational resources.

The Education Team at both locations will be providing on-site, public programming opportunities for visitors to our Conservation Areas throughout the summer. This is particularly important as we build traction for the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre amongst residents of Chatham-Kent.



Tom Ross (left) and Glenn Stott (right)

Battle of Longwoods

Approximately 692 members of the public (plus re-enactors and Scouts groups) joined us for the Battle of Longwoods at the beginning of May. A follow-up meeting between UTMRS and LTVCA staff has been planned.

While on-site, two of the events founders, Tom Ross and Glenn Stott (one of the gentlemen involved in the founding of Ska-Nah-Doht), were presented the Order of Meritorious Service by the Crown Forces North America, recognizing their contributions to the hobby of re-enacting.

Artifact Day

This annual event, hosted with the support of the Ontario Archaeological Society, London Chapter, will take place on July 6, 2025. They will provide artifact identification support and bring some tools of the trade with them to the event. Our team will provide hands-on opportunities for visitors to test their archaeology skills throughout the day.

10.6.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of June 6, 2025 the Ska-Nah-Doht Village’s Facebook page has 3,999 Followers. The Instagram page for the Village has 749 Followers.

Digital Strategy

On behalf of the Ska-Nah-Doht (SND) Advisory Committee, the Curator submits the included Digital Strategy for information. The Digital Strategy provides detailed information reflecting SND’s overall digital capacity and future plans. The strategy is a requirement for the museum’s 2025 Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) application.

This application is submitted annually to Ontario’s Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Gaming. SND is one of approximately 160 museums that receive support from the province under Regulation 877 of the Ontario Heritage Act. CMOG provides \$22 992 in operational funding to SND each year. To receive this funding SND must meet and abide by the [Standards for Community Museums in Ontario](#), which documents the functions, responsibilities, and activities for the operation of a professional community museum.

Digital Strategy

SUBJECT: Digital Strategy	PRESENTED BY: Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee June 2025	ORIGINAL DRAFT: May 2025
AUTHOR(S): Alison Klages (Curator)	ADOPTED BY: Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee	
NEXT REVIEW DATE: November 2028	REVISED EFFECTIVE:	



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is a community leader in collecting and preserving local history, while faithfully interpreting the heritage of the Haudenosaunee - People of the Longhouse, and other local Nations.

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Introduction

1 Overview and Objectives

The Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum (SND) Digital Strategy was created using a framework developed by the Canadian Heritage Information Network to be used in the development of a cultural heritage institution’s collections digitization plans, guidance provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Gaming, as well as other resources. The digital strategy provides detailed information reflecting the organization’s overall digital capacity and future plans. The strategy has been created in accordance with museum policies, and references other museum plans as appropriate.

The strategy provides guidance on the technology, equipment, and metrics of evaluation to be used for each area of interest, as well as the labour and skills required. Finally, the plan provides budgeting information, and lays out basic timelines for identified goals when necessary.

The Digital Strategy will be revised on a 3-year basis, as is done with the Exhibit, Accessibility, and Marketing Plans. The plan will be executed internally utilizing the support of summer and weekend staff, as well as other staff as assigned.

1.1) An area of work will be deemed part of the Digital Strategy when associated tasks primarily take place online, or their results are to be accessed using a computer. The strategy’s scope includes:

- collections documentation and digitization
- exhibits

Digital Strategy

- digital content
- online marketing
- programs
- filming and photography
- budgeting

1.2) Areas identified as a priority within the current 3-year cycle of the digital strategy include:

- collections digitization
- accessibility
- website optimization
- Google Ads

1.3) This plan does not cover areas of work that make use of a computer for ease, i.e. word processing and email, outside of providing a brief list of preferred software.

Human Resources

2 Plan Development / Execution Team

2.1) As a small organization SND has only one full-time staff member. It will be the responsibility of the Curator to oversee the strategy. They will train those who are assigned duties that fall within the strategy as they arise or collaborate with other Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) staff as appropriate. Duties assigned to other full-time staff of the LTVCA will generally be a secondary part of their role, will be temporary, or may fall within a portion of the digital strategy that aligns with larger organizational projects. In other cases, tasks may be completed by contract staff, i.e. summer and weekend staff members.¹

2.2) The Curator will be involved in all aspects of plan development and execution. In cases where the Curator is unavailable an alternate may be designated as the lead on a task. Resource acquisition and budgeting will be completed in collaboration with the Manager of Corporate Services.

2.3) To facilitate an efficient and organized implementation of the strategy, individuals whose role includes tasks that fall within its scope have been designated with specific duties and responsibilities for which they will be trained in advance and prepared to undertake. These staff will be familiar with the strategy and their role in its execution, and have the resources, training, and authority to undertake their duties and responsibilities.

2.4) Areas of scope will be undertaken, or receive substantial support from, the following people:

- Strategy Lead: Curator / Team Lead Education
- Collections Documentation and Digitization: Curator / Team Lead Education, Indigenous Community Educator (Longwoods), Contract Staff
- Exhibits: Curator / Team Lead Education, Indigenous Community Educators, Contract Staff

¹ In the case of an emergency the Emergency Response Team will take over communications as per the Emergency Response Plan.

Digital Strategy

- Digital Content: Curator / Team Lead Education, Indigenous Community Educators, Contract Staff, Communications Specialist
- Online Marketing: Curator / Team Lead Education, Communications Specialist
- Programs: Curator / Team Lead Education, Indigenous Community Educators, Casual Conservation Educator
- Filming and Photography: Curator / Team Lead Education, Eastern District Supervisor, Administrative Assistant
- Budgeting: Curator / Team Lead Education, Manager of Corporate Services

Areas of scope will be discussed in detail in their own sections.

- 2.5) The Strategy will be accepted by the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee and presented to the LTVCA Board of Directors.
- 2.6) Other staff, whose roles may be impacted by the Digital Strategy, will be briefed on how they will be affected as participation is required (i.e. conservation lands staff may be briefed on videos of them being used for digital content). This includes employees and volunteers who may have expertise of interest, who may be expected to execute work that is worth sharing as part of the strategy, and those who will work with the resulting digitized material. These team members may be asked to participate in meetings and activities relevant to their needs or contributions, but (in the interests of their own time) may not be involved in the strategy's development or regular implementation.
- 2.7) Any staff members completing work that falls within the Digital Strategy will be provided with the materials and equipment needed to facilitate complete their tasks.

Strategy Integration

3 References to Other Policies and Plans

- 3.1) Budgets for areas related to the digital strategy will be assigned as per SND Policy #2 Finance. In most cases, funds will be dispersed into existing expense codes for use at the discretion of the Curator.
- 3.2) Collection / cultural belonging digitization and access will be in accordance with SND Policy #3 Collection, section 3: Care and Preservation of the Collection, and section 4: Use of the Collection. A digitization policy and plan are currently being created, providing in depth guidance as to this process.
- 3.3) As per SND Policy #4 Exhibition, section 1: Objectives of Exhibit Policy, points ii and xi, digital versions of exhibits will be created in order to allow for use of assistive technologies like screen readers and magnification software.
- 3.4) Policy #5 Interpretation and Education intersects with the Digital Strategy in multiple ways. The Strategy is directly informed by sections 1.v and 3.iii.
- 3.5) The museum's Community Policy (#9) indicates in The Museum-Community Relationship, section 1.iv that SND is to provide equal access both physically and intellectually to the community regarding the museum collections, services, information and programs. This is in line with the Digital Strategy's emphasis on providing digital access to museum content.

Digital Strategy

- 3.6) Filming periodically takes place at SND. A standard agreement has been created and is adapted based on the needs of the particular production as per the Filming Policy (#11). SND is to be credited and when possible a copy of the completed film, or directions on how to access it, are to be provided to the organization.
- 3.7) While the Accessibility Standard (#12) currently focuses on access to safety information the LTVCA is dedicated to providing assistance and access to all employees, volunteers, and clients. As such, the SND Accessibility Plan is more comprehensive in regards to museum practice. The policy will receive a thorough update during its next revision.
- 3.8) In addition to the above policies, SND also employs Exhibit, Accessibility, and Marketing Plans, which are updated on a rotating basis. These plans, and the Digital Strategy are considered in relation to one another.

4 Preferred Software

As an organization owned and operated by the LTVCA, SND defaults to the software preferences of our parent organization. The Microsoft Office Suite is the preferred software for word processing, email, spreadsheets, etc. Adobe Acrobat is utilized for PDF. Meta Business is used to preplan digital content for Facebook and Instagram.

5 Existing Standards

- 5.1) The goal of the Digital Strategy is to guide staff in next steps related to the digital content being created and curated by the organization. SND actively works towards the successful implementation of areas included within the strategy, with areas of work already being integrated into the work plans of those with responsibilities discussed herein.
- 5.2) SND has a strong online following and the website is updated regularly.
- 5.3) The main area of concern identified by this strategy relates to collections documentation and digitization, which is lagging.
- 5.4) Digital programming and filming, though parts of the strategy are not a focus of the organization.
- 5.5) Requirements for areas of focus within the Digital Strategy are determined using a number of sources, including:
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
 - Standards for Community Museums
 - Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)
 - Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Assessments
 - Standards and Best Practices documents such as those produced by Community Heritage Information Network (CHIN), Ontario Museum Association (OMA), etc.
 - staff and volunteers
 - consultation with external stakeholders

Digital Strategy

- related plans and policies

6 Triggers for Re-Evaluation

The Digital Strategy will be revised on a 3-year basis, as is done with the Exhibit, Accessibility, and Marketing Plans. Outside of this schedule, a re-evaluation will be triggered should new standards, legislations, or best practices be introduced that prevail over those included within the plan.

Areas of Scope

Accessibility has been identified as a core goal of SND's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. As such, accessibility is a strong focus in many areas of scope for the Digital Strategy.

7 Collections Documentation and Digitization

Collections documentation and digitization has been identified as an area of priority under the Digital Strategy (see also 14 Collections Digitization).

- 7.1) SND acts as a steward for archaeological, donated, and education collections. There are over 300 000 cultural belongings within our care. While digital records exist (Excel is the current CMS used at SND) the vast majority of the collection has not been photographed, and some older records need to be updated.

The collection items on display in the museum are inventoried at regular intervals. Additions and items returned to storage are noted within the latest inventory document.
- 7.2) Though SND aims to build a new collections space over the next few years timelines are unknown. As a result, documentation and digitization projects are moving forward in our current storage facilities.
- 7.3) In order to facilitate updates to documentation and ensure a smooth digitization process a formal Collections Digitization Policy and Plan will be created. This policy will be a compliment to the existing Collections Policy.
- 7.4) When a timeline has been determined for the creation of the new collections facility, SND will apply for support from the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) Collections Management stream. This funding will help facilitate further plan implementation through collections relocation, enhancements to the Collections Management System (CMS), increased public access to digitized cultural belongings, improved storage solutions, as well as repatriation / repatriation projects.
- 7.5) Further funding opportunities to support this project will also be explored.
- 7.6) Budgeting for collections documentation and digitization will be planned by the Curator and Manager of Corporate Services (see 13 Budget).
- 7.7) The goal of collections documentation and digitization is to allow community members and researchers greater access to the cultural belongings held in trust at SND. In particular, this will support our endeavours to provide cultural care to the items held by the museum and work towards the repatriation

Digital Strategy

/ repatriation of cultural belongings as our local Indigenous communities, or communities of origin for donated / education collection pieces we steward, request them.²

- 7.8) What portions of the collection are to be digitized, how this will take place, standards that will be followed, how records will be stored, what CMS software and layout will be used, metrics for project success, how and by whom records can be accessed, as well as further details will be outlined in the Collections Digitization Policy and Plan.
- 7.9) The collections digitization process will be shared as digital content and may be documented for program creation purposes.
- 7.10) Digitized collections will be used in exhibit creation and future digital content.
- 7.11) Some 3D photography of collection items and museum spaces has been undertaken. As these become available for public use they will be made accessible accordingly.

8 Exhibits

- 8.1) Exhibits at SND focus on the archaeological excavations that took place on-site, the heritage of the Haudenosaunee, conservation and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, language and culture of other local nations, as well as iSTEAM (Indigenous Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math).
- 8.2) Exhibits abide by AODA standards regarding height, text sizes, etc. Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Assessments are used to ensure the text used within the museum is appropriate.
- 8.3) Digital versions of exhibits are created for accessibility purposes. At the moment, Google Sites is used to create simple, clean, manipulatable versions of exhibits.
- 8.4) A tablet or other device with access to the digital versions of exhibits will be available to visitors to allow for text and images to be enlarged.
- 8.5) Access to digital exhibits is provided to education program participants with exceptionalities ahead of time should they wish to access the on their own device.
- 8.6) Visitors requiring access to digital versions of the exhibit on their own devices while on-site will be provided access to staff WIFI and links to the exhibits so they may make use of their preferred adaptive programs.
- 8.7) Digital versions of exhibits are also available to community groups who have visited the museum upon request, as well as those who are not able to visit because other constraints.
- 8.8) Basic information about use is recorded along with the tracking of our asynchronous virtual programs (see 11 Programs).

² Deaccession of collections will take place as per the Collections Policy. Repatriation / repatriation will take place in consultation with the communities the cultural belongings call home. SND will work with community to find the best strategy for rehomeing, or will continue to act in the trust of the community if they wish cultural belongings to remain in our care.

Digital Strategy

9 Digital Content

9.1 Social Media

9.1.1) SND is active on Facebook and Instagram (Meta). Through our connection with the LTVCA, media releases for SND are also shared on X.

9.1.2) Flesch-Kincade Grade Level Assessments are taken into consideration when creating social media content.

9.1.3) In accordance with AODA and social media best practices alt text is included with photos when posted. If photos are scheduled to post using the mobile version of Meta Business, which does not allow for alt text to be added at creation, alt text is added once the post has gone live.

9.1.4) Descriptions of videos are to be added to the best of our ability.

9.1.5) When posting videos on social media closed captions will be enabled.

9.1.6) If content is being shared from external accounts accessibility will be considered and descriptions will be added to the post as appropriate.

9.1.7) The primary metrics tracked for Meta include:

- followers
- basic follower demographics
- reach
- engagement
- active times
- further metrics may be tracked year-to-year given funding requirements.

9.1.8) Meta Ads are used to help increase reach and engagement (see 10.1 Meta).

9.1.9) Hashtags and tagging are implemented as outlined in the SND Marketing Plan.

9.2 Website

9.2.1) SND has dedicated pages on the LTVCA website. As of spring 2025 a new website is being developed in order to enhance website visitor experience and accessibility. While launch is anticipated in summer 2025 the final timeline for adoption of new website is not within the purview of the Curator and is at the discretion of the Communication Specialist.

9.2.2) Given the prevalence of mobile devices being used for website access the layout of webpage edits are checked on both a desktop and mobile device to ensure formatting changes are legible.

9.2.3) Alt text and descriptions are created for all images and videos added to the website on the back end.

9.2.4) Flesch-Kincade Grade Level Assessments are taken into consideration when creating website content.

9.2.5) AODA regulations are to be taken into consideration when creating website content.

9.2.6) Google Analytics and Track the Click are currently used to gather data on desired metrics.

9.2.7) The primary metrics tracked for the website include:

Digital Strategy

- PDF link clicks
- page use
- user numbers
- further metrics may be tracked year-to-year given funding requirements

9.2.8) Google Ads are used to help drive traffic to website content (see 10.3 Google Ads and 17 Google Ads Optimization).

9.2.9) Information on the following areas of interest are included on the website:

- accessibility
- amenities
- bus tours
- collections information
- education programs
- events
- filming
- hours of operation
- museum history
- site history

10 Online Marketing

The marketing budget of SND is generally segregated from that of other LTVCA departments- one notable exception is marketing overlap with conservation education. For larger, overarching marketing endeavours the Curator and Communications Specialists work together to decide how best to achieve the desired goal.

10.1 Meta

10.1.1) Most marketing on Meta is unpaid, the strategies that guide this type of content follow section 9.1 Digital Content: Social Media.

10.1.2) Advertising through Meta is done through ads and boosts (henceforth referred to as ads).

10.1.3) Cost-benefit is considered when opting to create Meta ads.

10.1.4) In accordance with AODA and social media best practices alt text is included with photos when posted.

10.1.5) Videos used in ads do not generally include dialogue, when they do, captions are enabled. Descriptions are to be included of videos.

10.1.6) Reach, target area, link clicks, and conversions are considered when assessing the success of Meta ads, their future use, placement, and targeting.

10.2 Community Organizations

10.2.1) SND submits information to community calendars, newsletters, organizations, and websites.

Information is most frequently submitted to:

- Conservation Ontario
- Daytripping in Southern Ontario

Digital Strategy

- Keepin' It Local Strathroy Area
- Ontario Museum Association
- Ontario's Southwest
- Tourism London
- Visit Middlesex
- and others that promote community information within the areas of Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities jurisdiction as appropriate

10.2.2) Tagging on social media is implemented as outlined in the SND Marketing Plan.

10.3 Google Ads

10.3.1) Through the LTVCA, SND has access to a Google Ads Grant account.

10.3.2) Google Ad Grants are able to provide non-profits up to \$10,000 USD per month of in-kind search advertising.

10.3.3) Google Ads are in initial development at this time and will be implemented more widely upon the launch of the new website (see 9.2 Digital Content: Website and 16 Website Optimization).

10.3.4) Targeting, demographics, cost-per-click, conversions, and keywords will be assessed as information becomes available.

11 Programs

11.1) As a museum located within a conservation area, with large outdoor features including a recreated longhouse village, part of what makes SND special is being able to access the site in person. For this reason, digital programming has not been a focus.

11.2) Connectivity issues, prior to the installation of fiber internet, resulted in the creation of a number of asynchronous digital programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources continue to be accessed by schools, community groups, local organizations, and families.

11.3) Videos are available through a restricted access link to YouTube in order to prevent barriers based on technology access.

11.4) Videos created as asynchronous educational programs and other digital content that pertain to SND are available for viewing on-site using our wall-mounted television.

11.5) Off-site access to asynchronous virtual programs is available upon request for 30 days at a time.

11.6) We gather statistical data from educators making use of our asynchronous virtual programs, including:

- school
- grade level
- number of students
- school board
- program booked.

11.7) Access is available for families and community groups with demographic information also being collected.

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11.8) Other digital content produced by staff for public use is available through YouTube. These are shared periodically on both SND and LTVCA social media accounts. Views are monitored and tracked where appropriate.

11.9) In order to increase accessibility, subtitles are available for all videos online, and are included on videos shared on-site.

12 Filming and Photography

12.1) The majority of filming and photography that takes place on-site at SND is for personal use. We do not regulate content created by the public for personal purpose.

12.2) When we are tagged in the social media content of our visitors we like and comment as appropriate. Should the image or video be worthy of being shared as digital content on our platforms we request permission to use it.

12.3) While SND has acted as a film location numerous times over our 50 years, large scale film shoots are few and far between. Since 2021, SND has, however, acted as a filmset for both a CBC Music's Shub Presents War Club and PureRealm Pictures' Uncharted Beats.

12.4) Community members from the three local Indigenous Nations (Oneida Nation of the Thames, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, and Munsee-Delaware Nation) are able to make use of our spaces, including the heritage log cabins for reduced fees or free of charge with the requirement that the location is credited. Other members of Indigenous Communities will be provided access as appropriate.

12.5) In 2024, Visit Middlesex completed a photoshoot on-site, providing professional photography to SND for use at our discretion.

12.6) Filming and photography for organizational use are generally done in-house. Staff have access to the following resources for film and photography:

- Bluetooth microphone and audio pickup set
- desktop tripod
- digital camera
- drone
- large scale tripod
- LED photo light
- top view desktop tripod

12.7) Film and photography created in-house are for work purposes and are the property of SND / the LTVCA.

12.8) Some 3D photography of collection items and museum spaces has been undertaken. As these become available for public use they will be shared accordingly.

13 Budgeting

13.1) The Curator oversees the budget of SND

Digital Strategy

13.2) The budget is created by the Manager of Corporate Services and Curator. The budget is provided to the CAO for consideration. Once drafts are finalized, the budget is accepted by the SND Advisory Committed and provided to the LTVCA Board of Directors for approval.

13.2) Budget lines that are directly impacted by the Digital Strategy (excluding wages) include:

- 82100- Village – Oper
- 82165- ComRel – Oper
- 82165- Village – Oper
- 82318- Village – Oper
- 82318- Village – SND
- 82380- ComRel – Oper
- 82380- Village – Oper

13.3) When budgets overlap between SND and the Community Relations work of the LTVCA the Curator will consult with the Communications Specialist.

13.4) Expenses incurred by the operation of SND are covered through grants, donations, admissions, in-kind support, and municipal levy.

13.5) Other than the initial, start-up cost of collections projects to be undertaken, the majority of costs associated with the Digital Strategy are built into the operating expenses of SND.

13.6) Many of the resources required for collections digitization are already on hand. Staff time, assessment of CMS needs, possible CMS fees, reboxing materials, and costs associated with establishing an online collections database will be the major outlays for this project. Support for these areas of the project will be sought through grant funding.

13.7) SND's financial information is available online through the LTVCA's budgets and financial statements.

13.8) The LTVCA is responsible for the remission of taxes and completion of the Registered Charities Information Return. Information from this return is available to the public through the CRA's website.

Goals

Goals have been identified through the careful consideration of areas of scope.

14 Collections Digitization

14.1) The creation of a collections digitization policy and plan by mid-2026.

14.2) Initiation of a large-scale collection inventory, reboxing, and digitization project to be conducted on a timeline determined by the Curator based on future construction projects. Initial stages of this process may take place prior to the completion of the digitization policy and plan.

14.3) Creation of a repatriation / repatriation documents so they are available upon request by mid-2026.

14.4) Provide online access to segments of the cultural belongings and collections held in trust by SND as website optimization allows.

Digital Strategy

15 Accessibility

15.1) Increased accessibility both on-site and online through the implementation of best practices related to content creation, exhibit installation, public access, service provision, etc.

15.2) The universal inclusion of alt text, descriptions, and closed captions for digital and online content.

15.3) Access to digital exhibit content either through the provision of a tablet on-site, or through access on the visitor's device.

15.4) Application of Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Assessments in all public content being created.

15.5) Exhibits developed for the reopening of the indoor Museum in the 3rd quarter of 2025 will be explicitly created with this goal in mind, and digital access will be available upon launch.

15.6) Enhance access to site for those unable to visit in person through improved virtual offerings.

16 Website Optimization

16.1) As the LTVCA's new website is launched, refine the keywords, SEO, reading level, and accessibility of webpages dedicated to SND within 4 months of website launch.

16.2) As collections digitization allows, provide online access to segments of the cultural belongings and collections held in trust by SND in accordance with museum policies and ethical stewardship of Indigenous cultural belongings.

16.3) Make use of timesaving technologies included within the new website.

17 Google Ads Optimization

17.1) Within 4 months of the new website going live, create traffic driving Google Ads using our Ad Grant Account.

17.2) Ensure Google Ad program requirements are met to ensure this in-kind support is continued.

17.3) Create, analyze, update, and pause ads as necessary to ensure they are used to SND's advantage.

Strategy Assessment and Revision

Assessment of the strategy will be ongoing. It will be completed by staff appointed by the Curator. Procedures for assessment will vary according to the area of scope. Should a new priority for an area of scope be determined it will be added upon revision of the strategy unless it falls within the scope of 6 Triggers for Re-Evaluation.

References and Acknowledgements

This Digital Strategy was created with the guidance the following sources and organizations:

- AODA
- CHIN Digitization Plan Framework
- CHIN Digitization Policy Framework
- Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Assessments

Digital Strategy

- OHA
- OMA
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Gaming
- Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, National Japanese Canadian Digitization Strategy
- Royal BC Museum Digital Strategy
- Small Bytes Digital Strategy: Check List Tool
- SND 5 Year Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026
- SND Exhibit Plan
- SND Marketing Plan
- SND Policies
- SND emergency
- Standards for Community Museums
- Woodstock Art Gallery Digital Strategy

Glossary

- Alt Text – Alternative Text
- AODA – Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
- CAO – Chief Administrative Officer
- CHIN – Canadian Heritage Information Network
- CMS – Collections Management System
- ComRel – Community Relations
- CRA – Canadian Revenue Agency
- iSTEAM – Indigenous Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math
- LTVCA – Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
- MAP – Museum Assistance Program
- OHA – Ontario Heritage Act
- OMA – Ontario Museum Association
- Oper – Operations
- SEO – Search Engine Optimization
- SND – Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum
- STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math

Re-Opening Plan

The Curator, with the support of the Indigenous Community Educator (Longwoods), has been making plans for exhibit installation. At the moment, a deep-clean of the building is required. Exhibit furniture will then be moved to a centralized area to facilitate installation upon the completion of construction. Exhibits planned for installation include content related to: archaeological excavations at Longwoods, heritage of the Haudenosaunee, local Indigenous culture, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, basket making, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), etc.

We anticipate that the Museum / Resource Centre will reopen for visitor services prior to exhibits being fully installed. Exhibits will be accessible as their installation is completed.

Village and Log Cabin Restoration



Palisade wall damaged during the April storm.

During the wind storm on April 29, 2025 another section of the palisade wall at Ska-Nah-Doht Village was damaged. It has since been removed in order to help keep visitors safe. There are now three sections of the wall down. These sections will need to be replaced in the coming months. Other small repairs to the village, and tidying, will be undertaken by staff as time allows around programming and into the summer months.

All three cabins require roof replacements. This work has been included as part of the 2026 asset management plans.



Front right corner of the Munsee-Delaware Cabin.

The Munsee-Delaware Cabin requires some log replacement on the front of the building. These logs are being impacted by persistent dampness resulting from the presence of smaller Carolinian trees along the wall and a large oak tree blocking the sun from drying out the wood following weather events. The smaller tree will be removed. The oak tree has previously been trimmed but the problem persists.



Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held in person and remoting via the Burwell House, Longwoods Road Conservation Area at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 5, 2025. The following members were in attendance: B. Bruinink, C. Parker, K. Loveland, T. Cobban and M. Peacock. Regrets S. Hipple, D. Fairbairn and G. Bogart. Also, in attendance: A. Klages and A. Vriends

Committee welcomed new Committee Member Tom Cobban.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SND-2025-9 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved that the minutes of the March 20, 2025 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) Digital Strategy, CMOG Requirement

Committee Member were provided with a copy of the Digital Strategy for their review prior to the meeting.

SND-2025-10 C. Parker – K. Loveland

Moved that the Committee approve the Digital Strategy as presented and forward it to the LTVCA Board of Directors for Information.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) Staff Update

A new Casual Conservation Educator has been hired by the LTVCA. They have been learning SND in addition to Conservation Education Programs and have begun leading groups of their own at both Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas.

3.2) Grant and Funding Updates

Application for Canada Summer Jobs 2025 have been rejected.

The report for the Enabling Accessibility Grant supporting the Museum's elevator has been submitted. No response has been received at this time.

Middlesex County has opened their Tourism Initiative Sponsorship program for 2025. As more information about our Museum reopening is known an application for a reopening event will be submitted.

The Curator will be looking for funding to replace a couple of logs on the front of the Munsee-Delaware Cabin and support roof replacements for all 3 heritage log cabins.

3.3) Education Programs

Bookings are at capacity to the end of the school year. Program updating and creation of new programs will continue this summer.

3.4) Events and Workshops

2025 Confirmed Events/Outreach:

- Artifact Day, July 6, 2025
- London Public Library Programming

Future events are being explored.

3.5) Update on Museum Re-Opening

The majority of the work has been completed. Creation and installation of exhibits will follow the completion of spring school groups and renovations.

3.6) Village Update

Another section of the palisade wall was damaged and has been removed. There are now three sections of the wall down. These sections will need to be replaced in the coming months.

Other small repairs to the village, and tidying, will be undertaken by staff as time allows around programming and into the summer months.

3.7) Cabin Update

Cabin roofs are scheduled to be replaced in 2026. Munsee-Delaware Cabin will need several logs replaced due to rotting.

3.8) Collections Acquisition and Repatriation

In April we were offered a donation of a number of baskets, presumably from Kettle and Stoney Point. We will be working with the donor to accept these into our collection, with the intention of helping some of them find their way home long term.

The Collections Coordinator at Fanshawe Pioneer Village has also reached out about a basket in the possession of FPV. We will be transferring the basket to our collection over the summer months.

As a result of these donations we will be working on a temporary exhibit about basket making to be paired with a workshop / speaker.

Ron Williamson, who conducted the archaeological excavations on our site visited the Museum April. During his visit he noticed the dugout canoe piece that was donated by Ron Watts. Williamson is currently working on a project about dugout canoes with someone from a community near Muskoka, where Watts' canoe originates from. Williamson will help coordinate a connection between organizations to complete some research on the canoe, including some carbon dating. In the meantime, the canoe will be photographed as part of our new display about watercraft and the river.

SND-2025-11 C. Parker – K. Loveland

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.8 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Updates to Policies and Constitution

During the summer and early fall the Curator will be reviewing SND’s Constitution for updates. They will also be working on the creation of a Collections Digitization Plan / Policy - this work will continue into the winter months.

4.2) Next Strategic Plan

The 2026 requirement for CMOG is a strategic plan. SND’s current plan runs through 2026. The Curator will be in contact with the Ministry to confirm that this will be an acceptable submission. Regardless, work on the next strategic plan will begin in the late fall.

SND-2025-12 K. Loveland – T. Cobban

Moved that item 4.1 and 4.2 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting Dates

September 18, 2025

November 27, 2025 – Change of date due to staff at conference

March 19, 2026

6. Adjournment

SND-2025-13 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink
Chair

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

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association April 3, 2025 Minutes

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on April 3 2025 at Two Creeks

Attendance: Gerry Soulliere, Lee & Linda Pearce, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Rick Taves, Mike Diesbourg, Ken Hatt, Roger Dundas, Sheilah Marans, Lorna Bell, Pauline Sample, Vickie Haley, Joe Pinsonneault.

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

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

Mem. Groves: We were given some black granite with no engraving from Designer Countertops to be used for Memorial stones. We would need to sell 10 to 15 at a time to make it cost effective. They will be promoted at each of our concerts.

Prop. & Equip.: The fire extinguisher in our shed was certified as safe. 4 wood duck boxes have placed in the creek. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the kids on April 6 at Two Creeks. Some trees have been trimmed around the stage and the harvest bridge. Joe moved to buy \$1000.00 worth of stone for the parking lot, Mike seconded (Carried). The area around the large pavilion needs to be cleaned up.

Concerts: We will hold 1 more indoor concert at Wheatley United Church featuring Lonesome Lefty and others. We will try to hold 1 more concert at Two Creeks in September only if Brien Cobby can provide the sound.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of March 1 2025 was \$36,277.62. Account balance as of March 31 2025 was \$37,200.33. Moved by Roger sec. by Phil report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Phil moved for adjournment at 7:40 pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

10.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association May 1, 2025 Minutes

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on May 1 2025 at Two Creeks

Attendance: Gerry Soulliere, Mike Diesbourg, Mark Peacock, Joe Pinsonnealt, Sheilah Marans, Ken Hatt, Roger Dundas, Lee & Linda Pearce, Bruce Jackson, Lorna Bell, Rick Taves.

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

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

Mem. Groves: Any dead trees will be removed and replaced with our own trees. We received a \$5000.00 grant from the Chatham- Kent Community Fund. We also received 2 donation cheques from Cavendish.

Prop. & Equip.: Ciliska Excavating has finished grading around the pavilion and may also remove the old willow culvert once we receive a permit. The portajohns will be delivered soon.

Concerts: The Mojo Wailers have been booked to play at our last concert on Sept. 7. Rick will continue to take care of the advertising. We will need volunteers to hand out our leaflets and sell buttons for the June 7 celebration in Wheatley. We will continue to hold indoor concerts next year. The Scouts will be selling snacks at all our concerts this year.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of March 31 2025 was \$37,200.33. Account balance as of April 30 2025 was \$34,868.46. Moved by Sheilah, sec. by Lorna report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Mike moved for adjournment at 6:51pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11. Correspondence

11.1) Letter to Mayor Morgan Re: Request to Reduce City of London Levy by 1.5%



June 12, 2025

Re: Request to Reduce City of London Levy by 1.5%

Dear Mayor Morgan:

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) appreciates the support of the City of London in our joint work to make the watersheds and communities of our citizens, better for future generations. As a politician in a growing community, I am keenly aware of being fiscally responsible and support your wish to keep levy increases at reasonable rates. In this, I suggest that the LTVCA has been very responsive to requests by municipalities. Over the last ten years the LTVCA has met the requests of the City of London when many of the agencies, boards and commissions of the City have not achieved this goal.

In our proposed 2026 budget the LTVCA has requested only a 3% increase in levy (in our multi-year budget request). This represents a 2% cost of living increase (the current cost of living being projected to be 2.5 to 2.7% in Ontario) and a 1% increase in levy for a phased in asset management plan. The LTVCA Asset Management Plan is based on a 1% levy increase for 10 years while at the same time almost entirely reducing general reserves to lessen the impact to our partner municipalities.

The LYVCA believes that our requested levy is reasonable and responsible. I would request a meeting with yourself and staff to discuss this and provide details of our past commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Thank-you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Paul Tiessen

Chair, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Councillor, Municipality of Leamington

11.2) Conservation Ontario Submission: Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025: Planning Act Proposals

From: Nicholas Fischer <nfischer@conservationontario.ca>

Sent: June 12, 2025 8:40 AM

Subject: Conservation Ontario Submission: Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025: Planning Act Proposals

To: CAOs / GMs

C.c: CO Staff

Note: This message will be shared with CA Planning and SWP PM staff.

Further to the email below, we are pleased to provide a copy of Conservation Ontario's final coordinated submission to three Environmental Registry postings related to Schedule 7 of Bill 17 (Planning Act):

- [Proposed Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006 Changes \(Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17 - Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025\)](#)
- [Proposed Regulation– As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements](#)
- [Proposed Regulations– Complete Application](#)

Thank you to all CAs who provided feedback to inform this final submission. A copy will be made available on Conservation Ontario's Member Pages shortly.

Kind regards,

Nich



Nicholas Fischer, MS

Policy and Planning Liaison

M: 289-231-6583 | P: 905-895-0716

nfischer@conservationontario.ca

www.conservationontario.ca

120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3





June 11, 2025

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Provincial Planning Branch
777 Bay Street, 13th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Re: Conservation Ontario's comments on "Proposed Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006 Changes (Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17 - Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025)" (ERO#025-0461), "Proposed Regulations- Complete Application" (ERO#025-0462), and the "Proposed Regulation- As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements" (ERO#025-0463).

Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*, received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025, amending eight pieces of legislation, including the *Planning Act* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. The amendments alter or exempt certain planning requirements and approval processes related to minor variances and elementary schools, enable enhanced oversight for projects proceeding through a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO), and provide regulation-making authority to create rules regarding study requirements for complete applications.

Conservation Ontario is the voice of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.

Conservation Ontario supports the government's commitment to timely and transparent planning and development approvals.

- We appreciate the provincial government's continued commitment to ensuring development does not occur on hazardous lands, as noted in ERO#025-0461.
- Strong natural hazard planning and regulatory frameworks are essential to protect housing, sensitive institutional uses such as schools, hospitals and care facilities, critical infrastructure, and the public from natural hazard impacts, including flooding and erosion.

Conservation Ontario is committed to the goals of:

- **Protecting people, property, and infrastructure from the impacts of natural hazards; and,**
- **Protecting sources of municipal drinking water.**

Conservation Ontario believes that achieving these goals requires informed planning supported by a comprehensive understanding of hazard areas and significant (drinking water) threat policies within municipal jurisdictions.

- Municipalities rely on Conservation Authorities¹ for mapping for hazardous lands and sites in municipal planning documents, including Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws.
- Working with Source Protection Authorities, municipal planning documents further incorporate significant drinking water threat policies that must be 'conformed with' and other policies that they 'have regard to' arising from their local Source Protection Plan.

Conservation Ontario provides the following comments on select aspects of these proposals. A summary is provided in Attachment 1. These comments are limited to changes implemented through Bill 17 and are not reflective of the full suite of proposed changes as outlined in the Province's Bill 17 Technical Briefing Deck.

1. Minor Variances (As-of-Right Variations from Setback Requirements)

- Bill 17 enables new regulation-making authority to allow variations to a municipal zoning by-law to be permitted "as of right" if a proposal is within a percentage of the required setback on specified lands (currently proposed to be 10%).
- These provisions would only apply to buildings or structures on urban residential lands outside of the Greenbelt Area and would further exclude any area that is within 120 m of certain hazardous lands (including shorelines) and lands within 300 m of most railways.

Conservation Ontario supports process improvements to facilitate safe housing and infrastructure development, while ensuring that development occurs outside of hazardous lands.

- Recent publications^{2,3,4} highlight limited municipal capacity to map and effectively manage flooding and other natural hazards, emphasizing the need for collaborative partnerships with Conservation Authorities to ensure hazardous areas are accurately reflected in municipal planning documents.

¹ Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. (2024). *Provincial Planning Statement, 2024*. Policy 5.2. Government of Ontario.

² Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. (2022). *Value-for-Money Audit: Climate Change Adaptation: Reducing Urban Flood Risk*.

³ Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. (2024). *Follow-up on the 2022 Performance Audit: Climate Change Adaptation: Reducing Urban Flood Risk*.

⁴ McNeil, D. (2019). *Ontario's Special Advisor on Flooding Report to Government: An Independent Review of the 2019 Flood Events in Ontario*.

- To ensure “as-of-right” setback reductions do not have the effect of siting development in areas impacted by natural hazards, Conservation Authorities will continue to collaborate with municipal partners to ensure current hazard mapping is incorporated into municipal Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws.

2. Study Requirements and Certified Professionals

- Bill 17 enables new regulation-making authority to specify the type and topics of studies/reports that may be requested as part of a complete application under the *Planning Act* and limit complete application study/report requirements to what is currently outlined in Official Plans, unless otherwise approved by the Minister.
- Applications made under the *Planning Act* are often accompanied by municipally requested technical studies or reports to confirm site constraints, policy compliance, and assess impacts on infrastructure, municipal drinking water sources, and public health and safety.

Conservation Ontario recommends future regulations enable municipalities to require studies/reports used to confirm consistency with provincial policies related to natural hazards and applicable drinking water source protection policies as part of a complete application.

- Supporting studies and reports provide approval authorities with technical information to make informed decisions on development proposals.
- These studies ensure the proposed development does not negatively impact natural hazards, safeguard sources of municipal drinking water, and maintain a high standard of public safety.
- A list of potential study/report topics and types is provided in Attachment 2.

- Amendments further require municipalities to accept studies/reports prepared by “prescribed professionals” as “final” for the purpose of determining a complete application.
- It is anticipated that a range of professions / professional designations may be included in a future regulation, each with varying technical expertise to support the development of municipally-requested studies/reports.

Conservation Ontario recommends the regulation clarify the specific designations and expertise for “prescribed professionals”, specific to each report type, to ensure studies/reports are prepared by appropriate professionals.

3. Streamlined Planning Approval for Schools

- Bill 17 provides “as-of-right” permission to locate public elementary and high schools on urban lands zoned for residential uses. The Bill further exempts the placement of all portable classrooms at public schools from site plan control.

Conservation Ontario supports efforts to facilitate timely and safe development of institutional uses, such as schools and day-care facilities.

- As previously noted, we recommend municipal zoning resources be updated to ensure development is not situated in hazardous lands or sites, further to prohibitions in policy 5.2.6 (a) of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024.
- Consideration should also be given to scoping “as-of-right” provisions to exclude areas subject to natural hazards and/or areas where safe access cannot be achieved.

Conservation Ontario recommends in lieu of the requirement for a Zoning By-Law Amendment, a streamlined review process to confirm that natural hazards do not pose a safety threat for the siting of schools and day-care facilities.

- Conservation Authorities are prepared to assist municipal partners with an expedited review to help facilitate timely and safe development.

4. Minister’s Zoning Orders

- Bill 17 provides the Minister with the ability to impose enforceable conditions on municipalities or proponents that must be met before a use permitted by a Minister’s Zoning Order comes into effect.

Conservation Ontario supports using this new authority to improve transparency and effective implementation of MZOs.

For example, conditions could be applied to request completion of satisfactory studies/reports, or inclusion of appropriate safeguards for drinking water sources or against the impacts of natural hazards (e.g., flooding and erosion).

Conservation Ontario requests that the Province, when considering a request for a Minister’s Zoning Order, consult with affected municipalities and Conservation Authorities on potential conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on “Proposed Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006 Changes (Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17 - Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025)” (ERO#025-0461), “Proposed Regulations- Complete

Application" (ERO#025-0462), and the "Proposed Regulation- As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements" (ERO#025-0463). We would be pleased to further discuss these comments at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Bonnie Fox
Policy and Planning Director

c.c. Conservation Authority CAOs/GMs

Attachment 1: Summary

1. Conservation Ontario supports the government's commitment to timely and transparent planning and development approvals.
2. Conservation Ontario is committed to the goals of:
 - a. Protecting people, property, and infrastructure from the impacts of natural hazards and
 - b. Protecting sources of municipal drinking water
3. Conservation Ontario believes that achieving these goals requires informed planning supported by a comprehensive understanding of hazard areas and significant (drinking water) threat policies within municipal jurisdictions.
4. Conservation Ontario supports process improvements to facilitate safe housing and infrastructure development, while ensuring that development occurs outside of hazardous lands.
5. Conservation Ontario recommends future regulations enable municipalities to require studies/reports used to confirm consistency with provincial policies related to natural hazards and applicable drinking water source protection policies as part of a complete application.
6. Conservation Ontario recommends future regulations clarify the specific designations and expertise for "prescribed professionals", specific to each report type, to ensure studies/reports are prepared by appropriate professionals.
7. Conservation Ontario supports efforts to facilitate timely and safe development of institutional uses, such as schools and day-care facilities.
 - a. Conservation Ontario recommends in lieu of the requirement for a Zoning By-Law Amendment, a streamlined review process to confirm that natural hazards do not pose a safety threat for the siting of schools and day-care facilities.
8. Conservation Ontario supports the use of new MZO authority to improve transparency and effective implementation of MZOs.
 - a. Conservation Ontario requests that the Province, when considering a request for a Minister's Zoning Order, consult with affected municipalities and Conservation Authorities on potential conditions.

Attachment 2: Potential Studies/Reports that Municipalities may request to support complete applications under the *Planning Act*

The following studies are examples of what may be required to support informed decisions on applications submitted under the *Planning Act*. These lists are not exhaustive. The specific proposal, geographic context, and applicable local policies will further scope necessary studies. Where study/report recommendations are put forward by Conservation Authorities through their mandatory plan review and input roles, CAs will work with municipal partners to scope study requirements to capture necessary details to support municipal decision-making.

1. Studies required by Source Protection Plan policies. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Groundwater Impact Studies (in areas identified as significant Groundwater Recharge Areas).
- b. Hydrogeological analysis / risk assessment (where proposed development may pose risk to vulnerable aquifers).
- c. Water balance assessment.
- d. Intake / wellhead vulnerability mapping.
- e. Transport Pathway Vulnerability Assessment.

2. Studies required to assess consistency with provincial natural hazard policies (e.g., PPS, 2024) and conformity with natural hazard policies in provincial plans. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Detailed site plan / site screening report.
- b. Studies/ reports to assess potential flooding hazards (e.g., *flood plain study reports, flood hazard assessments, hydraulic modelling, topographic report, grading plan, drainage catchment assessments, post-development drainage plans, etc.*)
- c. Studies / reports to assess potential erosion hazards (e.g., *geotechnical investigations / assessments, erosion hazards assessments [meander belts, slope stability, etc.], sediment and erosion control plans, etc.*)
- d. Studies / reports to assess potential shoreline/coastal hazards (e.g., *coastal hazard / engineering assessment, shoreline stability report, etc.*)
- e. Studies / reports to assess potential wetland hazards/impacts (e.g., *hydrological evaluations / water balance, wetland delineation study, scoped Environmental Impact Study, etc.*)
- f. Studies / reports to assess potential stormwater management needs (e.g., *stormwater management report, functional servicing report, etc.*)

11.3) Climate crisis on track to destroy capitalism, warns top insurer

Climate crisis on track to destroy capitalism, warns top insurer

Action urgently needed to save the conditions under which markets – and civilisation itself – can operate, says senior Allianz figure



Some companies were ending home insurance in California due to wildfires, says Allianz SE board member. He says that without insurance, many other financial services become unviable, from mortgages to investments. Photograph: Mario Tama/Getty Images

Damian Carrington *Environment editor, The Guardian*

Thu 3 Apr 2025 10.41 BST

Share

The climate crisis is on track to destroy capitalism, a top insurer has warned, with the vast cost of extreme weather impacts leaving the financial sector unable to operate.

The world is fast approaching temperature levels where insurers will no longer be able to offer cover for many climate risks, said Günther Thallinger, on the board of Allianz SE, one of the world's biggest insurance companies. He said that without insurance, which is already being pulled in some places, many other financial services become unviable, from mortgages to investments.

Global carbon emissions are still rising and **current policies will result in a rise in global temperature** between 2.2C and 3.4C above pre-industrial levels. The damage at 3C will be so great that governments will be unable to provide financial bailouts and it will be impossible to adapt to many climate impacts, said Thallinger, who is also the chair of the German company's investment board and was previously CEO of Allianz Investment Management.

The core business of the insurance industry is risk management and it has long taken the dangers of global heating very seriously. In recent reports, [Aviva said extreme weather damages](#) for the decade to 2023 hit \$2tn, while [GallagherRE said the figure was \\$400bn](#) in 2024. [Zurich said it was “essential”](#) to hit net zero by 2050. (<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/nov/11/extreme-weather-cost-2tn-globally-over-past-decade-report-finds>)

Thallinger said: “The good news is [we already have the technologies](#) to switch from fossil combustion to zero-emission energy. The only thing missing is speed and scale. This is about saving the conditions under which markets, finance, and civilisation itself can continue to operate.”

Nick Robins, the chair of the Just Transition Finance Lab at the London School of [Economics](#), said: “This devastating analysis from a global insurance leader sets out not just the financial but also the civilisational threat posed by climate change. It needs to be the basis for renewed action, particularly in the countries of the global south.”

“The insurance sector is a canary in the coalmine when it comes to climate impacts,” said Janos Pasztor, former UN assistant secretary-general for climate change.

The argument set out by Thallinger in a [LinkedIn post](#) begins with the [increasingly severe damage being caused by the climate crisis](#): “Heat and water destroy capital. Flooded homes lose value. Overheated cities become uninhabitable. Entire asset classes are degrading in real time.”

“We are fast approaching temperature levels – 1.5C, 2C, 3C – where insurers will no longer be able to offer coverage for many of these risks,” he said. “The math breaks down: the premiums required exceed what people or companies can pay. This is already happening. Entire regions are becoming uninsurable.” He cited companies [ending home insurance in California](#) due to wildfires.

Thallinger said it was a systemic risk “threatening the very foundation of the financial sector”, because a lack of insurance means other financial services become unavailable: “This is a climate-induced credit crunch.”

“This applies not only to housing, but to infrastructure, transportation, agriculture, and industry,” he said. “The economic value of entire regions – coastal, arid, wildfire-prone – will begin to vanish from financial ledgers. Markets will reprice, rapidly and brutally. This is what a climate-driven market failure looks like.”

No governments will realistically be able to cover the damage when multiple high-cost events happen in rapid succession, as climate models predict, Thallinger said. Australia’s [disaster recovery spending](#) has already increased sevenfold between 2017 and 2023, he noted.

The idea that billions of people can just adapt to worsening climate impacts is a “false comfort”, he said: “There is no way to ‘adapt’ to temperatures beyond human tolerance ... Whole cities built on flood plains cannot simply pick up and move uphill.”

At 3C of global heating, climate damage cannot be insured against, covered by governments, or adapted to, Thallinger said: “That means no more mortgages, no new real estate development, no long-term investment, no financial stability. The financial sector as we know it ceases to function. And with it, capitalism as we know it ceases to be viable.”

The only solution was to cut fossil fuel burning, or capture the emissions, he said, with everything else being a delay or distraction. He said capitalism must solve the crisis, starting with putting its sustainability goals on the same level as financial goals.

Many financial institutions have moved away from climate action after the election of the US president, Donald Trump, who has called such action a “green scam”. Thallinger said in February: “The cost of inaction is higher than the cost of transformation and adaptation. If we succeed in our transition, we will enjoy a more efficient, competitive economy [and] a higher quality of life.”

12. Other Business

13. Adjournment
