



# Board of Directors Meeting

## AGENDA

Annual General Meeting 2025  
February 20, 2025  
1:30 p.m. Guest Speaker  
1:50 p.m. Awards/Recognitions followed by  
Annual General Meeting  
Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

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# 1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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We will begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario. We also acknowledge the local lower Thames River watershed communities of this area which include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation, Caldwell Nation and Walpole Island First Nation. We acknowledge the first nations people within the villages, towns and cities of our communities. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

## 2. Call to Order

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## 3. Adoption of Agenda

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## 4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

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## 5. Chairs Remarks

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It is a great honor to be here today as I close my final year as Chair of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. As I look around the room, I am reminded of the collective effort it takes to ensure that our communities and the ecosystems which sustain us are protected and sustained for generations to come.

Over the past year, the LTVCA has celebrated many successes. We are expanding and improving our scientific and technical work which supports the resilience and health of our aquatic ecosystems and Lake Erie. For example, funding received for the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program directs significant resources to our rural communities to support a reduction phosphorus loading to Lake Erie. The LTVCA is supporting the Pelee Coastal Resilience Project, which brings a nature based and collaborative community approach to coastal resilience and sustainable adaptation.

In addition, our work to support community and municipalities has continued to grow. The LTVCA and the community came together to revitalize the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival. The new organizing committee was able to implement a successful event to continue this much-loved community event. Our work in stewardship continues to showcase the importance of environmental restoration and best management practices but also highlights the power of collaboration. Without the efforts of private landowners, so much work which benefits the entire watershed would go undone.

All of this has been accomplished with the significant handicap of increased provincial requirements –in the form of the new Section 28 policies and procedures. The LTVCA staff completed five major reports for the Province without any additional funding being provided to support this work. As a result, 2025 will be a year of addressing those important items which were put aside to complete the provincially required reporting.

The **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority** remains dedicated to responsible management, community engagement, and science-based decision-making that puts the needs of our natural environment and the people who live here at the core of everything we do. We also rely on the continued support of our partners, stakeholders, and you, the community members who live and work alongside us in this beautiful watershed. Together, we can tackle the challenges ahead, whether it's protecting environmental health, providing a connection to nature or collaborating on community initiatives. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to sit in this chair for two years, and I look forward to supporting the LTVCA in the years to come.

## 6. Introduction of Guests

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# 7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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## 7.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 19, 2024



## Board of Directors Meeting

### MINUTES

The meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 19, 2024. The following directors were in attendance: S. Emons, K. Loveland, P. Tiessen, P. Van Meerbergen, H. Aerts, T. Thompson and M. Vink. S. Hipple, A. Finn, R. Leatham, L. Vogler and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

#### 1. First Nations Acknowledgment

Mark Peacock, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer read the First Nations acknowledgement.

#### 2. Call to Order

#### 3. Adoption of Agenda

**BD-2024-71 T. Thompson – P. Van Meerbergen**

**Moved that the agenda be adopted as amended with the addition of item 10.9).**

CARRIED

#### 4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

#### 5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

**BD-2024-72 P. Tiessen – T. Thompson**

**Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of October 17, 2024 and December 4, 2024 be approved.**

CARRIED

#### 6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

#### 7. Presentations

7.1) Administrative By-Law - Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers Update 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Valerie Towsley provided a presentation to the Board of Directors on the Administrative By-Law - Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers Update – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

7.2) Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

Mark Peacock and Valerie Towsley provided a presentation to the Board of Directors on the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

**BD-2024-73 K. Loveland – H. Aerts**

**Moved that presentations 7.1 – 7.2 be received.**

CARRIED

8. New Business

None declared.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Administrative By-Law - Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers - Update - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

**BD-2024-74 T. Thompson – P. Tiessen**

**Moved that the updated By-law 2025-03 be read for a first time; and**

**That staff be directed to post the Administrative By-law - Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers – Update on the LTVCA’s website for consultation by the public.**

CARRIED

9.2) Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

**BD-2024-75 K. Loveland – P. Van Meerbergen**

**Moved that the Board of Directors endorses the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy as a living document to guide the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority staffing and programs;**

**And that the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy be moved from the Public Consultation section to the Governance section on our website;**

**And That moving forward, that any reports to the Board will reference the new Strategy as aligning with the objectives within the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy.**

CARRIED

9.3) Conservation Lands Strategy

**BD-2024- 76 P. Tiessen – T. Thompson**

**Moved that the Board of Directors endorses the Conservation Lands Strategy as a living document to guide the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority staffing and programs;**

**And that the Conservation Lands Strategy be moved from the Public Consultation section to the Governance section on our website;**

**And that moving forward, that any reports to the Board will reference the new Strategy as aligning with the objectives within the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy and the Conservation Lands Strategy.**

CARRIED

9.4) LTVCA Asset Management Plan

**BD-2024-77 K. Loveland – T. Thompson**

**Moved that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Asset Management Plan 2024 be approved.**

CARRIED

9.5) Flood Plain Mapping Through the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program

**BD-2024-78 P. Van Meerbergen – H. Aerts**

**Moved that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves participation in the Township of Southwold – Talbot Creek Flood Plain Mapping project and**

**That Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves providing in-kind support for the carrying out of this project.**

CARRIED

**BD-2024-79 T. Thompson – P. Tiessen**

**Moved that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves participation in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent South Chatham Flood Plain Mapping Project and**

**That Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves providing in-kind support for the carrying out of this project.**

CARRIED

**BD-2024-80 T. Thompson – K. Loveland**

**Moved that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves participation in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent Phase 1 Thames River Flood Plain Mapping Project and**

That the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves providing in-kind support for the carrying out of this project.

CARRIED

9.6) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to October 31, 2024

**BD-2024-81 K. Loveland – P. Tiessen**

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended October 31, 2024.

CARRIED

10. Business for Information

10.1) CAO Report

**BD-2024-82 T. Thompson – P. Van Meerbergen**

Moved that the CAO / Secretary-Treasurer report be approved for information purposes.

CARRIED

10.2) Water Management

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.4) Conservation Area Lands

10.5) Conservation Services

10.6) Communications, Education and Outreach

10.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes November 14, 2024

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association November Minutes

**BD-2024-83 K. Loveland – H. Aerts**

Moved that Business for Information items 10.2) to 10.8) be received for information.

CARRIED

10.9) LTVCA Water and Erosion Control Structures Operational Plan

**BD-2024-84 M. Vink – K. Loveland**

Moved that Business for Information item 10.9) LTVCA Water and Erosion Control Structures Operational Plan be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

11.1) Rebuild or retreat? Repeat flooding forces tough decisions on homeowners, governments

**BD-2024-85 P. Tiessen – P. Van Meerbergen**

Moved that Correspondence item 11.1) be received for information.



CARRIED

12. Other Business

None noted.

13. Adjournment

BD-2024-86 T. Thompson – P. Van Meerbergen

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Sarah Emons  
Chair



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



# Special Board of Directors Meeting

## MINUTES

### Special Meeting at the Call of the Chair

**February 3, 2025  
7:00 p.m.**

A Special Meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held via Zoom at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, February 3, 2025 at the call of the Chair. A roll call was held with the following members in attendance: S. Emons, T. Thompson, P. Tiessen, A. Finn, H. Aerts, K. Loveland, L. Vogler, M. Vink and R. Leatham. Regrets were sent in by P. Van Meerbergen, S. Hipple and M. Bondy.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock read the First Nations Acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

Chair, Sarah Emons called the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 7:00 PM.

3. Adoption of Agenda

**BD-2025-01 P. Tiessen – T. Thompson**

**Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.**

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Business for Approval

5.1) Report on Tender - CM Wilson Conservation Area – Workspace Conversion – (Garage to a Water Quality Monitoring Office)

Genevieve Champagne provided the Board of Directors with a Power Point Presentation on the results of the tender process for the CM Wilson Learning Centre garage conversion to a Water Quality Monitoring office space.

**BD-2025-02 A. Finn – K. Loveland**

**Moved that the Tender T04-2025 - C.M Conservation Area - Workspace Conversion project be awarded to Westheok Construction Inc. for a total value of \$72,602 (before HST).**

**And that the CAO and Chair be authorized to sign contractual documents in this award.**

CARRIED

6. Other Business

None noted.

7. Adjournment


**BD-2025-03 T. Thompson – L. Vogler**

**Moved that the meeting be adjourned.**

CARRIED

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Sarah Emons  
Chair



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

## 8. Business Arising from the Minutes

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## 9. Presentations

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### 9.1) 2024 Annual Report

Amanda Blain will provide a presentation to the Board of Directors on the 2024 LTVCA Annual Report.

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

Donna Small will provide a presentation on the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program.

## 10. New Business

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# 11. Business for Approval

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## 11.1) 2024 Annual Report

**Recommendation:** That the LTVCA's 2024 Annual Report be approved as presented.

## 11.2) Election of Officers and Appointments to Committees

Before the election, the current Chair will vacate the position and Mr. Mark Peacock will assume the Chair for the purposes of the elections and declare all elected offices, positions and appointments vacant. Additional motions may be necessary should appointment of scrutineers be required in the event of an election.

**Recommendation:** That Mark Peacock, CAO / Secretary-Treasurer be appointed to chair the elections.

a) Chair

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

b) Vice-Chairs (2)

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

c) Executive Committee (3 members (maximum) to be elected + Chair & Vice-Chairs)

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

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

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

e) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee (2 members maximum to be elected)

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

f) Ice Management Committee (2 members from Chatham-Kent, member from Lakeshore + Chair)

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

## 11.3) 2025 Budget and Apportionment

Date: February 20, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **2025 Budget and Apportionment**  
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

### **Background**

The LTVCA Board adopted the Preliminary 2025 Budget and apportionment at its meeting on October 17, 2024, in accordance with the following resolution:

*“That the 2025 preliminary budget totalling \$8,175,032 be approved and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed levy as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days’ notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and levy.*

*And that the final 2025 Budget be brought to the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2025 for approval.”*

### **Terms:**

#### *Category 1*

*Provincially defined mandatory programs (programs required by the province) are services provided by section 21.1 of the Act Category 1 - includes services addressing flooding, erosion, flood forecasting, administration, community relations, provincial monitoring programs, holding of lands, and source water protection.*

#### *Category 2*

*Municipal programs and services provided under section 21.1.1 of the Act. This category includes services that would have been considered “special apportionment” for specific work requested by a municipality. In the past a number of municipalities have had these levies. Currently the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is the only member with services provided under this category.*

#### *Category 3*

*Other programs and services of the conservation authority provided under section 21.1.2 of the Act*

*Services offered under category 3 are as follows:*

*Conservation Education, Elements of monitoring, Species at Risk, Stewardship, and Campgrounds – Active use of Conservation Areas*

### **Current Situation**

As per legal requirements the Preliminary Budget was circulated to all member municipalities on December 20, 2024 with an invitation to meet with each municipalities Executive Management Team or Council. This preliminary budget was also posted to the LTVCA web site shortly after its approval on October 17, 2024. No comments have been received from member municipalities or the public.

Several minor adjustments have since been incorporated into the 2025 Budget since its preliminary approval in October 2024. With these changes, there has been no additional impact on municipal apportionment.

**Discussion**

The 2025 Final Draft Budget of \$8,175,032 represents an increase of \$3,818,938 or 87.7% in overall spending in comparison to the 2024 approved budget of \$4,356,094. The greatest variances from 2024 to 2025 include:

- A very significant increase to Phosphorus Reduction due to the new Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program;
- An increase in Flood Control Structures, Technical Studies, Planning & Regulations and Watershed monitoring;
- An increase in Conservation Area expenses;
- An increase in Conservation Services and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses;
- An increase in Administration expenses;
- And off-set by an decrease in Species at Risk programs.

The corresponding increase in the municipal apportionment is \$107,863 or 5.78%. As in previous years, annual adjustments to each municipality’s assessment within the watershed vary, ranging from 3.83% for the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex to 72.84% for the Township of Southwold, as shown in the last column of the table accompanying the budget on page 23 of the agenda package.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 402/22, whereby, should the LTVCA wish to apportion municipalities for Category 2 and 3 funds, an agreement must be signed between the LTVCA and the municipality. All 10 municipalities have signed these agreements. Further, the agreements specify that the apportionment will be approved by a recorded, “weighted” vote (based on Modified Current Value Assessment) of the Authority, the apportionment is shown broken out as per requirements of that regulation:

- Category 1 Apportionment: \$1,880,049
- Category 3 Apportionment: (\$119,333)
- Special Apportionment: \$213,200 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent)
- Total Municipal Apportionment, \$1,973,916

**Recommendation:**

That the 2025 Municipal Apportionment be approved;

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

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

**Recommendation:** That the 2025 proposed budget totalling \$8,175,032 be approved as presented in the accompanying budget tables.

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



**Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority**  
2025 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

Object	COMBINED		CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
<b>Expenditures</b>								
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	173,809	203,740	173,809	203,740	-	-	-	-
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	10	9	10	9	-	-	-	-
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	106,545	101,191	106,545	101,191	-	-	-	-
TECHNICAL STUDIES	102,687	179,247	102,687	179,247	-	-	-	-
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	386,983	422,185	386,983	422,185	-	-	-	-
WATERSHED MONITORING	123,621	154,426	118,571	150,026	-	-	5,050	4,400
SOURCE PROTECTION	23,882	25,733	23,882	25,733	-	-	-	-
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION AREAS	674,081	792,276	510,591	612,877	-	-	163,490	179,399
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	142,735	135,861	142,735	135,861	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	113,297	122,403	-	-	-	-	113,297	122,403
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	124,702	115,422	-	-	-	-	124,702	115,422
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	172,398	223,657	-	-	-	-	172,398	223,657
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	517,898	531,352	-	-	80,000	83,200	437,898	448,152
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	923,336	4,310,506	-	-	-	-	923,336	4,310,506
SPECIES AT RISK	171,028	112,356	-	-	-	-	171,028	112,356
ADMINISTRATION	599,082	728,058	599,082	728,058	-	-	-	-
ASSET MANAGEMENT	-	16,610	-	16,610	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recovered Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>4,356,094</b>	<b>8,175,032</b>	<b>2,164,895</b>	<b>2,575,537</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>83,200</b>	<b>2,111,199</b>	<b>5,516,295</b>
<b>Revenues</b>								
Other Taxation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government Grants & Subsidies	(1,468,581)	(5,368,352)	(217,485)	(268,288)	-	-	(1,251,096)	(5,100,064)
User Fees	(1,021,460)	(832,764)	(297,150)	(297,200)	-	-	(724,310)	(535,564)
Other Municipal Revenues	(205,000)	(213,200)	(125,000)	(130,000)	(80,000)	(83,200)	-	-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>(2,695,041)</b>	<b>(6,414,316)</b>	<b>(639,635)</b>	<b>(695,488)</b>	<b>(80,000)</b>	<b>(83,200)</b>	<b>(1,975,406)</b>	<b>(5,635,628)</b>
<b>Total Net Budget</b>	<b>1,661,053</b>	<b>1,760,716</b>	<b>1,525,260</b>	<b>1,880,049</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>135,793</b>	<b>(119,333)</b>
<b>Net Inc. / (Dec.) \$</b>		<b>99,663</b>						
<b>Net Inc. / (Dec.) %</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6.0%</b>						

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2025 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<b><u>WATER MANAGEMENT</u></b>					
<b><u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	130,766	160,049	160,049		
OPERATIONS	29,998	30,309	30,309		
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	6,945	13,282	13,282		
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	6,100	100	100		
<b>TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</b>	<b>173,809</b>	<b>203,740</b>	<b>203,740</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 <b><u>EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS					
OPERATIONS	10	9	9		
<b>TOTAL EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 <b><u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	88,955	83,221	83,221		
DATA COLLECTIONS	12,176	12,140	12,140		
FLOOD FORECASTING	1,850	2,270	2,270		
COMMUNICATIONS	1,400	1,400	1,400		
OPERATIONS CENTRE (RENT)	550	550	550		
FLOOD RESPONSE AND MONITORING	1,614	1,610	1,610		
<b>TOTAL FLOOD FORECASTING &amp; WARNING</b>	<b>106,545</b>	<b>101,191</b>	<b>101,191</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2025 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>TECHNICAL STUDIES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	98,237	173,527	173,527		
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & MAPPING	0	0	0		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	4,450	5,720	5,720		
TOTAL TECHNICAL STUDIES	102,687	179,247	179,247	0	0
<u>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	343,349	370,596	370,596		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	43,634	51,589	51,589		
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	386,983	422,185	422,185	0	0
<u>WATERSHED MONITORING</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	74,239	104,800	104,800		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	49,382	49,626	45,226		4,400
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	123,621	154,426	150,026	0	4,400
<u>SOURCE PROTECTION</u>					
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0		

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2025 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<b><u>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	360,065	442,744	360,118		82,626
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	314,016	349,532	252,759		96,773
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	674,081	792,276	612,877	0	179,399
<b><u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</u></b>					
<b><u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	133,135	126,261	126,261		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	9,600	9,600	9,600		
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS	142,735	135,861	135,861	0	0
<b><u>CONSERVATION EDUCATION</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	106,035	114,143			114,143
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	7,262	8,260			8,260
TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION	113,297	122,403	0	0	122,403
<b><u>SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	116,632	107,402			107,402
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	8,070	8,020			8,020
TOTAL SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	124,702	115,422	0	0	115,422

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2025 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<b><u>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</u></b>					
<b><u>CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	126,008	174,669			174,669
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	46,390	48,988			48,988
<b>TOTAL FORESTRY</b>	<b>172,398</b>	<b>223,657</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>223,657</b>
 <b><u>CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	244,380	233,134		83,200	149,934
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	273,518	298,218			298,218
<b>TOTAL CHATHAM-KENT GREENING</b>	<b>517,898</b>	<b>531,352</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>83,200</b>	<b>448,152</b>
 <b><u>PHOSPHORUS</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	476,200	901,037			901,037
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	447,136	3,409,469			3,409,469
<b>TOTAL PHOSPHORUS</b>	<b>923,336</b>	<b>4,310,506</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,310,506</b>

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2025 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<b><u>SPECIES AT RISK</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	162,028	100,851			100,851
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	9,000	11,505			11,505
TOTAL CONS. SERVICES	171,028	112,356	0	0	112,356
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	423,856	470,353	470,353		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	175,226	257,705	257,705		
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	599,082	728,058	728,058	0	0
ASSET MANAGEMENT		16,610	16,610		

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**Apportionment (Levy) for 2025 using Modified CVA**

	<b>Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)</b>	<b>% of Levy</b>	<b>Special Apportionment 2025</b>	<b>Total General Apportionment (Levy) 2025</b>	<b>Total Municipal Apportionment (Levy) 2025</b>	<b>Total Municipal Apportionment (Levy) 2024</b>	<b>\$ Change from 2024 Apportionment (Levy)</b>	<b>% Change from 2024</b>
Dutton-Dunwich M	576,459,862	3.6834%	0	64,854	64,854	61,711	3,143	5.09%
Southwold Tp	295,805,737	1.8901%	0	33,279	33,279	19,254	14,025	72.84%
West Elgin M	653,273,036	4.1742%	0	73,496	73,496	70,721	2,775	3.92%
Lakeshore M	1,501,140,854	9.5918%	0	168,884	168,884	159,246	9,638	6.05%
Leamington M	375,548,669	2.3996%	0	42,251	42,251	39,996	2,255	5.64%
Chatham-Kent M	8,741,988,584	55.8582%	213,200	983,504	1,196,704	1,141,587	55,117	4.83%
London C	1,809,144,305	11.5598%	0	203,535	203,535	192,412	11,123	5.78%
Middlesex Centre M	272,671,822	1.7423%	0	30,676	30,676	28,650	2,026	7.07%
Southwest Middlesex M	452,470,347	2.8911%	0	50,904	50,904	49,029	1,875	3.82%
Strathroy - Caradoc M	971,816,576	6.2096%	0	109,333	109,333	103,447	5,886	5.69%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,650,319,792</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$213,200</b>	<b>\$1,760,716</b>	<b>\$1,973,916</b>	<b>\$1,866,053</b>	<b>\$107,863</b>	<b>5.78%</b>



#### 11.4) Appointment of Auditor

**Recommendation:** That the firm of Baker Tilly be appointed as the auditor of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority until the next Annual Meeting in February 2026 .

#### 11.5) Appointment of Bank

**Recommendation:** That the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's bank until the next Annual Meeting in February 2026.

#### 11.6) Appointment of Solicitor

**Recommendation:** That the firm of M. Gordnerlaw Professional Corporation be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2026.

#### 11.7) Authorization to Borrow

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

#### 11.8) Appointments to Conservation Ontario

Voting representative; 1<sup>st</sup> alternative; 2<sup>nd</sup> alternative.

**Recommendation:** That the "Chair" be appointed as Voting Representative; and the CAO as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative.

#### 11.9) 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Recommendation:** That the meeting schedule for 2025 and the Annual General Meeting for 2026 be endorsed.



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

Date: February 20, 2025  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner  
Subject: **Administrative By-Law - Best Management Practices and Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policies, Procedure for Election of Officers – Update Second Reading**

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

The edits are administrative in nature, primarily to bring it up to date with language in Ontario Regulation 402/22, Budget and Apportionment. The draft By-law is available for review by the Board of Directors via our website located here: [https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Administration-By-law-2025-Draft-Policy\\_Hearing-Guideline-amended.pdf](https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Administration-By-law-2025-Draft-Policy_Hearing-Guideline-amended.pdf). Note: Initially we did not include the Best Management Practices section in the By-law, but is now included in this updated Policy.

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

Any changes that we made to our By-law are as follows:

- In the very top end of the document they left present text when it should now be past tense;
- Anything new is in **red** text;
- Anything that was existing in our document that is not within CO's version is **struck through and highlighted in yellow**;
- Any additions and/or notes that I have made to a change are in **(brackets) and/or highlighted in yellow**.

The draft Policy has been posted to the LTVCA's website under our 'Public Consultation' section for feedback from the public.

The By-law requires three readings, with posting to the Authority's website for public review and comments. The first reading was undertaken at the December 2024 meeting, this is the second reading as of February 20, 2025, with the final reading and passing of the By-law to take place at the following meeting in April 2025.

### **Recommendation:**

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

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Valerie Towsley  
Watershed Resource Planner

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

# 12. Business for Information

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## 12.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

As demonstrated within the pages of this annual report, the Staff and Members of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority continue to work toward the fulfilment of our vision for the watershed – balancing the health of our water and natural heritage with a healthy economy. The LTVCA made great strides in 2024 but this was not without challenges.

The year 2024 was a year of additional work to address new requirements of the provincial government. This required staff to complete a number of significant studies. These included the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy, the Conservation Lands Strategy, the Conservation Lands Inventory, the Water and Erosion Control Structures Infrastructure Operational Plan and the LTVCA Asset Management Plan. These studies were completed by staff who set aside work that was scheduled to be completed to meet timelines as set by the province. The year 2025 will be a year of catching up on programs delayed by this work.

In addition to the work described above, in 2024 LTVCA staff prepared new planning and regulations policies and procedures and an updated LTVCA Administrative By-Law to address changes in the Conservation Authorities Act and its regulations.

A significant amount of the LTVCA's efforts support stewardship, as the LTVCA implements projects to meet ambitious goals – especially pertaining to reduction in nutrients reaching Lake Erie. This effort has received a significant boost with the LTVCA signing an agreement with the federal government under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (FEI). The program began ramping up in 2024. In the next 3 years the LTVCA will be implementing a Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program across the watershed. Environment and Climate Change Canada is providing \$13,000,000 over the duration of the program to complete this work.

I would like to thank staff for all their hard work and provide a note of staff's appreciation to a committed and supportive Board of Directors. Finally, I would like to thank the hundreds of watershed residents who worked with the LTVCA to improve the watershed. The LTVCA was able to meet the challenges of 2024 because of the support of all these people.

I would urge you to become familiar with our programs and services and engage with our staff at every opportunity to help fulfil our collective goals. We are fortunate to live and work in the Lower Thames Valley, and have a duty to conserve and improve this region's environment for present and future generations.

### **Additional Information Further to CAO Report**

The following describes the strategies and plans that were required to be prepared by all Conservation Authorities in Ontario by December 31, 2024.

### **The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy**

The Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy has been developed with the purpose of assisting the authority with enhancing its programs and services to address local watershed issues. The strategy both demonstrates the rationale for existing programs and services and identifies opportunities for future programs and services to address identified gaps in watershed management. The strategy is an opportunity to review how the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority approach to watershed management has evolved as watershed issues and knowledge have changed since the Conservation Authority was established in 1961, and to forecast where it's heading based on emerging concerns.

## **The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Conservation Lands Strategy**

In December 2020, changes in the Conservation Authorities Act resulted in the introduction of mandatory programs and services which are to be delivered by all conservation authorities. Ontario Regulation 686/21 defines one of the mandatory programs as the “conservation and management of lands”. Further, Section 10 of the regulation requires all conservation authorities to prepare a Conservation Area Strategy, for all lands owned or controlled by conservation authorities, by December 31, 2024.

This strategy provides a clear set of objectives which will inform decision-making related to the management, acquisition and disposal of lands owned by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA). Currently, the LTVCA has been operating under a number of Land Management and Conservation Area Management Plans

## **The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Lands Inventory**

LTVCA’s Land Inventory identifies every parcel of land that Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority owns and includes some basic information for each parcel, such as location, acquisition date, method, and land use category.

## **Water and Erosion Control Structures Infrastructure Operational Plan**

The LTVCA’s Water and Erosion Control Structures Infrastructure Operational Plan is comprised of operational plans prepared in the past for each structure managed and operated by the Authority. The Plan identifies the following key elements:

- The purpose of each structure
- The operations required to meet the design targets of the structure
- The maintenance procedures required to ensure the structure is always operable
- The information that is required to ensure staff can operate the structure safely and as intended in its design

## **LTVCA Asset Management Plan**

The LTVCA Asset Management Plan has been in the works for the last 2 years. LTVCA staff had originally planned to complete the plan in 2023. During this period however, the provincial government has made a number of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and approved a number of regulations that changed the way the LTVCA does business. All these changes have limited the time available to complete the plan on its original timelines. Provincial requirements meant that the plan had to be completed by the end of 2024. The final LTVCA Asset Management Plan has now been prepared and was approved at the December 2024 meeting of the LTVCA Board of Directors.

## 12.2) 2024 Permit Statistics, Timelines and Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24

**To:** LTVCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Jason Homewood, P.Geo., Water Resources and Regulations Technician  
**Date:** February 10, 2025  
**Subject:** 2024 Permit Statistics, Timelines and Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24

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### Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the report for information.

### Background:

On April 01, 2024, the Conservation Authorities Act was amended, bringing into force new legislative and regulatory requirements associated with Conservation Authority (CA) permitting. The requirements include timelines associated with the permitting process, as well as a new requirement for all CAs to prepare an annual report outlining statistics on permits and the level of compliance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits).

This report provides an overview of the permit statistics and timelines for the period in 2024 when O. Reg. 41/24 was in effect (being between April 01 to December 31) as well as the level of compliance with different sections of the regulation. It is important to note that the permit applications received prior to April 01, 2024 are not included in the below statistics and timelines.

### 2024 Permit Statistics:

2024 PERMIT STATISTICS – (APRIL 01 TO DECEMBER 31) <sup>1</sup>	
Total # of Applications Received	977
Total # of "Complete" Applications Received	606
Total # of Permits Issued (Overall)	584
Total # of "Major" Permits Issued	0
Total # of "Minor" Permits Issued	584
Total # of Applications Subject to Minister's Order (Minister's Review):	0

The differential between the number of applications received and the number of "complete" applications received is largely due to a significant number of applications received in December that weren't reviewed for completeness until January 2025. It wasn't until January 2025 that those applications were reviewed and the applicants invoiced for the application fees. Per O. Reg. 41/24, payment of an application fee is required in order for the application to be considered to be "complete".

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<sup>1</sup> Note: This report only captures permits issued from April 01 – December 31, 2024, as O. Reg. 41/24 was only implemented as of April 01, 2024. Permits issued between January 01 and March 31, 2024 were issued under O.Reg. 152/06.

Those applications could have been considered to be “complete” in December had the applicants been invoiced promptly and if they had paid promptly.

The differential between the number of permits issued versus the number of “complete” applications received can be attributed to applications which were put on hold or cancelled by the applicant, or hadn’t yet been processed as of the end of 2024.

Two “major” permit applications had been received in this time period but no decision could be made on the issuance of a permit as both required hearings and no hearings were scheduled. This was due to the inability of staff to prepare for and arrange the hearings. The applicants for both applications are eligible to appeal their applications directly to the Ontario Land Tribunal given the lack of an LTVCA decision (per Section 28.1 (22) of the CA Act).

**2024 Permit Timelines:**

<b>2024 PERMIT TIMELINES – (APRIL 01 TO DECEMBER 31)<sup>1</sup></b>	
Complete Application Review Total # of “complete application reviews” completed within 21 days:	809  168 applications exceeded the 21 days for their “completeness” review.
Permit Timelines (Major) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	0
Permit Timelines (Major) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	0
Permit Timelines (Minor) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	405
Permit Timelines (Minor) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	179
Variance from Timelines Reason for Variance from Timelines:	The majority of the permit applications were related to the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (“SWIFT”) program – bringing government subsidized high speed internet to rural areas. The projects were large in scope and covered significant portions of our watershed. The influx of these applications were often congregated and lead to immediate congestion and backlog issues given staffing restrictions.
Permit Timelines (Average – All) Overall Average Permit Review Timeline:	23.4 days (ranged between 0 & 92)
Permit Timelines (Average – Major – 90 Days) Average Major Permit Review Timeline:	N/A
Permit Timelines (Average – Minor – 30 Days) Average Minor Permit Review Timeline:	23.4 days (ranged between 0 & 92)

Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24:

<b>COMPLIANCE WITH O. REG. 41/24</b>	
<b>Mapping</b> Are maps of regulated areas available at the CA head office and on the CA website? (ss. 4(1) of O. Reg. 41/24)	Yes
<b>Mapping</b> Has the Authority undertaken an annual review of the mapping and made necessary updates? (ss. 4(2) of O. Reg. 41/24)	Mapping updates were completed for the implementation of O. Reg. 41/24 prior to April 01, 2024. Further minor improvements were made for usability on the website in April. Since then, staff have identified a number of areas where the mapping requires further updates. The LTVCA has been without a GIS Technician since September. However, a GIS Technician has since been hired and will work on the updates in 2025.
<b>Administrative Reviews</b> Total requests for administrative reviews made to the Authority:	0
<b>Administrative Reviews</b> Total administrative reviews completed within 30 days of the request:	N/A

**Analysis and Conclusion:**

The LTVCA issued 584 permits in 2024 under O. Reg. 41/24. Of those, 69% met the Provincial standards for service levels. For initial “complete application review”, 83% met the Provincial standard. Variances in meeting time standards for this reporting period can generally be attributed to challenges with staff’s ability to keep up with the workload demand due primarily to high pressures in the private utility industry, specifically fibre optic communication expansions. Even with support from municipal plan review staff, the staffing challenges persisted.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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

Jason Wintermute  
 Manager, Watershed & Information Services



## 12.3) Water Management

### 12.3.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

#### Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have been three flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in December. All three were Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages.

The first two messages were issued on December 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and were related to a rain event on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> that dropped 40 to 55 mm of rain around the watershed. This significant rainfall, for this time of the year, required the operation of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. The Thames River also rose up enough that it managed to get out into the low-lying river flats adjacent the river. The river did not get high enough that the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dam needed to be operated; the river would have had to rise another 1.15 m before that would have been required.

The third message was issued on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Weather forecasts were calling for 5 to 15 mm of rain. With frozen conditions around the watershed, there was the potential that this could have led to ice breakup and blockages on the region's smaller watercourses, if conditions were just a little worse than forecast. However, rainfall totals came in slightly lower, and a drop in temperatures froze some of water on the landscape before it made it to the river. As a result, there was no significant rise in water levels.

#### Risk for Spring Freshet Flooding and Ice Jams

Every year the LTVCA undertakes several monitoring programs to help determine the risk of ice jam flooding in the lower reaches of the river, together with monitoring of general watershed conditions for an indication of how large a spring freshet the watershed may see.

Bathymetry work at the mouth of the Thames River in Lake St. Clair is conducted to determine whether the offshore sandbar may impede river ice as it pushes out into the lake, thereby causing an ice jam. Previous studies noted that the river generally maintains a passage through the sandbar with a depth around 1.8 m. It has been noted that should the depth over the sandbar become any shallower, it may present a concern for ice jamming. Bathymetry work conducted on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, indicated that the passage over the sandbar was 1.5 m at its shallowest. At that time, the Lake St. Clair water level was 174.93 m (IGLD85). Unfortunately, it is difficult to know what the lake level will be when the spring freshet comes. Ice conditions on the St. Clair River have been restricting flows into Lake St. Clair, which has led to a drop of 30 cm on the lake since the beginning of February, and over 50 cm since the beginning of January. Were lake levels to return to what they were before the ice restrictions in the St. Clair River, the depth over the sandbar would be 1.7 m. If the restriction in the St. Clair River doesn't disappear and/or water levels on Lake St. Clair don't recover before Thames River ice pushes out into Lake St. Clair, there could be an increased risk of ice jamming this year.

There is already sufficient ice on the Thames River to trigger an ice jam, should the flow in the river rise high enough before it melts. The large ice jams of the 1960s, 70s and early 80s occurred with 30 cm or so of ice on the river. More recent ice jam events from 2001, 2011 and 2019 occurred with 15 to 20 cm of ice. Forecasts of ice thickness based on freezing temperatures suggest that the Thames River already has around 23 cm of ice. Forecasts suggest that by the beginning of March the river will have 30 cm. LTVCA staff intend to take ice cores to confirm the ice thickness early in the last week of February.

Snow in the Upper Thames River watershed has historically played a large role in downstream "spring" flooding on the Thames River. A sudden shift to warm temperatures, or rain on the snow, can melt the snow quickly leading to large amounts of runoff and high flows in the Thames River. While it is difficult to predict the temperature, or potential rainfall amounts, further than a few days in the future, snow and the amount of water it stores can be recorded and tracked. Snow surveys conducted at the beginning of the February suggest that the Upper Thames River watershed had



around 130% of its average amount of snow and water stored in that snow. Snow surveys are conducted at the beginning of the month and mid-month. Conditions can change throughout the season, so the changes in snow storage will continue to be tracked. While the amounts of snow are not surveyed in the Lower Thames River watershed, remote sensing techniques suggest that the Lower Thames River watershed has slightly less than normal; it suggest ranges from 50-100% of normal.

Based on long range weather forecasts, weather conditions are not expected to warm up until the first week of March. Therefore, the spring freshet, and any associated flooding that may occur, would not be expected until March.

A meeting with Chatham-Kent staff is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the risk of ice jam flooding and potential response procedures. A similar meeting is scheduled with Lakeshore staff for February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Report on Lake Conditions

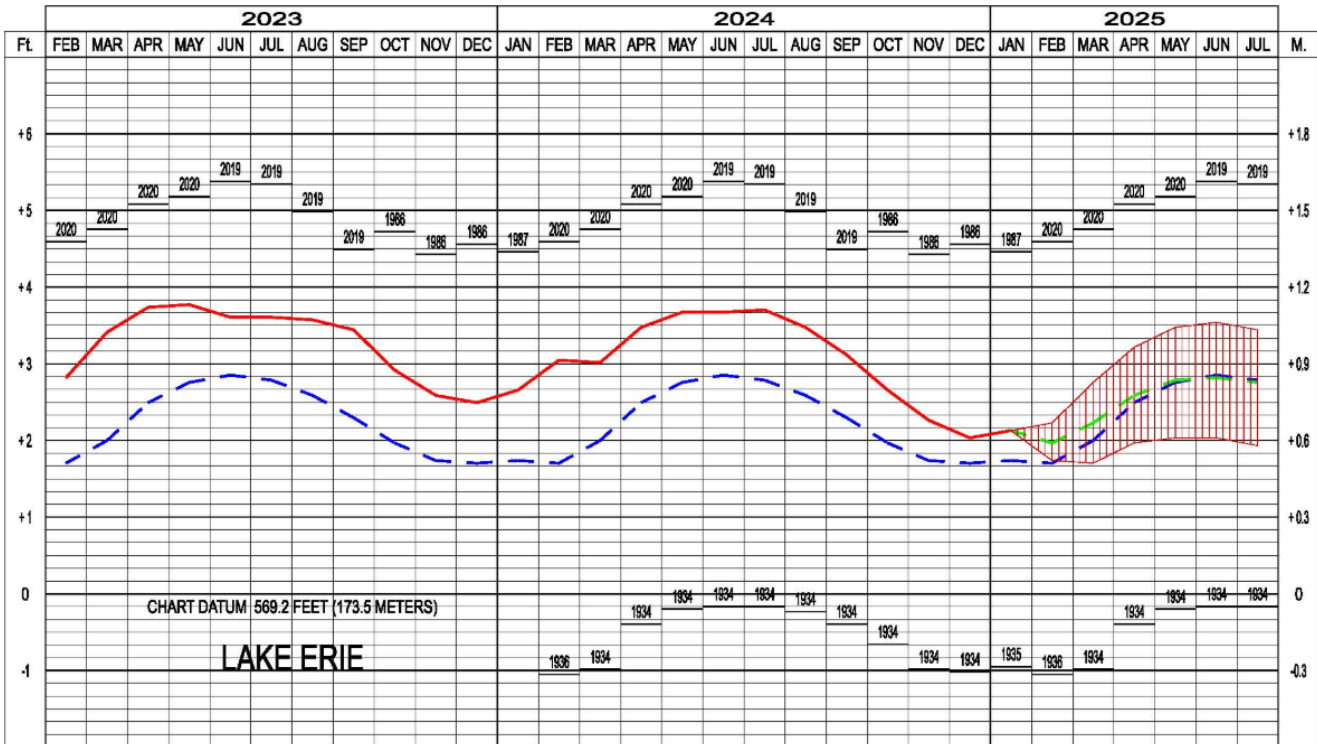
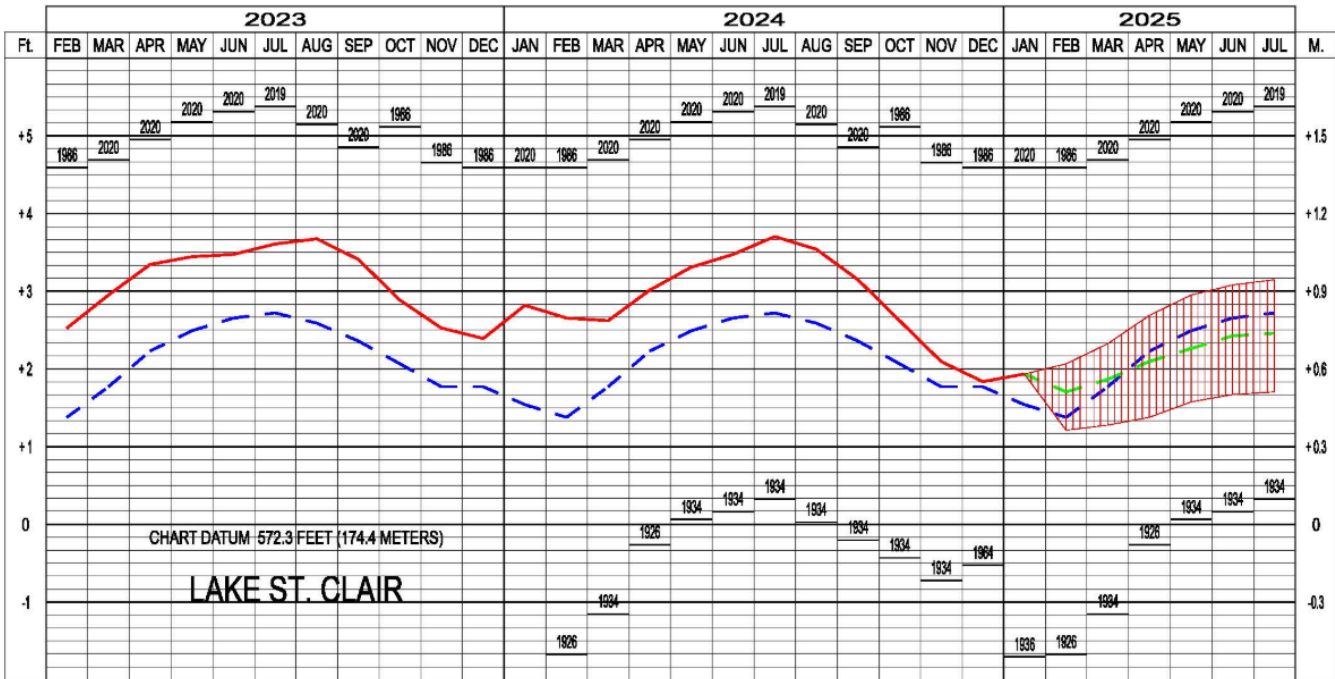
Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of February were around 174.11 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for February was 174.90 m, set in 2020. Water levels at the beginning of February were 9 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of February. Lake Erie water levels are predicted to rise by 7 or 8 cm by the beginning of March.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of February were around 174.90 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for February was 175.80, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of February were 8 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of February. However, due to the ice restrictions on the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair water levels had dropped to 24 cm below normal as of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Lake levels are predicted to rebound somewhat over the next few weeks, rising around 15 cm by the beginning of March.

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 considered high since that time. After lake levels peaked in 2019 and 2020, they have been slowly dropping back towards normal. Dry conditions over the last few months have finally brought lake levels back down to the point where they could be called normal. Of all the Great Lakes, only Lake Erie remains above average; and only slightly above average. Lake St. Clair was also slightly above average until recent restrictions on the St. Clair River due to ice has caused those lake levels to drop. Long range forecasts of lake levels suggest that Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair will continue to see near normal conditions over the next 6 months.

The shorelines of both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, throughout the LTVCA jurisdiction have frozen over for the winter. As a result, there is no risk of shoreline flooding until later in the year when the lake ice melts.

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 February.



### 12.3.2) Flood Control Structures

A significant rain event on December 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> dropped 40 to 55 mm of rain around the watershed. This event required the operation of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. As a result, the Diversion Channel Dam was closed from the late afternoon on the 29<sup>th</sup> to the morning of January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As part of regular operations and maintenance, divers are brought in every year just before McGregor Creek freezes over to clean the gates of the 6th Street Dam. This is required as the dam was designed with the gates lying flat on the bottom of the creek. Any debris that accumulates on the gates, or garbage that is thrown off the walkway onto the gates, could prevent the gates from being properly closed when operations are required. By doing this just before the creek freezes over, the hope is that the ice will limit the amount of debris and garbage that can accumulate on the gates in case divers can't perform a cleaning immediately before operations area required. Divers from Watech Services out of London cleaned the gates on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Regular maintenance, and minor repairs, also continues for the structures.

### **12.3.3) Low Water Response Program**

The Low Water Response Program looks at both precipitation and flow in local watercourses in determining whether there is a low water condition. For precipitation, both 18-month and 3-month rainfall totals are examined and the program thresholds are: Level 1, 80% of average; Level 2, 60% of average; and Level 3, 40% of average. For flows, the average flow over the last month is examined and the summer/autumn/winter thresholds are: Level 1, 70% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 50% LASF; and Level 3, 30% LASF. During the growing season, LTVCA staff create a brief report summarizing conditions around the watershed, which is available by request. Outside of the growing season, the LTVCA relies on provincial level summary reports provided by the MNRF to keep up-to-date. As the growing season is now over a local summary report has not been created for December. The recent provincial summary issued at the beginning of February did not suggest any kind of Low Water Condition for the LTVCA jurisdiction.

The MNRF has recently updated the flow values that it uses for the lowest average summer flow (LASF). The Thames River near Dutton station has raised its LASF from 15.711 to 16.517 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The Thames River at Thamesville station has raised its LASF from 15.911 to 16.771 m<sup>3</sup>/s. McGregor Creek flows will no longer be compared to the LASF, as the recent calculation raised its LASF by 805%. This is due to the very flashy nature of the creek, which made the comparison questionable even before this revision.

A quick look at flows on the Thames River showed that throughout January, flows were more than twice the LASF. When looking at rainfall, although the February provincial screening had not been sent out in time for this agenda, the January screening (which covers November and December) did not indicate any issues with rainfall totals for either the 3-month or 18-month period. At the Ridgetown weather station, January appeared to be dryer than usual. But its not clear without a more detailed analysis whether that would make an average less than the 80% average threshold. Regardless, now that we are in the depths of winter, there is less need for water takings from watershed.

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/>

### **12.3.4) Watershed Monitoring**

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. Winter sampling has moved to being analysed entirely at a private lab, with the MECP winter sample allocation being used during the year to keep a monthly schedule at all 11 PWQMN sites. Maintenance on autosamplers that collect during events continues, with repairs being made to the autosamplers and intake lines being replaced on a regular schedule. This type of sampling is important as studies have shown increased nutrient runoff during winter and spring melt events. This sampling is required to be able to determine nutrient loadings related to the phosphorous reduction targets under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Groundwater monitoring for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program also continues. While water quality sampling was completed last November, the program also collects well water level and temperature on an hourly basis. A few stations also have rainloggers. LTVCA staff maintain the sites and staff download the information from data loggers in addition to those sites that have telemetry to automatically download from. Sites are typically visited once every 3 months. The next round of visits will be in late February/early March.

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

## 12.4) Planning and Regulations

### 12.4.1) Planning

From the end of November 2024 through to the end of January 2025, there were 29 planning submissions reviewed by staff for this reporting season with respect to the Provincial Policy Statement, Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24. On average it takes roughly 5 days to respond to submissions, ranging from same day response to 15 days for more involved planning submissions. There have also been 58 phone calls and over 320 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	Dec Totals	2024 Totals	Jan Totals	2025 Totals
Chatham-Kent	8	197	4	4
Elgin	3	33	5	5
Essex	0	31	1	1
Middlesex	1	28	7	7
<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>

### 12.4.2) Planning Fees

MUNICIPALITY	DEC -2024 TO JAN 2025	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
<b>Chatham-Kent</b>			\$3,300.00	
<b>Elgin County</b>				
Southwold	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,215.00	\$930.00
Dutton Dunwich			\$0	\$230.00
West Elgin			\$900.00	\$7,595.00
<b>Essex County</b>				
Lakeshore			\$1,400.00	\$1,115.00
<b>Middlesex County</b>				
Middlesex Centre			\$0	
<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,815.00</b>	<b>\$8,755.00</b>

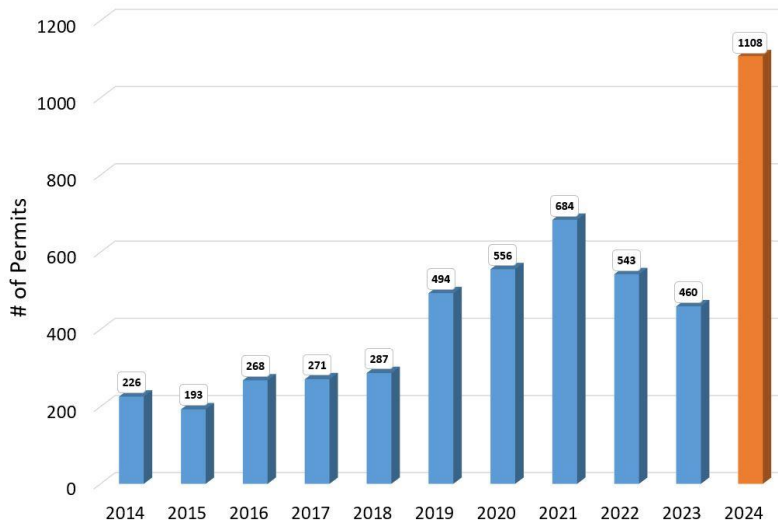
### 12.4.3) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

#### Permitting

In December 2024, staff received 173 permit applications for proposed works that are subject to Section 28 (1) of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24. For the entire 2024 year, staff received a total of 1108 new permit applications for review.

The number of permit applications in 2024 was significantly higher than in any previous year. Approximately 67% of the permit applications were related to the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (“SWIFT”) program – bringing government subsidized high speed internet to rural areas. The projects are large in scope and cover significant portions of our watershed.

#### Annual Volume of Permit Applications



Below are some Section 28 permitting statistics for 2024:

- 79% of all applications were within Chatham-Kent;
- 77.5% of all applications were for utilities (e.g. Enbridge, Hydro One, fibre optic communication companies, etc.);
- 16.8% of the applications were for private property owners for projects (e.g. construction or modification of structures, shoreline protection repairs, etc.);
- 5.7% of applications were for municipal or county projects (e.g. drainage, infrastructure, etc.); and,
- Total of permit application & hearing fees = \$162,125.00.

Historically, January tends to be a slower period for permitting which allows staff to catch up on filing from the previous year, complete policy updates and other items on the department’s work plan for the year. The number of incoming permit applications for January typically ranges between 10 and 20. In January 2025, staff received 49 new permit applications for review (27 of which are related to the SWIFT program). Additionally, staff continue to work on reviewing and processing the backlog of 2024 applications.

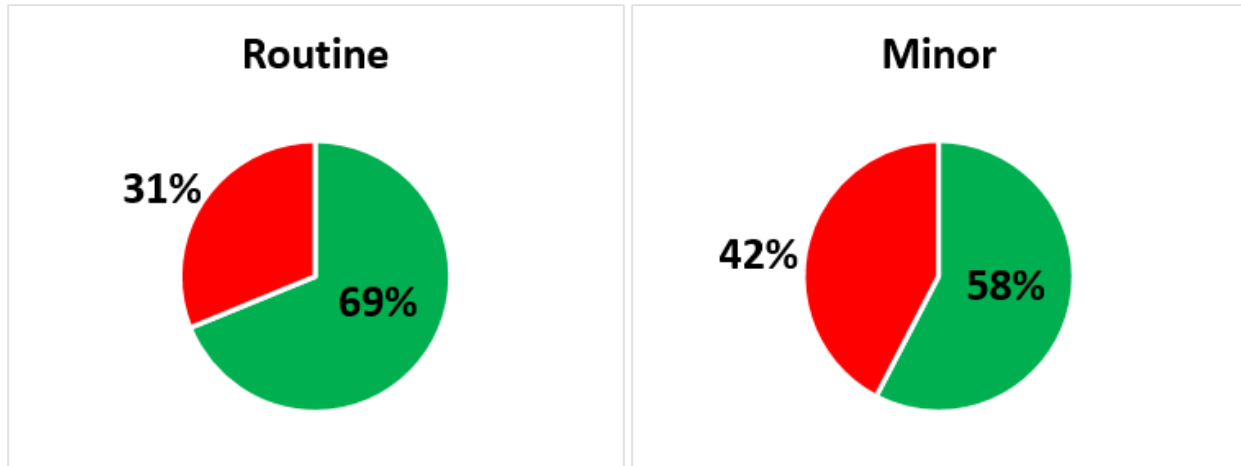
### 12.4.4) 2024 Permit Processing Timelines

Conservation Ontario developed a document entitled “Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review” with input from Conservation Ontario Timely Reviews and Approvals Taskforce as well as stakeholders such as the Ontario Home Builders’ Association. Conservation Ontario Council endorsed the document on 24 June 2019. The LTVCA Board of Directors adopted those client service standards at the board meeting on 22 August 2019 which included regular reporting on the LTVCA’s performance with respect to the adopted client service standards.

The client service standards break down permit applications into three categories based on the complexity of the application: routine, minor, and major applications. Routine applications are generally quick and fairly standard with minimum staff requirements for review, minor applications don’t require a lot of staff time but may require some technical review, and major applications require significant review and staff time. The following are the LTVCA’s delivery standards for making a decision on a complete application:

Application Category	Turnaround Standard
Routine	14 Days
Minor	21 Days
Major	28 Days

Using the above customer service standards, the below charts indicate that 69% of routine applications and 58% of minor applications met the LTVCA’s applicable delivery standard for permits / decisions issued in 2024. The LTVCA didn’t make decisions on applications that could be considered to be “major” in complexity in 2024.



Complexity of Application	# Applications Reviewed Within the Following Days				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	64	2	0	27	0
Minor	263	95	72	184	7
Major	0	0	0	0	0

The percentage of routine applications meeting the LTVCA’s delivery standard has worsened when compared to previous years (2022 = 88% and 2023 = 93%). The percentage of minor applications meeting their delivery standards has also worsened compared to previous years (2022 = 67% and 2023 = 87%).

### 12.4.5) Property Inquiries

In 2024, the Water Resources and Regulations Technician received and responded to 1,670 property inquiries which was a large increase from 2023.

During the first month of 2025, the Water Resources and Regulations Technician has received 139 property inquiries. At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is approximately 5 to 10 business days for e-mails and 15 business days for phone calls. The length of time to respond to inquiries is similar to the last board report, but with a slight improvement to e-mail inquiries.

Some of the reasons that regulations and planning staff receive property inquiries include:

- Realtors looking to sell a property and wanting to know any potential restrictions for future buyers.
- People purchasing property who want to know more about the site-specific hazards and regulations.
- Landowners wanting to learn about best management practices specific to their property.
- Landowners wanting specific information on what is permitted in regulated areas.
- Insurance companies looking for floodplain information.
- Municipal staff or utility companies planning future projects.

#### **12.4.6) Regulation Mapping Update**

Section 4. (2) of Ontario Regulation 41/24 requires that the LTVCA review and update our regulated areas mapping “at least once annually”. Staff have identified areas where the mapping needs to be updated, however, the LTVCA was without a GIS Technician since September, so the updates haven’t been completed. However, a GIS Technician has since been hired and has started working on the updates.

#### **12.4.7) 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.

#### **12.4.8) Section 28 Enforcement**

28 new complaints / tips were received in 2024, which is an increase over 2023, however only one Notice of Violation was issued which is primarily due to staffing resource issues. 20 of the 28 complaints / tips were violations or potential violations of the Conservation Authorities Act. Four of the 20 violation / potential violation files have been closed without prosecution.

Of the 28 complaints / violations received, 23 were in Chatham-Kent, three were in Lakeshore, one was in Dutton Dunwich, and one was in Strathroy-Caradoc.

As of 31 January 2025, no new complaints / tips have been received from the public.



12.4.9) O. Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in Dec 2024 and Jan 2025)

B.D. 02/20/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
<b>2024 Permits</b>					
176-2024	370m Downstream of Prairie Siding Bridge	Dover & Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 14, 2025	21
196-2024	6206 Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 14, 2025	14
360-2024	4214 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 10, 2024	0
618-2024	2199 6th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
619-2024	22241 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
620-2024	22219 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
621-2024	22155 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
622-2024	22081 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
623-2024	Campbell Road at Gahan Drain East	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
624-2024	Campbell Road at 5th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
625-2024	22035 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
626-2024	21877 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
627-2024	21807 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
628-2024	Campbell Road at 4th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
629-2024	21697 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
630-2024	21559 to 22382 Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
631-2024	Campbell Road at 6th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
632-2024	3rd Concession Line at NW Branch Tunnel Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
633-2024	3rd Concession Line at Hutchinson Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
634-2024	Campbell Road to 2530 3rd Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
635-2024	2530 3rd Concession Line to Hutchinson Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
636-2024	2682 to 2840 3rd Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
637-2024	Ocean Boulevard	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
638-2024	Ellerbeck Road at Xury Robinson Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
639-2024	Fargo Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
640-2024	Clarke Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
641-2024	Campbell Road at Travis Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in Dec 2024 and Jan 2025)

B.D. 02/20/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
642-2024	6th Concession Line at Dawson Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
643-2024	6th Concession Line at Baker Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
644-2024	1780 6th Concession Line to Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
645-2024	Mersea Road 8 at County Road 37	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
646-2024	Erie Street South at West Two Creeks	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
647-2024	Middleton Line at Two Creeks Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
652-2024	Talbot Trail at Joe N Belli D&W Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
653-2024	Talbot Trail at Getty Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
654-2024	Campers Cove Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
655-2024	Cemetery Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
656-2024	Hiawatha Beach Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
657-2024	22051 Zion Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
658-2024	1584 5th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
659-2024	1642 5th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
660-2024	1734 5th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
661-2024	5th Concession Line at Hall Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
662-2024	Zion Road to 1734 5th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
663-2024	1734 5th Concession Line to Campbell Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
666-2024	19377 Mull Road to Eds Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
667-2024	19183 to 19419 Kent Bridge Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
668-2024	10623 to 10671 Stefina Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
669-2024	Front Line at Pinder Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
670-2024	Front Line at Union Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
671-2024	Brush Line at Union Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
672-2024	Brush Line at Pinder Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48
673-2024	Shewburg Road at Rushton Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	48

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in Dec 2024 and Jan 2025)

B.D. 02/20/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
679-2024	29204 Ash Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	0
683-2024	6082, 6094 and 6106 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2024	54
698-2024	22192 & 22270 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	41
705-2024	Jacob Road at Rivard Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	22
706-2024	Winter Line Road at Boyle Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	22
754-2024	16525 County Road 46	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	20
755-2024	15140 to 16175 County Road 46	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	20
756-2024	16175 to 17625 County Road 46	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	20
757-2024	17625 County Road 46 to Richardson Sideroad	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	20
758-2024	17500 County Road 46	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	20
763-2024	County Road 42 between Gracey Sdrd & #17300	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 20, 2024	29
764-2024	County Road 42 near Big Creek Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 20, 2024	29
770-2024	0 Baptiste Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 20, 2024	29
771-2024	Baptiste Road between Tecumseh Rd & 1325 Baptiste Rd	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 20, 2024	29
775-2024	County Road 42 at Gracey Sideroad	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 20, 2024	28
776-2024	Lakeshore Road 303 along W. Smyth Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 21, 2025	5
777-2024	Lakeshore Road 303 along East Smyth Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 21, 2025	5
783-2024	3000 Gracey Sideroad	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 21, 2025	6
784-2024	Gracey Sideroad between Lakeshore Road 303 and County Road 42	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 21, 2025	6
785-2024	Frontier Road west of Tecumseh Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 21, 2025	6
786-2024	Frontier Road east of Tecumseh Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 21, 2025	6
787-2024	21800 Frontier Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 21, 2025	6

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in Dec 2024 and Jan 2025)**

B.D. 02/20/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
788-2024	18340 Marine Park Drive	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 31, 2025	1
808-2024	Scane Road at Harrison Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
809-2024	Scane Road between Harrison Drain and Beechwood Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
810-2024	Scane Road at Burke Brien Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
811-2024	Scane Road at Audrey Godal Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
812-2024	Mitton Line by Scane Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
856-2024	115 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 11, 2024	0
858-2024	2145 Lockwood Crescent	Mount Brydges	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Nov 27, 2024	13
859-2024	Tecumseh Line between Baptiste Creek & Dashwheel Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
860-2024	Tecumseh Line at Baptiste Creek	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
861-2024	Tecumseh Line at NW Branch Forbes Internal Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
862-2024	Lakeshore Road 303 along Macklem Creek Cutoff Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
863-2024	Tecumseh Road between Tremblay and Baptiste Creeks	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
864-2024	Tecumseh Road at Tremblay Creek	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
865-2024	Tecumseh Road at Mailloux-Strong Drain - Branch #1	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
866-2024	Tecumseh Road at Short 1st Concession Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
867-2024	Tecumseh Road at Baptiste Creek	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
868-2024	Clouthier Street	Tilbury West	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
869-2024	Lakeshore Road 303	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12
870-2024	Lakeshore Road 303 at Tremblay Creek	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	12



O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications  
(Permits Issued in Dec 2024 and Jan 2025)

B.D. 02/20/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
879-2024	Lakeshore Road 303 along Macklem Creek Cutoff Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	11
880-2024	Lakeshore Road 303 at Big Creek Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	11
886-2024	8214 Ninth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 02, 2024	0
887-2024	Ninth Line along Riddell Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	11
888-2024	6674 Ninth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	11
937-2024	212 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 10, 2024	4
938-2024	216 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 10, 2024	4
940-2024	Mersea Road 7 over South Dales Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Jan 06, 2025	34
955-2024	179 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 20, 2024	0
956-2024	12048 Rose Beach Line	Morpeth	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	20
957-2024	9638 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 06, 2025	19
958-2024	25602 Big Pointe Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	21
1073-2024	5611 Tenth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 10, 2025	30
<b>2025 Permits</b>					
001-2025	21124 Orford Road	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 06, 2025	1
002-2025	87 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	17
003-2025	361 Indian Creek Road East	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	19
004-2025	248 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2025	19
005-2025	252 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 23, 2025	15
006-2025	170 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 23, 2025	17
007-2025	174 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 23, 2025	15
008-2025	178 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 23, 2025	15
009-2025	Mersea Road 8 at 8th Concession Branch of the Big Creek Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Jan 31, 2025	23
010-2025	12953 Iona Road	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 31, 2025	15
014-2025	Tecumseh Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 17, 2025	3
017-2025	90 Wallace Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 31, 2025	1
019-2025	155 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 31, 2025	3
020-2025	Harris Drain 1977	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 28, 2025	1
023-2025	Heron Line at Rivard Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 29, 2025	8
045-2025	Fifth Line East at Bloomfield Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 29, 2025	8

## 12.5) Conservation Lands

### 12.5.1) Conservation Areas

#### **Longwoods Road Conservation Area**

The Indigenous Hall is complete and all documentation for occupancy has been completed except for the Integrated System Testing as that will be performed once Phase 2A is finished so the systems all work together. The tender for Phase 2A has been awarded to Tradition Construction Inc, they have started work on site and construction is well underway. Currently all groundworks, concrete pouring and underpinning has been completed, as well as demolition of the interior with framing taking place.



*Elevator Construction at Longwoods Road CA.*

#### **CM Wilson Conservation Area**

The Phosphorus Team has grown with the ECCC Phosphorus Reduction Grant Program and with the addition of new staff we have to grow with new workspaces. The CM Wilson Learning Centre will become the Phosphorus work area; the LTVCA hired Artas for the Engineering work and WestHoek for the Construction. Construction has started and we anticipate having the workspace completed by the end of March for staff to move in.

*The Conservation / Indigenous Classroom is completed and ready for classes, take a look below.*



### **Camping**

Camping season will start to gear up soon. Staff are working on cleaning up the conservation areas and prepping them for the new season.

### **Rental Houses**

Our Lighthouse Property currently does not have any renters at this time, we have a contractor on site doing remediation work to fix up the property before we put it back on the market for rent. All other tenants have been sent their annual rent increase and request for an annual site review.

### **Team Building & Events**

Land and Services team met with the Two Creeks Association at Two Creeks Conservation Area for a Winter Clean up day. We had a great turn out of staff and volunteers who had the opportunity to explore and clean up the conservation area and meet with the Two Creek Volunteers.





*LTVCA Staff and Two Creek Association Volunteers on Two Creeks CA Clean Up Day*

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



## 12.6) Conservation Services

### 12.6.1) General Update

Rural and Urban Stewardship is diligently being promoted at winter events, agricultural meetings, and webinars. Tree orders are being taken daily; projects are being planned and agreements finalized for Spring 2025. Currently, we stand at approximately 65,000 trees on order. Funding support is split between Tree Canada and Forests Canada, various ALUS communities and our soil health program. All this funding is Federal from Environment and Climate Change Canada. This makes it a challenge to match with as it cannot be matched to itself (i.e. Federal\$ with Federal\$) and there is limited other sources for reforestation.

Most ALUS communities have now elected their new PAC chairs, secretaries and other associated positions for the year ahead. Reports are being finalized so we can invoice for remaining funding spent in 2024.

#### ALUS Elgin



My name is Russell Vey, and I joined ALUS Elgin as Program Lead at the end of November. I hold a Master's in Environment and Sustainability and an Honours Bachelor in Biotechnology. My professional background spans multiple scientific disciplines, including pharmaceutical and forensic chemistry, virology with public health, and GIS mapping with Thames Talbot Land Trust and Western University. These experiences have equipped me with strong data analysis, project management, environmental research and planning skills, all of which I bring to this role to support sustainable agricultural practices and conservation efforts.

To better establish myself in my new role, I have been reorganizing and restructuring administrative documentation from the previous Program Lead to improve efficiency. My primary focus so far has been on Year-End Reports (YERpts), Annual Payments, and site visits with participants. While I have not yet held a PAC meeting outside of my orientation, our first meeting of the year is scheduled for February 11th, where we will discuss 2025 initiatives and upcoming projects with new participants.

In addition to my administrative and fieldwork efforts, I have also been attending conferences and networking events to expand my knowledge and connections in the field. Earlier this month, I attended the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) conference, where I gained valuable insights into ongoing applied research on optimizing yield and sustainability in farming practices from local Elgin County-based farmers.

**Eastern District:** Our Eastern District Stewardship Technician, Tyler Thornton has been busy working in liaison with contractors and landowners implementing several wetland projects throughout the eastern district of the watershed during the winter months. Tyler has been actively conducting site visits with landowners interested in future land stewardship projects, to which there has been heavy engagement. Tyler is currently working with his fellow colleagues as they prepare and organize all their 2025 tree planting projects; meanwhile, Tyler is submitting all necessary reporting & documentation to the affiliated organizations, who are to fund these projects. Tyler is managing and marketing the over-the-counter tree orders for this upcoming spring season. Tyler attended the Elgin OSCIA AGM & the Chatham Kent Farm Show to further conduct outreach to the local community within our watershed and was promoting LTVCA stewardship programs and initiatives. Tyler has been working in liaison with both ALUS Middlesex & ALUS Elgin as it pertains to upcoming stewardship projects that will be implemented this fiscal year. Tyler attended the Two Creek Conservation Area Clean-up Day, where he used his recently obtained chainsaw certification to assist in the maintenance and removal of trees within the conservation area. Tyler will be attending a soil erosion & primary drainage course, which is a two-week course hosted by the University of Guelph and commences at the end of February. Tyler has been studying and

completed a prerequisite course that needed to be completed prior to the course start date. Tyler is assisting the Species at Risk team with a livestock exclusion fencing project, which is to be completed prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> within the eastern district. Tyler has taken on the responsibility to determine the SOW for the project, receive quotes from several contractors for the work to be conducted, and the ongoing communication with the landowner & hired contractor. Tyler is still in ongoing communication with both Trees Canada & the municipality of Dutton to organize a large stock tree give away event that will be hosted at the Dutton community centre on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



*Amy Turnbull Wetland*



*Bill Ostrander Wetland & Soil Erosion Control*





*David McLellan Wetland & Soil Erosion Control*

## ALUS Middlesex



My name is Erica Ion, and I am the new Interim Program Director with ALUS Middlesex. I studied Environmental Sciences during my undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph and completed three co-op placements while in the program. I studied plant breeding and microbiology, as well as biological pest control. Following my undergraduate degree, I completed my Master's in Biology at Western University, where I wrote and defended my thesis studying how nitrogen deposition and warming affects soil carbon and microbial activities in a temperate old field.

I started as the ALUS Middlesex Program Director in October 2024 and have since been busy completing year-end reports, renewing contracts with our dedicated landowners, distributing annual payments to our current participants, and preparing for the year ahead. I have also been meeting with landowners at site visits and attending a number of outreach events with Program Coordinator, Graham Moddle, to share the unique aspects of the ALUS program with folks in Middlesex County. As a part of my role, I have also had a hand in organizing two PAC meetings, the second one being our annual Christmas dinner. This year we held our Christmas dinner at Arrowwood Farms for the Middlesex PAC members and their families, and we took a look back on the success of the program in 2024. In 2025, we hope to continue growing the program, and collaborating with our community partners in Middlesex County to establish new and impactful projects for the 2025 season.

So far this year, ALUS Middlesex participated in the London-Middlesex Farmer's Breakfast which was an informational event hosted by the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) and Ontario Farmland Trust. We also attended the Landowner Workshop event hosted by the TTLT, Ontario Nature, and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. The focus of both events was to discuss conservation easements, and stewardship of farmland with members of the local communities. At these events, we were able to connect with many landowners interested in conservation in Middlesex County.



*Graham and Erica at the London-Middlesex Farmers Breakfast hosted  
By Ontario Farmland Trust and the Thames Talbot Land Trust.*

### **Wetlands and Ducks Unlimited Canada Partnership**

The freezing conditions over the last couple of months made it ideal for some of the last wetland projects to be completed. Work will have to continue in the spring to finish up spreading the topsoil and seeding down some native grasses and cover for the completed projects.

Final reporting for MECP was completed, wrapping up this year's round of wetland funding from the provincial government.

Site visits for 2025 project are already underway, with some promising projects lined up for the new year.

DUC is in the process of completing some work at St. Luke's marsh in Dover to help restore coastal wetland habitat. Michael Young has been assisting DUC in the effort to monitor and oversee this work.

### **Completed Wetland Project**



*Chatham (Bloomfield Rd.) Wetland – 0.5 acres*



## ALUS Chatham-Kent

The ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC held their first meeting of 2025 on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Annual elections were held, Ralph Brodie was re-elected Chair, Jordan Sinclair was re-elected Secretary, and after a competitive run, Johnathan Brinkman was elected Co-Chair.

We said good-bye to 2 PAC members & welcomed 2 new PAC members.

Aimee Johnson is the owner/operator of Kaiya Farms & Market Garden in North Buxton, farms cash crops on a seven-generation family farm, and works as a consultant in ecological monitoring & restoration for Indigenous communities across Canada.

Summer Garcia grows traditional Indigenous & heirloom vegetables & fruits on Walpole Island. As president of Tahgahoning Enterprise Inc, the Walpole Island community farming corporation, and the Green Projects Coordinator for the Walpole Island Heritage Centre, Summer is a community educator focused on food sovereignty and teaching her community how to use traditional, sustainable, regenerative growing practices.

The PAC formed a new sub-committee & split it into 4 areas of focus - local fundraising, outreach, communications, and grants – to work on getting more community funding and to reach more farmers across the whole of Chatham-Kent.

We completed our first round of project renewals – 15 participants with 32 projects on 47 acres renewed their projects for another 5 years. In 2025, another 15 participants with 29 projects on 41 acres will be offered a renewal of their annual payments. Nine farmers have already confirmed they want to renew.

2BillionTrees has confirmed funding of \$28,000 to plant 16,000 trees (27 acres), which is up from the 9,245 trees (16 acres) we planted across Chatham-Kent in 2024. We are waiting for confirmation on other funds & acreage targets for 2025.



*Checking up on a South Kent project in the Winter. The wetlands went into the cold season with a thick growth of oats to help with erosion, and the "fish crib" is working as intended.*

## Urban Stewardship

The Urban Stewardship Program continues to expand its reach and impact, with several key initiatives and funding opportunities currently underway. The program has kicked off its 4th Annual Winter Webinar Series, starting with an engaging session on agriculture and the environment. This series will continue with a highly anticipated presentation by native plant expert Lorraine Johnson on how to "shrink your lawn," encouraging urban residents to transition to more sustainable and ecologically beneficial landscaping practices.



In addition, the Greener Schools Tomorrow Program has officially launched in partnership with the municipality of CK, with applications now available to schools across Chatham-Kent. This initiative aims to support schools in planting native Carolinian trees on their properties to enhance climate resiliency and environmental awareness among students.



The Urban Stewardship Large Stock Tree Program has also been introduced, providing an opportunity for residents in urban areas with smaller properties to purchase trees and participate in the LTVCA's greening efforts. This program ensures that urban homeowners, who may not have the space for large-scale tree planting, can still contribute to environmental sustainability by planting native trees suited to smaller landscapes.

Planning is well underway for the deliverables of three major grants that will further support the Urban Stewardship Program's objectives in 2025. These include the Eco Action Community Funding Program project, "LTVCA Filtering for the Future," which focuses on water quality improvements through urban greening; the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) funding, which aims to implement localized climate adaptation strategies; and the Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF) watershed-wide initiative to enhance urban tree canopy and green spaces across multiple communities.

Additionally, planning for at least 20 community volunteer events, including tree plantings, pollinator garden plantings, tree giveaways, and invasive species removals, is well underway for the year. These events will provide hands-on opportunities for community members to actively participate in urban greening and ecological restoration efforts.



## 12.6.2) Agricultural Program

### Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program

The Agricultural Communication and Outreach Technician have been busy with program development by creating print and digital materials. The new promotional products helped begin building brand recognition with our local agriculture community while attending the Southwest Agriculture Conference and Chatham-Kent Farm Show. During these events staff engaged with nearly 150 farmers over the four days. Work to finalize the Guidelines and applications for the 2025/2026 Best Management Practices program is underway.



*LTVCA staff at the Chatham Kent Farm Show, January 30, 2025*

Staff also attended and participated in multiple knowledge transfer events including the 2025 Certified Crop Advisor Conference, OSCIA Elgin Annual General Meeting and 2025 Sylvite Agronomy Meeting. The Agricultural Stewardship Specialist presented a LTVCA Webinar Series focusing on Agriculture and the Environment. Topics of natural and anthropogenic history of southern Ontario along with environmental issues related to agriculture in the area were presented.

Equipment for new water quality monitoring stations that will collect data for the Phosphorus Reduction Monitoring program arrived. Staff will be installing two new stations for monitoring at Two Creeks subwatershed and Newbiggen subwatershed. Staff have been training to learn how to operate the equipment which includes two ISCO 6712 Portable Samples and two DuraTracker Flow meters. The processes to quality control and interpolate historical LTVCA water quality data is being quality controlled and interpolated to include in Phosphorus Reduction reports.

*The Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program is funded by the Canada Water Agency and will run through 2028.*

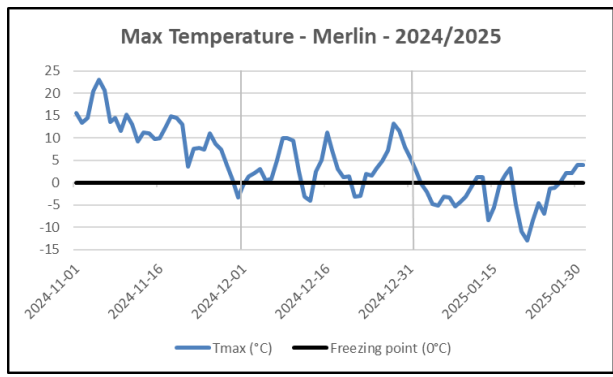
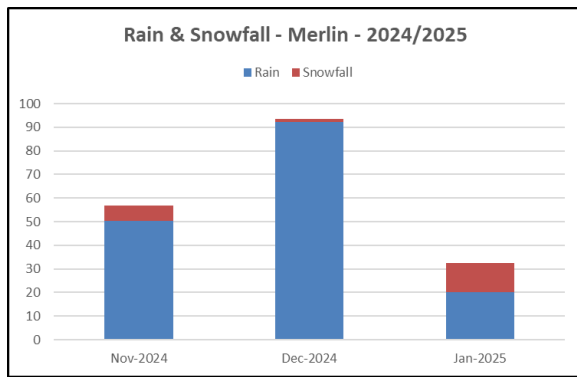




### On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program

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

The winter months have been busy for sampling especially in December. 90% of December's days had temperatures above 0°C. This positive temperature combined with the high amount of precipitation (93.5mm in December) created optimal sampling conditions. Two events were sampled in December. Conversely, 30% of days in January had temperatures above 0°C. These lower temperatures allowed snow to remain on the field for most of the month. Lower temperatures and low precipitation (32.5mm) only allowed for one sampling event at the end of January. In total, across the three events, 83 samples were collected at eight different plots.



*The program is funded by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year, federal-provincial-territorial initiative. ONFARM was developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and is delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. The project is supported in collaboration with the Ausable Bayfield and Upper Thames Conservation Authorities, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Soil Resource Group and farm cooperators.*



## 12.6.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Thirteen of sixteen temperature and dissolved oxygen data loggers have been removed from the lower Thames River, Rondeau Bay tributaries and Baptiste Creek. The remaining three logger sets will be removed once ice and water levels permit. Data from the retrieved loggers is being processed by three Environmental Technician students from Ridgetown College.

A presentation regarding the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Multifaceted Approach to Aquatic Species at Risk Conservation is being delivered to the Society of Canadian Aquatic Sciences in Hamilton on Feb 21.

### Navigating the Waters of Fish ID

#### NATIVE, NON-INVASIVE ONTARIO LAMPREYS

Lampreys have been maligned as fish parasites that damage commercial and sport fish. However, not all species are parasitic - most are native and some are species at risk. Most native lampreys are now absent from 50% to 75% of the streams where they were historically found. Help protect species at risk by learning to identify and return native lampreys to the water.

**SILVER LAMPREY**  
Special Concern

**PARASITIC**  
small: < 39 cm

- A wide membrane joins the two dorsal fin lobes.
- The mouth is large; teeth beside the throat *generally* have one cusp.
- Adults are parasitic, but do not kill their host fish.
- Found in the lower Thames River and Rondeau Bay.

**NORTHERN BROOK LAMPREY**  
Special Concern

**NON-PARASITIC**  
small: < 17 cm

- A wide membrane joins the two dorsal fin lobes.
- The mouth is small, with a few blunt teeth.
- Ammocoetes (young) feed on plankton, while adults do not feed.
- Found in the upper Thames River.

**AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY**

**NON-PARASITIC**  
small: < 35 cm

- A narrow membrane joins the bases of the two dorsal fins.
- The mouth is small, with a few blunt teeth.
- Ammocoetes feed on plankton, while adults do not feed.
- Found in the upper Thames River.

**Lower Thames Conservation**  
100 Thames Street  
Chatham, ON, N7L 2Y8  
www.ltvc.ca | 519-354-7310

Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada  
Oral disk drawings courtesy of  
Marianne Collins

\* designations relate to Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations

### Navigating the Waters of Fish ID

#### NATIVE, NON-INVASIVE ONTARIO LAMPREYS

Native lampreys are beneficial. Their ammocoete larvae distribute nutrients as they burrow into creek and river bottoms. They remain there for up to 12 years, feeding on microscopic insects and plankton.

**CHESTNUT LAMPREY**

**PARASITIC**  
small: < 38 cm

- A wide membrane joins the two dorsal fin lobes.
- The mouth is large, with teeth beside the throat having two cusps.
- The pores along the lateral line are black.
- Adults are parasitic, but do not kill their host fish.
- Locally only known from the Detroit River.

If you catch a native lamprey, please take a picture and quickly return it to the water where it was caught. Report all lamprey sightings to the **iNaturalist** app.

**NON-NATIVE, INVASIVE LAMPREY**

**SEA LAMPREY**

**PARASITIC**  
LARGE: < 120 cm

- Distinguished from native lampreys by two separate dorsal fins.
- The mouth is large, with many sharp teeth.
- Invaded the Great Lakes through the Erie and Welland canals from their home in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Controlled via an extensive management program, with 90% eradicated from the Great Lakes.

**DO NOT RETURN SEA LAMPREY TO THE WATER**

More information on local species at risk can be found at:

Locations are specific to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and surrounds

Lamprey and Redhorse/Look-alike factsheets have been printed and are ready for distribution.

A 0.3 km livestock exclusion project is being finalized with the Stewardship Department with Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk funding. An additional funding request has been made to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Habitat Stewardship Fund.

## 12.7) Communications, Education and Outreach

### 12.7.1) Communications

The 2025-2026 Conservation Areas Guidebook is now complete and available to the public! This guidebook highlights all public conservation areas (CAs) within the LTVCA, detailing their facilities and activities. It serves as a valuable resource for both locals and tourists, encouraging greater use and appreciation of our CAs.

Additionally, the guidebook features advertisements from local businesses, with funds generated from ad sales helping to cover printing costs and support CA maintenance. Copies are available at Ontario Travel Information Centres in St. Catharines, Windsor, Tilbury and Toronto, public libraries, and our outreach events. Be sure to pick up yours today!

Meanwhile, the LTVCA has officially begun developing a new website in collaboration with Chatham Creative Company and OOAK. The goal is to launch the improved site by April 1, 2024. The redesigned website will be more user-friendly and easier to update, helping the LTVCA streamline inquiries and provide essential information more efficiently.



The project has already completed its copywriting and search engine optimization (SEO) phase, and we are now moving forward with design and layout. Stay tuned—we can't wait to share the final product with you!

### 12.7.2) Education

The start of 2025 has centered on relationship building, learning programs, and planning for the future.

At the beginning of January, Tyler French joined the education team as the Indigenous Community Educator out of Longwoods Road Conservation Area. In order to cooperatively build a strategy for education and update current offerings, the team has spent a lot of time meeting and learning existing programs together.

We have been spending our quieter time meeting with partners.

- Representatives of the iSTEAM program at STEAM Centre in St. Thomas visited to see how our longhouses are constructed so they can adapt practices for small scale use.
- A productive initial meeting with the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research and the Healthy Headwaters Lab was held to see how we can support one another in the delivery of our education programming.
- We have begun forming relationships with Six Nations Tourism to build respectful relationships, representation, and share resources.
- Grant and funder information sessions were attended.
- In the near future we will be meeting with representatives from Nokee Kwe in London.

A meeting has been established with the experiential learning lead and Indigenous liaisons for the Lambton Kent District School board to discuss what environmental and Indigenous resource needs they have, and how we can better reach their students. Similar meetings will be set up with learning leads from the other school boards we work closely with.

## Events

A poster for a Bluebird Box Making Drop-In event. The top left features the 'Upper Thames Conservation' logo. The main title 'Bluebird Box Making Drop-In' is in a white, handwritten-style font on a dark blue background. Below the title, it says '\$10 fee, cash preferred'. The event dates and locations are listed: 'March 10, 11am-2pm @ Longwoods Road Conservation Area' and 'March 12, 11am-2pm @ C.M. Wilson Conservation Area'. Two location pins provide addresses: '8348 Longwoods Road, Mount Brydges, ON' and '21799 Fargo Road, Blenheim, ON'. On the right side of the poster is a photograph of a bluebird perched on a wooden post.

### *March Break*

March Break will look slightly different this year as a result of construction. In order to best serve our community, and provide meaningful opportunities in both sides of the watershed, we will be hosting bluebird box and pottery drop-ins at both Longwoods and C.M. Wilson during March Break. We will also be taking Ska-Nah-Doht programming on the road to Westmount Mall in London.

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

With concerted efforts of promoting winter only programs and spring opportunities taking place, further programs are being scheduled at CMWLC. We look forward to sharing experiences with a number of adult groups over the coming weeks.

A meeting of the C.M. Wilson Advisory Committee has been called. Topics of conversation include the future of the safety village and programming plans.

### *Longwoods Road Conservation Area*

Education programs are currently on hold at Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht given that indoor spaces and washrooms are unavailable at this time. Pre-booked programs will resume following March Break when the weather will be more cooperative for outdoor based programming.

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

Meeting about future steps have started to take place. The Water Festival Steering Committee held their first meeting of the year in January to discuss planning for the water festival.

### *Battle of Longwoods*

Initial meetings with the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society have taken place. Planning for the Battle of Longwoods Education Day and public event is underway.

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

As of February 7, 2025 the **Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook** page has 3,957 Followers. The **Instagram page for the Village** has 710 Followers.



### ***Museum Temporarily Closed***

As a result of construction, the museum is temporarily closed to the public. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Gaming (Ontario) has been notified of the closure as both museum hours, visitation, and education programming statistics are part of Community Museum Operating Grant funding. Our program advisor has added this information to our file and has indicated no further action is required.

### ***Exhibit Projects***

During the closure, exhibit updates are being planned. Refurbishment of exhibit furniture is also underway. The Curator is collaborating with the Eastern and Western District Supervisors on how they can support these endeavours.



*LTVCA team members from multiple departments are pulling together to create a new interactive fishing exhibit for the Museum.*

### ***Village Repairs***

Discussions are taking place with the Eastern District Supervisor and Lead Hand in order to plan for anticipated repairs to the structures at Ska-Nah-Doht Village over the coming months.

## 12.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association December Minutes

### WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

**Attendance:** Mark Peacock, Gerry Soulliere, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Pauline Sample, Ken Hatt, Genevieve Campagne, Rick Taves, Roger Dundas, Elisabeth Pocantos, Mike Diesbourg, Vicki & Erin Haley.

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

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

**Memorial Groves:** The saplings have been delivered to us and will planted temporarily until the spring.

**Prop. & Equip.:** The trailer we received from L.T.V.C.A. for the Willow bridge site has been delivered to the Pearces property until we can install it. The new posts for the pavilion have been delivered and a 20% down payment has been sent to James Sylvestre who has received the permit and will install them next week. The old posts will be removed and sent to L.T.V.C.A. The UTV will be decorated and entered into the Xmas parade. We will try to put a double lock on the north end gate.

**Concerts:** We will try to have a meeting to decide on which musical acts to bring in for the future. Genevieve said she will assist us in applying for grant money from the Trillium Fund and the Ontario Arts Council. The previous indoor concert was attended by approx. 50 people, next week will be the Lights. We will have 14 concerts next year unless Joe already booked 15.

**Financial Report:** Submitted by Roger. Account Balance as of Oct. 31 was \$59,075.36. Account Balance as of Nov. 30 was \$ 45,600.57. Moved by Roger, sec. by Mike report be accepted as given.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Roger moved for adjournment at 6:51pm.

Phil humphries, secretary.

# 13. Correspondence

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## 13.1) Update: Proposed regulation regarding Ministers Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act

**From:** ca.office (MNR) <[ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:37 AM

**To:** [dheinbuck@abca.ca](mailto:dheinbuck@abca.ca); [dellingwood@crca.ca](mailto:dellingwood@crca.ca); [generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca); [cdarling@cloca.com](mailto:cdarling@cloca.com); [quentin.hanchard@cvc.ca](mailto:quentin.hanchard@cvc.ca); [tim.pidduck@crowevalley.com](mailto:tim.pidduck@crowevalley.com); [tbyrne@erca.org](mailto:tbyrne@erca.org); [llaliberte@grca.on.ca](mailto:llaliberte@grca.on.ca); [slawson@grandriver.ca](mailto:slawson@grandriver.ca); [t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca](mailto:t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca); [csharma@hrca.on.ca](mailto:csharma@hrca.on.ca); [Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca); [mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com](mailto:mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com); [elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca](mailto:elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca); [r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca); Tammy Cook <[tammy@lakeheadca.com](mailto:tammy@lakeheadca.com)>; [jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca](mailto:jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca); Mark Peacock <[Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca](mailto:Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca)>; [Rhonda.bateman@ltc.on.ca](mailto:Rhonda.bateman@ltc.on.ca); [pbeard@mvca.on.ca](mailto:pbeard@mvca.on.ca); [David.Vallier@mattagamiregion.ca](mailto:David.Vallier@mattagamiregion.ca); [smcintyre@mvc.on.ca](mailto:smcintyre@mvc.on.ca); Leilani Lee-Yates <[Llee-yates@npca.ca](mailto:Llee-yates@npca.ca)>; [Carl.Jorgensen@ConservationSudbury.ca](mailto:Carl.Jorgensen@ConservationSudbury.ca); [Robin.Allen@nbmca.ca](mailto:Robin.Allen@nbmca.ca); [dhevenor@nvca.on.ca](mailto:dhevenor@nvca.on.ca); [jsmith@otonabeeconservation.com](mailto:jsmith@otonabeeconservation.com); [bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca](mailto:bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca); [Alison.McDonald@rrca.on.ca](mailto:Alison.McDonald@rrca.on.ca); [sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca](mailto:sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca); [e.downing@svca.on.ca](mailto:e.downing@svca.on.ca); [cbarrett@ssmrca.ca](mailto:cbarrett@ssmrca.ca); [cbickerdike@nation.on.ca](mailto:cbickerdike@nation.on.ca); [kphillips@scrca.on.ca](mailto:kphillips@scrca.on.ca); [jmackenzie@trca.on.ca](mailto:jmackenzie@trca.on.ca); [annettt@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:annettt@thamesriver.on.ca); [acoleman@conservationontario.ca](mailto:acoleman@conservationontario.ca)

**Cc:** Keyes, Jennifer (MNR) <[jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca](mailto:jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca)>; ca.office (MNR) <[ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca)>

**Subject:** Update: Proposed regulation regarding Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act

*\* This email is being sent on behalf of Jennifer Keyes, Director, Development and Hazard Policy Branch \**

Good morning:

I am writing to you today to notify you of a new regulation prescribing the circumstances under which the Minister of Natural Resources ("Minister") may make permitting decisions in the place of a conservation authority or review a conservation authority's permitting decision.

New provisions in the *Conservation Authorities Act* came into effect on April 1, 2024, that included powers for the Minister to 1) issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from issuing a permit and to take over the permitting process in the place of a conservation authority ("Minister's permit"), and 2) review a conservation authority permit decision at the request of the applicant ("Minister's review"). It is important to note that when making a permitting decision using one of these tools, the Minister is required to satisfy the same legislative criteria concerning natural hazards and public safety that are considered by conservation authorities.

The new regulation sets out the circumstances under which the Minister may use these powers as circumstances where the proposed development activity or other activity, in the opinion of the Minister, pertains to or supports a matter of provincial interest described in the regulation. Additionally, it includes a transparent process for individuals or businesses to request the use of these powers and sets out the information that must be submitted as part of such a request. This regulation came into effect on January 1, 2025.

A Decision Notice is now available at the Environmental Registry of Ontario, posting #[019-8320](#) and supporting information describing the process for requesting the use of these powers will be made available online.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Ministry of Natural Resources at [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,  
Jennifer

Jennifer Keyes  
Director, Development and Hazard Policy Branch  
Ministry of Natural Resources



*Taking pride in strengthening Ontario, its places and its people*

**Please Note:** As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats.

## 13.2) Conservation Authority Agricultural Sector Representative Advertisements Posted

**From:** Dungavell, John (MNR) <[John.Dungavell@ontario.ca](mailto:John.Dungavell@ontario.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 7:13 AM  
**To:** [tbyrne@erca.org](mailto:tbyrne@erca.org); [slawson@grandriver.ca](mailto:slawson@grandriver.ca); [r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca); [jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca](mailto:jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca); Mark Peacock <[Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca](mailto:Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca)>; Leilani Lee-Yates <[Llee-yates@npca.ca](mailto:Llee-yates@npca.ca)>; [bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca](mailto:bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca); [sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca](mailto:sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca); [cbickerdike@nation.on.ca](mailto:cbickerdike@nation.on.ca); [annettt@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:annettt@thamesriver.on.ca)  
**Cc:** Holder, Julia (MNR) <[Julia.Holder@ontario.ca](mailto:Julia.Holder@ontario.ca)>; [acoleman@conservationontario.ca](mailto:acoleman@conservationontario.ca); Bonnie Fox <[BFox@conservationontario.ca](mailto:BFox@conservationontario.ca)>; Bertrand, James (MNR) <[James.Bertrand@ontario.ca](mailto:James.Bertrand@ontario.ca)>; McLeod, Alex (MNR) <[Alex.McLeod@ontario.ca](mailto:Alex.McLeod@ontario.ca)>; Keyes, Jennifer (MNR) <[jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca](mailto:jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca)>  
**Subject:** Conservation Authority Agricultural Sector Representative – Advertisements Posted

Dear General Managers/Chief Administrative Officers,

I hope you and your staff had a wonderful holiday season.

I am writing to the 10 of you today to inform you that the Minister of Natural Resources has decided to pursue additional appointments of agricultural sector representatives (ag reps), and your conservation authority has been identified as a potential recipient.

Under subsection 14(4) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Minister can appoint an ag rep to a conservation authority's membership to increase local agricultural sector perspectives in conservation authority operations. Ag reps take into consideration both the interests of the sector and municipality they represent, as well as the overall authority and its purpose. The role is comparable to other municipally-appointed members but with some limits on voting rights when it comes to budgetary concerns or changing the structure of the conservation authority.

The Ministry has posted 10 job advertisements to the Ontario Public Appointments Secretariat [website](#) to appoint an agricultural sector representative to each of your conservation authority's memberships. These postings are open until **February 3, 2025** for applications to be submitted.

We encourage you to share these postings locally and invite any individuals from your local agricultural sectors who may be interested and meet the qualifications listed in the advertisement to apply.

Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions about these postings.

Thanks,

john

**John Dungavell**  
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## 14. Other Business

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## 15. Adjournment

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