



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

October 15, 2026

2:00 p.m.

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 August 20, 2026



Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

The meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street in Chatham, ON at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 20, 2026. The following directors were in attendance: P. Tiessen, K. Loveland, H. Aerts, A. Finn, M. Vink, L. Vogler, and R. Leatham. S. Hipple, P. Van Meerenberg, J. Wright, S. Bod, 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

BD-2026-68 A. Finn – L. Vogler

Moved that the agenda be adopted as amended by the addition of three additional Board items.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2026-69 R. Leatham – H. Aerts

Moved that the Board of Directors minutes of the June 18, 2026 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None Declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) Preliminary 2027 Budget

DRAFT

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- 7.2) Risk Management Plan
- 7.3) New MNR Technical Guidelines and Technical Bulletin
- 7.4) Update on Flood Plain Studies
- 7.5) Update on LTVCA Transition to WLERCA
- 7.6) August 2026 Southwold Flood Events

BD-2026-70 A. Finn – K. Loveland

Moved that Presentations 7.1 through 7.6 be received for information.

CARRIED

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Business for Approval

- 9.1) LTVCA Risk Management Plan

BD-2026-71 L. Vogler – R. Leatham

Moved that the LTVCA Risk Management Plan Update dated August 2026 be approved and implemented.

And that the updated Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Risk Management Plan be used as a tool for planning and budgeting purposes.

And that the risk controls as outlined in the updated Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Risk Management Plan be implemented as budgets permit.

And that the updated Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Risk Management Plan be reviewed annually to ensure risks and control actions are relevant and up to date. A full update of the plan should be undertaken every 5 years

CARRIED

- 9.2) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to June 30, 2026

BD-2026-72 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended June 30, 2026.

CARRIED

- 9.3) Preliminary 2027 Budget

BD-2026-73 A. Finn – K. Loveland

Moved that the 2027 preliminary budget totalling \$8,927,018 be approved and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed apportionment as calculated;

it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days' notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and apportionment.

And that the final 2027 Budget be brought to the October 2026 Board Meeting for approval.

CARRIED

9.4) Fundraising and Project Initiation for the CM Wilson Pavilion

BD-2026-74 R. Leatham – A. Finn

Moved that the Board of Directors approve LTVCA Staff to proceed with the fundraising campaign for the CM Wilson Pavilion and the process to proceed with the tendering and construction of the project; pending approval by the Board of the tender award.

CARRIED

9.5) Potential Building Construction – Two Pole Barns

BD-2026-75 R. Leatham – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors direct LTVCA staff to explore the construction of two new pole barns, one at CM Wilson CA and one at Longwoods CA, contingent on it staying within the \$220k apportionment available from the RALP grant funding.

And that all decisions regarding the award will be brought back to the Board for approval.

CARRIED

10. Business for Information

10.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

BD-2026-76 A. Finn – K. Loveland

Moved that the CAO Secretary-Treasurer Report be received for information.

CARRIED

10.2) Water Management

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.4) Conservation Lands

10.5) Conservation Services

10.6) Communications, Education and Outreach

10.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association June 4, 2026 Minutes

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association July 2, 2026 Minutes

BD-2026-77 L. Vogler – K. Loveland

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the above reports, 10.2 through to 10.8 for information.

CARRIED

11. Correspondence

- 11.1) Minister's Direction Under Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act with Respect to Budget and Apportionment Matters
- 11.2) Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency
- 11.3) WLERCA Transition – Project Executive Appointed
- 11.4) WLERCA – Guiding Principles for Transition
- 11.5) CO's Consolidated Response to Bill 98 Legislative and Regulatory Proposals

BD-2026-78 A. Finn – H. Aerts

Moved that the Board of Directors receive 11.1 through to 11.5 for information.

CARRIED

12. Other Business

12.1) Timing of the October Board of Directors Meeting

LTVCA staff will send out a poll to the Board of Directors for either moving the October Board of Directors meeting a week earlier to Thursday, October 8th, or keeping it at Thursday, October 15th as a result of concerns around the pending municipal elections in November.

13. Adjournment

BD-2026-79 A. Finn – M. Vink

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Paul Tiessen
Chair



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

5.2) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes July 27, 2026

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

A meeting of the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee was held on Monday, July 27, 2026 at the Authority's Administration Building at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario at the hour of 1:30 PM. A roll call was held with the following committee members present:

P. Tiessen, S. Bod, L. Vogler, H. Aerts and R. Leatham.

Also present were the following staff members: M. Peacock and J. Homewood.

1. Call to Order

Chair, Paul Tiessen called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 1:30 PM.

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock provided the reading of the First Nations Acknowledgement.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

E-2026-01 L. Vogler – S. Bod

Moved that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

6. New Business

Motion to sit as a Hearing Board

E-2025-02 S. Bod – R. Leatham

Moved that the Executive Committee sit as the Authority's Hearing Board.

CARRIED

- a. **Hearing – LTVCA Permit Application #187-2026 – 20874 Cemetery Road – to re-construct the dwelling following a fire, within an erosion allowance**

The Chair introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicant. The applicant was in attendance for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources Technician and Regulations Officer, provided the Hearing Board with the staff report which was previously provided to the applicant and to the Executive Committee. A Power Point presentation was also given regarding this application as it relates to the Lake Erie shoreline and the CA Regulations. The applicant was provided with an opportunity to be heard.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicant and J. Homewood leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2026-03 R. Leatham – L. Vogler

Moved that the Hearing Board move into an 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

E-2026-04 S. Bod – H. Aerts

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

CARRIED

The Chair read the decision to the applicant and staff.

Approved with conditions:

- 1) That the reconstructed dwelling be no larger than the existing footprint.
- 2) That the reconstructed dwelling be no closer to the lake than the existing foundations.
- 3) That this permit and its conditions of approval to reconstruct a dwelling be valid for both the current and future landowner for a period of 36 months from the date of approval by the Hearing Board.

Please note that this decision is based on the following reasons:

- 1) The application meets applicable provincial guidelines.
- 2) The application meets the intent of the LTVCA hardship reconstruction policy.
- 3) The building is the same size or smaller than the original building.
- 4) The erosion rate appears to be significantly lower than the rate used in the LTVCA hazard limit (less than the 139 m per 100 years).

E-2025-05 R. Leatham – L. Vogler

Moved that the Executive Committee move out of the Hearing Board.

CARRIED

E-2025-06 S. Bod – H. Aerts

Moved that the Executive Committee move into the Hearing Board.

CARRIED

- b. Hearing – LTVCA Permit Application #097-2026 – 21946 Port Road – to construct an addition to an existing structure within an erosion hazard**

The Chair introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicant and the applicant's agent(s). The applicant was in attendance for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources Technician and Regulations Officer, provided the Hearing Board with the staff report which was previously provided to the applicant and to the Executive Committee. A Power Point presentation was also given regarding this application as it relates to the erosion hazard and the CA Regulations. The applicant was provided with an opportunity to be heard.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicant, the applicant's agent(s) and J. Homewood leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2026-07 S. Bod – H. Aerts

Moved that the Hearing Board move into an 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

E-2026-08 L. Vogler – S. Bod

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

CARRIED

The Chair read the decision to the applicant and staff.

Approved with conditions:

- 1) That the structures and the addition be located as per the site plan provided to the LTVCA on 12 March 2026.**
- 2) That the outlet of the stormwater management pond into the Eight Creek Drain be as per the drawings provided to the LTVCA on 12 March 2026 and that the rip-rap be embedded into the bed/banks of the drain.**
- 3) That roof drainage of the addition be directed onto energy dissipation devices materials to reduce energy and direct stormwater to the stormwater management pond.**

- 4) All work to include site restoration of disturbed areas back to, or better than, existing.
- 5) Construction of the structures and the addition must be well underway prior to the permit lapsing.
- 6) If no construction has begun prior to the lapsing date of this permit (24 months from date of approval) then a new permit will be required from this office.

Please note that this decision is based on the following reasons:

- 1) In the opinion of the Hearing Board, the proposed addition is not likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.
- 2) The application meets the setbacks as required by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent Drainage Department.
- 3) The Drain is managed under the Ontario Drainage Act and petitions can be brought forward to ensure its maintenance.
- 4) The Drainage Engineers Report states that future maintenance of this section of drain is to be undertaken from the road side and therefore less concerns are present regarding the offset from drain to the new addition.
- 5) The side slopes of the drain are designed to be 1.5 to 1 (horizontal to vertical) and the offset as described by the LTVCA is assuming a 3:1 side slope. Therefore, the LTVCA staff offset is very conservative.

E-2025-09 H. Aerts – S. Bod

Moved that the Executive Committee move out of the Hearing Board.

CARRIED

E-2025-10 R. Leatham – L. Vogler

Moved that the Executive Committee move into the Hearing Board.

CARRIED

- c. **Hearing – LTVCA Permit Application #170-2026 – 24 Tissiman Avenue – to construct a duplex within a flood hazard**

The Chair introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicant. The applicant was in attendance for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources Technician and Regulations Officer, provided the Hearing Board with the staff report which was previously provided to the applicant and to the Executive Committee. A Power Point presentation was also given regarding this application as it relates to flood plain hazards and the CA Regulations. The applicant was provided with an opportunity to be heard.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicant and J. Homewood leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2026-11 S. Bod – L. Vogler

Moved that the Hearing Board move into an 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

E-2026-12 R. Leatham – S. Bod

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

CARRIED

The applicant(s) were informed that the meeting was adjourned to a later date as a result of the applicants request to allow further information to be submitted regarding the application.

E-2025-13 R. Leatham – H. Aerts

Moved that the Authority's Hearing Board re-convenes as the Executive Committee.

CARRIED

7. Other Business

None Noted.

8. Adjournment

E-2026-14 L. Vogler – S. Bod

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Paul Tiessen
Chair



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

5.3) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes August 20, 2026

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

A meeting of the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee was held on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at the Authority's Administration Building at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario at the hour of 4:00 PM. A roll call was held with the following committee members present: P. Tiessen, L. Vogler, H. Aerts and R. Leatham. S. Bod sent their regrets.

Also present were the following staff members: M. Peacock, J. Homewood, H. Blondeel and V. Towsley.

1. Call to Order

Chair, Paul Tiessen called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 4:00 PM.

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock provided the reading of the First Nations Acknowledgement.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

E-2026-15 R. Leatham – L. Vogler

Moved that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Motion to sit as a Hearing Board

E-2025-16 H. Aerts – L. Vogler

Moved that the Executive Committee sit as the Authority's Hearing Board.

CARRIED

- a. Continuation of July 27, 2026 Hearing for – LTVCA Permit Application #170-2026 – 24 Tissiman Avenue – to construct a duplex within a flood hazard

The Chair re-introduced the Hearing Board members and the CAO to the applicants. The applicants were in attendance for the hearing. Jason Homewood, Water Resources Technician and Regulations Officer, provided the Hearing Board with a presentation which was previously provided to the applicants and to the Executive Committee regarding this application as it relates to flood plain hazards and the CA Regulations. The applicants were provided with an opportunity to present additional information.

The Hearing Board had questions for staff and the applicants regarding the additional information for this proposal.

The Chair requested that the applicants, J. Homewood, H. Blondeel and V. Towsley leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.

E-2026-17 L. Vogler – R. Leatham

Moved that the Hearing Board move into an 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

E-2026-18 R. Leatham – L. Vogler

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

CARRIED

The applicants were informed that the meeting was adjourned and that the decision would be deferred to a later date as the Committee needed more time to review the information provided by the applicants and staff.

E-2025-19 R. Leatham – H. Aerts

Moved that the Authority's Hearing Board re-convenes as the Executive Committee.

CARRIED

6. Other Business

None Noted.

7. Adjournment

E-2026-20 H. Aerts – L. Vogler

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Paul Tieszen
Chair



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

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Presentations

7.1) Final 2027 Budget.

Todd Casier will provide a presentation of the LTVCA's Final 2027 Budget.

7.2) Transition committee Non-Disclosure Agreement

Mark Peacock will provide an update on the non-disclosure agreement for WLERCA.

7.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museums Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031

Alison Klages, Curator of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum / Team Lead Education will provide a presentation on the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museums Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031.

8. New Business

9. Business for Approval

9.1) Final 2027 Budget

Date: October 15, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **2027 Budget and Apportionment**
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Background

The LTVCA Board adopted the Preliminary 2027 Budget and apportionment at its meeting on August 20, 2026, in accordance with the following resolution:

“That the 2027 preliminary budget totalling \$8,927,018 be approved and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed apportionment as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days’ notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and apportionment.

And that the final 2027 Budget be brought to the October 2026 Board Meeting for approval.”

Terms:

Category 1

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

Category 2

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

Category 3

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

Services offered under category 3 are as follows:

Conservation Education, Elements of Watershed Monitoring, Species at Risk, Stewardship, and Campgrounds – Active use of Conservation Areas.

Current Situation

As per legal requirements, the Preliminary Budget was circulated to all member municipalities on August 24, 2026, with an invitation to meet with each municipality’s Executive Management Team or Council. This preliminary budget was also posted to the LTVCA website shortly after its approval on August 20, 2026.

There was one request by West Elgin to review the apportionment process with their new Treasurer. No other comments have been received from member municipalities or the public. The LTVCA met with West Elgin's CAO and Treasurer to review our budget and apportionment on September 15, 2026.

Several minor adjustments have since been incorporated into the 2027 Budget since its preliminary approval in August 2026. With these changes, there has been no additional impact on municipal apportionment.

Discussion

The 2027 Final Draft Budget of \$8,927,018 represents an increase of \$253,960 or 2.93% in overall spending in comparison to the 2026 approved budget of \$8,673,058. The greatest variances from 2026 to 2027 include:

- An increase in Conservation Services due partially to increased RALP funding.
- An increase in Phosphorus Reduction expenses.
- An increase in Conservation Area expenses.
- An increase in Species at Risk programs due to increased funding.
- An increase in Community Relations.
- An increase in Flood Forecasting and Warning.
- And a partial offset due to a decrease in Technical Studies expenses and funding, Conservation Education and Ska-Nah-Doht Village expenses, Chatham-Kent Greening Project expenses and Administration expenses.

The corresponding increase in the municipal apportionment is \$79,304 or 4.00%. As in previous years, annual adjustments to each municipality's assessment within the watershed vary, ranging from 2.65% for the Township of Southwold to 6.97% for the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, as shown in the last column of the table accompanying the budget on page 19 of the agenda package.

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

- Category 1 Apportionment: \$2,074,893
- Category 3 Apportionment: (\$13,022)
- Special Apportionment: \$223,988 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent)
- Total Municipal Apportionment, \$2,285,859

Recommendation:

That the 2027 Municipal Apportionment be approved;

And That the participating municipalities be assessed for payment of \$2,285,859 which is comprised of Category 1 expenses of \$2,074,893; Category 3 expenses of (\$13,022) and Special Apportionment of \$223,988 (Category 1 & 2, Chatham-Kent);

And that each participating municipality's share of the 2027 Total municipal apportionment be calculated using "Modified Current Value Assessment." As shown in the table appended to this motion.

Recommendation: That the proposed 2027 budget totalling \$8,927,018 be approved as presented in the accompanying budget tables.

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

- 14. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements
- 15. Improve Capital Asset Review
- 16. Strengthen Staff Stability (financial stability, attraction & retention)

Respectfully Submitted

Todd Casier, CPA, CA
Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

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

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

2027 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

Object	COMBINED			CATEGORY 1			CATEGORY 2			CATEGORY 3		
	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget
Expenditures												
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	217,773	210,970	217,773	210,970	-	210,970	-	-	-	-	-	-
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	9	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	112,512	128,139	112,512	128,139	-	128,139	-	-	-	-	-	-
TECHNICAL STUDIES	474,719	361,779	474,719	361,779	-	361,779	-	-	-	-	-	-
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	457,350	456,587	457,350	456,587	-	456,587	-	-	-	-	-	-
WATERSHED MONITORING	176,558	183,121	168,985	174,425	-	174,425	-	-	7,573	8,696	-	-
SOURCE PROTECTION	40,603	35,410	40,603	35,410	-	35,410	-	-	-	-	-	-
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION AREAS	873,011	967,915	671,295	760,928	-	760,928	-	-	201,716	206,987	-	-
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	143,501	179,084	143,501	179,084	-	179,084	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	145,152	113,669	-	-	-	-	-	-	145,152	113,669	-	-
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	120,791	109,282	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,791	109,282	-	-
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	212,209	442,695	-	-	-	-	-	-	212,209	442,695	-	-
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	594,419	523,560	-	-	-	84,864	-	-	509,555	436,150	-	-
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	4,267,575	4,389,218	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,267,575	4,389,218	-	-
SPECIES AT RISK	33,921	90,530	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,921	90,530	-	-
ADMINISTRATION	768,903	681,173	768,903	681,173	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASSET MANAGEMENT	34,052	53,877	34,052	53,877	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recovered Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	8,673,058	8,927,018	3,089,702	3,042,381	84,864	87,410	5,498,492	5,797,227				
Revenues												
Other Taxation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government Grants & Subsidies	(5,593,237)	(5,651,820)	(570,444)	(485,863)	-	-	(5,022,793)	(5,165,957)				
User Fees	(879,790)	(989,339)	(295,098)	(345,047)	-	-	(584,692)	(644,292)				
Other Municipal Revenues	(217,464)	(223,988)	(132,600)	(136,578)	(84,864)	(87,410)	-	-				
Total Revenues	(6,690,491)	(6,865,147)	(998,142)	(967,488)	(84,864)	(87,410)	(5,607,485)	(5,810,249)				
Total Net Budget	1,982,567	2,061,871	2,091,560	2,074,893	-	-	(108,993)	(13,022)				
Net Inc. / (Dec.) \$	0	79,304										
Net Inc. / (Dec.) %		4.0%										

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Apportionment (Levy) for 2027 using Modified CVA

	Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)	% of CVA	Special Apportionment 2027	Total General Apportionment 2027	Total Municipal Apportionment 2027	Total Municipal Apportionment 2026	\$ Change from 2026 Apportionment	% Change from 2026
Dutton-Dunwich M	592,417,266	3.6740%	0	75,753	75,753	73,390	2,363	3.22%
Southwold Tp	305,193,109	1.8927%	0	39,025	39,025	38,017	1,008	2.65%
West Elgin M	660,466,227	4.0960%	0	84,454	84,454	81,948	2,506	3.06%
Lakeshore T	1,538,973,879	9.5442%	0	196,790	196,790	190,104	6,686	3.52%
Leamington M	389,876,208	2.4179%	0	49,853	49,853	48,313	1,540	3.19%
Chatham-Kent M	8,991,102,743	55.7600%	223,988	1,149,700	1,373,688	1,323,970	49,718	3.76%
London C	1,873,265,471	11.6174%	0	239,536	239,536	229,514	10,022	4.37%
Middlesex Centre M	283,371,322	1.7574%	0	36,235	36,235	34,760	1,475	4.24%
Southwest Middlesex M	478,706,106	2.9688%	0	61,213	61,213	57,226	3,987	6.97%
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	1,011,268,496	6.2716%	0	129,312	129,312	122,789	6,523	5.31%
TOTAL	16,124,640,828	100%	\$223,988	\$2,061,871	\$2,285,859	\$2,200,031	\$85,828	3.90%

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2027 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

	2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>WATER MANAGEMENT</u>					
<u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	176,444	162,123	162,123		
OPERATIONS	26,827	28,517	28,517		
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	14,402	20,230	20,230		
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	100	100	100		
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	217,773	210,970	210,970	0	0
<u>EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS					
OPERATIONS	9	9	9		
TOTAL EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	9	9	0	0
<u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	95,807	111,953	111,953		
DATA COLLECTIONS	11,081	10,842	10,842		
FLOOD FORECASTING	2,270	2,070	2,070		
COMMUNICATIONS	1,400	1,400	1,400		
OPERATIONS CENTRE (RENT)	650	850	850		
FLOOD RESPONSE AND MONITORING	1,304	1,024	1,024		
TOTAL FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	112,512	128,139	128,139	0	0

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2027 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

	2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>TECHNICAL STUDIES</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	174,399	196,129	196,129		
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & MAPPING	0	0	0		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	300,320	165,650	165,650		
TOTAL TECHNICAL STUDIES	474,719	361,779	361,779	0	0
<u>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	413,382	408,352	408,352		
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	43,968	48,235	48,235		
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	457,350	456,587	456,587	0	0
<u>WATERSHED MONITORING</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	125,933	127,591	123,295		4,296
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	50,625	55,530	51,130		4,400
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	176,558	183,121	174,425	0	8,696
<u>SOURCE PROTECTION</u>					
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	40,603	35,410	35,410		
	0	0			

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2027 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES

WAGES AND BENEFITS	538,611	573,797	458,478		115,319
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	334,400	394,118	302,450		91,668
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	873,011	967,915	760,928	0	206,987

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION

COMMUNITY RELATIONS					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	135,751	171,234	171,234		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	7,750	7,850	7,850		
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS	143,501	179,084	179,084	0	0

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

WAGES AND BENEFITS	137,152	105,719			105,719
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	8,000	7,950			7,950
TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION	145,152	113,669	0	0	113,669

SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE

WAGES AND BENEFITS	111,721	98,612			98,612
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	9,070	10,670			10,670
TOTAL SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	120,791	109,282	0	0	109,282

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2027 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP

CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)

WAGES AND BENEFITS
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES,
STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.
TOTAL FORESTRY

2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
139,621	354,807			354,807
72,588	87,888			87,888
212,209	442,695	0	0	442,695

CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT

WAGES AND BENEFITS
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES,
STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.
TOTAL CHATHAM-KENT GREENING

287,702	217,742		87,410	130,332
306,717	305,818			305,818
594,419	523,560	0	87,410	436,150

PHOSPHORUS

WAGES AND BENEFITS
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES,
STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

999,497	1,074,955			1,074,955
3,268,078	3,314,263			3,314,263
4,267,575	4,389,218	0	0	4,389,218

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2027 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

	2026 BUDGET	2027 BUDGET	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
<u>SPECIES AT RISK</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	26,430	86,837			86,837
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	7,491	3,693			3,693
TOTAL CONS. SERVICES	33,921	90,530	0	0	90,530
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>					
WAGES AND BENEFITS	532,841	534,981	534,981		
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	236,062	146,192	146,192		
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	768,903	681,173	681,173	0	0
ASSET MANAGEMENT	34,052	53,877	53,877		

9.2) Income and Expenditure vs Budget to August 31, 2026

Date: October 15, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to August 31, 2026**
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Background:

Review of the 2026 Budget to Revenue and Expenditures for the 8 months ended August 31, 2026.

REVENUE	2026 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET AUG PROJECTED		2026 ACTUAL TO AUG 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	5,593,237	3,728,825	*	3,002,884	(725,941)
GENERAL LEVY	1,982,567	1,982,567	^	1,944,315	(38,252)
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	217,464	217,464	^	217,464	0
GENERAL REVENUES	879,790	586,526	*	3,804,389	3,217,863
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	4,329	4,329
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
CASH FUNDING	8,673,058	6,515,382		8,973,381	2,457,999
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	8,673,058	6,515,382		8,973,381	2,457,999

*-based on an 8 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on balance invoiced

Grant income is slightly below budget due to timing of grants invoiced. A large portion of the difference is due to an outstanding balance from Clean Water Program-Precision Phosphorous Reduction Program that has since been received. This is partially offset by a new RALP grant not included in the budget.

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; funds spent 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 is shown on a cash basis. The following municipalities are paid in full as of October 8th, 2026: Chatham-Kent, Dutton Dunwich, Lakeshore, Leamington, Middlesex Centre, Southwold, Strathroy-Caradoc, Southwest Middlesex, and West Elgin.

General Revenue is above budget mostly due to a three-million-dollar cash donation to purchase conservation lands. When this donation is removed, General Revenue is slightly above budget due to the following factors:

- Conservation Areas is above budget due to receiving seasonal camping revenue and unbudgeted income from Campbell Conservation Area, Conservation Services and Chatham-Kent Greening are above budget as tree planting is done and landowners have been billed and interest income is above budget due to increased interest rates. This is slightly offset by Planning Fees and Conservation Education being lower than budget.

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 AUG PROJECTED	2026 ACTUAL TO AUG 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	239,991	159,994	144,817	(15,177)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	10	6	11	5
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	123,991	82,661	65,711	(16,950)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	523,153	348,768	298,707	(50,061)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	504,012	336,008	300,072	(35,936)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	194,572	129,714	131,819	2,105
SOURCE PROTECTION	44,745	29,830	25,101	(4,729)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,630,474	1,086,981	966,238	(120,743)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	962,082	641,388	650,430	9,042
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	158,142	105,428	116,433	11,005
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	159,961	106,641	68,077	(38,564)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	133,115	88,743	80,523	(8,220)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	451,218	300,812	265,033	(35,779)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	233,860	155,906	197,255	41,349
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	655,064	436,710	365,470	(71,240)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	4,702,978	3,135,319	2,853,534	(281,785)
SPECIES AT RISK	37,382	24,921	77,084	52,163
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	5,629,284	3,752,856	3,493,343	(259,513)
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	5,782,037	5,375,044	(406,993)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures expenses are below budget due to staff time spent on Technical Studies.

Erosion Control Structures are comparable to budget.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due to some larger expenses incurred later in the year and staff time spent on Technical Studies.

Technical Studies are below budget due to just starting to incur the expenses for the FHIMP and GLFEI projects and is partially offset by wages being over budget.

Planning and Regulations expenses are below budget due to staff time being spent in other areas like Technical Studies, above.

Watershed Monitoring is comparable to budget.

Source Protection expenses are comparable to budget.

Conservation Areas

Conservation area expenses are comparable to budget.

Community Relations and Education

Community Relations 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) is above budget due to expenditures and wages for the new RALP grant.

Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are below budget due to staff time being spent on the new RALP grant in Conservation Services.

Phosphorous Reduction is slightly below budget due to waiting on funding to pay participants for their no-till planting.

Species at Risk is above budget due to March 31 year-end budget expenditures and continuing the Species at Risk program based on new funding.

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2026 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET AUG PROJECTED	2026 ACTUAL TO AUG 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	8,673,058	6,515,382	8,973,381	2,457,999
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,673,058	5,782,037	5,375,044	(406,993)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	733,345	3,598,337	2,864,992
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0		0
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	733,345	3,598,337	2,864,992

At August 31, 2026, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable mostly due to the large donation of cash to purchase conservation land and less expenditures compared to budget due to 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 August 31, 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

9.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031

Date: October 15, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031**
From: Alison Klages, Curator of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum / Team Lead Education

A power point presentation on the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museums Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031 was presented to the Board of Directors. The plan has been circulated to relevant staff and the Village Advisory Committee for review and comments. Recommended revisions that were provided as a result of the circulation have been made, and the plan is now requiring approval from the LTVCA's Board of Directors. [Strategic Plan attached to this report.]

Recommendation: That Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum's Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031 be approved by the LTVCA's Board of Directors.

Strategic Plan



**2027
to 2031**



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About Us

Mission, Vision, Values

Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Our Values

Innovation:

We are leaders in heritage interpretation through research and experimentation.

Inclusivity:

Our museum is for the whole community; families, educators, researchers, visitors both local and through tourism.

Stewardship:

We are committed to preserving important cultural resources.

Excellence:

We strive to meet the highest standards of the cultural heritage profession.



**Ska-Nah-Doht
Village**



Governance



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum (SND) is owned and operated by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA). The Village Advisory Committee is comprised of LTVCA board members (representatives from the below municipalities), community stakeholders, and staff. They meet, discuss, and make recommendations to the LTVCA Board based on the mission and values of Ska-Nah-Doht and the Authority. The Board may then approve and direct staff to act on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, thereby supporting and directing the staff on actions to further the goals of the Strategic Plan.

LTVCA Member Municipalities:

- Chatham-Kent
- Dutton Dunwich
- Lakeshore
- Leamington
- London
- Middlesex Centre
- Southwest Middlesex
- Southwold
- Strathroy-Caradoc
- West Elgin



Note on Amalgamation

On October 31, 2025, the Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks announced plans to create a provincial board-governed agency, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, to provide leadership, governance, and strategic direction to Conservation Authorities (CAs). A revised framework for this amalgamation was provided March 10, 2026.

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.

While consolidation is expected to begin in 2027 it is currently unknown how amalgamation will impact the governance and daily operation of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. This plan has been created based on the 2026 jurisdiction of the LTVCA.

Background

Founded in 1973, Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023! The museum was conceived of by 4 educators during a road-trip in 1966. A volunteer committee including these educators, local community members, and representatives from three of the local Indigenous communities was formed (Bill Dolsen, Munsee-Delaware Nation; Max Ireland, Oneida Nation of the Thames; Chief Harry Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation; and Irvin Chrisjohn, representing a Haudenosaunee cultural group).

The original plans for the museum focused on the creation of an Attawandaron longhouse village. Following the excavations of three village sites by archaeologist Ron Williamson, the Village's mandate was updated to focus on the heritage of the Haudenosaunee- today our mandate has been further expanded to include all three local Nations (Oneida Nation of the Thames, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, and Munsee Delaware Nation).

In addition to the Village, the indoor Museum opened in 1974, while the three Heritage Log Cabins were donated and moved to Longwoods Road Conservation Area in 1972/73.

SND rebranded in both 1995 and 2008 to remove outdated or offensive terms from our name.

The Village has undergone many changes over the years but, as always, the information we share is based upon knowledge shared with us by local Indigenous community members and archaeologists who continue to conduct research into the history of this area 1000 years ago.



Rationale

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The purpose of the 5 Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031 (hereafter 'the plan'), is to guide the work done at SND. It will act to align this work with the Mission, Vision, and Values of SND and the LTVCA. The strategic goals of the 10 member municipalities of the LTVCA, prior to amalgamation, are also taken into consideration during the development of the plan.

The 5 Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031, will be used to guide community consultation on our strategic priorities and inform the creation of the Strategic Implementation, Exhibit, and Marketing Plans.

Developing the Strategic Plan

A draft of the plan was created by examining the previous 5 Year Strategic Plan, 2022-2026 as well as the results of the Indigenous Community Learning Centre Public Consultation Survey conducted in 2024. This survey was provided to educators, stakeholders, visitors, and members of the public to help guide the future direction of Ska-Nah-Doht and our new indoor space.

A final draft of the plan was accepted by the Advisory Committee, and submitted for approval to the LTVCA Board of Directors. The Curator was available to present the plan to any municipal councils that are members of the LTVCA watershed (as of 2026) upon request.



Results of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan



Community Engagement	Raise Awareness	Infrastructure Projects	Stable Funding Operations
- Community consultation - Launch new spaces and exhibits with pre-booked groups - Museum closed to public 2025, reopened 2026 - Support Indigenous initiatives - Broadened mission to include all 3 local Nations - Cabins opened to public	- Increased social media presence - Conducted outreach - Provide programs in the community - Delivered pop-up exhibit program - Site of 3 film shoots - Increased our presence with partner organizations - Celebrated SND's 50th and the LTVCA's 65th anniversaries	- New hall - Accessibility enhancements - Museum exterior repairs - New exhibit space - Improved drainage - Relocation of trailhead kiosk - Wayfinding improvements - Replaced 4 logs and the roofs of the Heritage Log Cabins	- Pre-booked visits stabilized - Gift shop revitalization commenced - Funding relationships explored - Integrated into the LTVCA asset management plan - Drafted donor recognition program

Note: The 2022-2026 Strategic Plan was written in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, with major construction and renovations to take place during the plan period. As a result of uncertain timelines benchmarks and goals were loose in nature.

Highlights of the 2027-2031 Strategic Plan



Collections Care

Collection storage changes, digitization, and community care program updates.

Community Exhibit Program

Collaborative, temporary exhibit schedule.

Exhibit and Program Updates

Program and exhibit alignment, content integration.

Marketing and Events

Update marketing and event strategy.

Amalgamation

Integration with other Authorities and education teams.





Results of Consultation



Key Demographics	Values/Goals to Demonstrate	What Makes Us Special	What People Want to See
• Most respondents had been here in the last year • More than 50% were between the ages of 40 and 59 • Almost 75% of respondents were local community • People also come to hike • Self-guided visits • School groups • Some public	• Preservation of Indigenous Heritage • Environmentalism • Learning • Community Engagement • Accessibility and Inclusion • Truth and Reconciliation	• Re-creation village • Blending of nature and heritage • Connection to the land • Cultural belongings (artifacts) • Education programs • Hands-on experiences • The history being shared	• Representation of local Indigenous Heritage • Education Programming • Help bridge unstanding • Space for local Indigenous Communities to share • Events / workshops • Adult Learning • Hands-on options



Plan Goals

Collections Care

- The Curator will be taking on a large collections care project starting in late 2026. The intention is that this work will help enable community care practices to take place more easily.
- This will be an integrated process. Following the creation of a Digitization Plan, inventory, collections digitization, reboxing, and reorganization will take place concurrently.
- This project will span a number of years and may include special project staff such as summer staff and co-op students.
- Digital versions of some collections items may be made accessible through SND's website. As many aspects of the collection are small in nature some items may be excluded from digitization (i.e. flotation samples, utilized flakes). Sonocultural belongings will be photographed by group. Unique or large items will be photographed alone.
- Support for this work will come directly from the SND budget. The Curator will also explore grant funding opportunities to supplement the budget.



Community Exhibit Program

- A small community exhibit program began at SND in 2022. Oneida Nation of the Thames and Munsee-Delaware Nation contributed design ideas for mini-exhibits that are now installed in the Heritage Log Cabins donated by these communities. This Goal is an extension to positive community response and requests from community consultation.
- Three main objectives have been identified for this Goal:
 - The creation of three community based murals for installation at the Museum and the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre (also operated by the LTVCA).
 - A copy of the art piece will be gifted to participating groups.
 - Updated exhibits for the three Heritage Log Cabins, donated by Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation.



- Two exhibits to be co-created in collaboration with students attending Standing Stone (Oneida Nation of the Thames) and Antler River (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation).
 - A version of these exhibits will be installed at the Museum and a companion exhibit will be installed at the school.
- Timelines for these goals will be established on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with each Nation and organization.
- The Community Exhibit Program will be part of the 3 year exhibit plan cycle.
- Future co-created exhibits will be explored as part of the wrap-up of each exhibit.



Exhibit and Program Updates

- Starting in mid-2026 new exhibit cases were added to the Museum. In early 2027 content for these exhibits will be digitized for accessibility.
- As exhibits are digitized an updated inventory of artifacts on display, and their locations will be taken to ensure collections records are up-to-date.
- The LTVCA's Education team will undertake an examination of all education programs in 2027 and 2028. As programs are revitalized exhibits will be created to compliment or enhance learning goals.
- An examination of how the new Indigenous Community Learning Centre can be used to house exhibits while not in use at SND as a rental facility will be undertaken.
- A rotating mini-exhibit program is to be initiated. This will provide annual pass holders unique learning opportunities and experiences during their frequent visits.
- Exhibit updates and mini-exhibit program will be part of the 3 year exhibit plan cycle.
- Restoration and enhancement projects at the re-creation Village are scheduled to begin in 2027. Minor preparatory work has already taken place.
 - Large sections of the palisade wall are to be replaced.
 - Small structures are to be restored or replaced.
 - Enhanced accessibility considerations will be added to the Village.
 - Bark removal and longhouse frame repairs will take place on the centre longhouse.
- Log replacement is to take place on the front of the Munsee-Delaware Cabin.
- A 10 year maintenance plan for the Village and Heritage Log Cabins will to be created.



Marketing and Events

- Marketing strategy is to be assessed starting in 2027.
 - Existing strategy runs through 2028.
- A revitalized strategy will be developed to highlight the Indigenous Community Learning Centre.
 - This strategy will be created in consultation with the LTVCA's Communication Specialist.
- Establish a revitalized hands-on activities / workshops focusing on day-to-day programming rather than larger scale events. Activities and workshops should compliment Mission, Vision, and exhibits.
- Work with local tourism and promotion organizations like Tourism London, Daytripper, Keepin' It Local Strathroy, Visit Middlesex, and Ontario's Southwest.
- Connect with other regional promotion opportunities.
- Continue to provide film crews access to our spaces to amplify our brand.

Amalgamation

- Assess how amalgamation will impact operations as more information becomes available.
- Collaborate with other Authorities and associated museums to create working relationships and determine if any processes can be shared or standardized.
- Continue to promote the importance of this space and act as a steward for local Indigenous heritage.



Future Outlook

Key Benchmarks

Metric	Target Date	Status	Goal
Collections Storage Redevelopment	Fall 2029	Starting 2027	Update storage system, records check, rebox, and reshelve
Collections Digitization	Fall 2031	Starting 2027	Create Plan, initial stages during storage project, online to follow.
Host 3 community designed temporary exhibits.\	Through 2031	Contact groups early 2027	Work with 3 community groups to install exhibits on- and off-site.
Amalgamation Brainstorming	Ongoing	Initial underway	Meet and collaborate with other Authority ed. and museum teams.
Amalgamation Integration	Ongoing	2028 onwards	Increase integration and collaboration as amalgamation continues.
Marketing Plan Assessment	2029	Current Plan 2026-2028	Assess impact of past and current plan for future plan creation.
Event Partnerships	Ongoing	For 2027 calendar on	Explore new event partnerships.
Village Restoration	2027/2028	Initiated 2026	Palisade replacement, longhouse repairs, enhancements, accessibility.
Education Program Updates	2028	Initiated 2026	Storage cleaned, assess programs, redevelop / refresh as needed.
Activity Calendar	2027	Trial 2026	Revitalized activity calendar focusing on day-to-day programming

Budgeting

- The village budget, as part of the LTVCA's budget is reviewed by the Advisory Committee, forwarded to staff for review, and sent to the LTVCA Board of Directors for final approval.
- The budget and audited statements of the LTVCA (Schedule 1), including portions in relation to SND will be posted on the LTVCA website and will be made available to the public upon request, to assure accountability.
- The funds designated to the village from the LTVCA's annual budget will be administered on a daily basis by the Curator.
- Through the intergration of the Village and Museum into the LTVCA's Asset Management plan, regular maintenance has been accounted for going forward.
- Grant funding will be sought for special projects.
 - An application was submitted for assistance with for upcoming Village repair work.
 - An application will also be submitted for log replacement support.
 - Grant support allows for reallocation of funds or extending of scope of work previously planned.
- Budget allocations for work outside of normal operations will be discussed with the Manager of Corporate Services and CAO / Treasurer of the LTVCA to plan for as needs arise.
- SND is a Community Museum Operating Grant recipient. These funds are used to support museum operations.



Associated Plans



3 Year Exhibit Plan

- lays out permanent / long-term exhibit goals as well as current exhibit initiatives



3 Year Marketing Plan

- guides the marketing and advertising endeavours of SND, including: social media, traditional marketing, promotions, and metrics to track



10 Year Maintenance Plan

- Created in collaboration with the Eastern District Superintendent and reviewed by the Village Build Committee. Covers work at the Heritage Log Cabins and Village. To be created as part of the Exhibition and Program Updates Goal.



Emergency Preparedness Plan

- Integrated emergency and disaster planning system that embeds planning and preventive measures practices. Also provides guidance, critical information, and processes in the event of an emergency.



Digitization Plan

- Creation of this plan is part of the Collections Care Goal of the Strategic Plan, 2027-2031.

Note: While a schedule of revisions exists, plans are also updated on an as needed basis as new information, regulations, or renovations arise. This list does not include SND or LTVCA policies.





Thank You



519-264-2420



www.ltvca.ca



skanahdoht@ltvca.ca



8348 Longwoods Road,
Mount Brydges



9.4) LTVCA's 2026 Health and Safety Manual - Updated

Date: October 15, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Health and Safety Manual Update
From: Valerie Towsley, Watershed Resource Planner

Background

The last revision to the LTVCA's Safety Manual was undertaken in 2017. Since that time, the Personnel Policies were updated at the end of 2025 which had implications for the Manual e.g. reference wording within the Manual relating to the Policy deck. Also, additional references and inclusion of links to OHSa, Workplace Violence and Harassment, etc. were lacking. With the increase in technological use, wording to include online harassment was also necessary. Other housekeeping edits were also included when the review was undertaken of the Manual.

Engaging staff

A draft copy was circulated to the Joint Health and Safety Committee for initial input prior to a draft final copy being circulated to all staff for review and comments. Several comments were received and necessary edits were made to the Manual. [A copy of the Manual is attached separate to the agenda package.]

Recommendation:

That the 2026 LTVCA Health and Safety Manual dated October 15, 2026, be approved for LTVCA Health and Safety use, staff reference and onboarding of new staff.

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

17. Improving Staff Communications and Team Building

Respectfully Submitted:

Valerie Towsley
Watershed Resource Planner

Reviewed By:

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

9.5) Report on LTVCA 2027 Conservation Area Fee Schedule

Date: October 2, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: LTVCA 2026 Conservation Area Fee Schedule
From: Genevieve Champagne, Manager Conservation Lands and Services

The LTVCA Conservation Area Fee Schedule is reviewed and updated annually to align with our Strategic Plan but also our incurred costs to run the facilities overall. The 2027 Fee Schedule has been reviewed by staff and has a few minor updates.

Budget Implications

The E.M Warwick fee for weekends per night rate has been increased due to the fact that it was creating a scheduling conflict with our Friday-Saturday Bundled rate.

The 25 vehicles permit section was updated as the permits are created on a sheet of paper that contains 30 printable cards, this was creating unnecessary paper waste and therefore in the effort to use the entire sheet and reduce waste (as the sheet could not be reused once it went through the printer). The decision to increase the vehicle permits to 30 permits for \$60 was initiated. This is not an increase to cost overall.

Fee Schedule Changes

<u>EM Warwick</u>		
Year Round- Weekends/night	\$450	\$550
<u>Rentals</u>		
Per 25 Vehicle permits	\$50	\$60 (updated to 30 permits)

Recommended Resolution

Be it Resolved That:

The LTVCA 2027 Fee Schedule be approved for the 2027 year.

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

- 10. Improving Management and Operations of Conservation Areas
- 14. Improving Transparency and Understanding of LTVCA Operations

Respectfully Submitted:
Genevieve Champagne,
Manager Conservation Lands and Services

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

9.6) Memorandum of Understanding between LTVCA and LTVCF, and Partner MOU – Memorial Forest

Date: October 15, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **Memorandum of Understanding between LTVCA and LTVCF, and Partner MOU – Memorial Forest**
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

During a recent meeting of the Lower Thames Foundation Board of Directors, a number of members expressed concern about the unknown elements of the Amalgamated regional conservation authority that the LTVCA is transitioning into. The Board members asked that a general Memorandum of Understanding describing in writing how the Foundation and the Authority interact be prepared. Staff of the LTVCA and members of the LTVCF worked jointly to prepare this agreement. The elements of the memorandum as attached, accurately describe the relationship between the two groups.

In addition to the general memorandum of understanding a more specific one is being brought to the Board for its approval. This is a revision of an existing memorandum of understanding between the LTVCA, the LTVCF, the Tilbury Horticultural Society and McKinlay Funeral Homes to implement the memorial forest program undertaken at a number of conservation areas. This Memorandum of Understanding is being changed to include the new Campbell Conservation Area Memorial Forest.

The cost responsibilities (in money or in labour) agreed upon are consistent with the past memorandum of understand and are as follows:

1. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (landowner except for the T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest in Ridgetown and the Tilbury Northside Park Memorial Forest in Tilbury)
 - designate the planting site, the species and size of tree stock
 - site preparation, transport, plant and maintain the memorial forest trees with costs paid by the Foundation from the proceeds of the tree donations (based on annual memorial tree donations received, LTVCA to invoice the Foundation at year end for 50% of the donations)
 - replacement of any trees that die naturally, noting that trees are not plaqued or marked in any way
 - pay for the design and installation of a sign marking the Memorial Forest area
2. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (registered charity)
 - provide memorial tree certificates for families of the deceased and mail them to recipients quarterly
 - receive all tree donations and provide tax receipts accordingly. The current minimum donation request to meet costs is \$30.00 per tree dedication from McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. and \$40.00 per tree dedication from private donors.
 - pay the Conservation Authority the cost of site preparation and purchase and maintenance of trees from the donations received
 - pay for the cost of printing of tree donor cards and tree certificates
 - keep records of all tree donations and provide this information to McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. if applicable
 - pay for any large stock ceremonial trees used at the annual dedication services

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the Board of Directors authorize the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer and the Chair to sign the following agreements:

1. Memorandum of Understanding, between the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation;
2. Memorial Forests Memorandum of Understanding between the LTVCF, the LTVCA and the project partners.

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

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

AND

THE LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Whereas the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) have partnered on projects within the Lower Thames Valley,

And Whereas the LTVCA and the LTVCF wish to confirm the agreements that exist between them,

This Memorandum of Understanding confirms such agreements:

1. Memorial Forests

As set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the LTVCF, the LTVCA and the project partners, the responsibilities agreed upon are as follows:

- i). Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (landowner except for the T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest in Ridgetown and the Tilbury Northside Park Memorial Forest in Tilbury)
 - designate the planting site, the species and size of tree stock
 - site preparation, transport, plant and maintain the memorial forest trees with costs paid by the Foundation from the proceeds of the tree donations (based on annual memorial tree donations received, LTVCA to invoice the Foundation at year end for 50% of the donations)
 - replacement of any trees that die naturally, noting that trees are not ~~plagued~~ or marked in any way
 - pay for the design and installation of a sign marking the Memorial Forest area
- ii) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (registered charity)
 - provide memorial tree certificates for families of the deceased and mail them to recipients quarterly
 - receive all tree donations and provide tax receipts accordingly. The current minimum donation request to meet costs is \$30.00 per tree dedication from McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. and \$40.00 per tree dedication from private donors.
 - pay the Conservation Authority the cost of site preparation and purchase and maintenance of trees from the donations received
 - pay for the cost of printing of tree donor cards and tree certificates
 - keep records of all tree donations and provide this information to McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. if applicable
 - pay for any large stock ceremonial trees used at the annual dedication services

2. Insurance

The LTVCA has provided insurance coverage for the LTVCF as a partner for their projects and programs, covering liability issues such as Directors & Officers Insurance. The existing insurance coverage provided by the LTVCA shall continue without cost to the LTVCF.

3. Use of Facilities

The LTVCA agrees to allow the LTVCF to use their facilities for meetings of the Foundation as well as any events sponsored wholly or in part by the Foundation. If required, any additional insurance coverage shall be covered by the LTVCA. In particular, the LTVCA shall allow the use of Burwell House at Longwoods Conservation Area for meetings of the LTVCF board of directors.

4. Meetings

The LTVCA shall provide a representative to attend the meetings of the board of directors of the LTVCF as a non-voting attendee. This allows the furtherance of the relationship between the LTVCA and the LTVCF particularly since the LTVCF has provided funding for programs and projects of the LTVCA and participates in events that may be on LTVCA properties.

5. LTVCF Funds

The LTVCA acknowledges that the funds held by the LTVCF for expenditures at the Sharon Creek Conservation Area and the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail are held in trust by the LTVCF for those programs and are not funds belonging to the LTVCA. Any assets held by the LTVCF belong to the LTVCF and not the LTVCA.

6. LTVCF Independence

The LTVCA acknowledges that the LTVCF is an independent federally incorporated not-for-profit charitable organization established to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Lower Thames River Valley.

This memorandum of understanding may be amended from time to time, subject to approval of the two organizations. This agreement shall be binding on the LTVCA, the LTVCF and any of their successors or assigns.

SIGNATURES:

1. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority - Date: Oct. 1, 2026



Ken Brooks

Printed Name

Signature

2. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation Date: _____

Printed Name

Signature

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PARTNERS

MEMORIAL FORESTS in the Lower Thames Watershed

September 23, 2026

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the responsibilities of the parties to the agreement as these relate to the listed Memorial Forests within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority area of jurisdiction as of December 31, 2026.

PARTNERS:

1. McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd.
2. Tilbury and District Horticultural Society
3. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
4. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

MEMORIAL FORESTS:

Campbell Memorial Forest

- o McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. has a partnership with the Conservation Authority and the Conservation Foundation at the Campbell Memorial Forest in the Campbell Conservation Area near Merlin (Municipality of Chatham-Kent).

T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest

- o McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. has a partnership with the Conservation Authority and the Conservation Foundation at the T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest in Ridgetown (Municipality of Chatham-Kent).

Sharon Creek Memorial Forest

- o The Conservation Authority and Conservation Foundation are partners regarding Sharon Creek Memorial Forest near Delaware (Municipality of Middlesex Centre).

Rowsom's Tilbury West Memorial Forest

- o The Conservation Authority and Conservation Foundation are partners regarding Rowsom's Tilbury West Memorial Forest near Tilbury (Municipality of Chatham-Kent).

Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest

- o The Tilbury and District Horticultural Society has a partnership with the Conservation Authority and the Conservation Foundation at the Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest in Tilbury (Municipality of Chatham-Kent).

PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (landowner) (except for T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest in Ridgetown, and Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest in Tilbury)

-designate the planting site

-designate the species and size of tree stock

-site preparation, transport, plant and maintain the memorial forest trees with costs paid by the Foundation from the proceeds of the tree donations (based on annual memorial tree donations received, LTVCA to invoice the Foundation at year end for 50% of the donations)

-replacement of any trees that die naturally, note trees are not plagued or marked in any way

-pay for the design and installation of a sign marking the Memorial Forest area

-at the T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest the LTVCA will source the memorial trees and plant them in partnership with local service clubs.

2. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (registered charity)

- provide memorial tree certificates for families of the deceased and mail them to recipients quarterly
- receive all tree donations from McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. and private donors (family, friends)) and provide tax receipts accordingly. *The current minimum donation request to meet costs is \$30.00 per tree dedication from McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. and \$40.00 per tree dedication from private donors.*
- pay the Conservation Authority the cost of site preparation and purchase and maintenance of trees from the donations received
- pay for the cost of printing of tree donor cards and tree certificates
- keep records of all tree donations and provide this information to McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. if applicable
- pay for any large stock ceremonial trees used at the annual dedication services

3. McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd.

- donate the cost of one memorial tree (current value \$30) for each funeral, payable to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation and forward any private donations for memorial forest sites (current value \$40) payable to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation, both to the Foundation
- display and promote Memorial Forest donation cards at the 3 McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. locations
- pertaining to the Campbell Memorial Forest - if desired by McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd., organize in partnership with the Foundation and the LTVCA an annual dedication service on a mutually agreed upon date, open to the public at no charge (paying all associated costs e.g. tent rental, PA system, programs, invitations and their mailing, refreshments, ads in local papers, comfort stations and tables (if needed)).
- McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. hold their own independent, annual service at T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest in Ridgetown. - at the T.R.E.E.S. Memorial Forest the LTVCA will source the memorial trees and plant them in partnership with local service clubs.

4. Tilbury and District Horticulture Society

- if desired by Tilbury and District Horticulture Society, organize in partnership with the Foundation and the LTVCA an annual dedication service on a mutually agreed upon date, open to the public at no charge (paying all associated costs if applicable e.g. tent rental, PA system, programs, invitations and their mailing, refreshments, ads in local papers, comfort stations, tables, etc.)
- promote the memorial forest program within the local community

This 'memorandum of understanding' may be amended from time to time, subject to approval of the four organizations. The terms of the memorandum of understanding will continue until any one of the parties requests it ends with a 6-month notice.

SIGNATURES:

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------------|
| 1. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority | _____ | Date: _____ |
| 2. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation | _____ | Date: _____ |
| 3. McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. | _____ | Date: _____ |
| 4. Tilbury & District Horticultural Society | _____ | Date: _____ |

9.7) Transition Committee Non-Disclosure Agreement Report

Date: October 15, 2026
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: **Transition Committee Non-Disclosure Agreement Report**
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

During its meeting of August 2026, the Board of Directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) appointed two members to represent the LTVCA on the Transition Committee. This committee will oversee the preparations to create the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority out of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. It is very important that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority be represented on this committee as decisions will impact this watershed, its municipalities and its residents.

As Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority representatives on the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Transition Committee, Sarah Bod and Mark Peacock have been asked to sign a general all encompassing nondisclosure agreement (NDA). This agreement is not specific to potentially reasonable confidential information. Additionally, it made the representatives personally responsible for breaches of the agreement with no end to that responsibility.

Sarah Bod and Mark Peacock are representatives appointed by the Board of the Conservation Authority to this committee and are responsible to the Board on how issues of transition are addressed. There are reasonable requirements for confidentiality but a over reaching gag order will not allow committee members to report to our Board on recommendations made by the Transition Committee. With legal support, LTVCA representatives requested that a more reasonable approach be found (e.g. confidentiality consistent with issues requiring closed session under the Municipal Act, and MFIPPA). Upon receiving the agreement, committee members from the LTVCA refused to sign documents, with the approval of the chair. In any case LTVCA representatives will not be signing the agreement until directed to do so by our Boards.

Due to our concerns, the following has been undertaken:

1. A legal review of the non-disclosure agreement has been undertaken and that review recommended that we not sign the agreement,
2. A revised non-disclosure agreement has been prepared by the province,
3. A legal review of the new non-disclosure agreement has been undertaken and that review recommended that we not sign the agreement,
4. The Project Executive has prepared a letter providing clarity on the reporting to the board and the issue of personal liability of committee members,
5. A draft board resolution has been prepared to further clarify the liability issue.

The representatives of the Board believe that it is crucial to remain on the Transition Committee and represent the concerns of the LTVCA in the amalgamation. Due to this fact they recommend that the Board direct the representatives to sign the revised non-disclosure agreement. The representatives do not agree with the non-disclosure agreement but are willing to sign it at the direction of the Board of Directors.

Recommended Resolution:

WHEREAS the Board appointed the Vice-Chair and CAO to the Transition Committee on the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) behalf who have knowledge and experience to act in the LTVCA's best interests (the "Appointees");

WHEREAS the Appointees have been asked to sign a Confidentiality Undertaking (the "Undertaking") that bars them from discussing Transition Committee deliberations with the Authority's Board, staff, and municipalities without authorization of the Project Executive;

WHEREAS the Authority has asked the Project Executive, as Chair of the Transition Committee, to provide a letter (the "Authorization Letter") clarifying the Undertaking as it relates to the definition of confidential information, limiting the Appointees' personal liability, and permitting them to communicate with the Authority's Board and municipal members;

WHEREAS the Board wishes to authorize the Appointees to execute the Undertaking and Authorization Letter;

WHEREAS the Appointees may believe that they are being forced to sign the Undertaking to ensure representation on the Transition Committee, thereby providing LTVCA input into the transition process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A) **THAT** the Appointees are authorized to sign the Undertaking and Authorization Letter in their capacity as Appointees of the Authority under the Conservation Authorities Act, and

B) **THAT** the Authority shall indemnify and hold harmless each Appointee, and each former Appointee, from and against all claims, demands, actions, proceedings, liabilities, losses, damages, judgments, settlements, costs, and expenses, including legal fees and disbursements on a full indemnity basis, incurred by or made against the Appointee arising out of or in connection with: (a) the Appointee's service on the Transition Committee; (b) the Confidentiality Undertaking, in whatever form it is ultimately executed, and receipt of the Authorization Letter; or (c) any act or omission of the Appointee in the exercise or performance, or intended exercise or performance, of their powers, duties, or functions as a member of the Transition Committee.

To the appointed members of the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Transition Committee (the "Committee").

As Project Executive for the Western Lake Erie RCA and chair of the Transition Committee (the "Committee"), I would like to share the following in regard to the Confidentiality Undertaking, which is to be signed by all participating 'Committee' members.

Committee members will have access to confidential or sensitive operational and transition information. As such, members are expected to maintain confidentiality and ensure that information is accessed, used and shared only as required to support the Working Group's mandate and in accordance with applicable information management requirements.

Consistent with the guidance provided within S. 239 of the *Municipal Act*, particular care will be taken with sensitive agreements, property and asset information, HR Matters and personal information, legal advice, and donor or restricted-fund information. This further includes information subject to legal privilege or other confidentiality requirements that we already follow in our professional capacity as representatives of our organization.

The Confidentiality Undertaking is not intended to limit transparency, prevent engagement, or discourage communication with your board, staff, municipal partners, or broader community. I have provided further understandings and processes below as they relate to the Confidentiality Undertaking:

1. **Confirming confidential matters.** Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) restricts or prohibits disclosure of information based on defined exemptions. Clarification on sensitive information that shall be deemed confidential will be discussed and agreed upon prior to the end of each Committee meeting. This discussion will identify information committee members feel is important to share back. Based on these discussions, Project Executives will prepare 'Progress Updates' after each Committee meeting on the transition progress and achievements, which will be available to share with our boards, staff, partners and community.
2. **Disclosing Confidential Information.** You may disclose Confidential Information of your Authority which is already internal and privileged to your Authority, to the Board of Directors of your Authority, senior staff of the Authority as considered necessary by you, legal counsel, auditors and insurers of the Authority.
3. **Non-confidential matters.** Confidential Information does not include information that is or becomes publicly available, other than as a result of a breach of the Confidentiality Undertaking, was lawfully known to you or the Authority prior to its disclosure by or on behalf of the Committee, or is independently developed by you or your Authority.
4. **No personal liability.** Nothing in this Authorization limits subsection 39.2(1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. You shall have no liability under the Confidentiality Undertaking as Committee member except in respect of a wilful breach. The *Conservation Authorities Act* states:

No cause of action arises against any current or former member, director, officer, volunteer, employee or agent of the Agency, any person appointed as a member or project executive of a transition committee established by the Agency under section 1.6 or any person appointed to a council, committee or other body established by the Agency under section 35.11 for any act done in good faith in the exercise or performance, or intended exercise or performance, of the person's powers, duties or functions under this Act or for any alleged neglect, default or other omission in the exercise or performance in good faith of those powers, duties or functions.

5. **Representative.** You have signed the Confidentiality Undertaking in your capacity as an appointee of your Conservation Authority, to the Transition Committee, not personally. This is consistent with Item #4 above.

**CONFIDENTIALITY UNDERTAKING:
Conservation Authorities Transition Committees**

WHEREAS Confidential Information (as defined hereto) related to the **Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority** transition committee's ("Transition Committee") work to prepare the affected conservation authorities for the amalgamation into the regional conservation authority on February 1st, 2027 (or such later date that may be prescribed by regulation) will be discussed and provided to members of the Transition Committee, _____ [INSERT Name, Title, Organization] in their capacity as a member or employee of the _____ Conservation Authority and member of the Transition Committee (referred to as the "Recipient"), undertakes to strictly maintain and preserve the confidentiality of the Confidential Information in accordance with this Undertaking.

NOW THEREFORE The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that it shall adhere to the following provisions.

1. "Confidential Information" includes all information provided to or by the Transition Committee, the Transition Committee's agendas and minutes, all discussions and deliberations of the Transition Committee, any products produced by the Transition Committee, and any information provided by any member of the Transition Committee.
2. The Recipient shall not directly or indirectly disclose any Confidential Information, except as required by law, without first obtaining the written consent of the CEO of OPCA, their delegate, or Chair of the Transition Committee. This does not include information described in paragraph 3 below.
3. Information will be prepared for disclosure to the members' respective conservation authority but the Recipient shall only disclose such information in accordance with instructions from the Chair of the Transition Committee.
4. The Recipient acknowledges that the Confidential Information being disclosed to the Recipient is to be used only for the purposes of participating on the Transition Committee. The Recipient undertakes not to use the Confidential Information for any other purpose.
5. The Recipient acknowledges that breach of this Confidentiality Undertaking may cause irreparable harm to Ontario or any third party to which Ontario owes a duty of confidence, and that the injury to Ontario or any third party may be difficult to calculate and inadequately compensable in damages.
6. The Recipient agrees that Ontario is entitled to obtain injunctive relief (without proving any damage sustained by it or by any third party) and any other remedy for any actual or potential breach of this Confidentiality Undertaking.
7. Ontario continues to claim the benefit of any and all privileges, including advice to Cabinet and solicitor-client privilege that may apply to the Confidential Information. Ontario does not waive any privilege it may claim in the Confidential Information by providing it to the Recipient.
8. This Confidentiality Undertaking shall be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada applicable therein, and is subject to the provisions of the *Ontario Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, F-31, as amended.

9. The obligations of the Recipient pursuant to this Confidentiality Undertaking shall survive the termination of the Transition Committee.

DATED this ____ day of _____, _____.
Month Year

Name, Title, Organization

Signature: _____

September 18, 2026

Dear Transition Committee Members:

I would like to thank you for agreeing to serve on your regional Transition Committee. Your membership is a meaningful opportunity to help ensure local knowledge, expertise and interests shape a successful transition to regional conservation authorities, ensuring local service continuity.

Significant work has been done to get us to this point. Transition Committees will be guided by detailed work plans and resources designated for specific work streams to support transition planning activities. This structured and organized approach is intended to ensure a smooth and timely consolidation.

As members of Transition Committees, you will have access to information that is sensitive and confidential. This will include financial, legal, human resources, operational, and other confidential information.

Committee members must be confident that information, deliberations and discussions shared within the committee will remain protected as needed. Unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information or inaccurate communication could undermine planning efforts, create confusion, be taken out of context, compromise legal or human resource matters, and ultimately disrupt the successful transition we are all working to achieve.

At the same time, transparency remains a fundamental part of this process. Each Transition Committee will have a discussion at the end of every meeting to identify information committee members feel is important to share back. Based on these discussions, Project Executives will prepare regular updates on transition progress, key milestones, and achievements. These progress updates are intended to support communication with staff, boards, stakeholders, and communities. As information becomes appropriate for broader sharing, it will be communicated through coordinated channels, allowing Transition Committee members to continue serving effectively.

To provide clarity and help ensure there is a common understanding of the intent and effect, a revised Confidentiality Undertaking is attached to this letter for your signature.

I appreciate that confidentiality obligations can sometimes raise questions or concerns. The Confidentiality Undertaking is not intended to limit transparency, prevent engagement, or discourage communication with your board, staff, municipal partners, or broader community. I encourage you to view this requirement not as a restriction on communication, but as a safeguard that enables effective planning while preserving

transparency. Our shared objective is a transition that is timely and successful, and protecting sensitive information is an important part of achieving that goal.

Thank you again for your commitment and willingness to contribute your expertise during this important planning work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hassaan", written in a cursive style.

Hassaan Basit
CEO
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

10. Business for Information

10.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: October 15, 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.

The following work has been completed to date:

Talbot Creek Flood Plain Study

During the last weeks of August, three significant rainfall events (1:100 and over 1:250 yr events) have occurred in the Township of Southwold. This has created significant hardship for area residents and also provided staff with a significant amount of flood data. LTVCA staff are working with municipal staff to support residents in recovery from the events. A public meeting was held at the Southwold Keystone Complex on August 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the flood plain project and recent flooding with area residents. Meetings with residents continue.

The Steering Committee has received and reviewed the Data Collection Report for the study and will shortly receive the Hydrology Analysis.

South Chatham Flood Plain Mapping Study

LTVCA staff have prepared a HEC-RAS model of the diversion channel and provided this to the consultant. The consultant has completed the Data Collection Report for the project, and this report has been reviewed by the Steering Committee and the Peer Reviewer. The consultant will shortly submit the hydrology analysis for the study.

LTVCA communications staff have prepared a draft communications plan for the project, and this was approved by the project steering committee for implementation. A public meeting to review the project will be undertaken in November. As a number of the newer residents in the South Chatham area are unaware of flood plain issues, this will be a good learning opportunity for the community.

Thames River Phase 1 Flood Plain Mapping Study

The consultant has completed the Background Data Report for the project. This has been reviewed by the Steering Committee and the Peer Reviewer. Revisions to the report are ongoing. The draft hydrology analysis is nearing completion and will shortly be reviewed by LTVCA engineering staff and the peer reviewer.

LTVCA communications staff have prepared a draft communications plan for the project, and this was approved by the project steering committee for implementation. A public meeting to review the project will be undertaken in November.

Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Staff continue to undertake significant work to meet the requirements of the province with regard to the amalgamation of Conservation Authorities. Work has included:

1. Meetings with partners and other stakeholders concerned about how the amalgamation will affect them moving forward.
2. Attending Transition Committee Meetings (2 meetings to date and 3 more proposed).
3. Helping to establish staff working groups to support the transition.
4. Continued meetings with Project Executive and GM/CAOs of the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority.
5. Additional meetings with Davin Heinbuck, Project Executive, for the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority.

Further reports and presentations will be provided to the Board by the Project Executive in the form of project updates 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

10.2) Water Management

10.2.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

Flood Messaging and Flood Events

There have been three flood messages issued since the last written report to the Board of Directors in August. There were two Watershed Condition Statement – Flood Outlook messages issued on September 2nd, and 3rd. These messages were issued because Environment Canada had issued Severe Thunderstorm Watches for the watershed, at a time when the ground was already saturated from recent rains.

The third message, which was actually the first issued on August 7th, was a Flood Warning issued for the Township of Southwold. This flood event was discussed in a presentation at the last Board of Directors meeting in August. The following is a brief summary for the written record. Five days earlier, on August 2nd, the region had seen a significant rain, with the St. Thomas area seeing 75 mm of rain and reports in the Fingal area of over 100 mm. Around 5:45 am, a weather system developed over Southwold. Rather than moving on, the system kept redeveloping over the community. Over the next 2 hours, substantial amounts of rain fell on the community, mostly centred on Fingal. A private rain gauge in the community reported 144 mm between 6:15 am and 10:00 am, with 133 mm of that falling between 6:30 am and 8:00 am. The return period for a 1:250-year event is estimated to be 84 mm in 2 hours. Therefore, the rainfall far exceeded any infrastructure designed for the community. Significant flooding was experienced in the community, especially in the Fingal area, and the Township of Southwold issued a State of Emergency that morning. Due to the very localized nature of the rainfall, there was not enough overall flow in Talbot Creek downstream of Southwold to cause significant flooding in Dutton-Dunwich. Nor was there flooding in the adjacent Kettle Creek Conservation Authority which has jurisdiction over other watercourses in Southwold.

There were no issues with high flows on the Thames River, and no issues were reported on the shoreline of Lake Erie or Lake St. Clair. This report was drafted before the large event of August 7th which impacted the Township of Southwold.

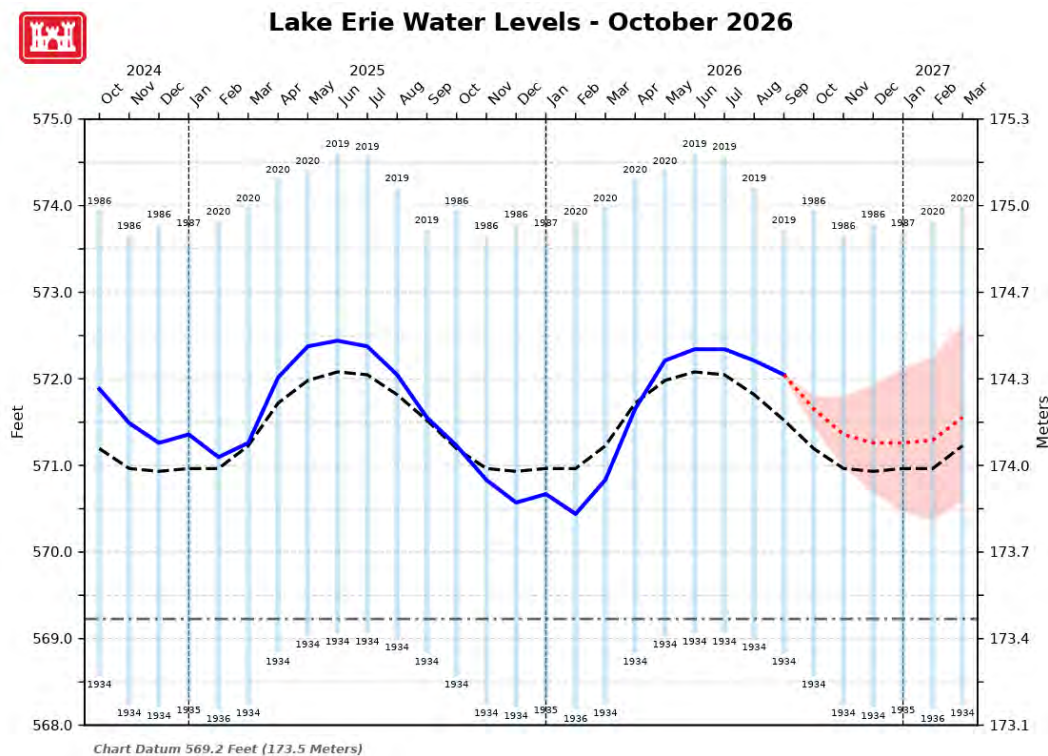
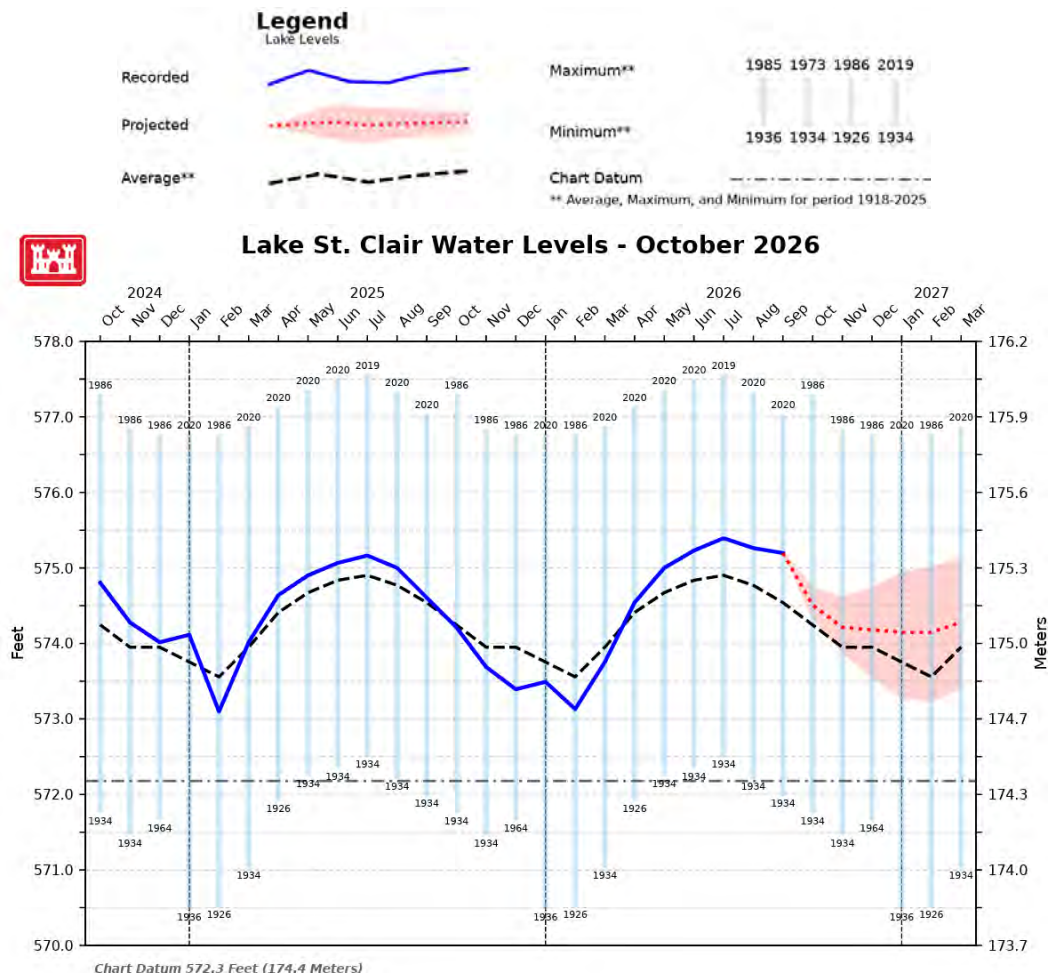
Report on Lake Conditions

Average daily lake levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of October were around 174.30 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for October was 174.94 m, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of October were 20 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of October. Water levels are predicted to drop around 13 cm by the beginning of November.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of October were around 175.23 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for October was 175.96, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of October were 20 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of October. Water levels are predicted to drop around 18 cm by the beginning of November.

Water levels on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie had been slightly below their long-term averages for the first few months of 2026. However, April saw very rapid rises in water levels on all the Great Lakes. Water levels on both lakes are now back above their long-term average. The long-range forecasts of lake levels suggested that Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair will see above average water levels over the next 6 months. Currently, lake levels are not expected to get high enough to cause significant flooding issues.

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 October.



10.2.2) Flood Control Structures

The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel has not been operated since the last Board of Directors report. The annual mowing and tree/brush maintenance program for the Diversion Channel is underway. Regular maintenance also continues for Sharon Dam.

10.2.3) Low Water Response Program

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

When looking at the 3-month rainfall totals, all gauges except one showed rainfall totals above the Low Water Response program criteria. The only gauge that didn't had 22 days missing from the data record. The general pattern over the last few months has been, July was quite dry, August saw above normal rainfall, while September was more variable across the region.

Average flows on the Thames River over the last month were also above the Low Water Response program criteria. Using median flows rather than mean flows, McGregor Creek was above the LASF. However, it should be noted that, by the end of the September, flows on the Thames River had fallen below the lower quartile. Conditions will continue to need to be monitored as river flows could fall even further next month if there isn't enough rain.

It is the 18-month rainfall indicator that suggests dry conditions in the Lower Thames River watershed. Of the 7 gauges examined, all the gauges showed 18-month rainfall totals in the Level 1 Low Water Condition range. Based on program guidance, the LTVCA should declare a Low Water Level 1 Condition. While it is not clear that this longer-term rainfall deficit has more impact around the watershed than the short-term 3-month rainfall, this longer-term deficit should still be recognized. As the growing season is wrapping up, it is not clear what impact this longer-term deficit may have. While a Level 1 Low Water Condition, usually involves asking water users to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 10%, it is not clear that this is necessary. As the growing season wraps up, there will naturally be less consumption of water around the watershed.

At the time this report was written, the LTVCA was still waiting to see if there were any comments from the Low Water Response Team. The recommendation was to declare a Level 1 Low Water Condition, based on the 18-month rainfall totals. However, another recommendation was to hold off on public communications around water reductions until more obvious impacts are observed.

Further information on the Provincial Low Water Response Program can be found at:

<https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/webapps/swmc/low-water-response/>

10.2.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed-wide surface water quality monitoring continues at 22 sites throughout the watershed. In addition to regularly scheduled sampling, staff are attempting to capture event-based runoff when it occurs.

Event sampling is unpredictable, but the automation of samplers has made it possible to capture summer thunderstorms. Telemetry upgrades have now been made at the Deary and Dauphin municipal pump stations. These upgrades allow the autosamplers to be programmed and triggered remotely, allowing for better timing of the sampling in relation to rainfall events. Surface water quality sampling is funded by the MECP through the PWQMN program as well as a grant through the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA).

The LTVCA and MECP have recently signed a new agreement to continue the COA grant funding. The new agreement covers much of the same monitoring program as the previous agreement. This new agreement is a two-year agreement set to expire at the end of the March 2028. The LTVCA is very appreciative of this funding being provided by the MECP.

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

The Health Canada contract is also up for renewal. Due to the federal government's changing requirements, this contract has now been posted for public tender. Health Canada staff have encouraged the LTVCA to bid on the contract given our prior experience and knowledge of the watershed. LTVCA staff are currently working on our application for this continued funding.

Several additional sampling runs have also been undertaken with an algae sensor to see whether there were any concerns yet regarding blue-green algae blooms. Additional information about algae blooms can be found in the next section.

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program also continues. LTVCA staff maintain the sites and download the information from data loggers. Recently, 2 barometric pressure loggers had to be removed and returned to the manufacturer under warranty. These loggers have now been redeployed. Water quality sampling for the wells is scheduled for late October or early November.

10.2.5) Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

Lake Erie Blooms

During the bloom season, the operation at NOAA Lake Erie HAB Forecast provides the current extent and 5-day outlooks of where the bloom will travel and what concentrations are likely to be seen, allowing managers to determine whether to take preventative actions. At the time this agenda was drafted, the most recent Forecast was from October 7th (see forecast below).

The cyanobacteria bloom present in western Lake Erie appears to have migrated into the open lake. There is a band of relatively low to medium cyanobacteria concentrations from Monroe, MI, extending ESE into the lake before turning NE and extending up to Kingsville and Leamington. There are observable bloom concentrations present in Sandusky Bay and in Rondeau Bay. Current modelling predicts that the bloom will persist over the next week. However, with the arrival of colder temperatures, blooms rarely persist past early November.

Thames River Blooms

The LTVCA now has an active program for monitoring algae blooms on the Thames River. Monitoring for potential algae blooms is conducted by LTVCA staff with an algae sensor, when the potential for a bloom seems to exist. Regularly scheduled algae testing is conducted together with the surface water quality monitoring program. If any algae is noticed at other times, additional algae sampling days will be added. No blooms large enough to be detected and followed up on have been reported for the Thames River yet this year.

Other Reported Blooms

There have been no new reported blooms since the last Board of Directors report. (refer to attached NCCOS report)

Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

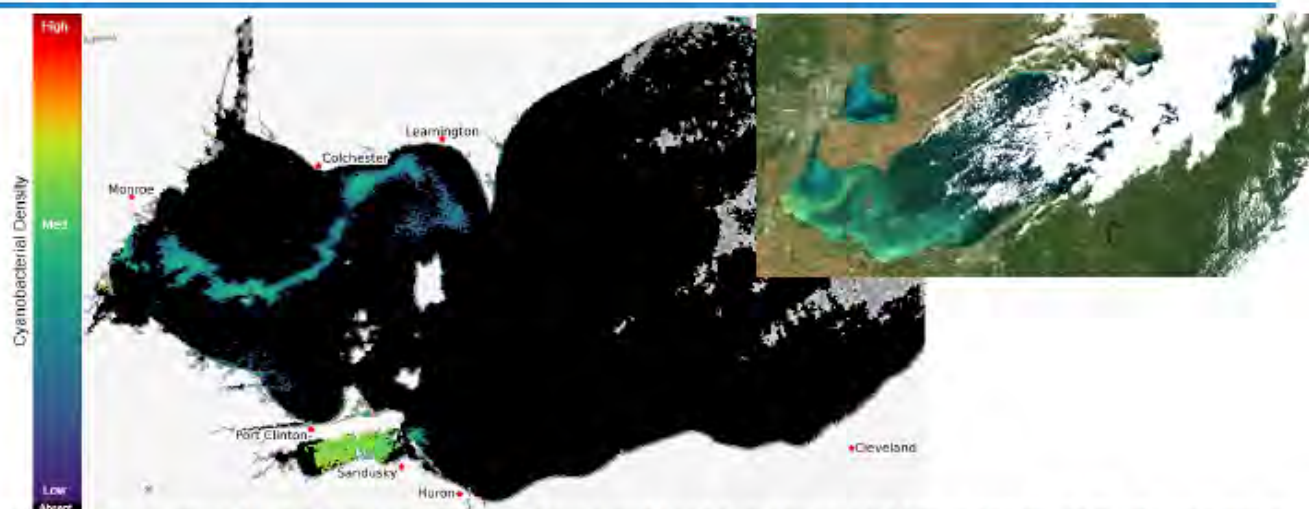
2026-10-07

Summary

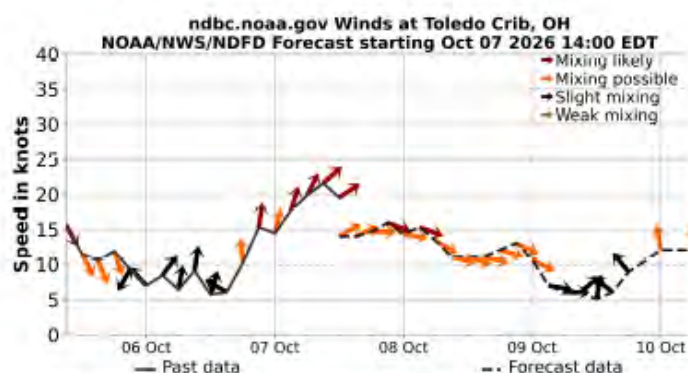
The cyanobacteria bloom is present in western Lake Erie but cloud cover or winds above 9.0 mph prevent determining the area. As of 05 Oct satellite imagery showed a band of relatively low to medium cyanobacteria concentrations from Monroe, MI to Leamington, ON, CA. Patches of the bloom may still be present close to the Michigan and Ohio shore, including in Maumee Bay. Weekly high resolution imagery of Maumee Bay can also be found at [the Demonstration Great Lakes \(20m\) HAB Monitoring Page](#). Toxins have been detected below the recreational limit in western Lake Erie. They can be highly concentrated in scums! If you see scum, keep your pets and yourself out of the water. In the satellite imagery or bloom forecast position products, any areas that are orange or red are likely to have scum, especially during calm winds, see Mixing Forecast product.

— Hounshell 06 Oct. 2026

The past few days of imagery can be seen at [the HAB monitoring site](#). The Lake Erie Forecast is operated by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. Contact hab@noaa.gov for technical Questions. Model Last Updated: 2026-10-07 01 PM EST

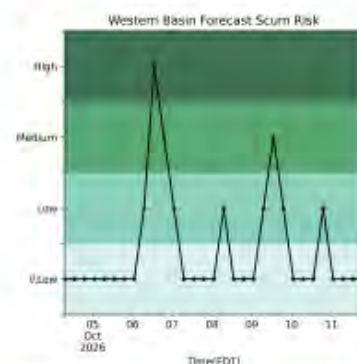


Current Lake Erie Sentinel-3 satellite imagery from the Ocean and Land Color Imager (OLCI) on Oct 04, 2026, showing bloom location and extent in the western basin. Grey indicates clouds or missing data. The estimated threshold of cyanobacteria detection is 20,000 cells/mL. Inset shows an enhanced truecolor image of the entire lake. Data derived from Copernicus Sentinel-3.



Wind speed and direction from ToledoCrib, OH. Blooms mix through water column at wind speeds > 15 knots.

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



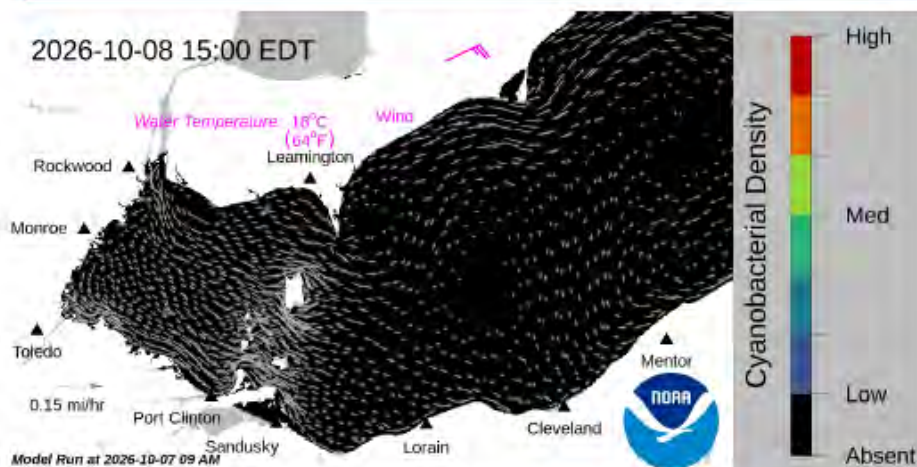
Where the bloom is present in western Lake Erie, the potential risk of scum.

1305 East West Hwy, Rm 8110
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
coastalscience.noaa.gov

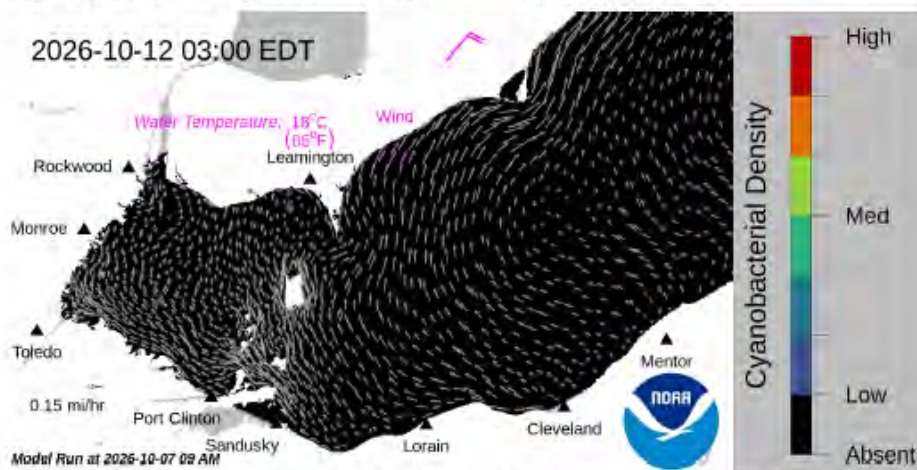
[f](#) [x](#) [in](#) [noaa.coastalsci](#) | [@noaa.coastalsci](#)

Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast

2026-10-07



Forecast surface bloom position for Oct 08, modeled from the last satellite image with water currents estimated from the Lake Erie Operational Forecast System (LEOFS). Potential for bloom movement is forecast in 3-dimensions with a hydrodynamic model using satellite imagery and currents. The modeled output does not contain clouds. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.



Forecast surface bloom position for Oct 11. Black indicates the absence of chlorophyll and gray indicates area with no data. The arrows show forecasted currents. Water temperature and winds (in magenta) are the averages for the western basin from the model.

Additional resources:

- [Archived Lake Erie Forecasts](#)
- [More information](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Contributors and Data Providers](#)
- [Lake Erie HAB Forecast Guide](#)

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

1305 East West Hwy, Rm 8110
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
coastalscience@noaa.gov

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10.2.6) Geographic Information Systems

The LTVCA's GIS Technician was recently engaged to help determine the extent of flooding that occurred in the community of Fingal on August 7th. Using photographs and drone footage, an estimated extent of flooding was determined. Maps were then created and brought to a community Open House on August 26th.

Updates to the LTVCA's Natural Heritage layer have also been undertaken. Based on 2025 orthophotography, natural heritage features have been updated. This layer has been provided to Chatham-Kent and discussions have continued regarding its use by the municipality for inclusion in a future Official Plan update, and/or for use in their natural asset management plan.

Work continues on updating 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. In addition to this, ArcGIS Online will no longer be supporting the back end management service on which the online web portal runs. LTVCA's GIS Technician has had to recreate the web portal using ArcGIS Online's updated services.

Regular activities that support LTVCA staff with their GIS needs also continue, such as fulfilling data requests, the creation of additional data layers, custom mapping products, and other GIS products.

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

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.3.1) Planning

From the end of July through to the end of September 2026, there were 34 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 27 phone calls and over 198 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2025 Totals	Jan 2026 Totals	Feb 2026 Totals	Mar 2026 Totals	April 2026 Totals	May 2026 Totals	June 2026 Totals	July 2026 Totals	Aug 2026 Totals	Sept 2026 Totals
Chatham-Kent	178	13	7	31	11	18	10	9	5	14
Elgin	42	6	3	1	3	3	3	3	5	3
Essex	15	0	1	1	0	5	0	2	0	1
Middlesex	39	5	10	3	2	10	2	4	4	2
Total Numbers	274	24	21	36	16	36	15	18	14	20

Planning Fees

There were no planning submission fees received from member municipalities for the time period between August 1, 2026, through to September 30, 2026. There have been 6 legal inquiries received in August and September 2026 totaling \$750.00.

MUNICIPALITY	AUG 1, 2026 TO SEPT 30, 2026	2026 TOTAL	2025 TOTAL
Chatham-Kent			\$450.00
Elgin County			
Southwold		\$13,645.00	\$23,645.00
Dutton Dunwich		\$1,090.00	
West Elgin		\$4,060.00	
Essex County			
Lakeshore			
Middlesex County			
Middlesex Centre			
YTD Total		\$18,795.00	\$24,095.00

10.3.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

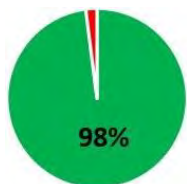
With respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and its associated regulation, Ontario Regulation 41/24, the LTVCA received a total of 47 new permit applications in the months of August and September. The total number of permit applications received thus far in 2026 is 261.

Of the new applications and, combined with previously submitted “incomplete” applications, a total of 47 applications were deemed to be “complete” in August and September and could be reviewed for permitting. Those 47 applications were in addition to the previous queue of 14 “complete” applications leading into this reporting period. 57 of the 61 “complete” applications were processed and all but one were approved by staff with or without conditions. One was approved by the Executive Committee as a result of a Hearing. As of the end of September, four “complete” applications were in the queue for processing. One of the applications in the queue had Hearings with the Executive Committee held on July 29th and August 20th, but a formal decision hasn’t been made or provided yet.

\$59,950 in permit application & hearing fees had been, or were to be, collected as of the end of September.

10.3.3) 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 August and September, the average response time with respect to this was four days (ranging between 0 and 85 days). 98% of all applications met the provincially required timeline for a “completeness” response.

Permit Processing:

For applications issued in August and September, the table and charts below indicate that 100% of “routine” applications and 96% of “minor” applications met their applicable LTVCA customer service standard for turnaround time. The single “major” permit application did not meet its LTVCA customer service standard for turnaround time. That application required a hearing which took a significant amount of time to arrange.

Routine Applications:



For the months of August and September, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was one day (ranged between 0 and 6 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 August and September, the average turnaround time was nine days (ranged between 0 and 43 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.

Major Applications:



For the months of August and September, the single “major” permit application turnaround time was 131 days. The application required a hearing which took a significant amount of time to arrange. The LTVCA’s customer service standard for major complexity permits is a turnaround within 28 days. The processing time for the major permit application did not meet the LTVCA’s customer service target.

10.3.4) Property Inquiries:

As of the end of September, 1,747 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation inquiries) were received and responded to by the Regulations Officer which is 431 more since the last board report. The August and September inquiries were responded to with 608 e-mails, 42 phone calls, and 13 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 five business days for both e-mails and phone calls. The length of time to respond to e-mails and return phone calls has improved since the last board report.

10.3.5) Policies & Procedures Update:

Given the current workload, there has been no work completed on the Policy & Procedures Manual and, therefore, no additional municipal or public consultations on the Manual have been undertaken. The Manual hasn’t been updated since the original draft from the March 2024 board meeting. The Manual still requires multiple new sections and revisions to meet the requirements of Section 12 of Ontario Regulation 41/24. At the end of September, staff started to re-visit the manual to work on the required updates and missing sections.

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 but no further work has progressed.

10.3.6) Section 28 Enforcement:

In the first nine months of 2026, 19 complaints / tips were received from the public about possible enforcement issues. This is four more than the previous board report.

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

10.3.7) Permit Decisions in August and September 2026

Permit Decisions in August and up to September 28, 2026 B.D. 10/15/2026

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
097-2026	21946 Port Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 05, 2026	131
157-2026	1060 Powell Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	1
194-2026	8876 Willey Road	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Aug 12, 2026	43
198-2026	24 St. Michael Avenue	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 05, 2026	9
200-2026	24365 Crinan Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Aug 12, 2026	26
201-2026	24479 Crinan Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Aug 12, 2026	16
202-2026	818 Quenneville Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	21
203-2026	95 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	20
204-2026	605 Indian Creek Road West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	13
206-2026	22499 Gray Line, Site M10	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	18
208-2026	33537 Scotch Line	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	13
209-2026	19125 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	12
210-2026	555 Tweedsmuir Avenue West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	0
211-2026	18525 Tecumseh Line	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	6
212-2026	18484 McKinlay Road	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 05, 2026	6
214-2026	24 Sherwood Court	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 27, 2026	7
215-2026	21704 Fleming Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Aug 17, 2026	7
216-2026	20 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 11, 2026	1
217-2026	1431 County Road 14	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Aug 12, 2026	1
218-2026	3733 Middle Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 12, 2026	1
219-2026	11332 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 28, 2026	7
220-2026	62 Erie Street North	Ridgetown	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 13, 2026	14
221-2026	85, 87, and 89 King Street West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 28, 2026	15
222-2026	103 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 28, 2026	11
223-2026	111 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 28, 2026	11
224-2026	10463 Coyne Road	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Aug 28, 2026	11
225-2026	Jeffery Drain 2026	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Aug 28, 2026	17
226-2026	38 Paulus Road	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 18, 2026	0
227-2026	6810 Rue Des Erables (Grande River Line)	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 10, 2026	16
229-2026	52 Rossini Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Aug 27, 2026	0
230-2026	22499 Gray Line, Site O7	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Sept 11, 2026	8
231-2026	15360 McDonald Line	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 01, 2026	7
232-2026	125 Rhone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 01, 2026	4
233-2026	129 Rhone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 01, 2026	4
235-2026	299 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 08, 2026	6
236-2026	179 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 08, 2026	6
237-2026	23 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 08, 2026	6
238-2026	19125 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Sept 22, 2026	20
239-2026	355 Junction Avenue	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 03, 2026	0

Permit Decisions in August and up to September 28, 2026 B.D. 10/15/2026

240-2026	50 Windsor Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 04, 2026	1
App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
241-2026	4896 Talbot Trail	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 08, 2026	0
242-2026	400 Park Avenue West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 18, 2026	8
243-2026	83 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 18, 2026	8
244-2026	151 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 18, 2026	8
245-2026	9560 Pioneer Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 21, 2026	11
247-2026	5911 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 14, 2026	1
248-2026	183 Ironwood Trail	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 21, 2026	6
249-2026	10 Queensway Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 23, 2026	7
250-2026	28 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 21, 2026	4
251-2026	25362 Big Pointe Road	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 21, 2026	4
252-2026	21475 Muskie Lane	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Sept 23, 2026	1
254-2026	19071 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Sept 22, 2026	0
255-2026	5597 Tecumseh Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 23, 2026	0
256-2026	2016 to 2040 Longwoods Road	Wardsville	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Sept 28, 2026	4
257-2026	8886 Pioneer Line	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 28, 2026	5
258-2026	274 Colborne Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 28, 2026	0
260-2026	19 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Sept 30, 2026	0

10.4) Conservation Lands

10.4.1) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Longwoods Road Conservation Area staff have been very busy and with the grand opening occurring on September 23rd, the land staff have created a beautiful entrance to the improved Indigenous Community Learning Centre. The side of the building was landscaped to meet the needs of heavy rainfalls with a dry riverbed, the front bee pavilion was moved to the entrance of the Carey trail and two memorial benches line the pathway to the building in memory of Dave Little and Bruce Clark who spent their careers dedicated to the care and maintenance of the LTVCA, and finally the landscaping around the learning centre has been completed and capped off with a beautifully designed wooden welcome sign for the building informing visitors of the village and museum.

The cabin roofs have been restored and to look at them you would never know they are not original as they match so impeccably that it ties everything together so well. More on this is noted in our education section.

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

C.M Wilson Conservation Area has been a busy place this summer. The staff continue to work with our education staff on our improvements to the Indigenous Gardens, the rangers engaged campers and C.M Wilson received a new playground with special thanks to the EASE Grant, Trevor Thompson, Amy Finn and John Wright through their community funding and then our community donors are The McGeachy Foundation, South Kent Trails and Mainstreet Credit Union. New signage is underway to update the older signage and to recognize the donors.

The furnace has been installed and is up and running.

However, the water system still has a few kinks in the system that staff are working on figuring out at this time. It has caused a few boil water advisories, however, we believe we know the source of the issue and are working on the solution.

Rivard Dam

The Diversion Channel re-alignment is still currently with our lawyers and is being sorted out while the land transfer process occurs.

Watershed Events

September 23 (Occurred)	Resource Centre and Hall Grand Opening	Longwoods Road CA
October 9 th 10am-11:30am	Conservation Area Grand Opening	Five Maples CA
October 6 th -8 th	Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water festival	CM Wilson CA
October 13 th (14 th Raindate)	Annual Cross Country Event	Longwoods Road CA

October 17-25 th (Tentatively)	New Playground Grand Opening	CM Wilson CA
Spring 2027	Conservation Area Grand Opening	Campbell CA

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

9. Providing Opportunities for Outdoor Experiences
10. Improving Management and Operations of Conservation Areas

10.5) Conservation Services

10.5.1) General Update

Urban Stewardship

The Urban Stewardship Program has continued to have a very busy field season, with a strong focus on community tree planting, pollinator habitat, and the implementation of the SNAP program. Two TD Tree Days events were held, including a planting of 100 trees around the new Blenheim Dog Park with the help of 15 volunteers, and 125 trees at Delaware Conservation Area, where 20 volunteers took part. Another 100 trees were planted at the Pearce Williams Summer Camp with the help of 15 volunteers, which was generously funded by TREE Canada. The 2026 rain barrel sale was also a success, with more than 100 rain barrels distributed to residents looking to reduce stormwater runoff and conserve water.



Implementation of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP) has been a major focus throughout the season. To date, 16 private landowner pollinator gardens have been established, along with more than 200 trees planted, 50 composters distributed, and over 100 rain barrels provided to participating residents. These projects are helping residents take practical steps toward improving habitat, managing stormwater, and increasing the environmental resilience of their properties.



Additional habitat restoration and community stewardship activities have continued throughout the summer. An Enbridge-supported planting at the Henry Smyth Tallgrass Prairie brought 10 volunteers together to add native pollinator plants to the site. A TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant of \$10,000 was also secured to continue the *Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today* program next year, building on the largest year of the program to date. Community Living Chatham-Kent also partnered on several stewardship activities, including beach cleanups at Rose Beach and Erieau involving 16 volunteers, as well as a 10-tree planting and pollinator planting project at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area.

The summer has continued the strong momentum seen throughout the year, with a combination of tree planting, private landowner projects, habitat restoration, and volunteer events taking place across the watershed. While the summer field season is winding down, the Urban Stewardship Program remains busy, with several additional community planting and restoration events scheduled throughout October. These fall activities will continue to bring volunteers and community partners together for hands-on stewardship projects across the watershed.

Western District – Stewardship Biologist - Erica Ion

The past few months have been busy out in the field. I've been conducting site visits and meeting with landowners to discuss potential tree planting and grassland planting projects. Many of the projects are planned for May 2027, beginning the project queue for next year. In mid-August, I attended the ALUS Practical Stewardship for Water Quality Event, that was held jointly by the ALUS Middlesex, Elgin and Chatham-Kent programs. The event showcased practical solutions to surface runoff and erosion commonly seen on farms. I also spent some time out in Wheatley helping Conservation Lands with cleanup at Two Creeks Conservation Area, following a recent severe storm.



Photo from site visit for tree planting and grassland planting projects that are planned for May 2027.

September has been particularly busy with gearing up for the first *Phragmites* control efforts for the *Phragmites* Management Working Group in the Chatham-Kent Area. We met with CK Drainage on September 9th to discuss permitting and plans for the *Phragmites* control within the agricultural drains we are proposing to treat. We have also spent time working with our contractors to organize permitting through DFO and MECP, and planning treatments that are planned for end of September/early October in two of our priority areas, Rondeau Bay and St. Luke's.

As we approach Fall, planting events and local agricultural Fall Fairs have also been popping up. I assisted with the tree planting event at Pearce Williams Summer Camp held on September 25th and have worked to organize booths for the Rodney and Glencoe Fall Fairs. The goal of attending these fairs is to speak with landowners

interested in our Stewardship Program. I am also looking forward to securing more funding for the Stewardship Program through grant applications that are now opening up for the 2027-2028 fiscal year.



Planting event at Pearce Williams Summer Camp September 25th, 2026

Western District – Wetlands & Stewardship Technician – Michael Young

The summer has been busy working with landowners and following up on leads to secure fall and spring projects. There are multiple wetland projects planned for fall construction, with many of them requiring permits for the work that are completed by the project leads. As soon as the crops are off, these projects can get started and seeded before the winter months.

A wetland was recently completed in the Duart area, that built on to an existing wetland complex, capturing tile run off before draining into the Clear Creek watershed. This project was completed in partnership with LTVCA PPRP and Ducks Unlimited.

In partnership with ALUS CK, we had the opportunity to visit past projects to validate project size, form and function to ensure projects are established successfully. Below shows some before and after pictures of a few projects. It's amazing to see what a difference it makes when you expose water and let the land restore its natural state.

Before and After



2024 Cedar Springs Wetland - Before



2026 Update - After



2024 Blenheim Ridge Wetland - Before



2026 Update - After



2024 Blenheim Ridge Wetland – Before



2026 Update - After



2024 Blenheim Ridge Wetland - Before



2026 Update - After



2025 Ridgetown Wetland - Before



2026 Update - After



Duart Wetland Completion 2026

As the seasons change, so too does our focus on projects, with spring tree projects already on the books. Now is a great time to remind landowners to complete fall prep to ensure a successful spring planting.

Eastern District – *Eastern District Stewardship Technician – Tyler Thornton*

During the late summer months and into early fall the Conservation Services Team are continuing to conduct site visits with affiliated partners and engage landowners within the rural community, as we look to propose and implement future stewardship projects throughout our watershed. Stewardship staff attended both the Rodney Fair in Elgin County and the Glencoe Fair in Middlesex County to promote and bring awareness to many of our internal programs and funding opportunities. Assistance was provided to our Lands staff where respective staff with their chainsaw certification assisted in the clean up of fallen trees at the Two Creeks Conservation Area in Wheatley, which saw significant damage from a weather event the week prior to the clean-up. Current open funding opportunities through Wildlife Habitat Canada and Sleeman Breweries are being applied to and

will be submitted before their respective closing date. A 0.5-acre wetland was completed during the middle of August for a private landowner. 8 acres of native Tall Grass Prairie was seeded during the beginning of August for a private landowner, as well as several erosion control projects which were designed to address major soil erosion concerns on their respective properties.

Our LTVCA conservation team held our Annual Cultivating Conservation Tour on August 19th, which displayed several projects related to our stewardship and phosphorus reduction programs, which were completed within the eastern portion of our watershed. This event was a great success, and we saw heavy community engagement, who attended the tour.

Our Urban Stewardship team worked in liaison with myself and the director of Pearce Williams Summer Camp to organize a large-stock tree planting event, which was conducted on September 25th. This event saw local community engagement where we planted a total of 100 3, 5, and 7-gallon native trees within open spaces on the property. The planted trees will provide further wildlife diversity of the area.

Site visits for future 2026 and 2027 stewardship projects are steadily ongoing as I continue to prepare and plan to establish these future projects.

Please see below for pictures encapsulating some of the work conducted in the eastern district this late summer to early fall.



Wetland site (Day of completion) for project ID - LTVCA-01760S-C0762

Glencoe Fair Vendor Booth





Cultivating Conservation Tour (Callon Project)



Pearce Williams Summer Camp Tree Planting Event

ALUS Elgin – ALUS Elgin Program Lead – Russell Vey

On August 13, ALUS Elgin, ALUS Middlesex, and ALUS Chatham-Kent hosted the Practical Stewardship for Water Quality Tour at the Crump Family Farm, bringing almost 50 farmers and partners together to discuss water quality, phosphorus reduction, and on-farm stewardship. The tour stopped at three key ecosystem services on the Crump property – a clarification pond, grassed waterway, and wetland – with speakers sharing practical approaches to water quality improvement and phosphorus reduction through stewardship and farm management. Sarah Larsen discussed EFAO's Adaptive Nitrogen Trials; Andrew Mickle from the Canada Water Agency discussed best management practices and phosphorus reduction; and Rick Grey spoke about native plants and pollinators.



Figure 1. Photos from the Practical Stewardship for Water Quality Tour.

MEET THE FARMERS

CHRIS & VIVIAN CRUMP

Crump Family Farm began in 1990 and currently operates a 600 acre beef and cash crop operation.

Their restoration journey began in 2019 in response to significant challenges which included years of severe erosion.

They initially constructed a grassed waterway and settling ponds to slow, capture and treat runoff before it entered local waterways.

Since then their conservation efforts have expanded, and they have truly embodied ALUS Canada's motto "Where Agriculture Meets Nature".

Not only is Chris Crump a Middlesex farmer but also a certified wetland and erosion control contractor and Vice-Chair of the ALUS Middlesex Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC).

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LEARN MORE ABOUT ALUS

www.alus.ca

ALUS

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP FOR WATER QUALITY

Tour



Figure 2. Practical Stewardship for Water Quality Tour Brochure. Top: outside; Bottom: inside.

The summer field season wrapped up with the completion of Nikolas Rohde’s co-op term in mid-August. As part of his role with ALUS Elgin, Nikolas completed an extensive project management and verification initiative, visiting 109 participants, assessing 306 projects, and verifying approximately 800 acres across Elgin County.

The project focused on reviewing existing ALUS Elgin projects, verifying project locations, acreage, and current conditions, and using site visits as an opportunity to reconnect with participants. Field assessments also identified inconsistencies between project records and what was present on the ground, allowing the database to be updated using ground-truthed information.

The results highlighted the importance of regular project follow-up and verification. In total, 93 projects were identified as requiring attention, including 68 amendments and 18 removals, resulting in significant funding being returned to ALUS Elgin. The majority of projects requiring attention were wetlands, with the most common issue being a lack of follow-up after establishment. In numerous cases, project polygons had never been verified or updated following establishment and remained recorded in the planning phase despite changes to the project on the ground.

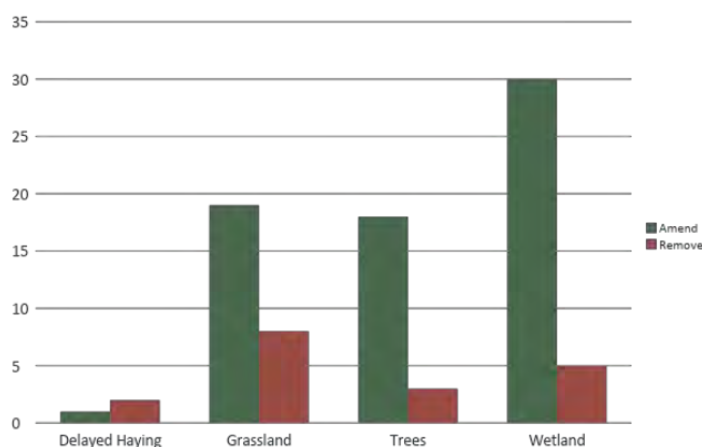


Figure 3. Amendments and Removals by Project Type.

With the field component of the project now complete, the remaining work has transitioned back to me. This includes finalizing the report, compiling and documenting all identified amendments and removals, reviewing the proposed changes with management, resolving outstanding items, and updating the database accordingly. I will also be following up on new project leads identified during Nikolas' site visits, turning the verification process into an opportunity to build the 2027 project pipeline.

Overall, this initiative has successfully brought ALUS Elgin's project records up to date, with every project now reviewed and photos attributed to each project polygon in ArcGIS. Beyond the immediate improvements to our records and financial accuracy, the project has provided several important lessons for future program management. Clear documentation and regular field verification are essential, as projects can change considerably from their original plans and annual payments can accumulate into significant amounts when project conditions are not regularly confirmed. Site visits also proved valuable for maintaining direct communication with farmers and identifying new opportunities for ALUS projects.

The completion of this project provides ALUS Elgin with a much stronger and more accurate baseline moving forward. With the database now reflecting current, ground-truthed conditions, we can focus on establishing a more consistent cycle of project monitoring, follow-up, and participant engagement in the years ahead.

ALUS Middlesex – ALUS Middlesex Program Director – Elise Gabrielli-Schroder

Fall has arrived, and the team at ALUS Middlesex has been busy attending community events and hosting another farm tour. On Thursday, September 17th, we welcomed students from the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program with the Rural Ontario Institute. The program is an 18-month intensive experience designed for emerging and established leaders in Ontario's agriculture and food sectors. Students learned from seasoned producers, business owners, and ALUS participants Chris and Vivan Crump about the changing demands facing the agricultural industry and the long-term resiliency that has sustained the Crump family farm operation. They also explored on-the-ground projects that shape sustainable food systems and how ALUS and similar programs can address challenges faced by the farming community, including changing climate patterns, extreme weather events, and both new and persistent pests, while fostering greater resilience within food systems.



Featured left: Students from the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program toured Crump Family Farm with producer and landowner Chris Crump, alongside Elise Gabrielli, ALUS Program Director, and Graham Moddle, ALUS Program Coordinator.

ALUS Middlesex joined representatives from the national team at Canada's Outdoor Farm show during the week of September 15-17th. Located just outside Woodstock, the event welcomes nearly 700 exhibitors and draws more than 40,000 visitors who come to learn about the latest in agricultural technology and connect with agricultural organizations.

Lastly, on Saturday, September 26th the team attended London Forest Fest alongside local NGOs in celebration of National Forest Week and the City of London's designation as the 2026 Forest Capital of Canada. The event featured a wide variety of family-friendly activities, including guided hikes and a scavenger hunt. At the ALUS Middlesex booth, guests had the opportunity to make native seed balls using seeds sourced from local suppliers. These could be taken home and spread around their properties to encourage greater biodiversity within municipal boundaries.

Our summer co-op student, Tyra Cadogan, who has since completed her MES studies and contract term with ALUS Middlesex, also had the opportunity to once again wear her ALUS hat. Tyra shared her experience with the program and helped raise awareness of this work within the municipal sector.



Featured left: *Tyra Cadogan, MES Graduate and former ALUS Middlesex Co-op Research and Monitoring Student.* During Tyra's four-month co-op term, she played a vital role in helping us monitor the approximately 170 projects established with our 130 participants. Tyra conducted site visits to evaluate project success, liaised with landowners, answered questions, and provided guidance to support the ongoing stewardship of their restoration efforts.

As we look to finalize projects under the current funding year, ALUS Middlesex and our partners will restore four additional wetlands, bringing us to our target of 14 wetland projects established across Middlesex and Oxford counties. We will plant approximately 500 large-stock trees with the Community Partnership team at the Upper Thames River Conservation

Authority, and support from local students in the Medway watershed. This student initiative will help us reach our seasonal target of 15,000 trees planted.

Finally, the completion of a grassed waterway and mixed-grassland planting project will help us reach our target of nearly 30 acres of marginal land retired and restored within the Thames and Sydenham River watersheds, while further supporting phosphorus reduction goals.

ALUS Chatham-Kent – ALUS CK Program Lead & Stewardship Technician – Rashel Tremblay

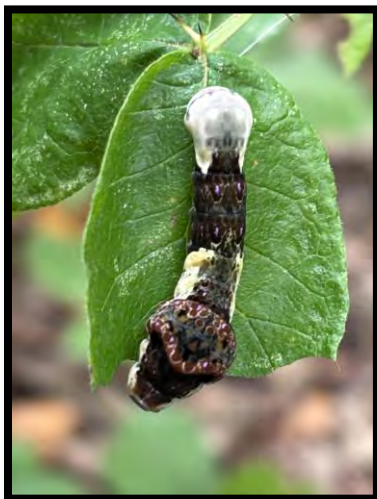
Over the summer, the ALUS CK PAC approved projects for four farmers, for a total of 4.1 acres of Wetlands, 12.1 acres of Grasslands, 11.4 acres of Trees, and 8 acres of Delayed Hay.

We've gone on 12 site visits in August and September for potential new projects, to monitor and GPS projects established in 2025, and to verify projects that are up for renewal.



A new wetland near Morpeth, with bird boxes ready for occupancy.

We finished up the first year of our Tree demonstration project, where we measured Trees and made notes on their health throughout the growing season. This Fall and Winter we will input all the data and see if there were any noticeable differences in Tree growth and health between the different maintenance methods or between different species. This project is expected to continue in 2027.



Interesting finds on the Tree demonstration farm: Giant Swallowtail Caterpillar, Lo Moth Caterpillars, Eastern-Tailed Blue Butterfly

The PAC met on September 15th to discuss a pilot project proposal – the Woodlands, Wetlands and Waterways Stewardship Program – and agreed to take the proposal to Chatham-Kent council.

On August 13th we attended the Practical Stewardship For Water Quality tour on the Crump Family Farm. The tour was hosted by ALUS Middlesex, ALUS Elgin and ALUS Chatham-Kent, and a local lunch was provided by the Crump family.



ALUS CK Program Lead with speaker Rick Gray, from the Practical Stewardship For Water Quality tour.

Lastly, we hosted Conservation Ontario for a tour of RALP-funded projects on September 25th.

10.5.2) Agricultural Initiatives

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.

Justine Cooper - Soil and Water Quality Technician

LTVCA staff have been busy conducting work for the LTVCA ONFARM project including site maintenance, edge-of-field sample collection, and attending knowledge transfer events.

The soil and water quality technician conducted 4 sampling events in August and September with 57 samples collected across 5 sites. Between September 3rd and 4th alone, the Merlin sites received 62.6 mm of rain, while the Fairview site received 21 mm. A series of events occurring September 3-8 were the first to occur after the Merlin A site had been tilled, which will help highlight the differences between the Merlin A field and the no-till, cover-cropped Merlin B field. The isolated thunderstorms that have occurred in combination with the cover created by corn on the field has led to no tile runoff opportunities at the Fairview site.



Samples collected from the September 3rd event from the Merlin A Flume, Merlin A P2, Merlin A P3, Merlin B P1 and Merlin B P2 sites, respectively. Samples from the recently tilled Merlin A field are noticeably dirtier than samples from the cover-cropped Merlin B field.

While there have been fewer events during the summer season, LTVCA staff have been able to focus on data processing and analysis. Multi-year data from the Merlin A and B sites has been analyzed for gaps in water depth data, and these gaps are in the process of being filled with data from our secondary HOBO level loggers. The water depth data from the HOBOs is currently being scaled to more closely align with each of the primary depth sensors that they are being used to gap fill. This process will ensure continuity of data in situations where sensors have not been working properly.

Maintenance throughout the summer season has also been a priority to ensure enclosures remain accessible and functioning, including weed whacking, and periodic cleaning and inspection of enclosures for insects and rodents. Monthly downloading of data loggers has also occurred to ensure equipment is functioning properly.

On August 14, 2026, Justine attended the Summer Farm Day in Huron County, hosted by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. The event included in-field demonstrations and presentations about the ONFARM Huronview site. Topics including innovative tile drainage systems, cover crops and water quality monitoring.

On September 25, 2026, the Soil and Water Quality Technician and the Agricultural Program Coordinator attended a ONFARM Technical Working Group meeting in Guelph, Ontario at Farms.com headquarters. Justine presented an update on the LTVCA's work related to the ONFARM project. The meeting brought together academics and industry professionals working in the fields of water quality and soil health. Discussions focused on evaluating the economics of BMP implementation and exploring processes for accessing edge-of-field monitoring data to better understand the environmental impacts of agricultural practices.

Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program



The LTVCA Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program is a four-year program funded through the Canada Water Agency under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative – Preventing toxic and nuisance algae into Lake Erie (2024-2028).

Andrew Mickle - Agricultural Stewardship Specialist

Since the last update in August the Agricultural Stewardship Specialist has been focusing on project planning and implementation with the stewardship staff. Recently completed projects include several water & sediment control basins (Wascobs) to address severe gully erosion on farms, as well as several buffer strip projects to protect farmland from erosion while providing beneficial pollinator habitat. Several large erosion control projects are in different stages of implementation with some to break ground in the coming weeks, while others are in the planning stages to be completed late fall or spring 2027.

Late August and early September were filled with events. The LTVCA hosted the annual Cultivating Conservation tour, which was a great success with overwhelmingly positive feedback. The Ag. Specialist was a speaker at a local ALUS hosted event as well as the Middlesex Soil and Crop Improvement Association Summer Meeting. Other events were attended including the OSCIA Summer Farm Day, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show and the Glencoe Fall Fair.

A highlight of the past month has been a meeting with The Nature Conservancy and Foodbridge. Agricultural staff from LTVCA, ABCA, SCRCA, UTRCA, ERCA met to discuss collaboration between CA staff and the private sector to better understand water quality programming outcomes and how to have a more unified approach to agricultural stewardship funding to growers in Ontario.

In the immediate future, the Ag. Specialist will be working alongside the Soil & Water Quality Technician to implement a cover crop research trial on the farmland at Walter Devereux Conservation Area.

Ani Pearn – Agricultural Technical Assistant

Ani has spent her time working between the PPRP program and the ALUS program. PPRP work has focused on the mapping of all program participants and identifying participants eligible for additional financial allocations from the remaining unallocated annual funds. In parallel, the process of entering participant information into

the program database has commenced. This will support tracking of program budgets, while ensuring that each project is accurately linked to its corresponding mapped polygon.

Work with the ALUS program has consisted of performing site visits for participants who wish to renew their contracts and participating in the last tree measuring of the season for the pesticides experiment.

Donna Small - Agricultural Program Coordinator

The Agricultural Program Coordinator is working closely with staff to ensure that all project deliverables and reporting requirements are met. This includes coordinating activities related to Best Management Practice (BMP) incentive program delivery, water quality research and monitoring, and outreach and education initiatives.

On August 19, 2026, the LTVCA hosted its sixth annual Cultivating Conservation Tour, which was a successful event focused on increasing awareness of regional environmental issues and showcasing practical solutions implemented by local landowners. The interactive tour targeted landowners in the eastern portion of the Lower Thames Valley watershed and included four stops highlighting examples of wetland restoration, tree planting, and erosion control structures. Each stop featured testimonials from landowners who have implemented stewardship projects in partnership with funding provided through LTVCA stewardship programs and ALUS. The event included a lunch hosted by Arrowwood Farms. The Cultivating Conservation Tour supported the objectives of LTVCA OMAFA-COA and Canada Water Agency agreements by promoting agricultural stewardship practices that help reduce erosion and limit the movement of sediment and nutrients into Lake Erie.



Participants on stop 1 of the Cultivating Conservation Tour walk through the Pearce Williams Summer Camp project site and learn about the work being done to support a healthy and sustainable landscape. August 19, 2026.



Participants at stop 2 on the Cultivating Conservation Tour learn from certified erosion control contractor Chris Crump about the project design and how the implemented structures help reduce agricultural runoff from the adjacent farm field. August 19, 2026.

The Agricultural Program Coordinator attended several agricultural events throughout the Lower Thames Valley watershed to engage with local producers and promote the adoption of Best Management Practices. Events attended included:

- Chatham-Kent Plowing Match, held at J&E Meats on Saturday, August 8, 2026.
- ALUS Practical Stewardship for Water Quality Event, held at Crump Farms on Thursday, August 13, 2026.
- Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Small Grains Celebration, held at Red Barn Brewing Company on Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

During the reporting period, Donna contributed to agricultural communications work including:

- Conducted two radio interviews on August 18, 2026, highlighting the benefits of cover crops and available incentive funding.
- Finalized and distributed a new BMP booklet to help landowners understand BMPs and how the LTVCA can support project implementation and funding.
- Filmed footage with OOK Productions and a local producer for an upcoming agricultural stewardship video highlighting the importance of agriculture within the watershed and the role of stewardship in supporting soil health and regional water quality.



Donna Small engages with attendees at the 2026 Chatham Kent Plowing Match, promoting agricultural stewardship practices and highlighting opportunities to support healthy soils. August 8, 2026.



Filming with farmer Jonathan Giret next to his constructed wetland for an agricultural stewardship video created for the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program. August 5, 2026.



New BMP booklets created to provide education to landowners and promote LTVCA stewardship programs.

Additionally, Donna participated alongside the Wetlands and Stewardship Technician in site visits to verify the completion of multiple BMP projects within the western portion of the watershed and to check on the conditions of previously implemented projects.



*Newly established grassed waterway project.
September 17, 2026.*



*Verifying 1 year progress and establishment of a
grassed waterway project that was implemented in
September 2025.*

Elizabeth Arango Ruda - Water Resource Analyst

The Resource Analyst has been actively working on a range of data analysis and program support tasks, with progress being made on data organization, visualization, outreach materials, and upcoming presentations.

The locations of water sampling sites for nutrients and physicochemical parameters have been organized and verified. This information is important for obtaining discharge data from the synthetic daily Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS) forecast dataset.

Boxplots of minerals and nutrients have also been prepared for all monitoring stations included in the water quality monitoring program. This information was necessary to complement and update the THREAD report.

Progress has been made on the StoryMap focused on Agricultural Stewardship of the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP). An ArcGIS Dashboard is also being developed to complement the Agricultural StoryMap. The intention is to incorporate the Dashboard into the StoryMap as well as making it available on the program webpage.

Elizabeth has also worked towards the completion of the presentation titled “10 Years of Evolving the LTVCA Monitoring Program” which is scheduled to be presented at a CALM meeting held on November 2nd, 2026. The presentation is being developed to provide an overview of the LTVCA monitoring program. Time has been spent organizing the information to clearly communicate the program’s progress and key findings.

Leah Ripley – Agricultural Program Administration Assistant

For the past few months, Leah has been continuing to process applications for the 2026 Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program. This has involved recording applicant’s information, entering their information into the LTVCA database, and mapping their fields in ArcGIS Online. To date, the PPRP has approved incentive grants for 241 farm businesses under BMP categories 1-4. As program intake slowed, Leah began filing the audit documentation submitted by the applicants and has made many calls to various applicants to acquire their missing audit documentation. Leah has begun coordinating the first round of incentive payments following receipt of the first installment of CWA funding for the 2026-2027 program year. These funds are supporting the implementation of Best Management Practices. In addition to ongoing administrative and office-based work, Leah contributed to the preparation and delivery of the Cultivating Conservation Tour in August.

10.5.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)



Camila Barahona's Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) placement is complete. She assisted with data logger installation, mussel midden surveys, permit reports and benthic and data logger data organization. Surveys along the banks of the lower Thames River west of Chatham resulted in the location of seven mussel middens (caches of shells left by mammals like Raccoons and Mink following predation) at six locations. Of particular interest was the discovery of two Three-horned Wartyback valves (half a mussel shell), representing two separate individuals, at one location. This represents the furthest western record of this threatened species. Prior to this discovery, the species was only found east of Chatham. Other species found include Mapleleaf, a

Species of Special Concern, Deertoe, Giant Floater, Fragile Papershell and Pimpleback. Permit reports have been submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Wetland Restoration Planning

In response to extensive wetland loss and on-going flood risks as well as in anticipation of climate change, the LTVCA has received Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (GLFEI) – Restore and Protect Coastal Areas stream funding from the Canada Water Agency (CWA) to develop a plan to guide restoration and enhancement of climate-resilient wetlands in the former delta of the Thames River and floodplains of Lake St. Clair. LTVCA led a tour for CWA and Environment and Climate Change Canada – National Hydrologic Service (ECCC-NHS) staff on Sept 16 to view some of the existing wetlands in the area and discuss enhancement options as well as the potential to model the potential impacts of climate change on these wetlands. A Steering Committee of Rights Holders and stakeholders met for the first time on October 1. All proposed work will be in concert with willing landowners.

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

10.6) Communications, Education and Outreach

Communications

Social Media Posts



Floodplain Mapping Project for Talbot Creek Public Meeting

Presentations on
The Talbot Creek Flood Line Study and the recent flooding in Southwold
with questions and discussion to follow



Wednesday, August 26, 2026
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Southwold Keystone Complex
35921 Talbot Line, Sheddin, ON N0L2E0

For more information contact
info@ltvca.ca or development@southwold.ca



NOTICE: *Phragmites* Management St. Luke's Marsh

Phragmites australis control project area (2.9 ha)



NOTICE: An aquatic herbicide application for the control of invasive *Phragmites australis* is planned between September 27 – October 3, 2026, on private property bordering Lake St. Clair, at Townline Road and Rivard Line

One (1) application will be conducted by drone application, weather permitting.
Anticipated start date: September 27 – October 3, 2026 (weather permitting)
Herbicide: Habitat Aqua (active ingredient: imazapyr), Registration No. 32374
Contractor: Veg-Tek Agri Inc

For more information regarding the aquatic herbicide application, contact:
Conservation Services - Stewardship
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
info@ltvca.ca - (519) 354-7310



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



Outreach

Summer and fall are busy with events and outreach material was created for many of the events. See following pages for the Museum Revitalization Event (Indigenous Community Learning Centre Impact Statement) and the ALUS Practical Stewardship for Water Quality Tour.

ATTENTION PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Are you planning fall minis or photo sessions at one of our conservation areas?



Don't forget to get a photography permit!



The Indigenous Community Learning Centre Impact Statement

THE FUTURE

The next phase of the project includes improvements to the Village and repairs to the Heritage Log Cabins.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is committed to high quality education and public programming. These improvements reinforce our commitment and secure the future of our local history through infrastructure protection.

By partnering together, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) and LTVCA can help one another reach our shared vision of making a difference naturally.

GET INVOLVED

If you want to contribute to the Indigenous Community Learning Centre or to other LTVCA programs, scan the QR code to donate.



If you would like to support the LTVCF in their mission to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Lower Thames River Valley, scan the QR code to donate.



Lower Thames
Conservation



Community Born Community Driven

THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE IMPACT STATEMENT



Longwoods Road Conservation Area



8348 Longwoods Road
Mount Brydges, ON
(519) 264-2420
www.ltvca.ca

OVER THE YEARS

1970

The first pole is placed in the ground at Ska-Nah-Doht Village.

1973

Heritage log cabins donated by the three local Indigenous Communities.

1973

Ska-Nah-Doht Village officially opens.

1979-83

Archeological sites excavated that date to 800-1200 C.E.

2023

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum celebrates 50 years.

50

SKA-NAH-DOHT



1971

Named Ska-Nah-Dut from the Oneida language meaning "A Village Stood Here."

1973

Village Renamed to Ska-Nah-Doht "The Village Stands Again."

1974

The Resource Centre is built.

2023

LTVCF Capital Campaign for infrastructure upgrades begins.

2026

Indigenous Learning Centre opens.

THE VISION

The legacy of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum inspired the vision for the Indigenous Community Learning centre.

While Ska-Nah-Doht has always been a place of sharing, there was a need for a place to gather and celebrate in an accessible way. This vision was fully realized with the construction of a large gathering space with a capacity for 150 people, an elevator, and a full catering kitchen.

The Indigenous Community Learning Centre will allow the vision of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum to fully come to life.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



\$1,212,417 Funds Raised through the LTVCF Capital Campaign and grant funding



21 Private and Public Donors to the Capital Campaign



5000 Youth and Chaperones since September 2025



300,000 + Artifacts in the permanent collection



2,650 Tourists from 50 Countries since January 2026



MEET THE **FARMERS**

CHRIS & VIVIAN CRUMP

Crump Family Farm began in 1990 and currently operates a 600 acre beef and cash crop operation.

Their restoration journey began in 2019 in response to significant challenges which included years of severe erosion.

They initially constructed a grassed waterway and settling ponds to slow, capture and treat runoff before it entered local waterways.

Since then their conservation efforts have expanded, and they have truly embodied ALUS Canada's motto "Where Agriculture Meets Nature".

Not only is Chris Crump a Middlesex farmer but also a certified wetland and erosion control contractor and Vice-Chair of the ALUS Middlesex Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC).

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ALUS PROGRAM

CHATHAM-KENT

Rashel Tremblay
Program Lead
(519) 354 - 7310 x 243
Rashel.Tremblay@ltvca.ca

ELGIN

Russell Vey
Program Lead
(519) 264 - 9684 x 344
aluselgin@alus.ca

MIDDLESEX

Elise Gabrielli-Schroder,
Program Director
Graham Moddle,
Project Coordinator
(519) 264 - 9684 x 346
info@alusmiddlesex.com

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALUS

www.alus.ca



PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP FOR WATER QUALITY

Tour



MEET THE **SPEAKERS**

RICK GRAY

Best selling author of "The Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of the Southern Great Lake Region". His work focuses on practical native plant selection and the ecological relationship between plants, insects and wildlife.

ANDREW MICKLE

Agricultural Stewardship Specialist at the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. His work supports agricultural stewardship, water-quality monitoring and projects that reduce nutrients loading into the Great Lakes.

SARAH LARSEN, PHD

A soil microbial ecologist and Director of the Research & Small Grains Program at EFAO and co-owner of Three Ridges Ecological Farm. Her work supports farmer-led trials focused on soil health and nutrient management.

ALYSSA COUSINEAU

Hub Manager, Great Lakes, with ALUS Canada, supporting the delivery and growth of the community-led stewardship programs.



PHOSPHORUS

Phosphorus is essential for crop production, but when it enters water system it can become toxic. One entry point to streams, lakes and rivers is through agriculture runoff.

In freshwater systems, excess phosphorus can fuel toxic algal blooms which are harmful to plants, animals and human health.

ALUS helps farmers through financial incentives and expert knowledge to implement projects that help reduce the loss of phosphorus on the landscape.

THE ALUS **MODEL**

Some farmland is hard to farm... ALUS helps farmers create new acres of nature instead.

1. Farmers identify areas that are difficult or inefficient to farm.
2. Farmers and community members make decisions on projects based on local priorities and landscapes.
3. ALUS provides long-term support by giving farmers payments and technical support to deliver measurable benefits for ecosystems, communities, and agricultural landscapes.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Wetlands
- Grasslands
- Grassed Waterways
- Erosion Control Structures
- Tree Planting
- Delayed Hay

LTVCA 65th Anniversary Mural

Staff have been given their canvases for the collaborative mural project. The piece will showcase how each individual's role within the Authority contributes to the health of the watershed and environment. It will also allow the Authority to commemorate our time together before the conservation authority amalgamation.

Education

Following the retirement of longtime LTVCA employee, Agnes, a new Administrative Assistant, Education has been hired. Kelsey Moxley started on August 31, 2026. Moxley will be responsible for assisting with administrative and finance tasks associated with Longwoods and the Museum. They will also be taking over some administrative tasks like program bookings and will lead education programs from time to time. This will provide the Curator with time to complete other museum related projects and other administrative tasks.

The Curator will be attending Rekindle the Spark in mid-November. This is a conservation educators conference. The content regularly compliments the programs offered by the Museum, and provides professional development related to conservation education programs offered by the LTVCA.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The two Canada Summer Jobs youth positions were obtained for July and August. Their role was Community Museum Technician. Both 8 week contracts for 2026 have been completed. These individuals helped with the day-to-day operation of Ska-Nah-Doht, provided program support, ran their own public programs, and contributed to exhibit installation. They were invaluable members of the team and they will be missed.



Pottery Exhibit

Throughout the summer the Indigenous Community Educator and Community Museum Technicians (Canada Summer Jobs positions) ran frequent programming at the Museum and throughout the conservation area. These easy to run programs, adapted from school activities, were a wonderful addition. Many folks joined us, with Bug Safari being a particular hit!

Programming at Longwoods is in full force. Dates are confirmed or on hold through November. Some teachers are also beginning to reach out regarding spring programming. The Administrative Assistant, Education has taken on program bookings, allowing the Curator more time to focus on museum aspects of their role.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

At C.M. Wilson, our Conservation Area Interpreter for the summer has completed their contract and has returned to school. We were able to do a lot of fun programming in the 8 weeks that she was here. For much of

the summer, the Learning Centre was open to parkgoers to pop by, explore, and beat the heat. We also had different drop-in activities including: bug safari, cyanotype print making, play with clay day, free painting, mini raft building, corn husk doll making, and dip netting for benthic macroinvertebrates.

The guided hikes that Middlesex Municipality booked with us for over the summer months have come to an end as well. Moving forward with this partnership, we have planned some fall programming that will be hosted at the Komoka Community Centre. We plan to offer a corn husk doll workshop as well as lead a presentation on First Nations Perspectives on Water.

This summer the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre obtained a new feature- an Augmented Reality Sandbox. This tool teaches users about soil, erosion, and flooding. It was previously housed by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. The sandbox is jointly owned by our authorities, and we look forward to students enjoying it during our education programs.

The Indigenous Community Educator at C.M. Wilson has begun saving the seeds of the garden at C.M. Wilson. This year, four three-sisters' mounds were planted as well as herbs and medicines in pots. Unfortunately, the bunnies made their way into our makeshift fence and ate the beans and squash before they could fully ripen. Our corn, herbs, and medicine plants did great! Corn kernels and husks are currently being saved with the help of the Montessori children at the Learning Centre. Saved seeds will be used in next year's planting and will be a good informational display in the classroom in the meantime.

Water Festival

Inventory for Water Festival took place in mid-August. Required supplies have been purchased and water festival planning is in its final stages. We are so excited to welcome this year's group of kids.

The Ska-Nah-Doht Museum will be closed October 5-9 as the team who works out of the space, including the Curator, will be participating in the festival.

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of August 3, 2026, the Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook page has 4,354 Followers. The Instagram page for the Village has 854 Followers. As of the end of September Ska-Nah-Doht Museum has welcomed over 2,800 visitors from 50 countries to our revitalized indoor spaces since reopening to the public in January.

Five Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031

A draft of the 2027-2031 Strategic Plan for Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum was provided to the SND Advisory Committee and appropriate staff for their consideration. Changes have been made and a finalized draft has been provided above under item 9.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2027-2031. The Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Strategic Plan is seeking board approval.

The 2027-2031 Strategic Plan was being developed based on the current needs of the museum as well as community consultation that has taken place since 2024.

Heritage Log Cabin Update

In July, the roofs of all three Heritage Log Cabins were replaced. A synthetic, faux cedar shingle material that is rated to last approximately 50 years was used. We have received numerous positive comments and lots of engagement with posts about this process on social media.



Oneida Cabin



Chippewas Cabin



Munsee-Delaware Cabin

The Education team cleaned the basements of two of the Heritage Log Cabins and reorganized these program storage locations. Programming materials that were in disrepair or were no longer in a state of usability were disposed of. Items that were no longer needed but were still in good order have either been rehomed with other departments of the Authority who can make use of them or have been stored more securely.



Oneida Cabin Basement



Chippewas Cabin Basement

Village Repairs

In March, the Curator applied to the London Community Foundation's Needs-Based Registry to support restoration of Ska-Nah-Doht Village. We received notification in late August that we will be receiving \$12,500 in support. A follow-up email was received in mid-September indicating that an additional \$3,000 was to be sent by both the Sifton Family Foundation and the Miggsie Fund. A final report will be required by September 2027.

The Curator has also been connecting with a representative from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to work through details of an Ontario Job Creation Partnership project. Based on timelines, projects planned for the Village in 2026 are largely being shifted to 2027 to accommodate possible ministry support. The Curator will be adjusting the application submitted to the ministry in the spring under the guidance of our project consultant. Funds allocated to this project as part of the LTVCA's budget may in whole, or part, be moved to 2027 depending on timelines for supply acquisition.

Exhibit Updates

All new exhibit cases are now in place and refreshed content has been installed. Initial reactions and comments regarding the updates to the museum have all been positive.



New Museum Layout

Recognition Event

The Ska-Nah-Doht Museum Revitalization Recognition Event was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Local author Kristi White (The Adventures of Jay and Gizmo) and DJ White (Fancy Feather Dancer) joined us that evening. Catering was provided by Yawékon Foods, operated by chef Tawnya Brant, who has previously been featured on Top Chef Canada and hosts a program on APTN.

The Education team provide programming following the formal proceedings and the museum was open for community members to visit.

Remarks were provided by Mark Peacock (CAO / Secretary-Treasurer of the LTVCA), Paul Tiessen (LTVCA Board Chair), Ken Brooks (President of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation), Middlesex County Warden Susan Clarke, Kristi White (Author), and Dr. Ronald Williamson (former staff archaeologist).

Approximately 70 people including donors, dignitaries, and community members were in attendance.

To prepare for the event a donor recognition wall is being created, the Carey Trail Kiosk has been moved to the trail head, a French drain has been added along the side of the building, and new wayfinding signage will be

installed. An impact statement brochure was created by the LTVCA's Communications Specialist and is included on page 77 above.

The LTVCA would like to thank Visit Middlesex for their support of this event.

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

10.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Minutes June 25, 2026



Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

MINUTES

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held in person and remotely via the Indigenous Community Learning Centre at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum, Longwoods Road Conservation Area at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 25, 2026. The following members were in attendance: B. Bruinink, C. Parker, K. Loveland, T. Cobban, P. Chrisjohn and M. Peacock. Regrets: S. Hipple. Also, in attendance: A. Klages.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SND-2026-9 K. Loveland – T. Cobban

Moved that the minutes of the March 19, 2026 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) Constitution Updates

A copy of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Constitution has been provided as Appendix 1 for your review. Minor edits to update the mission of the museum, article numbers, and phrasing were completed. W. Bruinink inquired about the term limits as he has served longer than this. These limits were put in place after his acceptance onto the committee. Going forward all public members of the committee will have term limits.

It is noted that the composition of the committee, as outlined in section 3, will change following the amalgamation of conservation areas.

SND-2026-10 C. Parker – K. Loveland

Moved that updates to the constitution, provided as appendix to the agenda, be approved.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) Staff Update

A new Indigenous Community Educator has been hired for Longwoods Road Conservation Area: Meghan King started in May.

3.2) Grant and Funding Updates

Received support from Canada Summer Jobs for two youth, for 8 weeks. They will be serving ~~as a~~ Community Museum Technicians.

The Curator continues to await decisions from the London Community Foundation's Needs-Based Registry to support restoration of Ska-Nah-Doht Village.

In the meantime, the Curator has started an application to the Ontario Job Creations Partnership program, requesting support for the work at the Village.

Visit Middlesex's Tourism Initiative Sponsorship has opened. They now require applications to be submitted earlier. The Curator will apply for support for a Re-Opening (recognition) event for the fall.

3.3) CMOG Update

The museum's CMOG application is well underway and on track to be submitted for the deadline of June 30, 2026. The approved constitution edits will be included with the application.

The 2026 requirement for CMOG is a strategic plan. SND's plan runs through 2026 which will be accepted as part of the application. The initial stages of the next strategic plan (2027-2031) will also be provided to the ministry.

The 2027-2031 Strategic Plan will need to be approved in 2026, prior to the departure of the current LTVCA Board of Directors. It will be submitted for approval at the December 2026 meeting.

3.4) Education Programs

It has been a busy spring education season- school groups wrapped up on June 24, 2026.

On May 29, 2026 the Indigenous Community Educator led Pottery Making programs at the London Children's Museum.

A number of on-the-road and on-site programs are scheduled throughout the summer. The Education team will be focusing on providing public programming opportunities to Conservation Area visitors throughout the summer months.

3.5) Events and Workshops

Confirmed Events/Outreach:

- Artifact Day, July 5, 2026
- London and Elgin Public Library Programming in July and August
- Re-Opening (recognition) Event

3.6) Museum Re-Opening

New Exhibit Cases

On Thursday, April 2, 2026 the Curator obtained 10 new-to-us exhibit cases from the Guelph Civic Museum. It is estimated that these cases would be valued at about a \$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.

Re-Opening Event

Visit Middlesex's Tourism Initiative Sponsorship has opened. To be eligible, initiatives must take place within Middlesex County, involve collaboration with local partners, and applications must be submitted at least 45 days before the project start date.

As a result, and in order to accommodate dignitary invitations, the re-opening event, which is now known as a Recognition Event is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

3.7) Village and Cabin Updates

Village repairs are likely to take place in the fall as we continue to await funding announcements from the London Community Foundation. The Ontario Job Creation Partnership timeline is currently unconfirmed.

Some small repairs at the Village will be undertaken by the Education Team, summer staff, and Curator. These will include lean-tos, the fishing trap, and hide stretching racks.

On June 8, 2026 we held a mandatory site meeting for roofing companies that would like to bid on replacing the Heritage Log Cabin rooves. Estimates were due by June 21, 2026.

SND-2026-11 T. Cobban – C. Parker

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.7 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Memorial Trees

Two long-time members of the committee, D. Fairbairn and G. Boggart have recently passed away. The Curator has donated to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for memorial trees to be planed in their honour.

4.2) Other Capital Work

Mark Peacock, CAO / Secretary-Treasurer of the LTVCA provided on other capital projects taking place at Longwoods Road Conservation Area including: the replacement of the waterline to the museum, the resurfacing of the Carey Trail, and the decision to have the trestle bridge remain closed pending an engineers assessment.

The remaining wall to receive new siding at the Museum is scheduled to begin replacement in early July. The wall was left until last in the event that a 2nd addition was added to the Museum building.

SND-2026-12 C. Parker - K. Loveland

Moved that items 4.1 through 4.2 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Thursday, November 19, 2026

6. Adjournment

SND-2026-13 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink
Chair

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

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes August 6, 2026

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the regular meeting held on August 6 2026 at Two Creeks

Attendance: Rick Taves, Roger Dundas, Gerry Soulliere, Mike Diesbourg, Lorna Bell, Pauline Sample, Joe Dama, Mark Peacock, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Lee Pearce.

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

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

Mem. Groves: Gerry straightened 1 of Mr. Kim's posts. The grass will need to be cut once more this year.

Prop. & Equip. : The Willow bridge replacement project has been almost completed. Rick moved and Roger seconded to commend Joe P., Mike, Roger, and Lee & Ian Pearce for doing a fantastic job on the bridge. 5 picnic tables still need to be assembled. Mark stated that he will bring a draft of the new site map to the next meeting. We will look into obtaining a portable electric defibrillator to keep onsite.

Concerts: The concerts have broken even so far this year.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of July 1 2026 was \$61,764.52. Account balance as of July 31 2026 was \$58,042.64. Moved by Roger, sec. by Phil report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: A thank-you note be put in the Journal next week thanking our donors.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Roger moved for adjournment at 7:35pm

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11. Correspondence

11.1) Ingersoll mayor quits conservation authority transition committee, citing secrecy

Ingersoll mayor quits conservation authority transition committee, citing secrecy

By Reta Ismail, London News

Updated: October 07, 2026 at 3:05p.m. EDT

Published: October 07, 2026 at 12:23p.m. EDT



Ingersoll Mayor Brian Petrie during a zoom interview with CTV News on Wed. Oct. 7, 2026. (Reta Ismail/CTV News London)

The mayor of Ingersoll, Ont., has resigned from the committee overseeing the merger of conservation authorities in southwestern Ontario, saying the process lacks the transparency and accountability the province promised.

Brian Petrie, chair of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), quit the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Transition Committee on Wednesday, effective immediately.

In a resignation letter shared [online](#), Petrie said the process “lacks the openness required to justify my continued participation or to maintain public trust.”

Petrie told CTV News London he received the committee’s terms of reference, and a sweeping confidentiality agreement, only the Friday before a Monday meeting. He said the requirement was not part of the original appointment process.

“Had it been, I would not have put my name forward,” Petrie said.

He said the board tried to negotiate changes with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, but the revised agreement was not enough.

“One of the reasons this amalgamation is taking place is better transparency and accountability,” Petrie said. “So to have a process, that has so much confidentiality put into it, is kind of a paradox.”

Petrie said the original agreement would have made him and the UTRCA’s general manager personally liable if the province considered confidentiality broken, and that the province “didn’t have to prove it.”

The UTRCA board later passed a motion to cover appointed members under its insurance, which allowed the general manager to join the committee.

Petrie said he would have agreed to confidentiality on sensitive matters such as legal or personnel issues. He said the terms went further than that.

“They couldn’t give a good answer, as far as I was concerned, about why everything needed to be controlled at that level,” he said.

Petrie said conservation authorities have long been municipally driven, and that the province has said they will remain locally governed and funded.

“One of those things is true. They’ll be municipally funded,” he said.

He said the new authorities will answer to a provincial agency, and that municipalities will continue to pay the bill.

In his letter, he said the closed-door committee “entirely excludes member municipalities from meaningful involvement.”

Petrie said upper-tier municipalities will appoint board members, and that the rules for who can be appointed have not been released. He said earlier rules required at least 70 per cent of members to be elected officials, and that this may change.

“Part of municipal government is open and transparent government,” he said.

Petrie said a motion has been passed to put his replacement on the board’s agenda next month. If the board doesn’t appoint someone, he said, the province can.

Three weeks ago, [Petrie told CTV News](#) he was uncomfortable with directions that committee members sign non-disclosure agreements.

The UTRCA is set to merge with three other conservation authorities to form the Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority. The consolidation is expected in early 2027.

Petrie stays on as chair of the UTRCA. He is also seeking re-election as mayor of Ingersoll in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

“There needs to be a better balance between the voices at the municipal level and the province’s wishes,” Petrie said. “We need to work together better. And right now, that doesn’t seem to be happening. And really, I think it’s our residents who are going to pay the price for that.”

CTV News reached out to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks for comment, however, spokesperson Alexandru Cioban sent the same statement that was issued to us three weeks ago.

“As we work to improve a fragmented and inconsistent conservation authority system, transition committees have been established to support a smooth transition and ensure conservation authorities have the tools they need to deliver more consistent services.

Throughout this process, conservation authorities remain municipally governed, and budget decisions continue to be made by conservation authority boards, which consist of representatives appointed by participating municipalities.

Confidentiality expectations are routine and regularly employed by municipalities when individuals have access to sensitive and confidential information, including financial, legal and human resources records.”

12. In Camera Session

A matter relating to a:

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

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment
