



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting 2026

February 19, 2026

12:30 p.m. Presentation: 65 Years of Conservation

1:00 p.m. Awards

1:45 p.m. Annual General Meeting

Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

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1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

5. Chairs Remarks

I am proud to share the many accomplishments of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority in 2025. Despite a year filled with major challenges for Conservation Authorities, the progress made was remarkable. Key milestones include the generous donation of the new Five Maples Conservation Area from the Stoss family in Southwold; the growth of the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program, now supporting more than 90,000 acres of best practices; and new federal support for the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program, which will help complete important flood plain studies across the watershed. We also celebrated the completion of upgrades to the Longwoods Road Resource Centre and creation of the Indigenous Learning Centre, providing new spaces for classes, gatherings, and events for decades to come.

On October 31, 2025, the Government of Ontario announced plans to consolidate 36 Conservation Authorities into seven Regional Conservation Authorities. Under this proposal, the LTVCA would join the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority alongside seven others, with proposed boundaries extending from Cambridge-Waterloo to Sarnia to Windsor. This new regional organization would cover 81 municipalities and more than 2 million residents. While the Province stated this move would support consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, we strongly believe that these goals can be achieved through existing structures, without losing local conservation authorities and incurring the significant costs of consolidation.

Since their beginning, Conservation Authorities have been a bridge between provincial leadership and local municipalities, working together to protect and enhance the local environment for future generations. The LTVCA board remains committed to keeping the efforts of Conservation Authorities local and rooted in the communities we serve.

I extend my gratitude to our municipalities, community members and First Nations for their continued support. Many have shared letters and comments of support and passed resolutions that we hope will make a meaningful difference.

In 1946, Ontario recognized that local and provincial partnerships could strengthen watersheds and ensure healthier environments for the future. That vision still matters today. I encourage you to continue working with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority to support local, community-based conservation.

Paul Tiessen
Board Chair

6. Introduction of Guests

7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

7.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 18, 2025



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street in Chatham, ON at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 18, 2025.

The following directors were in attendance: P. Tiessen, H. Aerts, K. Loveland, L. Vogler, S. Emons, S. Hipple, J. Wright, M. Vink, A. Finn and P. Van Meerbergen. R. Leatham and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

Mark Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2025-81 A. Finn – S. Emons

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2025-82 L. Vogler – K. Loveland

Moved that the Executive Committee meeting minutes of November 10, 2025 and the Board of Directors meeting minutes of November 20, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

DRAFT

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7. Presentation

7.1) Outreach Status Update for the CM Wilson Safety Village

Mariah Alexander provided the Board of Directors with an update on how the outreach for the CM Wilson Learning Centre and medicine wheel garden design and plantings is progressing. Next steps will be seeking funding sources for this work. Directors provided various sources of funding that Mariah can look into.

7.2) First Year Implementation – LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan

Genevieve Champagne provided the Board of Directors with a presentation on the capital asset management plan and the projects that took place throughout the watershed conservation areas in 2025.

7.3) Restructuring of LTVCA Reserves

Todd Casier provided the Board of Directors with an update on the restructuring of the LTVCA's reserves.

7.4) LTVCA Personnel Policy Update

Kally Casier provided the Board of Directors with an update on the second part of the Policy deck, sections 4, 5 and 6 as part of the final approval process of the entire Policy deck.

7.5) ERO Comments – Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities

Mark Peacock provided the Board of Directors with an update on the status of the amalgamation of the Conservation Authorities and meeting with municipalities and other agencies and groups around Bill 68. Request that municipalities and the public write a letter on behalf of the Authority, with a sample letter found on our website under About Us/Governance/What's New (<https://lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/ltvca-board-resolution-on-provincial-plan-to-consolidate/>).

Councillor Emons requested that the comments be circulated to the public, Board members, municipal members and Conservation Authorities.

BD-2025-83 A. Finn – S. Emons

Moved that Presentations 7.1 through 7.5 be received for information.

CARRIED

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Outreach Status Update for the C.M. Wilson Safety Village

BD-2025-84 M. Vink – L. Vogler

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the Outreach Status Update for the C.M. Wilson Safety Village report for information.

CARRIED

9.2) First Year Implementation – LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan

BD-2025-85 J. Wright – A. Finn

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the First Year Implementation Report – LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan for information purposes.

CARRIED

9.3) Restructuring of LTVCA Reserves

BD-2025-86 S. Emons – P. VanMeerbergen

Moved that the following reserves be created from LTVCA funds:
LTVCA Asset Management Reserve – current value \$523,895.00
Stewardship Projects Reserve – current value \$268,516.75
Wetland Projects Reserve – current value \$180,042.77

CARRIED

9.4) LTVCA Personnel Policy Update

BD-2025-87 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the report and presentation and approve the updated LTVCA Personnel Policies dated December 2025.

CARRIED

9.5) ERO Comments – Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities

BD-2025-88 L. Vogler – S. Emons

Moved that the Board of Directors approve the comments as provided in the presentation.

CARRIED

9.6) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to October 31, 2025

BD-2025-89 P. VanMeerbergen – S.Hipple

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended October 31, 2025.

CARRIED

10. Business for Information

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

BD-2025-90 K. Loveland – J. Wright

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

CARRIED

- 10.2) Water Management
- 10.3) Planning and Regulations
- 10.4) Conservation Lands
- 10.5) Conservation Services
- 10.6) Communications, Education and Outreach
- 10.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee November 25, 2025 Minutes
- 10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association November 6, 2025 Minutes

BD-2025-91 A. Finn – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

BD-2025-92 M. Vink – L. Vogler

Moved that Correspondence items 11.1) through 11.3) be received for information.

CARRIED

12. Other Business

None noted.

13. Adjournment

BD-2025-93 P. VanMeerbergen – S. Emons

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

P. Tiessen
Chair



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



Special Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

**Special Meeting at the Call of the Chair
Virtual Meeting**

**February 11, 2026
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 11, 2026 at the call of the Chair. A roll call was held with the following members in attendance: P. Tiessen, J. Wright, A. Finn, H. Aerts, L. Vogler, M. Vink, K. Loveland and R. Leatham. Regrets were sent in by S. Emons, S. Hipple, P. Van Meerbergen and M. Bondy.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock read the First Nations Acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2026-01 K. Loveland – R. Leatham

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Business for Approval

5.1) In Camera Meeting:

- a) The security of the property of the Authority;
- b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including employees of the Authority;
- c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Authority;

- d) Labour relations or employee negotiations;
- e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals (e.g. Ontario Land Tribunal), affecting the Authority;
- f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;
- g) A matter in respect of which the General Membership, Executive Committee, Advisory Board or committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another act;
- h) Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the Authority by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- i) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the Authority, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- j) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the Authority and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- k) A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority.

BD-2026-02 L. Vogler – M. Vink

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

CARRIED

BD-2026-03 R. Leatham – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

A motion was made in camera regarding the confidential matter.

6. Other Business

None noted.

7. Adjournment

BD-2026-04 K. Loveland – M. Vink

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Paul Tiessen
Chair



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

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

9. Presentations

9.1) 2025 Annual Report

Amanda Blain will provide a presentation to the Board of Directors on the 2025 LTVCA Annual Report.

10. New Business

11. Business for Approval

11.1) 2025 Annual Report

Recommendation: That the LTVCA 2025 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: 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) 2026 Budget and Apportionment

Date: February 19, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **2026 Budget and Apportionment**
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Background

The LTVCA Board adopted the Preliminary 2026 Budget and apportionment at its meeting on October 16, 2025, in accordance with the following resolution:

“That the 2026 preliminary budget totalling \$8,673,058 be approved and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed apportionment as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days’ notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and apportionment. And that the final 2026 Budget be brought to the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in 2026 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 10, 2025, 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 16, 2025. No comments have been received from member municipalities or the public.

Several minor adjustments have since been incorporated into the 2026 Budget since its preliminary approval in October 2025. With these changes, there has been no additional impact on municipal apportionment.

Discussion

The 2026 Final Draft Budget of \$8,673,058 represents an increase of \$498,026 or 6.09% in overall spending in comparison to the 2025 approved budget of \$8,175,032. The greatest variances from 2025 to 2026 include:

- An increase in Technical Studies due to federal funding.
- An increase in Flood Control Structures, Flood Forecasting and Warning, Planning & Regulations and Watershed monitoring.
- An increase in Conservation Area expenses.
- An increase in Community Relations, Conservation Education and Ska-Nah-Doht Village.
- An increase in Conservation Services and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses.
- An increase in Administration expenses.
- And an offset due to a decrease in Phosphorus Reduction and Species at Risk programs.

The corresponding increase in the municipal apportionment is \$226,114 or 12.60%. As in previous years, annual adjustments to each municipality’s assessment within the watershed vary, ranging from 10.63% for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to 14.35% for the Municipality of Leamington, as shown in the last column of the table accompanying the budget on page 21 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 ten 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: \$2,091,560
- Category 3 Apportionment: (\$108,993)
- Special Apportionment: \$217,464 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent)
- Total Municipal Apportionment, \$2,200,031

Recommendation:

That the 2026 Municipal Apportionment be approved;

And That the participating municipalities be assessed for payment of \$2,200,031 which is comprised of Category 1 expenses of \$2,091,560; Category 3 expenses of (\$108,993) and Special Apportionment of \$217,464 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent);

And That each participating municipality’s share of the 2026 Total municipal apportionment be calculated using “Modified Current Value Assessment.” As shown in the table appended to this motion.

Recommendation: That the proposed 2026 budget totalling \$8,673,058 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, Financial and Administrative Services

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

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

2026 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

Object	COMBINED		CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Expenditures								
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	203,740	217,773	203,740	217,773	-	-	-	-
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	9	9	9	-	-	-	-
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	101,191	112,512	101,191	112,512	-	-	-	-
TECHNICAL STUDIES	179,247	474,719	179,247	474,719	-	-	-	-
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	422,185	457,350	422,185	457,350	-	-	-	-
WATERSHED MONITORING	154,426	176,558	150,026	168,985	-	-	4,400	7,573
SOURCE PROTECTION	25,733	40,603	25,733	40,603	-	-	-	-
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION AREAS	792,276	873,011	612,877	671,295	-	-	179,399	201,716
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	135,861	143,501	135,861	143,501	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	122,403	145,152	-	-	-	-	122,403	145,152
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	115,422	120,791	-	-	-	-	115,422	120,791
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	223,657	212,209	-	-	-	-	223,657	212,209
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	531,352	594,419	-	-	83,200	84,864	448,152	509,555
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	4,310,506	4,267,575	-	-	-	-	4,310,506	4,267,575
SPECIES AT RISK	112,356	33,921	-	-	-	-	112,356	33,921
ADMINISTRATION	728,058	768,903	728,058	768,903	-	-	-	-
ASSET MANAGEMENT	16,610	34,052	16,610	34,052	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recovered Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	8,175,032	8,673,058	2,575,537	3,089,702	83,200	84,864	5,516,295	5,498,492
Revenues								
Other Taxation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government Grants & Subsidies	(5,368,352)	(5,593,237)	(268,288)	(570,444)	-	-	(5,100,064)	(5,022,793)
User Fees	(832,764)	(879,790)	(297,200)	(295,098)	-	-	(535,564)	(584,692)
Other Municipal Revenues	(213,200)	(217,464)	(130,000)	(132,600)	(83,200)	(84,864)	-	-
Total Revenues	(6,414,316)	(6,690,491)	(695,488)	(998,142)	(83,200)	(84,864)	(5,635,628)	(5,607,485)
Total Net Budget	1,760,716	1,982,567	1,880,049	2,091,560	-	-	(119,333)	(108,993)
Net Inc. / (Dec.) \$		221,851						
Net Inc. / (Dec.) %	0	12.6%						

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2026 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>WATER MANAGEMENT</u>					
<u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	160,049	176,444	176,444		
OPERATIONS	30,309	26,827	26,827		
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	13,282	14,402	14,402		
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	100	100	100		
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	203,740	217,773	217,773	0	0
 <u>EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>					
<u>WAGES AND BENEFITS</u>					
OPERATIONS	9	9	9		
TOTAL EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	9	9	0	0
 <u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	83,221	95,807	95,807		
DATA COLLECTIONS	12,140	11,081	11,081		
FLOOD FORECASTING	2,270	2,270	2,270		
COMMUNICATIONS	1,400	1,400	1,400		
OPERATIONS CENTRE (RENT)	550	650	650		
FLOOD RESPONSE AND MONITORING	1,610	1,304	1,304		
TOTAL FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	101,191	112,512	112,512	0	0

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2026 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>TECHNICAL STUDIES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	173,527	174,399	174,399		
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & MAPPING	0	0	0		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	5,720	300,320	300,320		
TOTAL TECHNICAL STUDIES	179,247	474,719	474,719	0	0
<u>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	370,596	413,382	413,382		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	51,589	43,968	43,968		
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	422,185	457,350	457,350	0	0
<u>WATERSHED MONITORING</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	104,800	125,933	122,760		3,173
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	49,626	50,625	46,225		4,400
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	154,426	176,558	168,985	0	7,573
<u>SOURCE PROTECTION</u>					
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	25,733	40,603	40,603		
	0	0			

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2026 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	442,744	538,611	424,165		114,446
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	349,532	334,400	247,130		87,270
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	792,276	873,011	671,295	0	201,716
<u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</u>					
<u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	126,261	135,751	135,751		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	9,600	7,750	7,750		
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS	135,861	143,501	143,501	0	0
<u>CONSERVATION EDUCATION</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	114,143	137,152			137,152
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	8,260	8,000			8,000
TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION	122,403	145,152	0	0	145,152
<u>SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	107,402	111,721			111,721
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	8,020	9,070			9,070
TOTAL SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	115,422	120,791	0	0	120,791

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2026 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</u>					
<u>CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	174,669	139,621			139,621
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	48,988	72,588			72,588
TOTAL FORESTRY	223,657	212,209	0	0	212,209
<u>CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	233,134	287,702		84,864	202,838
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	298,218	306,717			306,717
TOTAL CHATHAM-KENT GREENING	531,352	594,419	0	84,864	509,555
<u>PHOSPHORUS</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	901,037	999,497			999,497
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	3,409,469	3,268,078			3,268,078
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	4,310,506	4,267,575	0	0	4,267,575

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2026 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET**

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>SPECIES AT RISK</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	100,851	26,430			26,430
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	11,505	7,491			7,491
TOTAL CONS. SERVICES	112,356	33,921	0	0	33,921
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	470,353	532,841	532,841		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	257,705	236,062	236,062		
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	728,058	768,903	768,903	0	0
ASSET MANAGEMENT	16,610	34,052	34,052		

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Apportionment (Levy) for 2026 using Modified CVA

	Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)	% of Levy	Special Apportionment 2026	Total General Apportionment 2026	Total Municipal Apportionment 2026	Total Municipal Apportionment 2025	\$ Change from 2025 Apportionment	% Change from 2025
Dutton-Dunwich M	586,808,672	3.7017%	0	73,390	73,390	64,854	8,536	13.16%
Southwold Tp	303,975,980	1.9176%	0	38,017	38,017	33,279	4,738	14.24%
West Elgin M	655,237,817	4.1334%	0	81,948	81,948	73,496	8,452	11.50%
Lakeshore M	1,520,034,791	9.5888%	0	190,104	190,104	168,884	21,220	12.56%
Leamington M	386,305,694	2.4369%	0	48,313	48,313	42,251	6,062	14.35%
Chatham-Kent M	8,847,401,606	55.8118%	217,464	1,106,506	1,323,970	1,196,704	127,266	10.63%
London C	1,835,145,915	11.5766%	0	229,514	229,514	203,535	25,979	12.76%
Middlesex Centre M	277,932,651	1.7533%	0	34,760	34,760	30,676	4,084	13.31%
Southwest Middlesex M	457,567,746	2.8865%	0	57,226	57,226	50,904	6,322	12.42%
Strathroy - Caradoc M	981,799,976	6.1935%	0	122,789	122,789	109,333	13,456	12.31%
TOTAL	15,852,210,848	100%	\$217,464	\$1,982,567	\$2,200,031	\$1,973,916	\$226,115	11.46%

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 2027 .

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 2027.

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 2027.

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; 1st alternative; 2nd alternative.

Recommendation: That the "Chair" be appointed as Voting Representative; and the CAO as 1st Alternative.

11.9) 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, June 18, 2026 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, August 20, 2026 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, October 15, 2026 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, December 17, 2026 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, February 18, 2027 – 2:00-4:00 pm

Recommendation: That the meeting schedule for 2026 and the Annual General Meeting for 2027 be endorsed.

12. Business for Information

12.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as CAO for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. With many important projects and strategies underway, the LTVCA is helping shape a more connected, vibrant, and sustainable future. Over the past eight years, I have seen the LTVCA grow into a dynamic organization, with tremendous opportunities ahead.

In 2025, we continued to build on that growth. After a short initial start to the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program in 2024, the LTVCA has completed its first full year of program implementation. The year saw strong progress and successful implementation of progressive farming techniques, monitoring of phosphorus runoff and building support for the program in the farm community. Urban communities also play an important role in this work. The Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP), delivered with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a proven solution for sustainable urban renewal that places neighbourhoods at the center of local environmental improvement. We look forward to seeing local neighbourhoods work together to achieve goals of urban environment stewardship.

I am grateful to work with a dedicated senior leadership team whose efforts, alongside all staff, help fulfil the direction of the Board and ensure that our strategic priorities are met. With our community, we continue to shape and improve the LTVCA watershed. When residents feel engaged and inspired, meaningful environmental improvement becomes possible. Together, we are building a healthy, thriving watershed for today and for the generations that will follow.

The greatest values are realized when we work together as a community. The LTVCA is community born and community driven. As we navigate a changing environment, we remain committed to striving to meet the evolving needs of our residents now and into the future. In 2026, we celebrate 65 years of conservation, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the LTVCA, and I hope you enjoy all that our watershed has to offer.

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

12.2) 2025 Permit Statistics, Timelines and Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24

To: LTVCA Board of Directors
From: Jason Homewood, P.Geo., Water Resources Technician
Date: 20 January 2026
Subject: 2025 Permit Statistics, Timelines and Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receive 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 2025 as well as the level of compliance with different sections of the regulation.

2025 Permit Statistics:

2025 PERMIT STATISTICS	
Total # of Applications Received	601
Total # of "Complete" Applications Received	803
Total # of Permits Issued (Overall)	792
Total # of "Major" Permits Issued	2
Total # of "Minor" Permits Issued	790
Total # of Applications Subject to Minister's Order (Minister's Review):	0

The differential between the number of applications received in 2025 and the number of "complete" applications received is largely due to a significant number of applications received in 2024 that weren't "complete" until 2025 (e.g. additional required documentation was submitted in 2025, or the fee was paid in 2025).

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 2025.

2025 Permit Timelines:

2025 PERMIT TIMELINES	
Complete Application Review Total # of "complete application reviews" completed within 21 days:	594 106 applications exceeded the 21 days for their "completeness" review.
Permit Timelines (Major) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	1
Permit Timelines (Major) Total Major Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (90 Days):	1
Permit Timelines (Minor) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Within</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	560
Permit Timelines (Minor) Total Minor Permits Issued <u>Outside</u> Decision Timeline (30 Days):	230
Variance from Timelines Reason for Variance from Timelines:	The majority of the permits which didn't meet the provincial timelines 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:	21.4 days (ranged between 0 & 147)
Permit Timelines (Average – Major – 90 Days) Average Major Permit Review Timeline:	108.5 days (ranged between 70 & 147)
Permit Timelines (Average – Minor – 30 Days) Average Minor Permit Review Timeline:	21.1 days (ranged between 0 & 103)

Compliance with O. Reg. 41/24:

COMPLIANCE WITH O. REG. 41/24	
Mapping 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
Mapping Has the Authority undertaken an annual review of the mapping and made necessary updates? (ss. 4(2) of O. Reg. 41/24)	Work continued on required mapping updates in 2025. However, no updates were completed or uploaded to the online portal.
Administrative Reviews Total requests for administrative reviews made to the Authority:	0
Administrative Reviews Total administrative reviews completed within 30 days of the request:	N/A

Analysis and Conclusion:

The LTVCA issued 792 permits in 2025 under O. Reg. 41/24. Of those, ~71% met the Provincial standards for service levels. For initial “complete application review”, ~85% met the Provincial standard. Variances in meeting time standards for 2025 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 Technician & Regulations Officer

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 seven flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in December.

The first two messages from December 25th and 27th were Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages, issued due to significant rain in the forecast. Based on the forecasts, either event would have had potentially enough rain to trigger operations of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. However, the actual rain that fell during these events was not enough to require operations.

The third message was a Shoreline Condition Statement – Safety Bulletin for Lake Erie, issued on December 28th. Environment and Climate Change Canada’s (ECCC) Marine Forecast had issued a Storm Warning and a Freezing Spray Warning for Western Lake Erie. ECCC had also issued a Yellow Warning for Wind for the region. However, the weather station at Cedar Springs only recorded sustained wind speeds peaking at 37 km/h, not nearly enough to cause issues with current lake levels.

The next two messages were follow-up messages to the December 27th message. While the lower Thames watershed did not see enough rainfall to be of a concern, the upper watershed received substantially more. This caused the Thames River to rise almost to the point of being bank full. The first of these messages, a Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook message, was issued on the 29th, acknowledging that the high water was coming down the river. The other message, a Watershed Condition Statement – Safety Bulletin, was issued January 2nd, noting that water levels had peaked and were dropping.

The final two messages were from January 9th and 12th and were both Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages. Warm temperatures and some light rain caused a melt event, mostly on the upper Thames River watershed. Water levels rose up again, this time just spilling over into the flood flats adjacent to the river.

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 across 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 greater concern for ice jamming. Bathymetry work conducted on December 2nd, 2025, indicated that the passage over the sandbar through the navigation channel was 1.77 m at its shallowest. It is not clear what the actual water level of Lake St. Clair was at that time as the Belle River gauge is missing data for this day. U.S. gauges suggest water levels were between 174.75 to 174.81 m (IGLD85). While it is difficult to know what the lake level will be when the spring freshet comes, lake levels on February 6th were 174.80 and were expected to rise by 5 cm for the first week of March. The data that was collected also suggests that perhaps the river had eroded out the lake bed across the sand bar to a deeper depth at a location further east of the navigation channel.

However, the data collected could not confirm that. Based on this information, it does not look like the water depth across the sandbar in Lake St. Clair presents an unusual risk for ice jamming.

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 recorded temperatures suggested that the Thames River already has around 28 cm of ice. Actual ice thickness measurements were collected on February 10th. The ice at Thames Grove Park in the city of Chatham was approximately 17 cm thick. At Parry Landing Park, downstream of the city, the ice was approximately 20 cm thick. The ice thickness at Jeannettes Creek and at the mouth of the river at Lighthouse Cove measured 31 cm. Forecasts suggest that by the beginning of March the river could have 35 cm of ice at the mouth, and 38 cm of ice by mid-March if the weather holds. It is expected that the river already easily has enough ice to form a significant ice jam.

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 February by the UTRCA suggest that the Upper Thames River watershed had around 180% of its average amount of snow and water stored in that snow. This is roughly equivalent to 75 mm of rain stored in the snowpack. 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 around 25 to 50 mm of water stored in its snow. The Ridgetown weather station is currently reporting 25 cm of snow on the ground. Therefore, there is easily enough water stored in the snowpack of the Thames River watershed to create significant flooding and ice jams should the watershed melt out too quickly this Spring.

Based on long range weather forecasts, conditions are expected to remain cold for the next two weeks. Very long-range forecasts suggest the cold could last into mid-March. At this time, the spring freshet, and any associated flooding that may occur, would not be expected until March.

Report on Lake Conditions

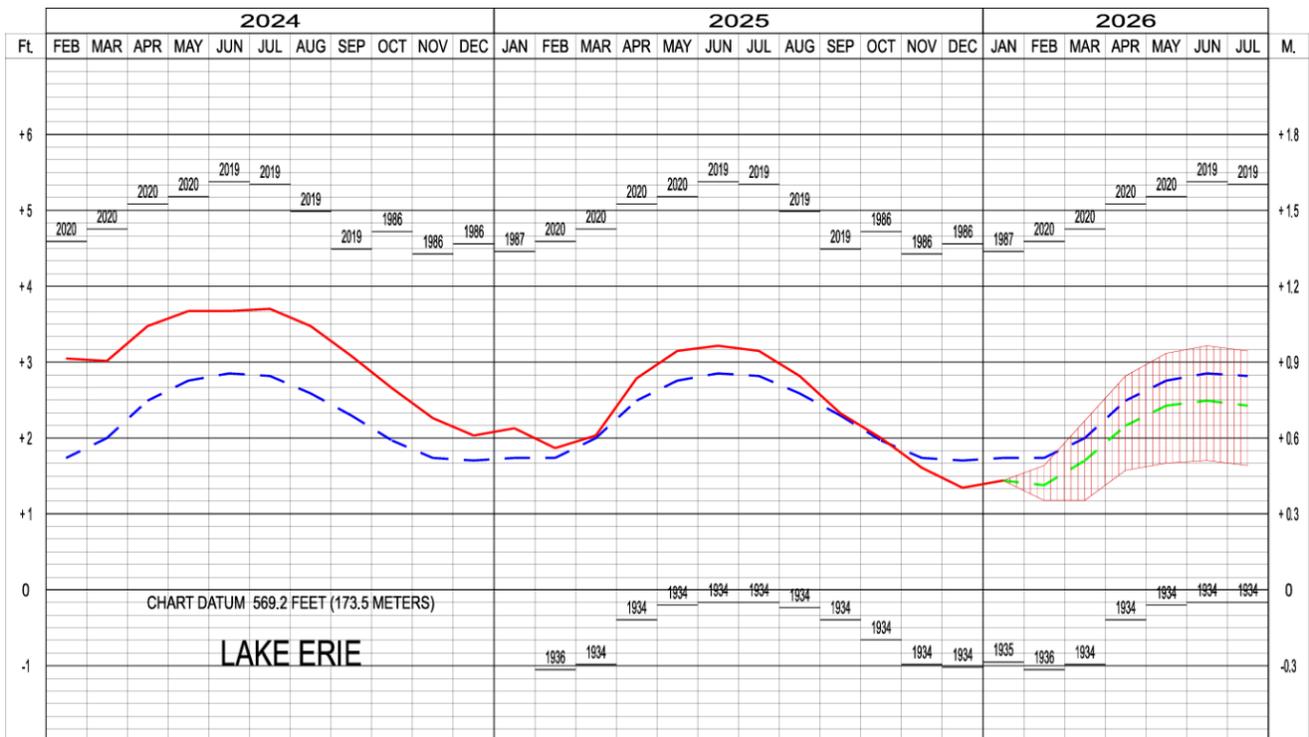
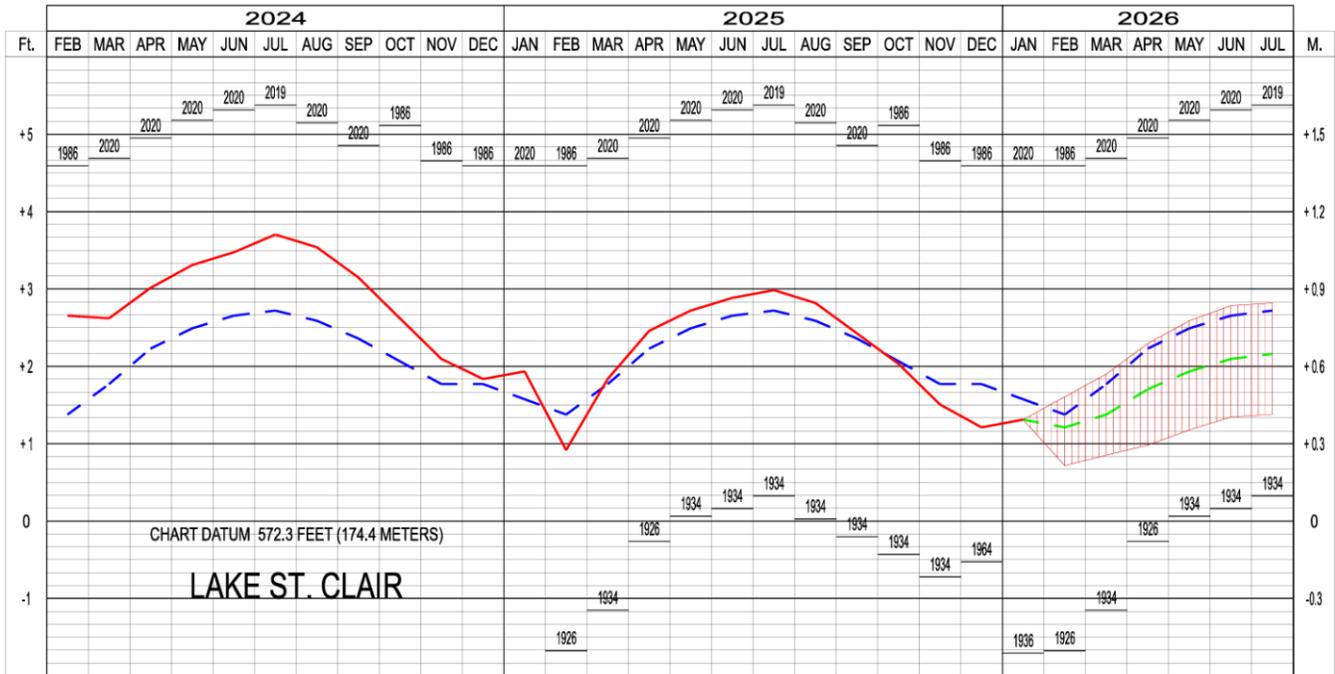
Average daily lake levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of February were around 173.91 m (I.G.L.D.). This lake level is only 1 cm above the long-term average for the month of February. Lake levels are predicted to rise around 7 to 8 cm by the beginning of March.

Average daily lake levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of February were around 174.74 m (I.G.L.D.). This lake levels corresponds to the long-term average for the month of February. Lake levels are predicted to rise around 5 cm by the beginning of March.

Water levels on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie have been relatively close to their long-term averages throughout 2025. The six-month forecasts suggest that water levels on the two lakes will track below the long-term average through the Spring of 2026. The middle of the predicted forecast range would suggest lake levels to be 10 or 15 cm below the long-term average by next summer on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair respectively.

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

There has been little activity surrounding the LTVCA's flood control structures over the last few months. There have been no significant rainfall events over the last few months so there have been no operations since the last report.

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 are required. Watch Services out of London cleaned the gates on December 17th. Although they were not able to get out before the creek froze over, the diver simply cut a hole in the ice to access the creek and perform their work.

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. However, since the Lower Thames watershed is currently in a Low Water Condition, staff have continued to monitor water levels and issue a report every other month.

Flows on the Thames River were quite low last autumn when a Low Water Level 2 Condition was declared. However, conditions seem to have improved through December and January. Very cold temperatures in December and January have caused issues for the Thamesville gauge which is not producing usable data. However, the Dutton gauge showed average flow during the month at over 3 times the LASF in December, and around 7 times the LASF in January. There is no reason to believe this trend wouldn't apply at Thamesville as well. McGregor Creek is generally considered too flashy of a system to compare with the average flow. Last monthly average flow for January was 90% of the LASF, but the median flow was 307% of the LASF. Using either measure of central tendency, this would not suggest a Low Water Condition.

The 3-month rainfall totals, at the 7 gauges suitable for winter measurements, show rainfall totals clearly in the Level 1 Low Water Condition range. One gauge showed a Level 2 Condition, while another gauge showed no Condition. There were no obvious spatial trends. This is still an improvement over the last report when most stations were clearly in the Level 2 range. The 18-month rainfall indicator is starting to show dryer conditions over the longer time period. Three of the 6 stations now show Level 1 Low Water Conditions. However, those three stations have only fallen below the threshold by 1 or 2%.

As a result of the precipitation indicators, the LTVCA currently sits at a Level 1 Low Water Condition.

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 on a monthly basis. This sampling is required to be able to determine nutrient loadings related to the phosphorous reduction targets under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. As it is winter, this sampling is being funded through the MECP under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA). If there are any high flow events, the LTVCA also conducts event-based sampling at this time of the year. Currently, staff are struggling with the very cold temperatures and substantial amounts of ice that have formed on the local watercourses and the Thames River.

Groundwater monitoring for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program also continues. While water quality sampling was completed last year, 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 MECP COA grant is coming up for renewal this year. LTVCA staff have been in contact with MECP and are currently working on drafting the next 2-year agreement. Additional reporting for the current grant will also be required later this Spring. The LTVCA looks forward to working with MECP on the renewal of this agreement.

Alignment with the LTVCA's Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

This report aligns with these Strategic Objectives in the LTVCA's Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy:

2. Monitoring the Health of the Watershed
5. Protecting the Community from Natural Hazards
6. Educating the Community about Natural Hazards
7. Supporting Community Understanding of the Watershed

12.4) Planning and Regulations

12.4.1) Planning

From the end of November 2025 through to the end of January 2026, there were 43 planning submissions reviewed by staff for this reporting season with respect to the Provincial Planning Statement, Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24. On average it takes roughly 5 days to respond to submissions, ranging from same day response to 15 days for more involved planning submissions. There have also been 57 phone calls and over 448 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	June Totals	July Totals	Aug Totals	Sept Totals	Oct Totals	Nov Totals	Dec Totals	2025 Totals	Jan 2026 Totals
Chatham-Kent	5	16	7	22	30	9	15	26	12	8	14	14	178	13
Elgin	5	0	1	5	4	4	3	3	8	2	4	3	42	6
Essex	0	0	0	4	2	0	4	0	1	2	2	0	15	0
Middlesex	6	2	1	3	3	2	4	1	9	4	2	2	39	5
Total Numbers	17	18	9	34	39	14	23	24	20	23	21	19	274	24

Planning Fees

Planning submission fees were received from member municipalities for the time period between December 1, 2025, through to January 31, 2026. There have been 11 legal inquiries received in January 2026 totaling \$1375.

MUNICIPALITY	DEC 2025 TO JAN 2026	2025 TOTAL	2026 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
Chatham-Kent		\$450.00		\$3,300.00
Elgin County				
Southwold	\$13,645.00	\$23,645.00		\$1,215.00
Dutton Dunwich				\$0
West Elgin				\$900.00
Essex County				
Lakeshore				\$1,400.00
Middlesex County				
Middlesex Centre				\$0
YTD Total		\$24,095.00		\$6,815.00

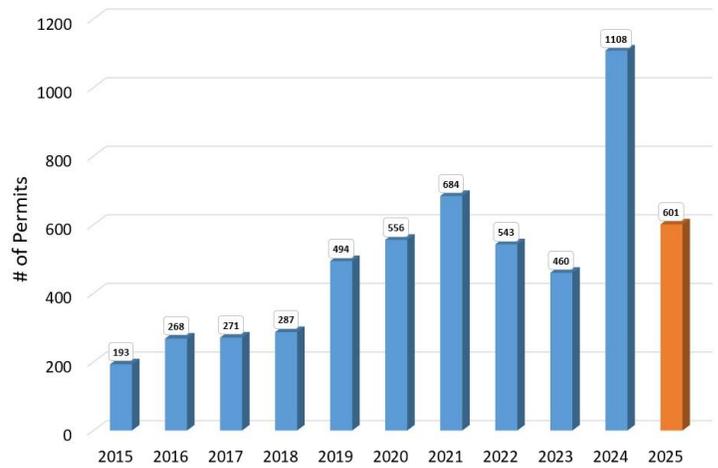
12.4.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

Permitting in 2025

In December 2025, staff received 23 permit applications for proposed works that are subject to Section 28 (1) of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24. Combining that to what was received in the previous 11 months in 2025, staff received a total of 601 permit applications and issued 792 permits (includes permits for applications which had been received in late 2024). No hearings were held in 2025 and no permit applications were denied.

The number of permit applications in 2025 was the third highest on record (for the period between 1973 and present) – only surpassed by 684 in 2021 and 1,108 in 2024.

Annual Volume of Permit Applications



Below are some permitting statistics for 2025:

- 77% of all permits were within Chatham-Kent;
- 61% of all permits were for utilities (e.g. Enbridge, Hydro One, fibre optic communication companies, etc.) with an average turnaround time of 31 days;
- 32% of all permits were for private property owners for projects (e.g. construction or modification of structures, shoreline protection, etc.) with an average turnaround time of 5 days;
- 7% of the applications were for municipal or county projects (e.g. drainage, infrastructure, etc.) with an average turnaround time of 14 days; and,
- Total of permit application fees = \$106,000.00.

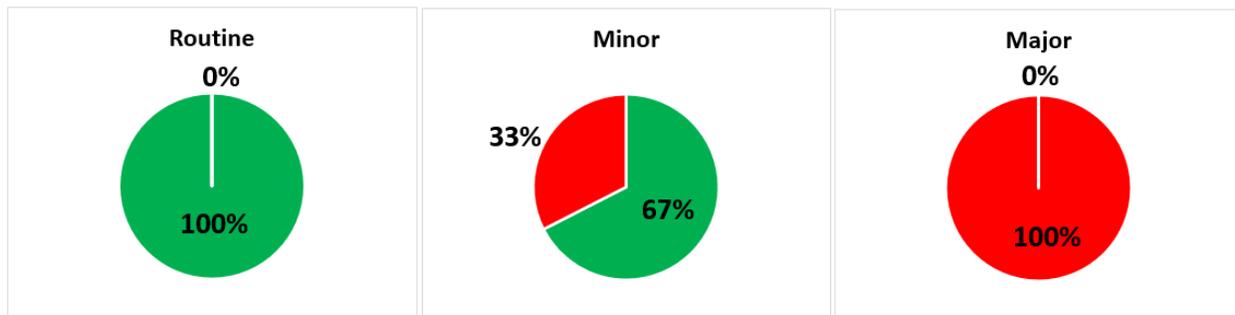
2025 Permit Processing Timelines

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 100% of routine applications, 67% of minor applications, and 0% of major applications met the LTVCA’s applicable delivery standard for permits issued in 2025.



Complexity of Application	# Applications Reviewed Within the Following Days				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	9	0	0	0	0
Minor	501	26	19	204	31
Major	0	0	0	1	1

The percentage of routine applications meeting the LTVCA’s delivery standard has significantly improved over last year and is higher compared to previous years (2022 = 88%, 2023 = 93%, and 2024 = 69%). The percentage of minor applications meeting their delivery standards has improved over last year, but still falls short of the LTVCA’s delivery standard (2022 = 67%, 2023 = 87%, and 2024 = 58%). This shortfall is largely due to the large number of utility permits – the turnaround time is much higher if the utility permit numbers are removed (94%, an improvement over previous years). Major applications’ turnaround is on par with previous years.

Reporting related to provincial timelines, which aren’t as stringent as LTVCA standards, is provided under a separate report.

Property Inquiries in 2025

In 2025, the Water Resources Technician & Regulations Officer received and responded to 1,753 property inquiries which was a continued increase from 2024 (1,670) and 2023 (831).

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, including how to obtain a permit.
- Insurance companies looking for floodplain information.
- Municipal staff or utility companies planning future projects.

Permitting in January 2026

Historically, January tends to be a slower period for permitting which allows staff to complete policy updates and other items on the department's work plan for the year. The number of incoming permit applications for January historically ranged between 10 and 20. In January 2026, staff received 39 new permit applications for review.

Property Inquires in January 2026

During the first month of 2026, the Water Resources and Regulations Technician has received 127 property inquiries. At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is up to five business days for e-mails and 5-10 business days for phone calls. The length of time to respond to inquiries is similar to the last board report.

12.4.3) Section 28 Enforcement:

25 new complaints / tips were received in 2025, which is a slight decrease from 2024. However no Notices of Violation were issued, which is primarily due to staffing resource issues. 21 of the 25 complaints / tips were violations or potential violations of Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. None of the violation / potential violation files have been closed.

Of the 25 complaints / violations received, 12 were in Chatham-Kent, seven were in Lakeshore, two were in Dutton Dunwich, two were in Southwest Middlesex, one was in Strathroy-Caradoc, and one was in West Elgin.

For the month of January 2026, no complaints / tips were received from the public. One Notice of Violation was issued for violation from November 2024.

12.4.4) 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. While the regulatory screening map was not updated in 2025, staff hope to implement a series of updates this year.

12.4.5) Policies and Procedures Update

Given ongoing workload issues, 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.

Additionally, with respect to the Additional Residential Unit ("ARU") discussion from the June 2025 Board of Directors' meeting, staff had drafted and circulated proposed ARU policies to planning staff at our member municipalities and the local counties, as well as to building department staff at our member municipalities. Comments have been received and staff are awaiting further comments from planning staff at Chatham-Kent. It is planned to commence public consultations on the proposed policies after we receive comments from Chatham-Kent staff, provided the comments do not significantly alter the proposed policies.

These reports align with these Strategic Objectives in the LTVCA’s Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy:

3. Supporting Sustainable Growth
4. Improving Transparency and Customer Service in Planning and Regulations
5. Protecting the Community from Natural Hazards

12.4.6) O. Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in Dec 2025 and Jan 2026)**

B.D. 02/19/2026

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
2025 Permits					
085-2025	0 Essex Kent Road	Tilbury	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 10, 2025	5
531-2025	21516 Muskie Lane	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 03, 2025	0
564-2025	9158 Union Road	Shedden	Southwold	Granted: Jan 21, 2026	75
566-2025	16525 Tecumseh Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 08, 2025	3
568-2025	10153 Dunborough Road	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Jan 23, 2026	67
572-2025	Nooyen Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 03, 2025	20
574-2025	Scane Road by Fysh Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2025	1
575-2025	1734 5th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 02, 2025	1
576-2025	22417 Creek Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 04, 2025	1
577-2025	Bridge Rehabilitation (B-42-41) over Big Creek Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 09, 2025	7
578-2025	Markham Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 08, 2025	3
579-2025	Lake St. Clair Dredge	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 16, 2025	0
580-2025	20844 Cooks Road	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Dec 09, 2025	4
581-2025	11521 Wildwood Line	Rondeau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 18, 2025	10
582-2025	11531 Wildwood Line	Rondeau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 18, 2025	9
583-2025	800 Junction Avenue	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 10, 2025	1
584-2025	51 Brock Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 16, 2025	1
585-2025	Government Drain No.1 North	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Dec 16, 2025	8
586-2025	470 Tisdelle Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Dec 10, 2025	0
587-2025	22746 Queens Line	Rodney	West Elgin	Granted: Dec 10, 2025	0
588-2025	4818 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 17, 2025	0
589-2025	20262 Erieau Road	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2025	3
590-2025	Pier Road Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2025	8
591-2025	Two Creeks Lane, Omstead SWM Pond	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2025	3
592-2025	Talbot Trail by Askew Drain Tributary #1	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 17, 2025	1
593-2025	Talbot Trail by Askew Drain Tributary #2	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 17, 2025	1
594-2025	6725 St. Philippes Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 18, 2025	0
595-2025	21016 Dundonald Road	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Dec 18, 2025	0
596-2025	83 Erie Street North	Ridgetown	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 18, 2025	0
597-2025	18208 Erie Shore Drive	Erie Shore Drive	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Dec 19, 2025	0

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permits Issued in Dec 2025 and Jan 2026)

B.D. 02/19/2026

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
2026 Permits					
001-2026	29107 Fingal Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 26, 2026	4
002-2026	Erin Line, ~130 East of Fingal Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 26, 2026	4
003-2026	Erin Line at Lunn & Jones Drain No. 3	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 26, 2026	4
004-2026	Erin Line at Joseph-Graham Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 26, 2026	4
005-2026	Erin Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 26, 2026	4
006-2026	Wiley Road at Small & Holland Drain Ext.	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Jan 26, 2026	4
007-2026	99 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 06, 2026	1
008-2026	5 Stass Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 07, 2026	1
009-2026	Chinnick Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 06, 2026	0
010-2026	Comfort Jackson Drain	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Jan 13, 2026	21
011-2026	Longwoods Road - Kilbourne Drain	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Jan 13, 2026	21
012-2026	Peck Branch Drain No. 4	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 13, 2026	21
013-2026	Lyle Clark Drain and Vyn Branch of the Lyle Clark Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 21, 2026	24
014-2026	630 Ross Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 16, 2026	1
015-2026	5099 Welch Drive	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Jan 12, 2026	3
016-2026	18 Briar Hill Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 09, 2026	0
017-2026	12892 Onoko Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 14, 2026	0
023-2026	8528 14th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2026	1
024-2026	8184 10th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2026	1
025-2026	Charing Cross Road at Horton Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2026	1
026-2026	Ninth Line at Moody and Earley Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2026	1
027-2026	Eighth Line at Moody and Earley Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2026	1
028-2026	8544 Eighth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2026	1
029-2026	Charing Cross Road at Lewis Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 27, 2026	1
031-2026	11502 Lagonda Way	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 29, 2026	3
034-2026	Horton Street Subdivision (Shedden Meadows)	Shedden	Southwold	Granted: Jan 29, 2026	1
035-2026	Seventh Line West at Flook and Hinton Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Jan 29, 2026	0
036-2026	McColl-Davellar Drain Branch A 2025	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Cleared: Jan 30, 2026	10

12.5) Conservation Lands

12.5.1) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Longwoods Road Conservation Area has been a busy spot with school groups touring the property and snowshoe rentals popping up this winter. The Land Staff have had their work cut out for them with this winters turbulent and cold weather causing land conditions to be difficult to manage. We have had to close the Conservation Area a few times over this current winter due to heavy snow falls, freezing rain, extreme winds and challenging road conditions. This spring will require a big clean up event to take place with the number of branch debris scattered throughout the conservation area.

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area has also been inundated with snow and ice this past winter causing conditions to be less optimal for daily use of the conservation area.

Camping

Camping season will soon be upon us and we will be gearing up for the spring. We received the EASE Grant which will help us revitalize some of our recreational facilities at C.M. Wilson and Sharon Creek for this year's summer season.

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

Urban Stewardship – Alyssa Broeders:

Over the winter months, the Urban Stewardship Program remained active on several fronts, balancing professional development, public outreach, and planning for the year ahead. The Urban Stewardship Technician attended the final conference of the Youth Conservation Leadership Program, which included engaging and thought-provoking talks from leaders in the environmental field, such as the former CEO of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Executive Director of Environmental Defence, and the Head of Forestry for the City of Toronto. The conference offered valuable perspective on conservation leadership, policy, and urban forestry that will help inform future program work.

We have also been in contact with James Marcucci, of University of Toronto who is doing doctoral research on urban stewardship programming in Southern Ontario. This research is to be completed by September 2027. This study will analyze tree planting and stewardship across time within private residential land across

the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and other major Canadian cities by looking at how factors like income, education, ethnicity, age and type of housing and homeownership status impact the emergence and intensity of tree planting and post-planting stewardship.

Community education continued with the launch of the 2026 Winter Webinar Series, which opened with a well-received and highly engaging presentation on Ontario's native turtles. Attendance was strong, reflecting ongoing public interest in local wildlife and accessible learning opportunities. Applications for this year's *Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today* program were also sent out to schools in preparation for spring planting. The program is expected to support the planting of approximately 250 trees at schools across Chatham-Kent, helping to expand green space while providing hands-on learning opportunities for students.

Planning is also well underway for the 2026 field season, with a busy year ahead. Upcoming initiatives include two community tree giveaways, the launch of the 2026 rain barrel sale, and several volunteer-led tree planting and pollinator garden events. A major focus will be the implementation of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP), which will see restoration projects carried out on public lands in SNAP communities as well as on approximately 300 private properties. Together, these efforts reflect continued growth and strong community interest in urban stewardship across the watershed.

Western District – Michael Young:

Through the Invasive Species Council, we have received some preliminary funding for invasive phragmites management. This endeavor is intended to gather like minded community groups within Chatham-Kent to look at phragmites management techniques currently being used and discuss alternatives or innovative strategies to control phragmites. An additional aspect of the project is to determine current mapping and fill in mapping gaps where no information has been collected on phragmites invasions. Four target areas have been selected, Rondeau Bay, Mitchel's Bay, Delaware First Nation (Moraviantown), and Chatham-Kent Roads & Drains. The first meeting to assemble representatives from these areas is scheduled for February 12, 2026.

With the cold season in full swing, a lot of staff effort has switched to office work and planning for the spring 2026 season. Some site visits have already taken place for 2026 projects, but focus has shifted to trees to make sure everything is lined up for the spring.

Stewardship attended the CK Farm Show in January with the Ag team, promoting stewardship programs and services for the public. It was a great time to see some familiar faces, in addition to gathering some new project leads for the future. LTVCA had a wood duck box that was donated by NatureCK (formerly Sydenham Field Naturalists) that was used as a prize at the farm show.

Also, through partnership with NatureCK, a custom purple martin house was constructed and donated for a select landowner that completed a wetland project with LTVCA this year.

Michael presented at the Soil and Crop AGM during the CK Farm Show, discussing the importance of stewardship in our watershed and how our programs and citizen science can contribute to the conservation effort.



Michael presenting at Soil & Crop AGM on stewardship and citizen science



NatureCK Duck box giveaway at the CK Farm Show



Custom purple martin house that was made and donated by a member in NatureCK

ALUS Elgin - Russel Vey:

The start of the year has focused primarily on reporting, governance transitions, and internal planning as we move through the slow winter season.

I completed the Year-End Reporting, ensuring all projects from the previous year were accurately recorded, verified, and finalized in the database. This work wrapped up the reporting cycle and provides a clean foundation for program delivery and tracking in the year ahead.

The ALUS Elgin PAC held its annual Christmas End-of-Year Meeting, which included elections for executive positions. As a result, we welcomed new PAC executives: Drake Larsen was elected Chair, Jumanah Khan as

Vice Chair, and Rudy Pilz as Secretary. We also extend sincere thanks to Steve Walsh, who concluded six years of dedicated service as Chair of the ALUS Elgin PAC. His leadership and commitment have been instrumental in the program's growth and success.

With reduced field activity during the winter months, I have focused on planning and preparation for the upcoming year. A key task during this period was the redesign of the Allocation Tool, with a stronger emphasis on project management and built-in functionality to streamline end-of-year reporting. These updates will improve efficiency, data consistency and tracking, and long-term usability as the program continues to expand. Additionally, the ALUS Elgin outreach postcards were distributed through Canada Post's Precision Targeting mailout, and we are now beginning to await and track new project inquiries.

Eastern District – Tyler Thornton:

Working in liaison with contractors, funding partners, and landowners preparing several wetland & erosion control projects that require permitting throughout the eastern district of the watershed has been conducted over the winter months. These projects are to be initiated during the spring and summer months when the weather conditions are suitable. Site visits with landowners interested in future land stewardship projects to which there has been heavy engagement are actively ongoing. The stewardship team is working in liaison, as we prepare and organize all the 2026 tree planting projects; meanwhile, submitting all necessary reporting & documentation to the affiliated organizations, who are to fund these projects. Stewardship staff attended the Chatham Kent Farm Show to further conduct outreach to the local community within our watershed and was promoting LTVCA stewardship programs and initiatives. Working in liaison with both ALUS Middlesex & ALUS Elgin as it pertains to upcoming stewardship projects that will be implemented this fiscal year is actively ongoing. Ongoing communication with both Trees Canada & the municipality of Dutton to organize a large stock tree planting event that will be hosted at the Dutton community centre in April 2026 is being conducted.

ALUS Middlesex – Erica Ion:

On December 11th, 2025, ALUS Middlesex hosted the final PAC meeting of the year at Arrowwood Farm & Events in Melbourne. We celebrated exciting program highlights of 2025 and shared a delicious meal by the fire with PAC members and representatives from ALUS Canada. We spent the rest of December working on distributing annual payments to our current participants and completing year-end reports.



Final PAC Meeting of 2025 celebrating ALUS Middlesex's accomplishments.

At the end of December, our fall co-op student Rebecca finished her co-op term with ALUS Middlesex and has since returned to her studies at Fanshawe College. In planning for our summer field season, we have started the interview process to hire a summer student from Western University's Master's of the Environment and Sustainability Program, and we look forward to welcoming a new student to our team in May.

January was an exciting month as we began preparing for the year ahead. We have been connecting with interested farmers at site visits and we hosted our first PAC meeting of 2026 on January 27th. For the first time, we hosted the PAC meeting at the newly opened and renovated Resource and Education Centre at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Many of our tree projects for 2026 were proposed at this meeting as well as some new wetland and grassland planting projects.



Drone photo from East Middlesex wetland site visit in January 2026.

Outreach has always been an important part of the ALUS Middlesex Program, especially during the winter season when the weather is poor. As usual, we have attended several local events to share about the program and connect with like-minded organizations. We attended the London Environmental Network's (LEN) Year-End celebration at the London Children's Museum in December. As well, as a recipient of a \$5,000 Community Eco-Grant from Nature London last year, allowing us to host our Strong-Roots Community Planting Event in June 2025, we were invited to present about our event to Nature London members on January 23rd. It gave us an opportunity to thank Nature London and their members for supporting our program, and we look forward to working with them again in the future.



Erica Ion presenting to Nature London Members about the Strong Roots: Community Planting Event held in June 2025.

ALUS Chatham-Kent - Rashel Tremblay:

The ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC held its first meeting of 2026 on January 20. Elections were conducted - Ralph Brodie will remain Chair for one final term, Mike Smith was elected Co-Chair, and Jordan Sinclair was unanimously voted Secretary.

Two prospective PAC members attended the meeting and at the conclusion, the PAC voted to accept both. Please welcome our two new members -

Ismay Earl holds an Honours B.Sc. in Ecology, Evolutionary and Forest Conservation Science from the University of Toronto. She’s worked in Field Crop Pest Management at the University of Guelph-Ridgetown Campus, has served as the Vice-President of NatureCK since 2024, and currently works for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as a field biologist and cultural programmer.

Bob Kerr holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture and an MBA. He has been farming in Chatham-Kent since 1971, growing tomatoes, asparagus, carrots, and cash crop organically since 2000. In 2018, Bob was inducted into the Kent Agricultural Hall of Fame. The Kerrs have established numerous projects with ALUS CK and their Kerr-Wilson Renaturalization Project has been the highlight of conservation tours and the ALUS East Hub Conference (which was hosted in Chatham-Kent, October 2025).

Other notable updates from the January meeting:

- The PAC voted to host an ALUS CK Appreciation Breakfast in April.
- Thirty-three projects are scheduled for verification and renewal in 2026.
- A PAC member established a Tree maintenance demonstration plot in 2025, which will be the location of a multi-year research project, partially funded by an anonymous donor.

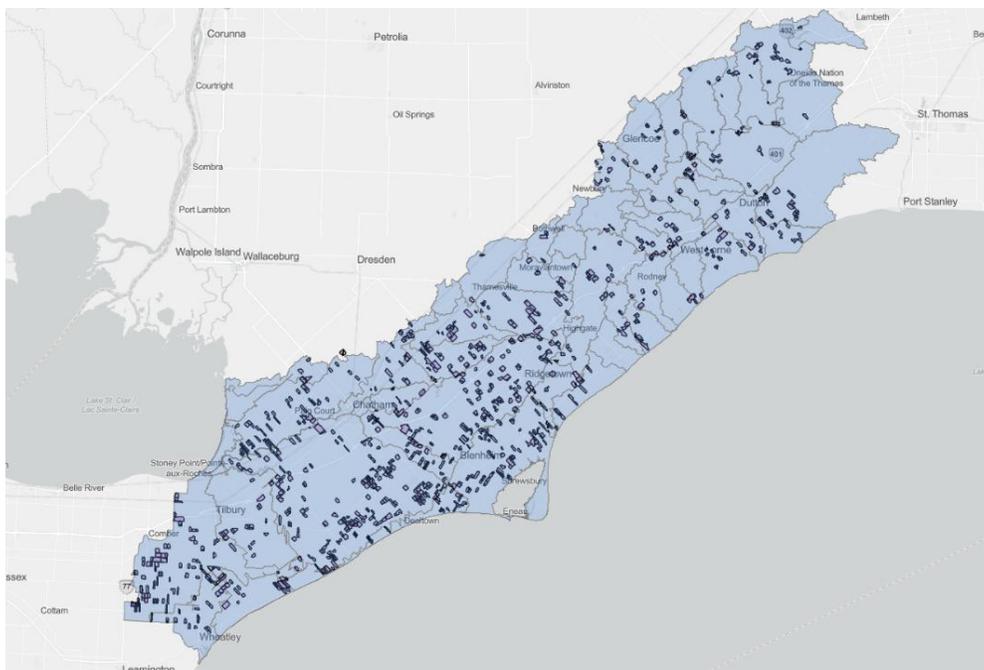


Attendees of the 2025 ALUS East Hub Conference visit the newly established Tree maintenance demonstration plot, and mature Tallgrass Prairie.

12.6.2) Agricultural Initiatives

Over the period from December through February, the Agricultural Program team has been active in delivering programming to supporting landowners and advance watershed goals.

The Agricultural Administration Assistant, Agricultural Stewardship Technician, and Agricultural Stewardship Specialist have been heavily engaged in processing applications for the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP) and distributing funding to approved participating landowners. To date, over \$1,572,625.00 has been paid to participants across the watershed for implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the 2025/2026 fiscal year. This funding was made possible through support received from the Canada Water Agency and represents significant investment in on-the-ground phosphorus reduction efforts.



Staff have also been working extensively with database and GIS software to document and map program outcomes. More than 1,200 individual fields implementing BMPs have now been mapped, providing strong spatial documentation of stewardship efforts and progress across the watershed.

Map of BMP projects implemented through the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program 2025-2026.

The Agricultural Outreach and Communications Technician has been busy developing new educational materials to better inform landowners about available stewardship opportunities. This includes the creation of new print materials, as well as reviewing and editing videos that highlight successes of local farmers. The Agricultural Outreach and Communications Technician also participated in on-air radio promotion to support the upcoming Soil Health Conference, which will be co-hosted with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority on February 12, 2026. The conference will focus on soil health practices and strategies to balance phosphorus inputs.

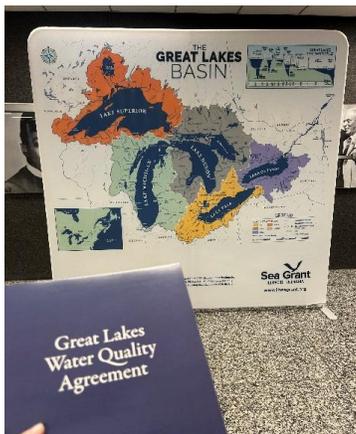
Staff connected with the local agriculture community during the month of January while attending the Southwest Agriculture Conference and Chatham-Kent Farm Show. During these events staff engaged with 173 landowners to promote available funding opportunities.



Amanda Doucette, Brittney Littlefield and Donna Small at the Chatham Kent Farm Show on January 28, 2026.

Cold temperature conditions limited water sampling activities during what is typically a busy monitoring period. Despite these challenges, a rain event at the end of December allowed the Water Quality Technician to collect event-based samples. During this event, water quality monitoring staff deployed the ADCP to gather stream flow measurements. This data will contribute to ongoing load calculations and program evaluation.

The Water Resource Analyst has been working diligently to incorporate new data collected in 2025 to calculate phosphorus loads for tributaries throughout the watershed and the Thames River using multiple statistical methodologies. Collaboration with the Ecological Modelling Lab at the University of Toronto to evaluate methods for estimating phosphorus loads is ongoing. Work is currently underway to interpret and present the results, which will be summarized in a report. This analysis of nutrient loads and trends is critical to improving our understanding of the relationships between total phosphorus, land management practices, and water quality variables across the watershed.



On February 5, 2026, the Agricultural Program Coordinator presented at the Great Lakes Public Forum (GLPF) in Chicago, Illinois. The presentation was delivered during the Managing Nutrients session of the forum. The presentation featured results of on-the-ground efforts in the Lower Thames Watershed contributing to phosphorus reduction targets under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). This opportunity highlighted the LTVCA's collaborative partnerships and efforts towards nutrient management on a bi-national scale.

Great Lakes Public Forum - February 5, 2026, Chicago, IL.

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program



The ONFARM program agreement running from 2023-2028, was developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. The LTVCA Soil and Water Quality Technician leads the program and has been busy conducting edge-of-field sample collection, and data presentation work.

During the months of December and January, the Soil and Water Quality Technician conducted 4 sampling events with 30 samples collected across all sites. All events were small due to partially frozen ground, snow blocking tile outlets, and less than 15mm rain events. There has yet to be a large runoff event this season. The last large event sampled was in August 2025. The temperatures have remained below freezing since mid-January, leading to no new winter events.

The reduced field work allowed for increased focus on data processing and analysis. Multi-year data was compared from the Merlin A site to examine the difference in tillage with fertilizer incorporation and no-tillage surface broadcasting practices on non-growing season water quality. A presentation was created and is scheduled for delivery on February 10th at the 2026 ONFARM Applied Research Forum. The data will later be expanded and included in the 2026 ONFARM Water Quality Technical Report.



Brittney Littlefield conducting field work at the Merlin B edge-of-field ONFARM research plot. January 2026

OMAF-A-COA Funding

Funding from the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA), and delivered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAF-A) has been used to support a residue management trial at Walter Devereux Conservation Area.

Corn was planted in the 2025 growing season on the field of Walter Devereux Conservation Area. Following harvesting, on December 3rd, 2025, three tillage strips were established as control strips replicating fall tillage management practices after corn. A rain gauge and soil moisture sensor was installed on January 8th, 2026, to quantify field inputs and soil conditions. Two different surface soil erosion quantifying methods were also installed to compare in-field surface soil movement from till vs no-till, corn residue plots. Measurements are to be recorded following winter and spring precipitation events.

12.6.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

A funding proposal has been submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for an additional three years of aquatic species at risk habitat restoration, monitoring and outreach work.



Clam Counter app

A presentation about citizen science apps is being prepared for the LTVCA's Winter Webinar series.



Baitfish Primer app

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

1. Improving Watershed Health
11. Strengthening and Increasing Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
12. Increase Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship

12.7) Communications, Education and Outreach

12.7.1) Communications

65 years of conservation: February 2, 2026, marked the 65th anniversary of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. This milestone year will feature a series of celebratory events and opportunities that highlight 65 years of conservation achievements within the watershed.

To kick off the anniversary, a donation campaign was launched to support ongoing LTVCA programs and initiatives. Two special-edition anniversary logos were created for use throughout the year:

1. A commemorative logo combining elements of both the historic and current LTVCA logos.
2. A letterhead-specific anniversary logo for use in formal communications.

(Visuals included below.)



Community Born • Community Driven



Winter Newsletter – The River Report: A winter edition of The River Report was distributed by email on February 3, 2026. The newsletter featured:

- A highlight of the LTVCA's 65th anniversary, including archival photos from past decades.
- Updates on winter Conservation Area closures.
- Information on 2026 Parking Passes and seedling availability.
- Registration details for the upcoming Agriculture Conference, co-hosted with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.
- Registration information on the next Winter Webinar Series

12.7.2) Education

The Education sections of the new website continue to be refined, and technical difficulties with the webform are being addressed by the LTVCA's Communications Specialist.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Education programs continue through the winter months. This season has been a challenge for our LTVCA educators as the weather has been extremely cold. With bus cancellations and school closures, many groups have needed to reschedule their visit with us. Bookings are now being taken for dates following March Break.



A group of youth tromp through the snow on snowshoes.

In between the bouts of weather, it has been nice to finally get outside and explore Ska-Nah-Doht in our snowshoes. This year we brought back snowshoeing as last year we were unable to offer this program because of construction. (In 2025, to help spread the joy of winter, we kindly lent some our snowshoes to the amazing staff over at the Museum of Archaeology to enjoy during their Family Day programs.)

Students are finding it very rewarding to experience snowshoeing. Yes, it's a challenge for some of our first timers but once they get the hang of it, we can't slow the students down! As we walk around the Longwoods Road Conservation Area we're always sure to stop to take a class photo with Frosty, our local snowman.

Select snowshoe rentals dates are also available, including Family Day. This will allow members of the public to go on their own snowshoeing adventures following some tips from the education team located at Longwoods Road Conservation.

Weather also required the cancellation of the Corn Husk Doll Making Workshops planned for November 30, 2025. Pottery Making Workshops will take place in May instead. Further workshops with the London Children's Museum being explored.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

The Indigenous Community Educator, Mariah Alexander, at C.M. Wilson has completed the portrait for the Myles Neuts plaque and has begun getting quotes for all CMWLC room name plaques.

Storytelling programs continued to be offered throughout the winter months at C.M. Wilson.

March Break Activities for C. M. Wilson Learning Centre are being developed. These drop-in activities are low cost, or free with parking. Opportunities will include: pottery making, a photo contest, and free exploration of the centre's classroom to help promote awareness of the programming hosted by the LTVCA at this location.

Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival

The CKLC Water Festival Committee had their first meeting of the year and have begun the planning process. Dates for the 15th anniversary of the Chatham-Kent Lambton Children's Water Festival are Tuesday, October 6 through Thursday, October 8, 2026.

Western Lake Erie Student Summit

Half of the in-class programs hosted by the LTVCA have been completed. The remaining visits—4 in class sessions with 2 classes, as well as 2 stewardship activities, will be hosted March through April at John McGregor Secondary School.

The Indigenous Community Educator at C.M. Wilson Learning Centre will also attend the student summit to be hosted in April.

Battle of Longwoods

Plans for the Battle of Longwoods re-enactment weekend and multi-school education day for 2026 are underway. These events are to be held the first weekend of May, with the education day taking place on Friday, May 1, 2026, and the re-enactment running through the weekend.

12.7.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of February 6, 2026 the Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook page has 4,071 Followers. The Instagram page for the Village has 766 Followers.

Re-Opening

The once primary-coloured flowers of the Backyard Bugs and Blossoms display gifted to Ska-Nah-Doht by the London Children's Museum has been transformed. Through creativity and paint, the flowers have been reimagined as native flower species: Purple Coneflower, Coreopsis, Wild Strawberry flower, Canada Anemone, Black Eyed Susan, and New England Aster. Keep your eye out from them the next time you are at the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum. The flip sign centers of the flowers will be installed in the coming days.



Backyard Bugs and Blossoms display with a fresh coat of paint.

New items for the gift shop are also being created, including postcards, prints, and colouring pages. Local artists are being approached regarding orders for items to be sold at the Museum. These include prints of Shenoa Simon from Oneida Nation of the Thames and Mishkona Waboo Minidook from Chippewas of the Thames First Nations artwork that was created for the Oneida and Chippewas Cabins' signage in 2023.

Additionally, the old print of Mishkona Waboo Minidook's work, Niimikaage (He/She Dances for People), has been replaced with a new copy printed on canvas for inclusion in the art wall at the Museum.



Initial staging test for the mapping portion of the anniversary exhibit.

The Curator, Alison Klages, and Indigenous Community Educator at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, Tyler French, have been working on a temporary exhibit to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Conservation Authority. The display will be installed in the lower level of the museum, and feature mapping equipment, photographs, promotional materials, and photographs from over the decades.

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

7. Supporting Community Understanding of the Watershed
8. Providing Educational and outreach opportunities
9. Providing Opportunities for Outdoor Experiences
11. Strengthening and Increasing Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

12.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association December 4, 2025 Minutes

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on Dec. 4 2025 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

Attendance: Sheilah Marans, Rick Taves, Mark Peacock, Lee & Linda Pearce, Joe Pinsonneault, Elizabeth Pocantos, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Gerry & Muggs Soulliere, Lorna Bell, Mike Diesbourg, Roger Dundas.

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

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

Mem. Groves: The new bench has been delivered. Bruce will turn on the lights for the hill.

Prop. & Equip.: A bridge at the Willow culvert needs to be built before the new culvert is installed. Concrete blocks have been delivered to the site. The battery on the tractor will not hold a charge, it may need a new alternator but needs to be fixed soon. Roger has put up new flags on the poles, will need to buy new ones. Both appeals for donations for the picnic tables and other donations will be combined in one letter. We will try to get recognized as a residence in order to have our garbage picked up. Gerry & Bruce have planted 11 small trees for the winter. We will try to get 6 new picnic tables built, we have 4 frames in storage.

Concerts: We have 4 remaining concert dates to be filled. We will go back to charging \$100.00 for our buttons to try and increase sales, Rick moved and Lorna seconded. (Carried).

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Oct. 31 2025 was \$39,821.64. Account balance as of Nov. 30 2025 was \$37,081.62. Moved by Roger, sec. by Lorna report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Sheilah moved for adjournment at 8:03pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

13. Correspondence

14. Other Business

15. Adjournment
