



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

April 16, 2026
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LTVCA Administration Office

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1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 19, 2026



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at Willson Hall at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 19, 2026. The following directors were in attendance: P. Tiessen, S. Emons, J. Wright, K. Loveland, L. Vogler, H. Aerts, S. Hipple, and R. Leatham. M. Vink, A. Finn, P. Van Meerbergen, and M. Bondy sent their regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock read the First Nations Acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: AGM-2026-05 S. Hipple – S. Emons

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked the staff for all the hard work that goes into the day-to-day of LTVCA business.

The Chair, Paul Tiessen, welcomed the Board of Directors, staff and guests to the Conservation Authority's 2026 Annual General Meeting.

In attendance:

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

Regrets sent:

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

6. AGM Award Winners and Guests

Award Winners:

Linda McKinlay
Geraldine Hind
Steve Stokley
Jenny McGregor
Jennifer Ganley

Volunteer Hero Award Winners:

Bob Gore
Brett Gore
Derek Gore

Committee Groups:

Tom Cobban, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Committee
Pamela Chrisjohn, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Committee
Kevin Doxtator, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Committee
Bonnie Carey, LTVC Foundation Administrator

Conservation Ontario:

Bonnie Fox

Member Municipalities:

Darrin Canniff, Mayor, Chatham-Kent
Grant Jones, Mayor, Southwold / LTVCF Director

Community Members and Agencies:

Mark McKinlay, Guest of Award Winner
Mike Beacom, Guest of Award Winner
Randi McLeod, Guest of Award Winner
Ken Phillips, SCRCA – General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Chunning Li, SCRCA – Director of Corporate Services
Elizabeth Van Hooren, KCCA – Gen. Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Tim Byrne, ERCA – CAO
Theodore Albert, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Meghan Thompson, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Brennan Vogel, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Faith Hale, Ska:na Family Learning Centre
Rob Pollock, CK – Director, Parks, Recreation & Facilities
Blaise Chevalier, CK – Drainage Services
Meghan Dunlop, CK Waterfestival
Don Hector, CK Waterfestival
Joanne Wolnik, Ontario Southwest Tourism
Drake Larson, ALUS Elgin
Alyssa Cousineau, ALUS Canada

Chris Pegg, Chatham-Kent Community Foundation
Mark Gagner, Enbridge
Derrick Leclair, Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association
John Lawrence, Urban Stewardship-Sunrise Rotary
Russ Dysarz
Maureen Geddes, OVCLT

7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: AGM-2026-06 R. Leatham – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors minutes of the December 18, 2025, and February 11, 2026, meetings be approved.

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None Declared.

9. Presentations

9.1) 2025 Annual Report

Amanda Blain provided a Power Point Presentation on the 2025 Annual Report of the LTVCA programs, services and events to the Board of Directors and guests.

10. New Business

None noted.

11. Business for Approval

11.1) 2025 Annual Report

Motion: AGM-2026-07 S. Emons – L. Vogler

Moved that the LTVCA's 2025 Annual Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

11.2) Election of Officers and Appointments to Committees

Motion: AGM-2026-08 L. Vogler – K. Loveland

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

CARRIED

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

Mr. Peacock requested a motion to appoint Mr. Tim Byrne, ERCA CAO and Mr. Ken Phillips, SCRCA General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer as scrutineers.

Motion: AGM-2026-09 J. Wright – S. Emons

Moved that Tim Byrne and Ken Phillips be appointed as scrutineers for the purpose of the elections.

CARRIED

a) Chair

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for Chair of the LTVCA for 2026.

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

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

Motion: AGM-2026-10 H. Aerts – R. Leatham

Moved that nominations for Chair be closed.

CARRIED

P. Tiessen was declared to be elected as Chair.

b) Vice-Chairs

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for 1st Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2026.

S. Hipple nominated S. Emons. S. Emons accepted the nomination.

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

Motion: AGM-2026-11 K. Loveland – J. Wright

Moved that nominations for 1st Vice-Chair be closed.

CARRIED

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2026.

P. Tiessen nominated H. Aerts. H. Aerts accepted the nomination.

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

Motion: AGM-2026-12 R. Leatham – S. Hipple

Moved that nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair be closed.

CARRIED

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

c) Executive Committee (2 members to be elected)

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the LTVCA's Executive Committee for 2026.

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

P. Tiessen nominated L. Vogler. L. Vogler accepted the nomination.

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

Motion: AGM-2026-13 J. Wright – S. Emons

Moved that nominations for the Executive Committee be closed.

CARRIED

R. Leatham and L. Vogler were declared members of the Executive Committee.

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

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee for 2026.

S. Hipple nominated K. Loveland. K. Loveland accepted the nomination.

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

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

Motion: AGM-2026-14 R. Leatham – L. Vogler

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

CARRIED

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

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

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the CM Wilson Learning Centre Advisory Committee for 2026.

J. Wright nominated A. Finn. A. Finn had pre-stated a willingness to sit on the CMWLC Advisory Committee and accepted any nomination in advance.

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

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

Motion: AGM-2026-15 P. Tiessen – L. Vogler

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

CARRIED

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

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

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for the Ice Management Committee of the LTVCA for 2026.

L. Vogler nominated J. Wright. J. Wright accepted the nomination.

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

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

Motion: AGM-2026-16 R. Leatham – K. Loveland

Moved that nominations for the Ice Management Committee be closed.

CARRIED

J. Wright and L. Vogler were declared members of the Ice Management Committee.

Mr. Peacock congratulated those elected and turned the chair over to P. Tiessen, the Chair for 2026, to continue with the rest of the meeting.

11.3) 2026 Budget and Apportionment

Motion: AGM-2026-17 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

Moved 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.

CARRIED

At the LTVCA the apportionment is approved with a weighted vote based on Modified Current Value Assessment as calculated by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Eight (8) of twelve members were present at the board meeting. The eight (8) members represented 50.3 percent of the total weighted vote. All members of the board voted to approve the apportionment (100% of the eight members present). The motion carried.

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

	Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)	% of Levy	Special Apportionment		Total General Apportionment		Total Municipal Apportionment		\$ Change from 2025 Apportionment	% Change from 2025
			2026	2026	2026	2026	2025	2025		
Dutton-Dunwich M	586,808,672	3.7017%	0	73,390	73,390	64,854	8,536	8,536	13.16%	
Southwold Tp	303,975,980	1.9176%	0	33,017	33,017	33,279	4,738	4,738	14.24%	
West Elgin M	655,237,817	4.1334%	0	31,943	31,943	73,496	3,452	3,452	11.50%	
Lakeshore M	1,520,034,791	9.5822%	0	190,104	190,104	168,334	21,220	21,220	12.56%	
Leamington M	386,305,694	2.4369%	0	43,313	43,313	42,251	6,062	6,062	14.35%	
Chatham-Kent M	8,847,401,606	55.8112%	217,464	1,106,506	1,323,970	1,196,704	127,266	127,266	10.63%	
London C	1,835,145,915	11.5766%	0	229,514	229,514	203,535	25,979	25,979	12.76%	
Middlesex Centre M	277,932,651	1.7533%	0	34,760	34,760	30,676	4,084	4,084	13.31%	
Southwest Middlesex M	457,567,746	2.8655%	0	57,226	57,226	50,904	6,322	6,322	12.42%	
Strathroy - Caradoc M	981,799,976	6.1935%	0	122,789	122,789	109,333	13,456	13,456	12.31%	
TOTAL	15,852,210,848	100%	\$217,464	\$1,932,567	\$2,200,031	\$1,973,916	\$226,115	\$226,115	11.46%	

Motion: AGM-2026-18 S. Emons – R. Leatham

Moved that the proposed 2026 budget totalling \$8,673,058 be approved as presented in the accompanying budget tables.

CARRIED

11.4) Appointment of Auditor

Motion: AGM-2026-19 R. Leatham – K. Loveland

Moved that the firm of Baker Tilly be appointed as the auditor of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority until the next Annual Meeting in February 2027.

CARRIED

11.5) Appointment of Bank

Motion: AGM-2026-20 S. Emons – J. Wright

Moved 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.

CARRIED

11.6) Appointment of Solicitor

Motion: AGM-2026-21 L. Vogler – K. Loveland

Moved that the firm of M. Gordnerlaw Professional Corporation be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2027.

CARRIED

11.7) Authorization to Borrow

Motion: AGM-2026-22 S. Hipple – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

11.8) Appointment to Conservation Ontario

Motion: AGM-2026-23 K. Loveland – R. Leatham

Moved that the Chair be appointed as Voting Representative, and the CAO as 1st Alternative.

CARRIED

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

Motion: AGM-2026-24 S. Emons – S. Hipple

Moved that the meeting schedule for 2026 and the Annual General Meeting for 2027 be endorsed.

CARRIED

12. Business for Information

12.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

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

12.3) Water Management

12.4) Planning and Regulations

12.5) Conservation Lands

12.6) Conservation Services

12.7) Communications, Education and Outreach

12.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association December Minutes

Motion: AGM-2026-25 L. Vogler – K. Loveland

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

CARRIED

13. Correspondence

None noted.

14. Other Business

None noted.

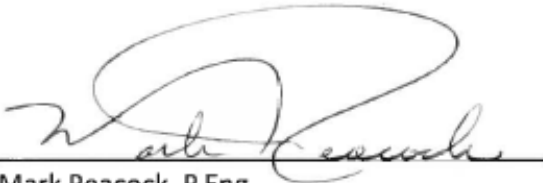
15. Adjournment

Motion: AGM-2026-26 K. Loveland – R. Leatham

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Paul Tiessen
Chair



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

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Presentations

7.1) Campbell Conservation Area Acquisition

Genevieve Champagne to provide information on the Campbell Conservation Area Acquisition.

7.2) LTVCA Climate Change Strategy

Valerie Towsley to present the Climate Change Strategy Board of Directors.

7.3) LTVCA 2025 Financials

Todd Casier will provide information on the 2025 Financials.

7.4) LTVCA Asset Management Plan Update

Todd Casier will provide an update on the Asset Management Plan to the Board of Directors.

7.5) Request for proposals (RFP) Talbot Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study

Jason Wintermute to present to the Board of Directors.

7.6) Bill 97 Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Mark Peacock will provide a presentation on Bill 97.

8. New Business

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Campbell Conservation Area Agreement

Date: April 10, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: Update on the Purchase of the Campbell Conservation Area
From: Genevieve Champagne, Manager Conservation Lands and Services

Background

Mr. Campbell was a well known and respected figure within the Merlin Area of Chatham-Kent. He valued conservation and public recreation and has entrusted a substantial amount of money to the LTVCA through a gifting process for those funds to purchase a conservation area within the Merlin-Tilbury Area that would be substantial enough to create a conservation area that would be able to be enjoyed by the public.

The total amount of the trust was \$3 Million which has been transferred to the LTVCA for the purchase of the lands and the remainder to be held in Trust for the restoration and enhancement of the property.

Land Securement Agreement

Through Mr. Campbells executor we have worked on a Land Securement Agreement which would be signed with John Stacey on behalf of the late Mr. Campbell. The Agreement is our standard agreement stating that the ownership of the parcels is to remain with the LTVCA in perpetuity, however, should the LTVCA organization be dissolved that the land be gifted to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at no cost. The agreement then goes into the responsibilities of the Authority for the care, maintenance, restoration and enhancement of the property and how that process would take place, how the funding would be handled and the recognition will be addressed.

The LTVCA will erect a Marker Stone on the property to commemorate the generous donation of Keith Campbell; this will be done once the Conservation Area has been restored and open to the public.

Lastly, the agreement discusses the sources of revenue that this property generates which would be annual farm leases, agreements with Enbridge and a Wind Power Easement. The farm lease will be slowly paired down to meet the restoration timeframes for the property and the smaller parcel located adjacent to the main parcel will remain agricultural to pay for the taxes on the parcels.

Cost Implications

Through negotiations 138.7 acres in Fletcher Ontario was purchased by the LTVCA from the seller for \$2,358,000 which came to \$17,000 per acre. Our original bid for the properties was \$2,218,500 which was declined and countered with the accepted offer.

John Stacey the executor of Keith Campbells Will and Trust has approved the process and transferred the total of \$3,000,000 to the LTVCA to compensate for the purchase of the property, associated purchasing fees in regard to real estate and the current taxes associated with the property. The remaining funds are to be held in Trust of the Conservation Authority for future restoration and development of the Conservation Area.

Future Grant Opportunities

The LTVCA applied for the D-Permit Grant to help provide additional funding to be used to restore and enhance this property. We are still currently waiting to hear the results of that funding source.

Recommended Resolution

Be it Resolved That:

That the board approve the LTVCA Staff to proceed with entering into the Land Securement Agreement with Mr. John Stacey for the Campbell Conservation Area to satisfy the Final Will of Keith Campbell for the acquisition of Conservation Lands

and further that

the Chair and CAO be approved to sign the agreement.

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Respectfully Submitted:
Genevieve Champagne,
Manager Conservation Lands and Services

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



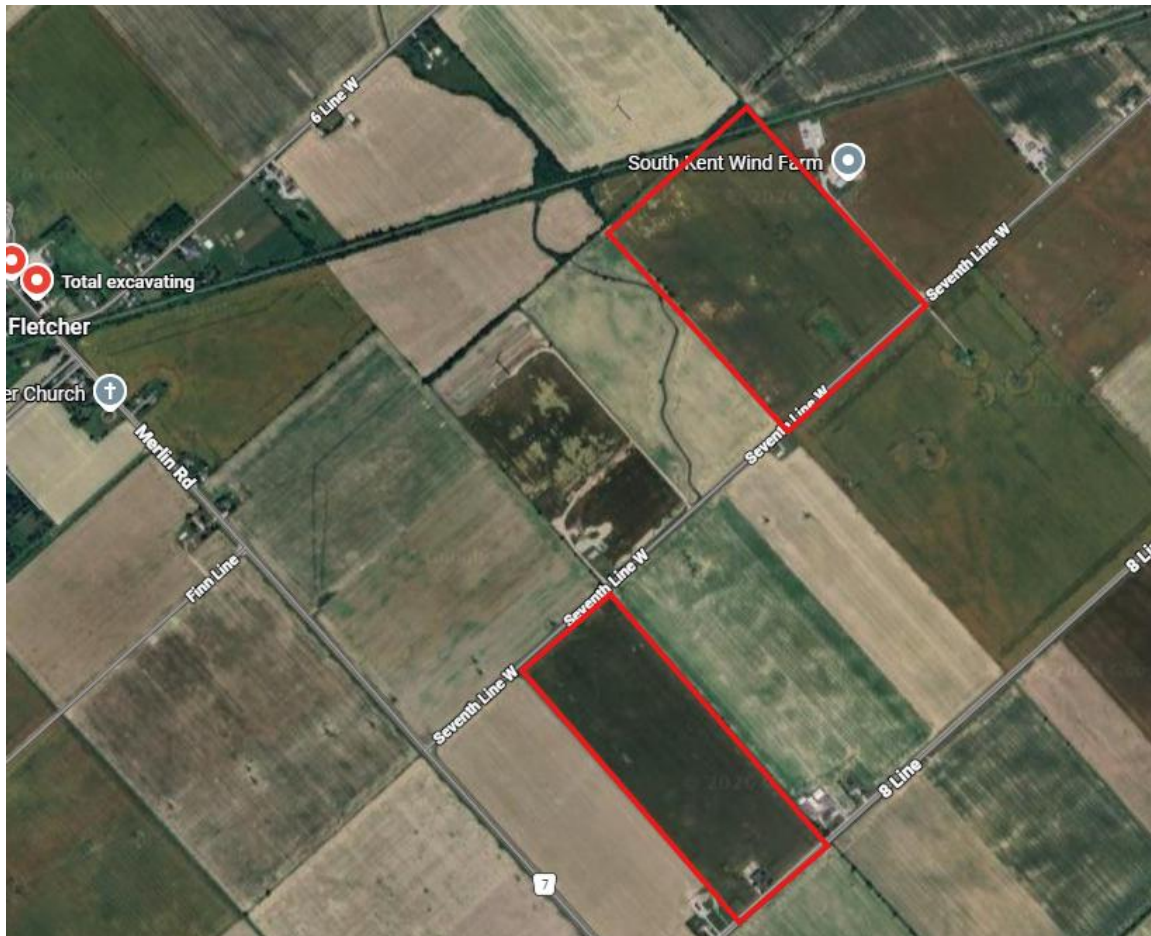
PTLT 3 Seventh Line West, Raleigh, Chatham-Kent - 74.5 acres



Seventh Line West, Raleigh, Chatham-Kent - 56.83 acres



Example of a map with the soil analysis for the larger parcel.



Context Map of the location of the two parcels in relation to one another, the CASO Trail and the Community of Fletcher between Merlin and Tilbury just off the 401 Hwy.

9.2) LTVCA Climate Change Strategy

LTVCA staff undertook several climate change strategy workshops to help develop a new Climate Change Strategy for the Authority. The Strategy will aid the organization in adapting to the uncertainty of a changing climate with the goal of decreasing our carbon footprint. The LTVCA will take steps to replace and adapt infrastructure to better suit environmental conditions; create adaptation plans to address specific issues throughout the watershed; maintain adaptation goal-oriented programs and services to our member municipalities and the communities we serve; and adapt and change when and where we need to as an environmental oriented organization. The LTVCA will rely on our three main departments to achieve these goals: Watershed and Information Services, Conservation Lands and Services, and Corporate Services, which is a part of and ties everything together.

The LTVCA Climate Change Strategy has identified numerous adaptation and mitigation strategies throughout this process. These implementation tools will aid staff in moving forward, funding permitting, with changes that will ensure that our lands, programs and services will be more adaptable and able to deal with potential climate change scenarios.

The strategies outlined in this document should be considered for implementation after a prioritization review is undertaken by the individual departments. This review should be part of an LTVCA strategic planning

implementation plan that incorporates recommendations from this report and other strategic planning documents required by the province and completed in December of 2024. Key Performance Indicators (KPI) will be developed to facilitate reporting on implementation.

In order to ensure that the LTVCA's Climate Change Strategy is progressing in keeping with the recommendations outlined in this document, actions undertaken throughout the year will be reviewed during the annual budget deliberations. Any climate change remediations that have taken place in our programs and services should be noted under a specific Climate Change project category to show progression of actions by this organization and its commitment to implementing on the ground local solutions.

The LTVCA's Climate Change Strategy is attached to the Board of Directors Agenda package for your information and will be made available on the LTVCA's website under 'strategic plans' of the governance document section.

Recommendation: That the LTVCA's Climate Change Strategy be approved as presented.

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:

1. Improving Watershed Health
2. Monitoring the Health of the Watershed
3. Supporting Sustainable Growth
4. Improving Transparency and Customer Service in Planning and Regulations
5. Protecting the Community from Natural Hazards
6. Educating the Community about Natural Hazards
7. Supporting Community Understanding of the Watershed
8. Providing Educational and outreach opportunities
9. Providing Opportunities for Outdoor Experiences
10. Improving Management and Operations of Conservation Areas
11. Strengthening and Increasing Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
12. Increase Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
13. Improve Training Opportunities for Staff
14. Improving Transparency and Understanding of LTVCA Operations
15. Improving Capital Asset Management
16. Strengthening Staff Stability (financial stability, attraction & retention)
17. Improving Staff Communications and Team Building

Submitted by
Valerie Towsley
Watershed Resource Planner

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

9.3) 2025 Audited Financial Statements

Date: April 16, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **2025 Audited Financial Statements**
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

The 2025 LTVCA Audited Financial Statements will be provided to the Board of Directors as they become available.

They are for approval as the LTVCA Audited Financial Statements for the year-ended December 31, 2025.

Recommendation: That the LTVCA's 2025 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

The report aligns with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy:

14. Improving Transparency and Understanding of LTVCA Operations
15. Improving Capital Asset Management

Respectfully Submitted
Todd Casier, CPA, CA
Manager, Corporate Services

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

9.4) LTVCA Asset Management Plan Report

Date: April 16, 2026
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **LTVCA Asset Management Plan Update Report**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Asset Management Plan Development and Update

Staff at the LTVCA completed the development of the LTVCA Asset Management Plan and the board approved the plan in its December meeting of 2024. Significant work went into developing the Asset Inventory and evaluating the condition of all assets. From this work, staff determined asset maintenance and replacement costs. All details of the inventory and recommended costs were reviewed by operations staff to ensure those using the assets had input.

2025 was the first year of implementation of the asset management plan. Below are the changes to the plan that have resulted from operations.

2025 Results of Plan Implementation

Program	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Description
Admin site	-	-	
Millstream	-	16,400	New steel roof due to wind damage
Big Bend	-	-	
Longwoods Rd.	25,000	46,000	Repairs to water system (\$6.4k), Livermore House Furnace and AC (\$9.7k) Longwoods Washroom replumbing (\$7.8k) Roof on storage building and picnic shelter and bridge work from original plan (\$22.1k)
Sharon Creek	-	-	
C.M. Wilson	50,000	61,400	Water system (\$37.2k), Learning Centre lighting (\$4k), limited road construction (\$1.7k), gatehouse and campground washroom roofs (\$5.8k), Campground washroom internal upgrade (\$10.7k), gas line installed (\$2k)
E.M. Warwick	5,000	4,500	Roofing for pavilion
McGeachy	-	-	
Two Creeks	-	-	
Lighthouse	-	41,600	Rebuild inside of rental house
Flood Control Structures	-	-	
Vehicles	118,000	50,900	Purchase of one truck (\$18.9k), new engine one truck (\$6.6k), two 7 tonne dump trailers (\$25.4k) – did not replace the existing dump truck
CA Equipment	22,000	-	Lawn mowers and pump hoses move to 2026
Program Equipment	-	-	
Office Furniture	-	-	
Computer Equipment	25,000	6,300	Computers bought through program grants, Longwoods server replaced (\$6.3k)
Total	245,000	227,100	

Spending in 2025 was \$17,900 less than proposed in the original asset management plan, with some spending carried over into 2026. Costs for asset management in 2025 were covered by operational surplus.

Revisions to Plan - 2026

Program	2026 Original	2026 Revised	Description
Admin site	-	-	
Millstream	-	-	
Big Bend	-	-	
Longwoods Rd.	44,000	116,500	Increased cost of log cabin roofing (\$9k), palisade walls to be rebuilt due to 2025 wind damage (\$30k), Resource Centre remaining wall and walkway (\$35k), Livermore House Furnace and AC replaced in 2025(\$-8k), Water system (3k), Other repairs (\$3.5k)
Sharon Creek	-	-	
C.M. Wilson	6,000	32,500	Roof for Learning Centre repair (\$5K) due to 2026 wind damage, Shop roof leak (\$5K), Furnace replacement (\$9k), Day Use washroom roof replacement and interior refurbishment (\$7.5K)
E.M. Warwick	30,000	30,000	No change but amount may be reallocated to C.M. Wilson septic system if required
McGeachy	-	-	
Two Creeks	-	-	
Lighthouse	-	-	
Flood Control Structures	-	30,000	Structural Review, Life Cycle costing for Rivard System to be completed in house
Vehicles	88,000	-	To be deferred due to other costs
CA Equipment	46,000	94,000	Skid Steer and attachments (\$70k), Tractor not to be purchased (\$-40k), two replacement lawnmowers (\$18k) from 2025
Program Equipment	3,000	-	Field laptop was purchased through grant program in 2025
Office Furniture	-	-	
Computer Equipment	20,000	18000	Chatham Server (\$18k), computers purchased through program grants (\$-2k)
Total	237,000	311,500	

Revised Financial Implications of Plan

Year	Cost	Levy 1%/yr	Removed From Reserves
2025	\$ 227,100.00	\$ 16,610.53	\$ -
2026	\$ 321,000.00	\$ 34,051.58	\$ 286,948.42
2027	\$ 275,900.00	\$ 52,015.87	\$ 223,884.13
2028	\$ 176,000.00	\$ 70,519.08	\$ 105,480.92
2029	\$ 146,000.00	\$ 89,577.39	\$ 56,422.61
2030	\$ 205,000.00	\$ 109,207.45	\$ 95,792.55
2031	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 129,426.41	\$ 110,573.59
2032	\$ 153,000.00	\$ 150,251.94	\$ 2,748.06
2033	\$ 101,000.00	\$ 171,702.24	-\$ 70,702.24
2034	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 193,796.04	-\$ 93,796.04
	\$ 1,945,000.00	\$ 1,017,158.53	\$ 717,352.00

(Note: Full 10 year plan costing provided in Appendix A)

Funds Available for Plan:

Asset Management Authority		\$496,488
Asset Management Province		\$49,883
General Reserve		\$168,444
Available for Asset Management		\$714,815

Staff have recommended drawing down reserves and increasing levy by 1% over the next 10 years to fund the plan. Staff believe we are still on track to complete the plan in the original 10 year time frame and the LTVCA will be able to fund it.

Recommended Resolution:

That the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Asset Management Plan 2024, Updated April 2026, be approved.

The report aligns with the following objectives of the LTVCA’s Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy:

- 14. Improving Transparency and Understanding of LTVCA Operations
- 15. Improving Capital Asset Management

Respectfully Submitted
 Todd Casier, CPA CA
 Manager, Corporate Services

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

		LTVCA Asset Management Plan - Summary of Expenditures													Average	
		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Total				
Conservation Area	Actuals	Expected Costs by Year														
Admin	-	-	-	-	-	45,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,000	6,500
CM05	16,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,400	1,640
CM07	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	45,000	4,500
CM14	46,000	116,500	30,000	20,000	20,000	43,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	275,500	27,550
CM15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CM21	61,400	32,500	-	5,000	6,000	5,000	15,000	102,000	17,000	-	-	-	-	-	243,900	24,390
CM22	4,500	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,500	3,450
CM23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CM24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CM76	41,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,600	4,160
FCS	-	30,000	105,000	-	-	25,000	-	210,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	430,000	43,000
Vehicles	50,900	-	110,000	95,000	30,000	110,000	-	-	35,000	40,000	-	-	-	-	470,900	47,090
CA Equipment	-	94,000	16,000	46,000	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161,000	16,100
Program Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,000	-	-	-	-	34,000	3,400
Office Furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer Equipment	6,300	18,000	14,900	10,000	10,000	22,000	10,000	16,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	127,200	12,720	
Total	227,100	321,000	275,900	176,000	146,000	205,000	240,000	153,000	101,000	101,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,945,000	194,500	
Approved Asset Management	245,000	237,000	175,900	231,000	130,000	192,000	242,000	153,000	101,000	101,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,806,900	180,690	
Difference	17,900	- 84,000	-100,000	55,000	- 16,000	- 13,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 138,100	- 13,810	

9.5) Award Talbot Creek Flood Plain Study

Date: April 16, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: Award Talbot Creek Flood Plain Study
From: Jason Wintermute, Manager, Watershed and Information Services

Work is progressing on the three Flood Plain mapping projects previously identified for funding under the Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program (FHIMP). The LTVCA had applied for funding under the FHIMP program to undertake flood plain mapping studies for 1) Talbot Creek and some of its tributaries in the Township of Southwold, 2) McGregor Creek and Indian Creek watersheds in south Chatham out to Hwy 401, and 3) the downstream flood prone areas of the Thames River from Bloomfield Road down to the mouth of the Thames at Lighthouse Cove. Transfer payment agreements for the three floodplain mapping project were signed on January 9th, 2026.

The original grant proposals had Data Collection Methodology reports due January 15th, and despite the late signing of the grant, there was an expectation that the reports needed to be submitted before the March 31st, 2025/2026, provincial fiscal year end. Since the work had yet to be tendered, the LTVCA completed these reports in-house and submitted them to the province. Since then, the LTVCA has retained 3rd party peer review services for the three projects. The 3rd party peer reviewers have assisted with reviewing the draft Request for Proposals (RFPs) for tendering. The peer reviewers will continue on as the peer reviewers for the rest of the projects.

While the two RFPs for Chatham-Kent have yet to be released, the RFP for the Southwold study was posted on March 19th. Proposals were due on April 9th, and twelve proposals were submitted to the LTVCA in response to the RFP. There will be a separate presentation at this meeting discussing the progress on awarding the project to the successful bidder.

Respectfully Submitted
Jason Wintermute
Manager, Watershed and Information Services

9.6) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2026

Date: April 16, 2025
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to February 28, 2026**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Background:

Review of the 2026 Budget to Revenue and Expenditures for the 2 months ended February 28, 2026.

REVENUE	2026 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2026 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	5,593,237	932,206 *	655,413	(276,793)
GENERAL LEVY	1,982,567	1,982,567 ^	1,859,779	(122,788)
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	217,464	217,464 ^	340,253	122,789
GENERAL REVENUES	879,790	146,632 *	94,931	(51,701)
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0 *	4,329	4,329
RESERVES	0	0 *	0	0
CASH FUNDING	8,673,058	3,278,869	2,954,705	(324,164)
OTHER	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	8,673,058	3,278,869	2,954,705	(324,164)

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

^-based on balance invoiced

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

Note: Grant income is based on funds received/invoiced and not matched to expenses, meaning there may be expenses outstanding and not recognized in the attached expense statement. At year-end, each grant is reviewed individually, spent funds for grant programs not invoiced are set-up as receivables and added to grant income, unspent funds are reduced from grant income and deferred for future expenditures.

Apportionment revenue was invoiced as of Feb 19th, 2026.

General Revenue is below budget due to the following factors:

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

Foundation Grants and Revenues are above budget due to the payment of memorial trees for 2026 versus the uncertainty of funds available when budgeting.

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

EXPENSES	2026 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2026 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	239,991	39,999	23,226	(16,773)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	10	2	6	4
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	123,991	20,665	17,314	(3,351)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	523,153	87,192	25,629	(61,563)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	504,012	84,002	76,426	(7,576)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	194,572	32,429	39,711	7,282
SOURCE PROTECTION	44,745	7,457	6,149	(1,308)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,630,474	271,746	188,461	(83,285)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	962,082	160,347	126,027	(34,320)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	158,142	26,357	35,889	9,532
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	159,961	26,660	13,555	(13,105)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	133,115	22,186	15,326	(6,860)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	451,218	75,203	64,770	(10,433)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	233,860	38,977	19,388	(19,589)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	655,064	109,177	60,483	(48,694)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	4,702,978	783,830	256,537	(527,293)
SPECIES AT RISK	37,382	6,230	14,282	8,052
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	5,629,284	938,214	350,690	(587,524)
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,673,058	1,445,510	729,948	(715,562)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures is below budget due to no flood events on the Thames River to February 28th, 2026.

Erosion Control Structures and Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are comparable to budget.

Technical Studies are below budget due to the expenses for the FHIMP and GLFEI projects not having started as of February 28th, 2026.

Planning and Regulations are comparable to budget.

Watershed Monitoring is above budget due to March 31 year-end spending for the PWQMN GAP analysis grant.

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

Conservation Areas

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

Community Relations and Education

Community Relations is above budget due to time and costs of the AGM. Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs and one vacant part time position.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

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

Phosphorous Reduction is below budget as no payments have been issued and most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Species at Risk is above budget due to March 31 year-end budget expenditures.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2026 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2026 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	8,673,058	3,278,869	2,954,705	(324,164)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,673,058	1,445,510	729,948	(715,562)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,833,359	2,224,757	391,398
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,833,359	2,224,757	391,398

At February 28, 2026, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable mostly due to less expenditures compared to budget because of the seasonal nature of a large amount of the Conservation Authorities expenses.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 28, 2026.

The report aligns with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy:

14. Improving Transparency and Understanding of LTVCA Operations
15. Improving Capital Asset Management

Respectfully Submitted

Todd Casier, CPA, CA
Manager, Corporate Services

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

10. Business for Information

10.1) CA Act Changes - Bill 97 Report

Date: April 16, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: CA Act Changes – Bill 97 Report
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Summary of Bill 97 Changes

This summary (subject to change and amendments as more information provided by the province) was provided to staff and the board following the announcement of Bill 97 on March 26, 2026.

Note: many new Lieutenant Governor Orders In Council (LGIC) regulation making authorities (many are referenced in the bullets below), but there will be a better understanding the necessary implementing regulations as this proceeds.

Transition Details

1. The new Authority (RCA) assumes all rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of the predecessor authorities (current CAs);
2. Employment of employees at predecessor (current) CAs is continuous in the new Authority;
3. All current CA advisory boards are continued as an advisory board under the new Authority;
4. MOUs or agreements of the predecessor Authority continue under the new Authority;
5. Participating Municipalities of the new Authority shall be single-tier and upper-tier municipalities located wholly or partly within the area of jurisdiction;
6. Agreements for “other” programs and services (Cat 3) that were in place between a predecessor Authority and municipality are continued as an agreement between the municipality and the new Authority;
7. Permit applications underway with predecessor Authorities where a decision is not made by the transition date are continued as an application with the new Authority (similar for requests for hearing and where the CA was party to a hearing);
8. Appointments of CA officers (P.O. Officers) continues from predecessor over to new Authority. Proceedings initiated under the predecessor Authority continue under the new Authority.
9. The Minister may issue directions to facilitate the transition to the new regional framework (prohibiting the Authority from making decisions in relation to powers under the Act, governing budgetary and apportionment matters, etc.)

Governance Details (Members, Chairs, etc.)

1. Existing boards will remain in place until Feb 1, 2027. Municipalities may fill places on the board for the Oct 2026 to Feb 1, 2027 period if members wish to step down.
2. Each participating municipality will need to appoint their members by the day before the transition date (includes NWORCA). Appointment calculations / methods to be set out in regulation, but a minimum of 1, and up to a maximum as prescribed by regulation. Criteria are set out for consideration when appointing a member;

3. Method for determining number of members shall be based on municipal population in proportion to the total population within CA area of jurisdiction;
4. Another method may be used to appoint members where all participating municipalities agree on the new method and enter into an agreement, and the number of appointed members doesn't exceed the maximum as provided for in the regulations. A copy of such an agreement must be available on the CA website and provided to the Agency.
5. The Minister may continue to appoint an additional member who is a representative of the agricultural sector (voting limitation on resolutions to enlarge area of jurisdiction, amalgamate Authorities, dissolve Authority, or budgetary matters).
6. Members are appointed for a term up to four years, and members can be replaced by their appointing council. Members are eligible for re-appointment.
7. Chairs and vice chairs may serve a term of two years, and not more than eight years total (whether served consecutively or otherwise)

Transition Committees

1. Committees are established by the OPCA, and within 90 days after Budget 2026 received Royal Assent, the predecessor Authorities will appoint one of their members (must be a member of municipal council) and either the CAO/GM of the predecessor Authority or another officer / senior staff of the predecessor Authority. If the appointments are not made within 90 days, the OPCA will appoint.
2. The OPCA may appoint other members it considers advisable.
3. The OPCA will appoint the project executive to serve as chair (PE will not be an employee of the OPCA and shall be paid compensation and expenses as the OPCA agrees to);
4. Dissolution of the Committee will be directed by the OPCA, through written notice. The effective date of dissolution of Committee is not to be earlier than the transition date.
5. The OPCA will direct the work of the transition committee, including but not limited to the development of a transition plan;
6. The Project Executive may request information from the predecessor Authorities, and the predecessor Authorities are to cooperate with the transition committee;
7. Transition plans will be provided to the OPCA to consider revisions. Once no revisions are necessary, the Committee will provide a copy to the new Authority, and a summary to participating municipalities and the predecessor Authorities. If the Committee does not develop a transition plan, the OPCA will.
8. The final plan is implemented by the new Authority, who may request revisions to the plan to OPCA. The new Authority will report to the OPCA on progress re: transition plan implementation;

First CAO of New Regional CA

1. The Project Executive serves as the first CAO of the transition date for a term of two years;
2. The OPCA may notify the new Authority that the executive is no longer the CAO at any point during the two-year period. In that case, the OPCA may name a new CAO or, if not named, the new Authority shall appoint a new CAO.

Watershed Councils

New Authorities will establish one or more watershed councils to identify local priorities for consideration in Authority decision-making;

By-Laws

Authorities shall make by-laws (as opposed to current legislation which reads “may”).

LGIC Regulation-Making Authority

New regulation making authority on several matters, including prescribing maximum number of members for each participating municipality, maximum number of members from all participating municipalities, the method for determining said numbers, rules around governing watershed councils, and more.

A full presentation of the above will be provided at the April 16, 2026 Board meeting. This will allow the board to discuss the issues that may be present and the appointment of a member on the Transition Committee

Recommended Resolution:

That the CA Act Changes – Bill 97 Report be received for information.

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

10.2) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: April 16, 2026

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: CAO /Secretary-Treasurer Report

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

Flood Line Mapping Projects

Three major flood line mapping projects are being completed in 2026/2027. These projects are being funded through the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping – federal program. Fifty percent of the funding is coming from local municipalities, fifty percent from the federal government, and significant in-kind support to modelling and field work is being contributed by the LTVCA.

One RFP has been written (Talbot Creek in Southwold Study) and twelve proposals have been received and evaluated. Additionally, three technical memos on field work and data have been written by LTVCA Engineering staff and submitted to the FHIMP program to complete deliverables for the 2025/2026 federal fiscal year. In the next week the RFPs for the remaining two projects will be released to bidders. These projects being: the Lower Thames River flood line study and the South Chatham Flood line study. A short special board meeting for the approval of the award for these projects will be required.

C.M. Wilson Water System Upgrades

Approximately 20 years ago an engineering report recommended major upgrades to the C.M. Wilson principal water system (C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Well Supply System) that is housed in the shop. The C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Well Supply System is the sole water system that provides fresh treated water for drinking and other purposes to the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, visiting groups, students and staff members. Upgrades to the system were completed in 2025. Although we had a rocky road in the startup of the system, (due to older tankage being retained) all issues seem to have now been resolved. Staff have been working on the preparation of the 2025 Annual Report as required by the MOECP.

Due to the presence of the school the water system was upgraded from compliance with Ontario Regulation 319/08 to compliance with Ontario Regulation 170/05. Additionally, an old heating fuel tank must be decommissioned as it is too close to the source well to meet either of the regulations. Additionally, the furnace that is fed by this tank is at end of life and needs replacement.

To address the above issues the LTVCA staff moved forward in 2025 with extending the existing natural gas line to the shop to be able to decommission the fuel tank. The year 2026 will see the replacement of the old oil furnace with a new natural gas furnace. This change will result in significant cost savings over the next few years.

Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Significant changes to the Conservation Authorities Act have been announced as a result of Bill 97. Staff have and are continuing to spend significant time on preparing for the transition of the LTVCA into the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority (along with the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority). CAO/GMs of the four authorities have been regularly meeting and senior staff of the major departments will be meeting to ensure a full understanding of services being offered by each CA.

A further report and presentation will be provided to the board on what is being required, timelines and issues to be addressed.

Recommended Resolution:

That the CAO Secretary-Treasurer Report be received for information

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

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

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

10.3) Water Management

10.3.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging and Flood Events

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

The first flood message was issued on February 16th and was a Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook message. This was the first message leading up the spring melt event and warned about warm temperatures and rain that could lead to a local melt event, as well as a larger regional melt event and the possibility of ice jamming. A follow up Watershed Condition - Safety Bulletin message was issued on the 18th after the region received less rain than forecast. Another Safety Bulletin was issued on the 22nd as river ice began to break up in upstream areas. A final Safety Bulletin was issued on the 24th as water levels were dropping throughout the watershed, but the river ice was still mostly intact in areas downstream through Prairie Siding down to the Thames River mouth.

A Flood Outlook message was issued on March 4th, as a warm weather system with rain was expected to move into region causing local issues and a melt event in the upper watershed. By this time, all the river ice had melted away and there was no longer an ice jam risk. A follow-up Flood Watch was issued on the 7th. The rain in the Chatham area had led to the closure of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel, and additional rain was in the forecast. Based on forecasts, the LTVCA was also expecting to have to operate the 6th St. Dam. Further details were given in a Flood Watch on the 9th. Water levels had peaked in London, but the peak had yet to make it to Dutton. Significant rain was in the forecast that would add to the peak as it worked its way downstream. This Flood Watch was upgraded to a Flood Warning on the 11th, after a Rainfall Warning had been issued by ECCC. This rain had the potential to cause significant flooding in Chatham were it to add to the high flows still coming down the river. The flood messages were downgraded to a Safety Bulletin on the 12th. After the rain had fallen, water levels on the Thames did not climb high enough to cause the significant flooding that had been expected. However, the 6th St. Dam was operated from the evening of March 10th until the afternoon of March 12th.

The last two messages were Flood Outlook messages and were issued on March 30th and April 4th. These two messages were issued due to heavy rains in the forecast that could potentially have led to local flooding, and operation of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel in Chatham.

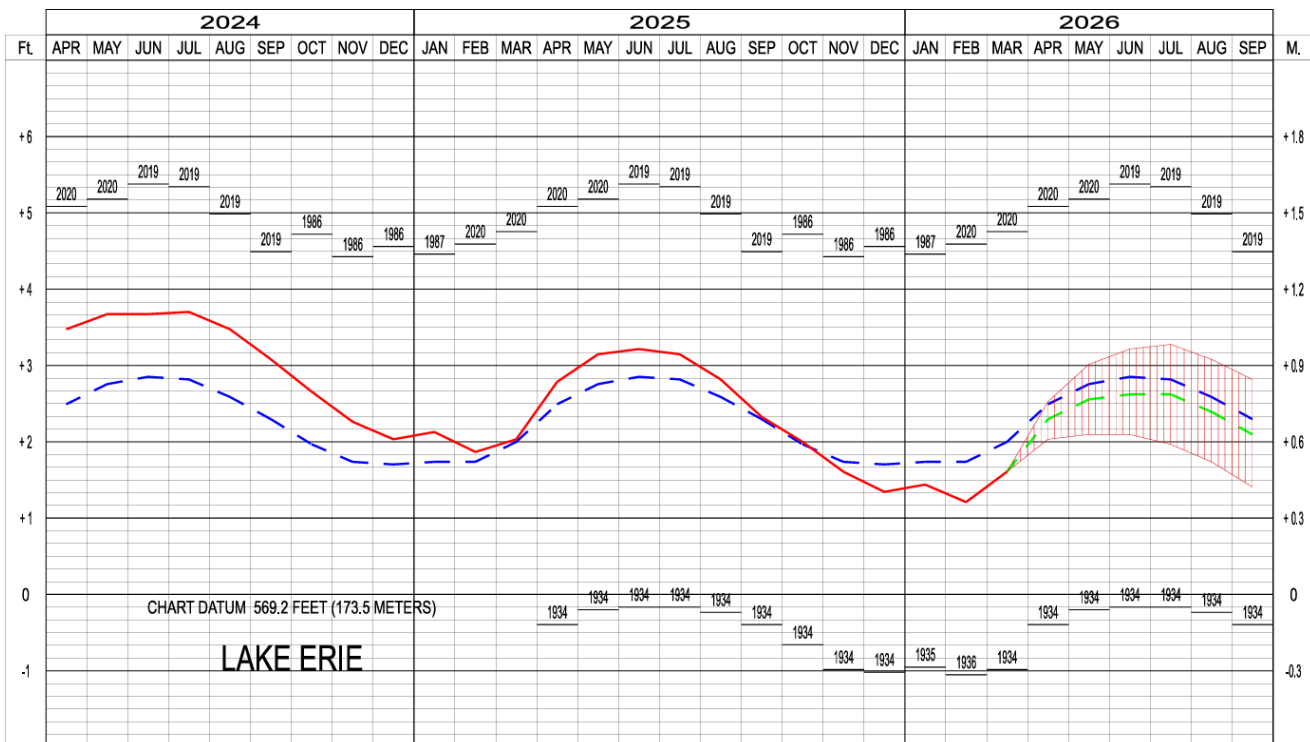
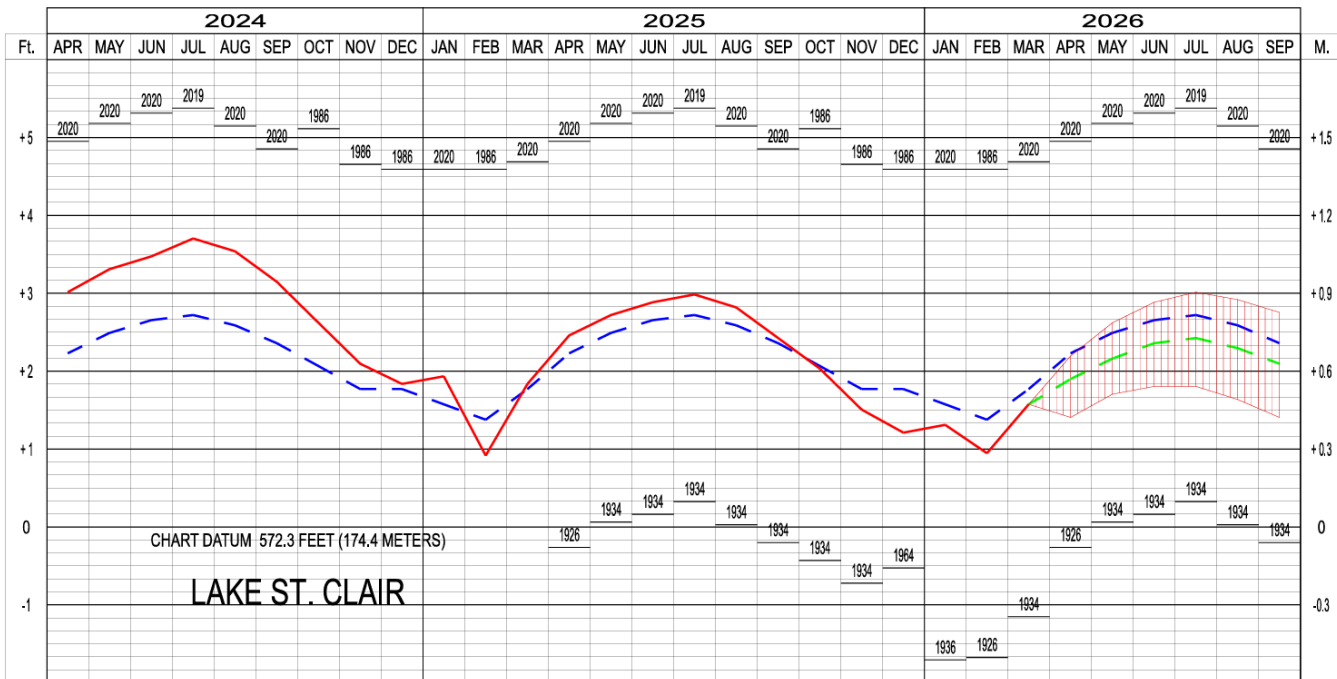
Report on Lake Conditions

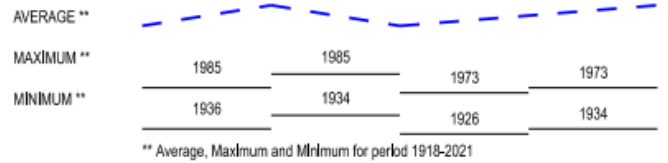
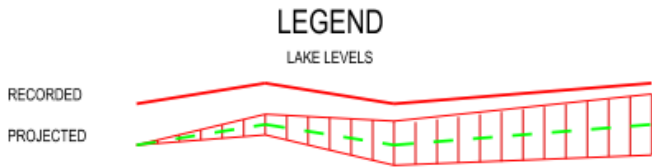
Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of April were around 174.18 m (I.G.L.D.). The record high monthly average for April was 175.05 m, set in 2020. The long-term average water level for April is 174.17. Forecasts suggest water levels will rise around 10 cm by the beginning of May.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of April were around 174.96 m (I.G.L.D.). However, recent rain events have brought water levels up 14 cm to 175.10 m as of April 7th. The record high monthly average for April was 175.91, set in 2020. The long-term average water level for April is 175.00. Forecasts suggest water levels will rise around 13 cm by the beginning of May.

Water levels on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair began rising in 2017, creating conditions that made the shorelines in the LTVCA more susceptible to flooding. After lake levels reached record highs in 2019 and 2020, they have been slowly dropping back towards normal. Lake levels are now finally back down to the point where they could be called normal. However, due to the prolonged period of high lake levels, many in the public are feeling that the lake levels are low. The long-range forecasts of lake levels suggested that Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair would continue to see near normal, or just slightly below normal, water levels over the next 6 months.

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





10.3.2) Flood Control Structures

The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated twice in March. The first operation occurred in the early morning of March 7th and lasted until the afternoon of March 8th. The second operation lasted from late in the evening of March 10th until the afternoon of March 13th. The 6th St. Dam was operated from the evening of March 10th until the afternoon of March 12th.

There continues to be issues with debris management at the 6th Street Dam. Although LTVCA staff had attempted to remove debris from the 6th St. Dam on several occasions previously, divers from Watech Services had to be called in again on the evening of March 10th to remove woody debris from the dam that would have prevented it from closing.

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

10.3.3) Low Water Response Program

The Low Water Response Program looks at both precipitation and flow in local watercourses in determining whether there is a low water condition. For precipitation, both 18-month and 3-month rainfall totals are examined, and the program thresholds are: Level 1, 80% of average; Level 2, 60% of average; and Level 3, 40% of average. For flows, the average flow over the last month is examined and the summer/autumn/winter thresholds are: Level 1, 70% lowest average summer flow (LASF); Level 2, 50% LASF; and Level 3, 30% LASF. During the growing season, LTVCA staff create a brief report summarizing conditions around the watershed, which is available by request. Outside of the growing season, the LTVCA relies on provincial level summary reports provided by the MNRF to keep up-to-date. 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.

Due to the spring freshet, which occurred in March this year, flows on the Thames River exceeded bank full conditions during the second week of the month. This low-level flooding event caused average flows in March to far exceed the LASF. McGregor Creek is generally considered too flashy of a system to compare with the average flow. However, heavy spring rains created flows in the creek that far exceeded the LASF as well.

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. Two gauges showed a Level 2 Condition, while another gauge showed No Condition. There were no obvious spatial trends. However, the rainfall totals were clearly influenced by a very dry February, where several gauges received less than 20 mm of rain. While rainfall increased in March, it was not enough to make up for the dryness earlier in the winter. 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.

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/>

10.3.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. In addition to regularly scheduled sampling, now that the region is starting to see some more rainfall, there have been several sampling runs to capture event-based runoff. This type of sampling is important as studies have shown increased nutrient runoff during winter and spring melt events, with larger runoff events leading to larger algae blooms later in the year. Maintenance on autosamplers that collect during events continues, with repairs being made to the autosamplers and intake lines being replaced on a regular schedule.

Groundwater monitoring for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program also continues. LTVCA staff maintain the sites and download water level and temperature information from data loggers. Sites are typically visited once every 3 months. While water quality sampling is usually collected in the Fall or early Winter, occasionally the program requests spring samples as well. Currently no spring sample has been requested. The next visits for maintenance are scheduled for early May.

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.

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

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

10.3.5) Geographic Information Systems

The LTVCA's Regulated Area Screening layer for O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, which can be accessed by the public on an ArcGIS Online web portal linked to the LTVCA's website, has recently been updated. The layer now contains updated floodplain information. Additional edits related to valley lands and watercourse data are forthcoming and will be followed by an update on wetlands using public data available from the MNR and the most recent SWOOP orthophotography.

Modeling has concluded for the geospatial scoping study funded by the Canada Water Agency to semi-quantify areas suitable for wetland restoration within the eastern Lake St. Clair floodplain and riverine deltas. The information from this project will now inform future stewardship activities where staff work with interested landowners to create and/or mitigate private wetlands within the study's focal region.

The watershed-wide natural heritage systems (NHS) review has now been completed, in tandem with the Upper Thames Region Conservation Authority's (UTRCA) dataset. This dataset produced the first, comprehensive Thames River watershed wide NHS layer. Collaborating with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, staff from the LTVCA presented to municipal planning staff the results of the work (which was extended to include the entirety of Chatham-Kent) to raise awareness of its completion and its potential incorporation into the municipality's Official Plan. Modeling to determine features to retain, create and enhance in collaboration with the UTRCA using this natural heritage data continues.

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

10.4) Planning and Regulations

10.4.1) Planning

From the end of January 2026 through to the end of March 2026, there were 57 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 79 phone calls and over 185 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2025 Totals	Jan 2026 Totals	Feb 2026 Totals	Mar 2026 Totals
Chatham-Kent	178	13	7	31
Elgin	42	6	3	1
Essex	15	0	1	1
Middlesex	39	5	10	3
Total Numbers	274	24	21	36

Planning Fees

There were no planning submission fees received from member municipalities for the time period between February 1, 2026, through to March 31, 2026. There have been 13 legal inquiries received in February and March 2026 totaling \$1,625.

MUNICIPALITY	FEB 1, 2026 TO MAR 31, 2026	2026 TOTAL	2025 TOTAL
Chatham-Kent			\$450.00
Elgin County			
Southwold		\$13,645.00	\$23,645.00
Dutton Dunwich			
West Elgin			
Essex County			
Lakeshore			
Middlesex County			
Middlesex Centre			
YTD Total		\$13,645.00	\$24,095.00

10.4.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

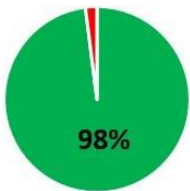
With respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and its associated regulation, Ontario Regulation 41/24, the LTVCA received a total of 63 new permit applications in the months of February and March. The total number of permit applications received so far in 2026 is 103.

Of the new applications and, combined with previously submitted “incomplete” applications, a total of 64 applications were deemed to be “complete” in February and March and could be reviewed for permitting. Those 64 applications were in addition to the previous queue of five “complete” applications leading into this reporting period. 63 of the 69 “complete” applications were processed and all were approved by staff with or without conditions. As of the end of March, six “complete” applications were in the queue for processing.

\$18,250 in permit application & hearing fees had been, or are to be, collected as of the end of March.

10.4.3) Application Timelines:

Review for Completeness:



Ontario Regulation 41/24 requires that conservation authorities are to make a determination on whether an application is considered to be “complete” or “incomplete” and provide a response of such to the applicant within 21 calendar days. For the months of February and March, the average response time with respect to this was five days (ranging between 0 and 29 days). 98% of all applications met the provincially required timeline for a “completeness” response.

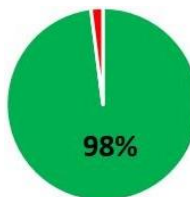
Permit Processing:

For applications issued in February and March, the table and charts below indicate that 100% of “routine” applications and 98% of “minor” applications met their applicable LTVCA customer service standard for turnaround time.



Routine Applications:

For the months of February and March, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was four days (ranged between 0 and 11 days). The LTVCA’s customer service standard for routine permits is a turnaround within 14 days. The processing time for routine permit applications met the LTVCA’s customer service target.



Minor Applications:

For the months of February and March, the average turnaround time was eight days (ranged between 0 and 29 days) for minor permit applications. The LTVCA’s customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. The processing time for minor permit applications is generally meeting the LTVCA’s customer service target.

10.4.4) Property Inquiries:

Up to the end of March, 398 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation inquiries) were received and responded to by the Regulations Officer which is 271 more since the last board report. The February and March inquiries were responded to with ~490 e-mails, 15 phone calls, and 12 in-person meetings.

At the time of writing of this staff report, the current response time to property and pre-consultation inquiries is up to 3 business days for e-mails and 10 business days for phone calls. The length of time to respond to both e-mails and phone calls is similar to the last board report.

10.4.5) Policies and Procedures Update

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

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 discussions are on-going with planning staff at Chatham-Kent, with staff meeting to discuss as recently as April 02, 2026. It is planned to commence public consultations on the proposed policies after we finalize discussions with Chatham-Kent staff.

10.4.6) Section 28 Enforcement:

In the first three months of 2026, six complaints / tips were received from the public about possible enforcement issues. All six complaints / tips were received in February and March.

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

10.4.7) Permit Decisions in February and March 2026

Permit Decisions in February and March 2026

B.D. 04/16/2026

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
020-2026	24912 McMurphy Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Feb 13, 2026	4
021-2026	Chalmers Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Feb 10, 2026	0
022-2026	30830 Celtic Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	29
030-2026	Horton Line at R.L. Smyth Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 03, 2026	1
032-2026	Longwoods Road over Cruickshank Drain	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 09, 2026	13
033-2026	Dobie Drive	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	20
037-2026	AD Shadd Road at Carter Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	18
039-2026	River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 02, 2026	2
040-2026	Christina Road - CD026	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
041-2026	Christina Road @ McPherson Drain - CD027	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
042-2026	Christina Road @ Cristina Drain - CD031	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
043-2026	8348 Longwoods Road - CD036	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
044-2026	8456 Longwoods Road - CD037 & CD038	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
045-2026	Burwell Road @ Natural Watercourse - CD039 & CD040	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
046-2026	21349 Muncey Road - CD047 & CD048	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
047-2026	21143 Muncey Road - CD051	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
048-2026	20985 to 21043 Muncey Road - CD053	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
049-2026	20901 Muncey Road - CD054 & CD055	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
050-2026	Muncey Road - CD056 & CD057	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
051-2026	Muncey Road near Thames River - CD058, CD059 & CD060	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	10
052-2026	6818 Switzer Drive	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	6
053-2026	Hydro One Corridor @ Richard-Griffiths Drain Ext.	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	6
054-2026	Hydro One Corridor @ Carter Creek Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	6
055-2026	South of 6441 Irish Drive	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	6

Permit Decisions in February and March 2026

B.D. 04/16/2026

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
056-2026	Hydro One Corridor @ Gentleman Creek	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	6
057-2026	Hydro One Corridor West of Springfield Road	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 17, 2026	6
058-2026	15840 Lakeshore Road 308	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Mar 02, 2026	0
059-2026	44 Lantern Lane	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 09, 2026	3
061-2026	James Lethbridge Drain 2026	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 25, 2026	19
062-2026	Lethbridge Road Drain 2025	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Feb 25, 2026	19
064-2026	215 Murray Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 10, 2026	0
065-2026	18448 Raglan Road	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 30, 2026	14
066-2026	8 & 10 Victoria Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 23, 2026	4
067-2026	7 Sparks Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 12, 2026	0
068-2026	5 Buckingham Avenue	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 13, 2026	0
069-2026	519 King Street West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 18, 2026	0
070-2026	4665 Coutts Line		Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 03, 2026	13
071-2026	119 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 25, 2026	2
072-2026	120 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 25, 2026	2
073-2026	12605 Longwoods Road	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 23, 2026	4
074-2026	20667 Haskell Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Feb 25, 2026	2
075-2026	24612 Jeannettes Creek Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 13, 2026	0
076-2026	75 Legacy Lane	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 03, 2026	1
077-2026	27590 Celtic Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Mar 02, 2026	3
078-2026	23 Albert Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 02, 2026	0
079-2026	131 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 04, 2026	1
080-2026	351 Queen Street North	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 04, 2026	0
081-2026	510 Ross Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 04, 2026	1
082-2026	112 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 04, 2026	0
083-2026	324 Detroit Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 04, 2026	0
084-2026	58 Dundee Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 13, 2026	3
085-2026	Fifth Street & Sixth Street	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 26, 2026	21
086-2026	Wardsville Outlet Drain No. 1 2026	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Mar 17, 2026	13
087-2026	Culvert C-14-186 over East Ogle Drain	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Mar 26, 2026	16
089-2026	107 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 30, 2026	7
090-2026	23144 Dillon Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 30, 2026	7
091-2026	10989 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 24, 2026	11
092-2026	16 Homestead Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 30, 2026	5
093-2026	22671 Kenesserie Road	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 25, 2026	1

Permit Decisions in February and March 2026

B.D. 04/16/2026

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
094-2026	530 Indian Creek Road West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 26, 2026	0
096-2026	340 Detroit Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 30, 2026	3
098-2026	Townline Road at McFarlane Relief Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 31, 2026	1
099-2026	187 Detroit Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Mar 31, 2026	0

10.5) Conservation Lands

10.5.1) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Longwoods Road Conservation Area is a very busy conservation area with many school groups attending on a regular basis. 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; the land staff have been working hard at clearing storm debris now that the snow has melted away; giving way to show the amount of fallen debris. The road is being graded on a regular basis to build it back together during the freeze/thaw portion of the winter to spring transition and staff are working through the overall clean up process and prepping for camping season that will be here before we know it.

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area was also inundated with snow and ice this past winter causing conditions to be less optimal for daily use of the conservation area. The land staff have been working hard at cleaning up fallen debris, grading the roads, and optimizing the garage space for the equipment. The land staff have gone out several times to work on the dam maintenance and ensure log jams are clear and open for the water to flow freely through the dam during high waters.

C.M Wilson is also in the process of finally receiving the gas line and furnace for the workshop. This was supposed to go in late last fall however the ground conditions froze quickly in 2025 and caused the delay. As we wait for a little dryer condition to complete this work, we will be excited to mark this one completed.

Camping

Camping season will be starting very soon, notices have gone out to seasonal campers, and they are getting ready to return to Wilson and Big Bend for another summer season.

New CA's

In 2025 we received Five Maples CA from the Stoss Family in Fingal, the Erie Ward Lookout CA from the Ward Family in Chatham-Kent and recently in 2026 we have officially purchased the Campbell CA in Fletcher between Merlin and Tilbury in Chatham-Kent. This purchase was made possible by Mr. Keith Campbell who donated the funds to purchase and restore the lands into a conservation area over the next five years. We are very grateful for the new additions to our conservation areas and cannot wait to get started on the planning and development of these future CA's.

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

Healthy and Climate Resilient Watersheds
Connecting People to Nature
Organizational Excellence

10.6) Conservation Services

10.6.1) General Update

Western District – Michael Young: Early Spring has been busy planning and gathering tree projects for Spring planting. Many landowner agreements have been signed and projects secured. First batch of potted stock trees are expected to come in the next couple of weeks, kickstarting the spring planting season before the mass of seedlings arrive. Preparations are underway and staff are getting organized to ensure a smooth and efficient spring planting season.

Wetland and erosion control work hasn't stopped – with the thaw and a couple dry spells, some work was able to be completed. A wetland project is scheduled to go in before tree season in the Wheatley area.

Signs have been installed in multiple completed projects to showcase funders and project locations.



Michael installing sign at completed tree project outside of Blenheim



Sign installed at buffer project at Rondeau Bay



Erosion control project in Port Alma. Shown here includes grassed waterway ending in rock chute

ALUS Elgin - Russel Vey: The new year has begun with a strong focus on closing out 2025 operations and preparing for the upcoming 2026 field season.

Year-End Reports have now been finalized, and the 2025 MOU for ALUS Elgin has been signed and completed, officially wrapping up both the program year and my first year with ALUS Elgin. This milestone marks a successful transition into 2026, with all reporting, financials, and project records accounted for and up to date.

The ALUS Elgin PAC also held its annual voting session in December, resulting in a new executive team. Drake Larsen has been elected as Chair, alongside a refreshed leadership group. As a long-time PAC member and local farmer within Elgin County, Drake brings valuable on-the-ground experience and a strong understanding of how ALUS projects integrate with working farms. His perspective will help ensure that program delivery remains practical, producer-focused, and aligned with the needs of the agricultural community.

With the field season approaching, site visits have resumed, with a focus on identifying and planning new projects for 2026. Early interest has been strong, particularly for tree planting projects, as we prepare for the upcoming spring season and work within the constraints of available planting stock.

In support of outreach efforts, ALUS Elgin collaborated with ALUS Chatham-Kent to produce a half-page advertisement for The Agrarian's Spring Buyer's Guide, which will run for three months beginning in April. This initiative will help expand program visibility and encourage new participant engagement across the region.

Looking ahead, we are also preparing to welcome a new co-op student, who will be joining the team in May. This position will play a key role in supporting project verification efforts, helping to address outstanding files from previous staff turnover, and ensuring all projects are properly documented and maintained moving forward.

ALUS Middlesex – Erica Ion: Spring activity is well underway for ALUS Middlesex. March and April have been filled with site visits, landowner outreach, conference attendance, and grant work. As site conditions begin to become more accessible, landowners are increasingly turning their attention to projects they hope to move forward with this year, and staff have been actively meeting with participants to discuss opportunities on the ground.



ALUS Staff inspecting a recently completed wetland project to determine eligibility for the program.

A significant portion of the winter was spent preparing grant applications, both independently and in collaboration with ALUS Canada. We were pleased to receive confirmation of two successful applications for the 2026–2027 fiscal year: \$25,000 from the Habitat Conservation Stamp Program through Wildlife Habitat Canada to support wetland creation, and \$5,000 from Nature London to support another planting event this year. This is the second year we have partnered with Nature London for our annual Strong Roots Community planting, engaging members of the community as well as providing a unique learning opportunity for the students of the SDCI Outdoor Education program.



ALUS Middlesex 2025 Strong Roots Community Planting, made possible with funding through Nature London

Staff have also attended multiple conferences and outreach events over the past several weeks. These included the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Soil Health Conference, hosted in partnership with Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, as well as a conference hosted by the Southern Ontario Seed Strategy focused on strengthening a sustainable seed system. The team also attended the London Farm Show and continued to build relationships with partners, growers, contractors, and others involved in restoration and agriculture.

On March 24, Graham and Erica hosted a booth on behalf of ALUS Canada at the Grain Farmers of Ontario March Classic in Niagara Falls. With more than 1,000 pre-registered attendees, the event provided a strong opportunity to connect with existing ALUS participants from across the province, generate leads with new farmers, and network with existing national partners. Staff were also invited by Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to attend their Landowner Workshop in Thorndale on March 25, where we hosted a booth, connected with local farmers and current participants, and heard from conservation-minded landowners, contractors, and UTRCA staff.



Main hall full of March Classic attendees during the speaker sessions for the Grain Farmers of Ontario hosted event on March 24th.



ALUS Staff Erica Ion (pictured) speaking with farmers at the Grain Farmers of Ontario March Classic

ALUS Chatham-Kent - Rashed Tremblay: The ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC held two regular meetings to approve projects, but funding allocations and program targets have not yet been received for 2026.

We are gearing up for another successful Tree planting season, coordinating and preparing for the timely and efficient planting of seedlings. Planting will start with large stock Trees and Shrub plantings in April, with seedlings being planted throughout May.

February Update

At our February meeting, the PAC approved 15 projects covering 29 acres, including 3 Tree projects that will see over 8,000 Trees planted in Chatham-Kent, 2 Wetland complexes and 5 Native Tallgrass Prairie buffers on municipal drains.

A sub-committee was formed to plan the participant Appreciation Breakfast on April 24th. The venue has been booked and the menu has been selected.

We received an update on an initiative started by a PAC member. Charity Chest is an organization that allows employees to redirect a portion of their paycheque to a non-profit organization, and as a result of our PAC member's efforts, we are currently receiving approximately \$120 a month.

March Update

At our March meeting, the PAC approved 5 projects covering 6 acres, including 2 Tree projects with a total of 1,600 Trees, 1 Wetland complex, and 1 Native Tallgrass Prairie buffer.

Renewal time continues to be an effective opportunity for projects, many of our new projects come from current participants who show interest when we reach out about their agreement renewal. Of the 24 participants up for renewal this year, 3 have signed renewal agreements and 8 have expressed interest in renewing.



Checking in with a Tree project near Chatham and a Wetland project near Highgate. Both projects were established in 2025. If you look closely, you can see a ladybug nymph on the seedling.

Urban Stewardship – *Alyssa Broeders*: Over the past few months, the Urban Stewardship Program has continued to deliver strong education and outreach programming while also preparing for a busy upcoming field season. Three additional winter webinars were hosted, each drawing solid attendance and positive



engagement from the community. Topics included agriculture and water quality, invasive species, and citizen science, helping to build local knowledge and encourage stewardship across a range of

environmental issues.

Efforts to secure funding and expand programming have also been a key focus. Several grant applications were submitted, including to the Chatham-Kent Community Foundation and the Nature Smart Climate



Solutions Fund. In addition, discussions are underway with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding a new Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) that would support the expansion of urban stewardship initiatives over the coming years. These funding opportunities are critical to sustaining and growing the program’s impact across the region.

Hands-on education remained a priority throughout the winter months. Work continued with the environmental science class at Chatham-Kent Secondary School (CKSS) through a habitat box building project, giving students practical experience in creating wildlife habitat. A seed paper-making workshop was also delivered, providing another interactive way to connect participants with native plants and restoration concepts.

Looking ahead, the field season is set to begin shortly and is shaping up to be another busy one. Two upcoming tree giveaway events have already sold out within a single day, demonstrating strong community interest and support. These events, along with several planned volunteer tree planting and pollinator projects, will kick off another active season of on-the-ground stewardship work across Chatham-Kent.

10.6.2) Agricultural Initiatives

Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP)

During the reporting period, the Agricultural Team has been actively engaged in outreach and education initiatives while finalizing 2025 program deliverables and preparing for the 2026 program year.

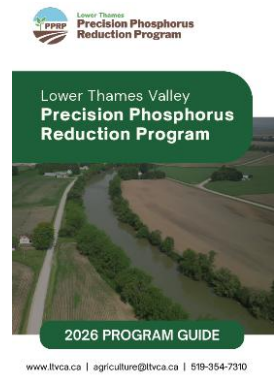
Amber Frak – Water Quality Technician

The Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program’s monthly water sampling took a brief pause in February due to ice cover being too thick, but since has continued as normal. Amber conducted extra event sampling due to the spring rain and snowmelt. There have been 4 events sampled since February with a total 61 samples

collected. Maintenance at the ISCO sites to ensure they are in good working order has also been ongoing including data downloads and replacing intake lines.

Amanda Doucette – Agricultural Outreach & Communications Technician

To prepare for launching the 2026 Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program, Amanda created a new guidebook to help easily communicate program details to interested applicants. She also revised the program application with an updated design and modern look. The 2026 PPRP has officially launched with the 2026 Guidebook and Application available on the LTVCA website.



Amanda planned three launch events to announce the new funding program to agricultural communities. Events were hosted in Tilbury, Ridgetown and Mount Brydges, with over 100 farmers and agricultural professionals attending. Each event featured local guest speakers to provide attendees with a community perspective about implementing best management practices.

Additionally, Amanda spent time coordinating the new Blackburn radio advertising campaign. For many years the stewardship team has promoted projects through monthly on-air morning show interviews. In addition to these interviews, the new campaign includes daily commercials on the CFCO Farm News segment and digital advertisements on Blackburn online news sources. Amanda contributes to this campaign by writing each commercial script and designing the digital advertisements.



Photo 1 - March 30, 2026 – Breakfast and BMP’s event at the Tilbury Legion. Andrew Mickle presents on the benefits of cover crops and available incentives through PPRP



Photo 2 - March 31, 2026 – Breakfast and BMP’s event at Ridgetown College. Ken Lawton presents on the practice of strip-tillage and the benefits to his production and soil health

Ani Pearn – Agricultural Stewardship Technician

Since February, Ani’s work has focused on finalizing information from applicants from the 2025 Phosphorus Reduction Program. This included contributing to a coordinated outreach effort to contact all program participants to verify and complete records, followed by updating individual database files.

Current efforts are directed toward compiling and analyzing data from farmer submitted crop plans. This data will support assessment of land management practices across the watershed. In addition, Ani has assisted the

ALUS Chatham Kent Program Coordinator with formatting correspondence for new and returning ALUS participants.

Leah – Agricultural Administration Assistant

Over the past several months, Leah has focused on completing activities for the 2025 Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program. This work has included entering information from farmers' applications into the LTVCA database, mapping applicants' fields using ArcGIS Online, and organizing and reviewing audit documentation as received.

Leah has also monitored program budgets and financial data to ensure it remains on target for the program's goals. To date, two rounds of payments to participating farmers have been issued, with a third round currently in progress.

Andrew Mickle - Agricultural Stewardship Specialist

During the reporting period, the Agricultural Stewardship Specialist has been working to finalize the 2025 Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program and launch the 2026 program. The 2025 PPRP was a great success with over 86,000 acres of best management practices implemented and over 20 erosion control projects of various scopes completed. Several more erosion control projects are in the final planning stages for spring 2026 construction.

Drawing from the successes and challenges of 2025, the 2026 PPRP guidelines and application forms were updated with contributions from LTVCA staff, program participants and regional staff from neighbouring CA's agricultural programs.

A collaborative effort by Andrew, Leah, and Ani has been instrumental in completing the review of applicant audit documentation and conducting roadside verification of crop residue for the cover crop category.

Elizabeth Arango Ruda - Water Resource Analyst

During the reporting period, Elizabeth focused on data analysis, reporting, collaboration, outreach, and fieldwork activities. Key contributions included supporting data analysis for Edge of Field research sites, recalculating phosphorus loads for McGregor Creek and assisting the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) with Total Phosphorus (TP) load calculations using LOADEST software to maintain data accuracy.

Reporting efforts included completion of the 2025 Phosphorus Loads Report and supporting the Watershed Monitoring Specialist in planning for the 2026 monitoring program as well as a phosphorus loads presentation to be presented at the Thames River Clear Water Revival (TRCWR).

Collaborative work advanced with Dr. Archontitsis from the University of Toronto, where a research plan for upcoming manuscripts was established.

Meetings were held with UTRCA to discuss TP load analysis for the Thames River watershed, representing an important step toward integrating data from the Upper and Lower Thames River systems.

Additionally, Elizabeth initiated conversations with Dr. Hassanzadeh (UN INWEH) to develop a methodology for analyzing how Best Management Practices (BMPs) and climate variability impact phosphorus concentrations.

Fieldwork contributions involved assisting with flow data collection alongside the water quality monitoring team.

Outreach activities included supporting the communications team in delivering a high school lecture on agriculture, BMPs, and phosphorus management. Elizabeth also participated in various workshops and conferences related to water quality.

Additional Program Highlights:

On February 12, 2026, over 110 agricultural stakeholders attended the Soil Health Conference co-hosted by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) at the John Bradley Conference Centre in Chatham. The vast majority of attendees were local farmers. The conference offered an opportunity for farmers to learn about the latest findings and experiences of academics and researchers on a variety of soil health and nutrient management topics. Furthermore, the conference provided opportunities for agricultural peer to peer learning, with regional farmers presenting on how they have implemented agricultural BMPs within their farming systems.

On February 25, 2026, the LTVCA hosted a webinar with guest speaker Mel Luymes covering the topic of agricultural drainage. Her presentation discussed how water moves from farm fields to streams and lakes, and how smart drainage solutions can help reduce excess phosphorus and protect local water at every scale.

On March 22, 2026, LTVCA staff attended the World Water Day event at Oneida Nation of the Thames in collaboration with UTRCA. Educational materials and display models of aquatic species and phosphorus simulations were shared with the community. Presentations by the 13 Moons youth group offered perspectives on water from Oneida youth, and an update on the Lake Huron Water connection project was also provided.

The agricultural program coordinator attended and presented at multiple agricultural events during the month of March including:

- Hensall Co-Op Annual General Meeting
- Ontario Soil Network Meeting at Bob Kerr’s Farm
- Pioneer Seeds Customer Event



Donna Small and Elizabeth Arango Ruda at the World Water Day Event hosted by Oneida Nation of the Thames (not pictured, Jason Wintermute).



Phosphorus Soil Health Conference on February 12, 2026 at the John Bradley Conference Center, Chatham



Ontario Soil Network Event at Bob Kerr's Farm in Chatham, March 25, 2026



Pioneer Seeds event at Renwick Seeds in Wheatley, April 2, 2026

Soil and Water Quality Technician – Brittney Littlefield

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program

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



Brittney conducted 4 sampling events in February and March with 103 samples collected across all sites. Following the prolonged cold and snowy season, the temperature in February started to increase leading to multiple snow melt events. High amounts of rain occurred in March leading to two large run-off events. Valuable data was collected to investigate non-growing season nutrient loss on short-term vs long-term no-till fields that are both in wheat.



Top Left: LTVCA staff at the Merlin B site on February 13, 2026, shoveling out the surface water flume in preparation for a snow melt event.

Top Right: Merlin A surface runoff following a large thunderstorm on March 11, 2026.

Bottom: Collected water samples from Merlin A P2 from February 16-22 melt event.

Brittney also focused on data processing and analysis during February and March. 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. On February 10th, 2026, the data was presented at the ONFARM Applied Research and Monitoring Forum. The data was then converted to a report format to be included as a case study in the 2026 ONFARM Water Quality Technical Report. In addition to the Merlin A research piece, the LTVCA staff developed an additional case study to evaluate Merlin A and Merlin B's 2024-2025 non-growing season water quality results. This comparison provides insight into the nutrient concentrations and loads under different best management practices including short-term no-till vs long-term no-till and different fertilizer application strategies.

The LTVCA Soil and Water Quality Technician also attended the Roesch Meats Customer Appreciation Event at the Fairview site farm on March 28, 2026. The event included attendance by local farmers, businesses, and the public. In tandem with Terralyxn, information regarding ONFARM project objectives, and other ONFARM resources were promoted.

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.

Two different surface soil erosion quantifying methods were previously installed to compare in-field surface soil movement from till vs no-till, corn residue plots. Soil moisture and temperature data was also recorded to evaluate the difference in soil conditions between the two treatments. Measurements were recorded on February 27, March 20 and March 24, 2026. Plans to obtain further soil conditions data in the spring are underway.

12.6.3) Species at Risk

Vicki McKay presented “*Citizen-powered Science*”, a talk on what citizen science is and how and why to get involved as part of the LTVCA’s Citizen Science Webinar series on March 19. Attendees were invited to sign up and participate in the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge 2026 for Chatham-Kent between April 24 and April 27. In addition, Vicki negotiated a Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) funding amendment with Fisheries and Oceans Canada for an additional \$11,039 and has been working on year-end reporting for HSP and Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk funding.



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

10.7) Communications, Education and Outreach

10.7.1) Communications

Annual General Meeting Highlights

Linda McKinlay retired councillor for the Municipality of Lakeshore and past board member and chair to the LTVCA received a special award from the LTVCA. The Linda McKinlay Award for Environmental Leadership recognizes individuals who share the same spirit as Linda McKinlay—strong leadership, a deep commitment to local conservation, and the drive to make a meaningful difference.

Mayor Canniff from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent was in attendance and gave the LTVCA a plaque congratulating them on 65 years of service to the community.



Upcoming Events



Join the City Nature Challenge | April 24 - May 10, 2026

What wildlife lives in your neighbourhood?

Join 400+ cities worldwide for the 2026 City Nature Challenge! Compete, go solo, or work together to photograph WILD plants and animals in Chatham-Kent.

Contribute to community science by uploading your discoveries to the iNaturalist app. Your photos become data that helps scientists better understand and protect nature for all of us!

Participation is free! Just grab your phone and start taking pictures!

How to Participate

Download the free iNaturalist app from the App Store or Google Play.



STEP 1
Find wildlife anywhere in Chatham-Kent



STEP 2
Take photos of WILD plants and animals. If it's planted or taken care of by people it is not WILD. Mark it captive/cultivated.



STEP 3
Share your observations in the iNaturalist app where they'll automatically be added to our City Nature Challenge project.



STEP 4
Watch as experts all over the world help to identify your observations.



For more information, visit www.citynaturechallenge.org

Birding BIG 'O'

When: May 2, 2026
Time: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Big O Conservation Area
ON-77, Comber, ON, N0P 1J0

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

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Community Born • Community Driven

RALP Program

Funding available for
Natural Features on marginal land

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority can provide up to 80% cost-coverage for **grassed waterway, shelterbelt and buffer strip projects** to support landowners through the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program-Marginal Lands Initiative. For more information: stewardship@ltvca.ca or (519) 354-7310

10.7.2) Education

The On-Site portion of the education section of the website has had several photos added to the interface. Technical difficulties with the webform persist and are being addressed by the LTVCA's Communications Specialist.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Education programs are at or near capacity for the remainder of the school year, with very select dates available in June. The Indigenous Community Educator from C.M. Wilson will be assisting with education programming through the spring because of a change in staffing.

On March 27, 2026, the Curator provided a special education program to youth from Oneida Nation of the Thames, organized by the Youth Stewardship Coordinator and Environmental Consultation Coordinator. [The program focused on archaeology.](#) The youth engaged with cultural belongings from the excavations of Haudenosaunee Village's that took place in and around Longwoods, excavated a cookie, explored the museum, and more. The hope is that the program will be adapted for use with future groups.

On April 24, 2026, the Curator will be at the London Children's Museum to run a Fur and Feather Drop-In Session.

On April 26, 2026, we anticipate a visit from participants in Campfire Circle, an oncology camp for youth. They will be exploring the Village and making pottery, after having to reschedule due to severe weather this winter.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

The LTVCA's Communications Specialist has been working with the Indigenous Community Educator at C.M. Wilson on a collaboration with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Nature CK, and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Together they are organizing the City Nature Challenge (CNC). The CNC is a global initiative that encourages people in their communities to go outside and document local wildlife sightings. "The collected records contribute to a better understanding of contemporary, local biodiversity patterns and provide a more realistic representation of understudied groups such as insects and fungi. Importantly, the CNC presents local governments with a cost-effective tool to make informed, evidence-based management and policy decisions, improve education and engagement programs, foster cross-council collaborations, and support a stronger sense of environmental stewardship within the local community" ([Palma et. Al, 2024](#)). As part of the CNC, our group is planning events at our parks and CA's to entice people to join.

The Indigenous Community Educator has recently completed an online course offered by the Outdoor Learning School called the "School Gardening Course." The goal of this professional development was to help refine the plans for a garden at C.M. Wilson as well as subsequent program offerings. It also provided information as the Indigenous Community Educator edits the strategic plan and budget for C.M. Wilson Learning Centre's upcoming projects.

River and Creek Safety

Three schools within 10 kilometers of the Thames River or in the floodplain have received free River and Creek Safety Programming from the education team this year. Participation has been slightly lower this year as the team needed to reschedule paid trips into the timeframe this program is normally offered throughout the watershed.

Water Festival

Water Festival planning continues. We've secured Scales and Wild Ontario as a participant for 2026. As a thank-you to last year's volunteers, thank you cards were sent and LTVCA parking passes given as gifts. We understand that the festival is nothing without the dedication and enthusiasm of the hundreds of volunteers that make it all possible.

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.



Youth show off the re-creation Tools they made during March Break

March Break

Longwoods and C.M. Wilson locations offered March Break programming.

At Wilson, we held drop-in days where people were welcomed to explore our classroom space, interact with natural treasures, play traditional games, and colour our colouring pages. We also held a pottery day, which like last year, was a huge success!

Cold weather put a damper on some days of programming at Longwoods. Those that attended enjoyed both timed and on-going activities that varied day to day.

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.

10.7.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of April 7, 2026, the Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook page has 4,133 Followers. The Instagram page for the Village has 776 Followers.

Summer Repairs

A number of repairs are intended to take place at the re-creation Village throughout the summer months. These include repairs to the palisade wall, the longhouses, and the smaller structures that animate the space.

Additional work is planned at the Heritage Log Cabins. All three cabins are expected to have their rooves replaced this summer/fall.

A number of logs at the Munsee-Delaware Cabin are in need of replacement. The Curator is researching grant opportunities to support this work.

New Exhibit Cases



On Thursday, April 2, 2026 the Curator obtained 10 new-to-us exhibit cases from the Guelph Civic Museum. Nine of the cases are 15" x 15" x 89" with storage in the lower section and lights installed. The Thenth is a cylindrical case that is about 91" tall, again with lighting. It is estimated that these cases would be valued at about \$22,000 pre-tax at least.

Over the next few months the cases will be cleaned and integrated into exhibits at the Museum. The intention is to replace the well used cases that were previously obtained from the Royal Ontario Museum in the 1990s.

Two New Tower Exhibit Cases and the Top of the Cylinder Case

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



Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held in person and remoting via the Indigenous Community Learning Centre at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum, Longwoods Road Conservation Area at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 19, 2026. The following members were in attendance: B. Bruinink, C. Parker, K. Loveland, S. Hipple and M. Peacock. Regrets T. Cobban, D. Fairbairn and P. Chrisjohn. Also, in attendance: A. Klages and A. Vriends.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SND-2026-1 K. Loveland – S. Hipple

Moved that the minutes of the November 25, 2025 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

SND-2026-2 S. Hipple – K. Loveland

Moved that Mark Peacock chair the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee 2026 elections.

CARRIED

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

a) Chair

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

K. Loveland nominated B. Bruinink, he accepted the nomination.

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

SND-2026-3 K. Loveland – S. Hipple

Moved that nominations for Chair of the committee be closed.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink was declared to be elected as Chair.

b) Vice-Chair

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

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

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

SND-2026-4 K. Loveland – C. Parker

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

CARRIED

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

2.2) Appointment of Sub-Committees*

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

b) Village Build (2 members): K. Loveland, M. Peacock

A. Klages to reach out to T. Cobban to see if he will stand on this sub-committee.

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

d) Events/Fundraising (2 members):

A. Klages to reach out to T. Cobban and P. Chrisjohn to see if they will stand on this sub-committee.

SND-2026-5 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved to accept all appointments to the sub-committees.

CARRIED

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

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

3. Business for Information

3.1) Grant and Funding Updates

Applications for Canada Summer Jobs 2026 was submitted in late 2025. We await funding decision.

The Curator has applied to the London Community Foundation's Needs Registry to support restoration of Ska-Nah-Doht Village. The LTVCA has earmarked \$30 000 in addition to on-hand supplies of cedar posts and bark to the project. The application to the Needs Registry would support materials and supplies, training, as well as equipment rentals.

Visit Middlesex's Tourism Initiative Sponsorship, has re-open, the Curator will submit an application for support for a re-opening event at the Museum.

3.2) CMOG Requirements- Strategic Plan and Exhibit Plan

The 2026 requirement for CMOG is a strategic plan. SND's plan runs through 2026. We have been given assurance that plans that end this calendar year will be accepted. The initial stages of the next strategic plan (2027-2031) will also be provided to the ministry. This draft does not need to be approved by the committee prior to submission. Throughout the summer, community consultation will take place to help guide the 2027-2031 plan.

The 2027 requirement for CMOG is an exhibit plan. This will be created in combination with the strategic plan.

3.3) Education Programs

Several school groups were rescheduled in early December and January because of weather conditions. Education programs are now booking into mid- to late-May 2026. Battle of Longwoods Education Day will take place on Friday, May 1, 2026. It is anticipated that the LTVCA Education team will provide one program during the event.

The Curator will be providing a special education program to youth from Oneida Nation of the Thames, in late March. The program will focus on archaeology. The youth will engage with cultural belongings from the excavations of Haudenosaunee Village's that took place in and around Longwoods, excavate their own reproduction projectile point from hardened Oobleck, explore the museum, and more. The hope is that the program will be adapted for use with future groups.

3.4) Events and Workshops

The LTVCA Annual General Meeting took place on February 19, 2026. The Curator, in their capacity as Team Lead of Education, provided a brief overview of Education Programming at the LTVCA.

Two public snowshoe rental dates were held in February 2026. These were well attended and enjoyed by participants. The Curator is working with the Education Team to plan events, public programs, and activities for the coming year.

3.5) Museum Re-Opened to the Public

As of January 6, 2026, Ska-Nah-Doht Museum re-opened to the public. The Museum is currently operating on winter hours, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., given staff availability and road conditions. As of March 10, 2026, over 350 people have visited the indoor museum, excluding school and pre-booked education program participants.

A temporary exhibit recognizing the 65th anniversary of the LTVCA has been installed on the lower level of the museum. The exhibit continues to be a work in progress around other time sensitive requirements.

3.6) Village and Cabin Updates

Repairs at the Village have been delayed because of the true winter weather experienced in 2025/2026. It is anticipated that these will take place as weather improves. As per 3.1, the Curator has applied for additional funds from the London Community Foundation to support the work to be completed.

Repairs to the palisade wall, longhouses, and smaller structures are required following two harsh winters and other delays.

Cabin roofs are scheduled to be replaced in 2026. The Curator continues to look for funding support for the roof work, as well as log replacements.

SND-2026-6 C. Parker - K. Loveland

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.6 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Update on the Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities by Mark Peacock

Mark Peacock, CAO / Secretary-Treasurer of the LTVCA provided an update on the revised framework for the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs) into 9 Regional CAs. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) will be within the proposed Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority, which also includes:

- Essex Region Conservation Authority,
- St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, and
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

SND-2026-7 C. Parker - K. Loveland

Moved that items 4.1 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Thursday, November - TBA

6. Adjournment

SND-2026-8 K. Loveland – S. Hipple

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink
Chair

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

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS

ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 5 2026 at the Wheatley Friendship Club.

Attendance: Joe Dama, Sheilah Marans, Pauline Sample, Gerry & Muggs Soulliere, Rick Taves, Mark Peacock, Roger Dundas, Lorna Bell, Lee & Linda Pearce.

Agenda: The updated by-laws will be discussed. Moved by Phil, sec. by Lorna agenda be accepted as outlined. (Carried).

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

Mem. Groves: 3 spikes will need to be put in the ground. 3 weddings have been booked so far this year.

Prop. & Equip. : We are trying to determine if we need a new alternator for the tractor. We also need to make sure the tractor key does not fall out and also find a way to keep the engine warm during the winter. 3 picnic tables have been sponsored so far. 2 by the Wheatley Swans and 1 by the Meadows.

Concerts: All concerts have been booked. Gerry has begun updating the website - some names have been changed. A sign will be made up to promote button sales at the concerts.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Nov. 30 2025 was \$37081.62. Account balance as of Jan. 31 2026 was \$42,345.16. Moved by Roger, sec. by Lorna report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: The new by-laws will be reviewed by the Executive in the near future. They will be voted on by the group at our next full meeting. We will also be discussing our insurance.

New Business: We will be looking at ways to recruit new members, Rick will make a list of jobs that might interest new members.

Adjournment: Rick moved for adjournment at 7:50 pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS

ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 5 2026 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

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

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

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

Mem. Groves: We will continue to tell people that we no longer plant memorial trees and that you can adopt an existing tree or plant in Two creeks along the trails. It is to cold to put our remaining spikes in the ground.

Prop. & Equip. : We need to install ice dam deflectors on the Chapel roof. We have been able to charge the tractor battery. Gravel and earth needs to be put down on the west end of the Harvest bridge to make it safer. We may paint it in the future.

Concerts: We have 2 indoor concerts remaining this year. All outdoor concerts have been booked. Buttons will be sold for \$100.00 each. We will look into moving the indoor concerts into the Legion next year.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Jan. 31 2026 was \$ 42,345.16. Account balance as of Feb. 28 2026 was \$45,575.90. Moved by Roger, sec. by Phil report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Gerry proposed appointing Sheilah to be our new Special Projects Coordinator. Moved by Lorna, sec. by Joe Dama. (Carried). Motions were passed unanimously that our revised by-laws be accepted. Elisabeth Pocantos has agreed to replace the late Ken Hatt.

Adjournment: Roger moved for adjournment at 8:07 pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11. Correspondence

11.1) Ministers direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes associated with planning, development, and permitting fees

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la
Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 314-6790



357-2026-736

March 10, 2026

TO: Conservation authorities as listed in Appendix A to the Attachment A
"Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 21.3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*"

SUBJECT: Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes
associated with planning, development, and permitting fees

I am writing with regards to conservation authority planning, development and permitting fees. Pursuant to my authority under subsection 21.3 (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, I am issuing a new Direction, attached to this letter as Attachment A. This Direction is consistent with the Directions that were previously in place for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 calendar years.

The purpose of this Direction, which is effective from March 10, 2026, to February 28, 2027, is to require a conservation authority not to change the amount of the fee it charges or the manner in which it determines the fee for any program or service related to reviewing and commenting on planning and development related proposals or land use planning policies, or for permits issued by conservation authorities. This Direction is intended to support less costly approvals in order to help increase housing supply and affordability in Ontario.

This Direction applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix A, who are encouraged to make the Direction publicly available on the Governance section of their websites.

If you have any questions regarding this Direction, please contact the ministry at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 21.3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
(this "Direction")

WHEREAS section 21.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* permits a conservation authority to charge a fee for a program or service if the program or service is included in the Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which a conservation authority may charge a fee;

AND WHEREAS subsections 21.2 (6) and 21.2 (7) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provide that a conservation authority shall adopt a written fee policy that includes a fee schedule listing the programs and services that it provides in respect of which it charges a fee, and the amount of the fee charged for each program or service or the manner in which the fee is determined (a "**Fee Schedule**");

AND WHEREAS subsection 21.2 (10) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provides that a conservation authority may make a change to the list of fees set out in the fee schedule or to the amount of any fee or the manner in which a fee is determined, provided the authority shall give notice of the proposed change to the public in a manner it considers appropriate;

AND WHEREAS section 21.3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provides the Minister with the authority to give a written direction to an authority directing it not to change the amount of any fee it charges under subsection 21.2 (10), in respect of a program or service set out in the list referred to in subsection 21.2 (2), for the period specified in the direction;

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under section 21.3, the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" of this Direction (the "**conservation authorities**" or each, a "**conservation authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

Fee Changes Prohibition

1. Commencing on the Effective Date and for the duration of the Term of this Direction, a conservation authority is prohibited from making a change under subsection 21.2 (10) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* to the amount of any fee or the manner in which a fee is determined in its fee schedule if such a change would have the effect of changing the fee amount for the programs and services described in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Direction.

Program and Service Fees Impacted

2. This Direction applies to any fee set out in the Fee Schedule of a conservation authority, including without limitation fees for any mandatory program or service (Category 1), municipal program or service (Category 2), or conservation authority recommended program or service (Category 3) related to reviewing and commenting on planning and

Attachment A

development related proposals, applications, or land use planning policies, or for conservation authority permitting.

3. For greater certainty, this Direction applies to any fees in respect of the following programs or services provided under the Mandatory Programs and Services regulation ([O. Reg. 686/21](#)):
 - a. Section 6: programs and services related to reviewing applications and proposals under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, *Drainage Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*, for the purpose of commenting on the risks related to natural hazards arising from the proposal,
 - b. Section 7: programs and services related to ensuring that decisions under the *Planning Act* are consistent with the natural hazards policies in the policy statements issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act* and are in conformance with any natural hazard policies included in a provincial plan as defined in section 1 of that Act,
 - c. Section 8: programs and services related to conservation authority duties, functions, and responsibilities to administer and enforce section 28 and its regulations, section 28.0.1, and section 30.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*,
 - d. Paragraph 4 of subsection 13 (3): programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on any proposal made under another Act for the purpose of determining whether the proposal relates to a significant drinking water threat or may impact any drinking water sources protected by a source protection plan, and
 - e. Subparagraph 4 iv of section 15: programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on proposals made under other Acts for the purpose of determining the proposal's impact on the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Application

4. This Direction, applies to all conservation authorities in Ontario, listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.
5. For greater certainty, this Direction also applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction when such conservation authorities are meeting as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

Effective Date and Term

6. This Direction is effective from March 10, 2026 (the "**Effective Date**").
7. The term of this Direction is the period from the Effective Date to February 28, 2027 (the "**Term**").

Attachment A

Amendments

8. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO
as represented by the
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long, sweeping underline.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
March 10, 2026

APPENDIX A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA

R.R. #3
71108 Morrison Line
Exeter ON N0M 1S5
Davin Heinbuck
dheinbuck@abca.on.ca

Cataraqui Region CA

Box 160
1641 Perth Road
Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0
David Ellingwood
dellingwood@crca.ca

Catfish Creek CA

R.R. #5
8079 Springwater Road
Aylmer ON N5H 2R4
Dusty Underhill
generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca

Central Lake Ontario CA

100 Whiting Avenue
Oshawa ON L1H 3T3
Chris Darling
cdarling@cloca.com

Credit Valley CA

1255 Old Derry Rd
Mississauga ON L5N 6R4
Terri LeRoux
terri.leroux@cvc.ca

Crowe Valley CA

Box 416
70 Hughes Lane
Marmora ON K0K 2M0
Janette Loveys Smith
janette.smith@crowevalley.com

Essex Region CA

Suite 311
360 Fairview Ave West
Essex ON N8M 1Y6
Tim Byrne
tbyrne@erca.org

Ganaraska Region CA

Box 328
2216 County Road 28
Port Hope ON L1A 3V8
Linda Laliberte
llaliberte@grca.on.ca

Grand River CA

Box 729
400 Clyde Road
Cambridge ON N1R 5W6
Samantha Lawson
slawson@grandriver.ca

Grey Sauble CA

R.R. #4
237897 Inglis Falls Road
Owen Sound ON N4K 5N6
Tim Lanthier
t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca

Halton Region CA

2596 Britannia Road West
Burlington ON L7P 0G3
Chandra Sharma
csharma@hrca.on.ca

Hamilton Region CA

P.O. Box 81067
838 Mineral Springs Road
Ancaster ON L9G 4X1
Lisa Burnside
lisa.burnside@conservationhamilton.ca

Kawartha Region CA

277 Kenrei (Park) Road
Lindsay ON K9V 4R1
Mark Majchrowski
mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com

Kettle Creek CA

R.R. #8
44015 Ferguson Line
St. Thomas ON N5P 3T3
Elizabeth VanHooren
elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca

Lake Simcoe Region CA

Box 282
120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
Rob Baldwin
r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca

Lakehead Region CA

Box 10427
130 Conservation Road
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T8
Tammy Cook
tammy@lakeheadca.com

Long Point Region CA

4 Elm Street
Tillsonburg ON N4G 0C4
Judy Maxwell
jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca

Lower Thames Valley CA

100 Thames Street
Chatham ON N7L 2Y8
Mark Peacock
mark.peacock@ltvca.ca

Lower Trent Region CA

R.R. #1
714 Murray Street
Trenton ON K8V 5P4
Rhonda Bateman
rhonda.bateman@lrc.on.ca

Maitland Valley CA

Box 127
1093 Marietta Street
Wroxeter ON N0G 2X0
Phil Beard
pbeard@mvca.on.ca

Mattagami Region CA

100 Lakeshore Road
Timmins ON P4N 8R5
David Vallier
david.vallier@timmins.ca

Mississippi Valley CA

10970 Highway 7
Carleton Place ON K7C 3P1

Sally McIntyre
smcintyre@mvc.on.ca

Niagara Peninsula CA
250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor
Welland ON L3C 3W2
Leilani Lee-Yates
llee-yates@npca.ca

Nickel District CA
199 Larch St
Suite 401
Sudbury ON P3E 5P9
Carl Jorgensen
carl.jorgensen@conservationsudbury.ca

North Bay-Mattawa CA
15 Janey Avenue
North Bay ON P1C 1N1
Liza Vandermeer
liza.vandermeer@nbmca.ca

Nottawasaga Valley CA
8195 Line 8
Utopia ON L0M 1T0
Jennifer Vincent
jvincent@nvca.on.ca

Otonabee Region CA
250 Milroy Drive
Peterborough ON K9H 7M9
Janette Loveys Smith
jsmith@otonabeeconservation.com

Quinte Region CA
R.R. #2
2061 Old Highway #2
Belleville ON K8N 4Z2
Brad McNevin
bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca

Raisin Region CA
PO Box 429
18045 County Road 2
Comwall ON K6H 5T2
Alison MacDonald
alison.macdonald@rrca.on.ca

Rideau Valley CA

Box 599
3889 Rideau Valley Dr.
Manotick ON K4M 1A5
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca

Saugeen Valley CA

R.R. #1
1078 Bruce Road #12, Box #150
Formosa ON N0G 1W0
Erik Downing
e.downing@svca.on.ca

Sault Ste. Marie Region CA

1100 Fifth Line East
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 6J8
Corrina Barrett
cbarrett@ssmrca.ca

South Nation River CA

38 Victoria Street
P.O. Box 29
Finch ON K0C 1K0
Carl Bickerdike
cbickerdike@nation.on.ca

St. Clair Region CA

205 Mill Pond Crescent
Strathroy ON N7G 3P9
Ken Phillips
kphillips@scrca.on.ca

Toronto and Region CA

101 Exchange Avenue
Vaughan ON L4K 5R6
John MacKenzie
john.mackenzie@trca.ca

Upper Thames River CA

1424 Clarke Road
London ON N5V 5B9
Tracey Annett
annettt@thamesriver.on.ca

12. Other Business

13. Adjournment
