



Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

December 18, 2025

2:00 p.m.

LTVCA Administration Building

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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) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

A meeting of the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee was held on Monday, November 10, 2025 via Zoom at the hour of 7:00 PM. A role call was held with the following committee members present:

P. Tiessen, H. Aerts and R. Leatham. S. Emons sent their regrets.

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

1. Call to Order

Chair, Paul Tiessen called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 7:00 PM.

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock provided the reading of the First Nations Acknowledgement.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

E-2025-07 R. Leatham – H. Aerts
Moved that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

5. In-Camera Session

E-2025-08 H. Aerts – R. Leatham
Moved that the Executive Committee move into an 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

E-2025-09 R. Leatham – H. Aerts
Moved that the Executive Committee move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

The Executive Committee provided direction to staff regarding a legal matter.

6. Other Business

None Noted.

7. Adjournment

E-2025-10 H. Aerts – R. Leatham
Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Paul Tiessen
Chair



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



Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held in person and remotely via the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street in Chatham, ON at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

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

1. First Nations Acknowledgment

Mark Peacock read the First Nations acknowledgement.

2. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

BD-2025-77 R. Leatham – S. Emons

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

BD-2025-78 K. Loveland – H. Aerts

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of October 16, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None declared.

DRAFT

7. Presentation

7.1) Bill 68: Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No.2) & Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities ERO posting #025-1257

Item 7.1 was undertaken as follows:

- 7.7.1) Review of MOECP Nov. 18, 2025 Presentation
- 7.1.2) Review of Take-aways from MOECP meeting
- 7.1.3) Review of Proposed Amalgamation
- 7.1.4) Review of Options to comment to province
- 7.1.5) Board Discussion
- 7.1.6) Review of Recommended LTVCA Resolution
- 7.1.7) Review of Comments to ERO
- 7.1.8) Review of Communications Plan
- 7.1.9) Review of Example Municipal Resolution

Mark Peacock provided the Board of Directors with information and presentations on Bill 68 and the ERO posting, and the implications for the LTVCA. Mark went through the presentation that was provided to CA General Managers / CAO's by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, 'Improving Ontario's Conservation Authority System'. He then provided a further presentation on the LTVCA's response to the ERO posting, breaking down the information that was provided to explain how the new agency could potentially operate. Mark provided three options for the Board of Directors to consider for moving forward with submitting comments back to the ERO posting to the province.

Amanda Blain provided the Board of Directors with a presentation on a Communications Strategy for the public to use to respond to the ERO posting. The LTVCA will be providing a simple easy template for the public to utilize when commenting back on the ERO. Local accountability to municipalities that fund the CA, increases in costs to taxpayers, loss of local decision making for local communities and potential delays in planning and permitting processes were just a few items noted as concerns. A major concern was that the LTVCA owns and manage hundreds of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to the LTVCA as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by a locally governed conservation authority. Amanda emphasized the need for a concise, consistent statement moving forward reaching out across all sectors, CA's, municipalities, builders associations, farm organizations, etc.

The LTVCA will provide a background report to member municipalities for information to provide details to councils around this issue. The LTVCA will also provide an example of a motion that councils can use and/or edit based on a motion generated from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

BD-2025-79 K. Loveland – L. Vogler

Moved that the Board of Directors approve the following as a response to the ERO posting regarding Bill 68:

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring that would also create a new Ontario Provincial

Conservation Agency to provide centralized oversight and direction under the Conservation Authorities Act; and

WHEREAS under this proposal, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) would be merged into a new "Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority" together with the:

- Essex Region CA
- St. Clair Region CA
- Upper Thames River CA
- Kettle Creek CA
- Catfish Creek CA
- Long Point Region CA
- Grand River CA

forming a single organization stretching from Windsor, London and Sarnia, through to Waterloo region; and

WHEREAS the Board acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency, consistency and fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, but finds that the proposed "Lake Erie Region" configuration would:

- Create a geographically vast and administratively complex entity, joining southwestern rural and urban municipalities throughout the province with little shared watershed connection or economic alignment;
- Dilute local accountability and municipal partnership, contrary to the principle that decisions are best made closest to the communities they affect;
- Generate substantial transition costs — including human-resources integration, governance restructuring, IT migration and policy harmonization — that would divert resources from front-line service delivery and delay measurable outcomes, contrary to the Province's own business-planning principles of value for money, cost containment and service continuity; and,
- Risk greater uncertainty and delay for builders, developers and farmers, as local permitting offices and staff familiar with site conditions are replaced by distant regional structures, making it harder for applicants to obtain timely on the ground local advice, resolve issues or expedite housing and infrastructure approvals that support the Province's "Get It Done" agenda; and

WHEREAS the LTVCA has already undertaken significant modernization work aligned with provincial objectives, including:

- Implementation of a Customer Service Delivery Program;
- Continually improvement of delivery standard well above the standard required by the province – 2024 - 81.7% met standard, 2025 - 96.8% are meeting standard
- Continual improvements in transparency and client communication through a number of recent strategic planning initiatives;
- Improvement in data and network systems, including security and redundancy
- Maintenance of a very low administrative overhead cost (e.g.10.7% (2024) of total operating costs).

And has done this while retaining in person local support to developers and permit recipients and Maintained a very limited levy increase to municipalities over the last 8 years.

This demonstrates that cost effective and meaningful modernization can occur within the current watershed-based governance framework; and

WHEREAS the Board further recognizes that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority serves Southwestern Ontario communities facing vastly different climatic, hydrological and infrastructure realities (e.g. large diking and pumped systems) based on the needs of vibrant rural and urban communities that are very different than the large urban communities found in the proposed regional conservation authority,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Directors does not support the proposed “Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and

The Board instead endorses further provincial evaluation of a more focused specific model as a geographically coherent, cost-effective and locally accountable alternative that advances the government’s priorities of efficiency, red-tape reduction and timely housing delivery; and

The Board requests that the Ministry engage directly with affected municipalities and conservation authorities across Southwestern Ontario most specifically, the Lower Thames Valley municipalities before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments; and

That this resolution, with a letter from the Chair, be forwarded to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations and to:

the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics;

local Members of Provincial Parliament;

the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Conservation Ontario; and

the Boards of the Essex Region, St. Clair Region, Upper Thames River, Kettle Creek, Catfish Creek, Long Point Region, and Grand River Conservation Authorities.

CARRIED

BD-2025-80 S. Emons – K. Loveland

Moved that presentation 7.1) be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Business for Approval

9. Correspondence

10. Other Business

None noted.

11. Adjournment

BD-2025-80 H. Aerts – K. Loveland

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

P. Tiessen
Chair



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

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Presentations

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

Mariah Alexander will provide a power point presentation on the Outreach Status Update for the C.M. Wilson Safety Village to the Board of Directors.

7.2) First Year Implementation LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan

Mark Peacock and Todd Casier will provide a power point presentation on the First Year Implementation - LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan to the Board of Directors.

7.3) Restructuring of LTVCA Reserves

Mark Peacock and Todd Casier will provide a power point presentation on the Restructuring of LTVCA Reserves to the Board of Directors.

7.4) LTVCA Personnel Policy Update

Mark Peacock will provide a power point presentation on the LTVCA Personnel Policies to the Board of Directors.

7.5) ERO Comments Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities

Mark Peacock will provide a power point presentation on ERO Comments – Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities to the Board of Directors.

8. New Business

9. Business for Approval

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

Outreach for the proposed C.M. Wilson Safety Village continues, but here is a quick status update:

52 surveys have been completed plus in-person conversations with community and stakeholders have occurred.

The goal is to receive 100 surveys before going ahead with the project. Additionally, there are still some key players I would love to hear from before outreach is concluded (most importantly Walpole Island First Nation, Delaware Nation at Moraviantown, Oneida Nation of the Thames and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation).

A variety of outreach methods were used: online and physical copies of the survey, attending community events, walking and conversing in the CA, and arranged meetings.

To briefly summarize the results of the surveys and conversations:

- 100% are in support of the transformation.
- Most participants responded that they rarely visit C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, and when they do, they are spending their time walking the trails and enjoying the pond.
- Participants have provided creative and amazing ideas that they wish to see included as part of this project, including: meditation labyrinths, sensory garden designs, conversion of a building into a “market” for what the garden produces, arboretum inspired signage and aesthetic, accessible picnic areas, eco-sculptures, and so much more.
- Participants expressed that they are excited to see more habitat and the creation of a place where they can learn more about the land, sustainable and traditional gardening methods, plant medicines, and about Indigenous culture. They believe it is good for the land, the wildlife, and for people of all ages. Many said they think that this project will increase visitation to the park and bookings for programming and camping.
- Two concerns were expressed: Prairie habitat looking “unkept” or “messy”, and Prairie being “unusable space” for people.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive the report for information.

9.2) First Year Implementation LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan

Date: December 18, 2025
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: First Year Implementation Report – LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services
 Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Background:

In December 2024, the LTVCA board approved the 10-year LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan. The total cost of the plan was estimated at \$1,806,900 with an average cost of \$180,690 and an estimated cost for 2025 of \$245,000. The board approved a 1% levy increase per year for 10 years with the balance of funding coming from reserves and operating surpluses.

The following table shows the impact of this plan on LTVCA reserves:

Year	Cost	Levy 1%/yr	Removed From Reserves
2025	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 16,610.53	\$ 228,389.47
2026	\$ 237,000.00	\$ 34,051.58	\$ 202,948.42
2027	\$ 175,900.00	\$ 52,015.87	\$ 123,884.13
2028	\$ 231,000.00	\$ 70,519.08	\$ 160,480.92
2029	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 89,577.39	\$ 40,422.61
2030	\$ 192,000.00	\$ 109,207.45	\$ 82,792.55
2031	\$ 242,000.00	\$ 129,426.41	\$ 112,573.59
2032	\$ 153,000.00	\$ 150,251.94	\$ 2,748.06
2033	\$ 101,000.00	\$ 171,702.24	-\$ 70,702.24
2034	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 193,796.04	-\$ 93,796.04
	\$ 1,806,900.00	\$ 1,017,158.53	\$ 789,741.47

In 2025 the LTVCA had a number of capital asset challenges, and which meant changes to the items addressed in the Capital Asset Management Plan but the cost of the Plan in 2025 remained on budget.

Summary of 2025 Expenditures

2025 LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan			
BUILDINGS	Expected Costs (2024 values)	Actual	Difference
CM14 - Longwoods			
Picnic Shelter - Roof	\$15,000.00	\$ 13,961.14	\$ 1,038.86
Insulated & Powered Storage Building (Burwell House) - Roof	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,428.57	-\$ 428.57
Old Equipment Storage - roof	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Trestle Bridge - Structure	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$5,000.00
Additional			
Livermore House Furnace & A/C	\$ -	\$ 9,718.00	-\$ 9,718.00
Longwoods Washroom	\$ -	\$ 7,765.00	-\$ 7,765.00

Suspension Bridge	\$ -	\$ 4,641.00	-\$ 4,641.00
Longwoods Water	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	-\$ 6,400.00
CM21 - CM Wilson			
Gatehouse - Roof	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,882.20	\$ 5,117.80
Day use Washrooms - Roof	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,882.20	\$ 4,117.80
Day use Washrooms - Interior Building Components General	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Campground Washrooms - Interior Building Components General	\$16,000.00	\$ 10,659.00	\$ 5,341.00
Roadways/Parking/Sidewalks - Campground Roads	\$15,000.00	\$1,700.00	\$13,300.00
Additional			
CM Wilson Water System	\$ -	\$ 37,157.00	-\$37,157.00
Wilson Gas Line and Furnace	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00	-\$11,000.00
Learning Centre LED Lights	\$ -	\$ 3,983.90	-\$ 3,983.90
CM22 - EM Warwick			
Picnic Shelter/Pavilion - Roof	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,491.49	\$ 508.51
Additional			
Millstream Roof	\$ -	\$ 16,363.98	-\$16,363.98
Lighthouse rebuild	\$ -	\$ 41,624.21	-\$41,624.21
Vehicles			
2000 Chev Dump Box (White)	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00
2008 Ford Ranger White	\$ 25,000.00	\$18,931.98	\$ 6,068.02
2009 Beige Dodge Caravan	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
3-Axle	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Eastern Dump trailer	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Additional			
2015 Silverado new engine	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	-\$ 8,000.00
Western Area Dump trailer	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	-\$18,000.00
CA Equipment			
2007 Kubota 1800 2wd, 60"Deck, 18HP, 705hrs-replacement	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
John Deere 911 Gas Mower-replacement	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
Hose for Portable Pumps (X8)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
Other Assets			
Business Vision	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
8 Computers a year at 5yr life	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 9,100.00
Longwoods Server	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	-\$ 2,000.00

2025 Asset Management Plan Budget	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 244,489.67	\$ 510.33
\$245,000			

Summary of Differences

Buildings:

Longwoods Road CA

- The Old Equipment Storage roof repaint was moved to next year
- The Trestle Bridge was not repaired as a windstorm did significant damage, and the repairs have to be reassessed
- The Livermore House Furnace broke and the whole system was replaced
- The Public Washroom required serious repairs and was unable to open; it was totally redone
- The effort on the Trestle Bridge was moved to the Suspension Bridge which was redecked
- A major watermain break resulted in new capital work to repair the system

CM Wilson CA

- The roofing cost came in lower than estimated
- Staff completed rebuilding of the elements of the campground washroom lowering expected costs
- The day use washroom repairs were moved to 2026 to address overages in other capital areas
- Graveling of access roads was put off as CM Wilson water system repairs increased
- The CM Wilson water system was brought up to regulatory standards, and the oil heating system was converted to natural gas as the oil storage was too close to the well
- Additional lighting repairs were required at the CM Wilson Learning Centre

E.M. Warwick CA

- Pavilion roof completed on budget

Additional Buildings

- The Millstream CA House roof was replaced early due to it leaking
- The Lighthouse CA house required major repairs to rent out due to damage from a prior tenant

Vehicles:

- 2000 dump truck not replaced due to purchase of dump trailer, truck to be used for Longwoods Road CA Sanding only
- 2008 Ranger replaced (Note: LTVCA generally purchases second hand vehicles)
- 2009 van not replaced as inspection confirmed that vehicle can continue in service
- 3-axle trailer not replaced as dump trailer purchased is able to address needs
- Eastern dump trailer purchased within budget
- Additional Vehicles
 - A replacement engine was put in the 2015 Silverado as the truck remains in good condition
 - The Western area dump trailer was purchased to address non replacement of the dump truck

CA Equipment:

- The two lawnmower purchases were moved to 2026 to address overages in other areas
- The replacement hoses for pumps were moved to 2027 to address overages in other areas and as these hoses may be replaced by standard sized hoses at a much lower cost

Other Assets:

- Business Visions (accounting software) was not updated as this software may change if amalgamation moves forward
- Significant savings were realized in computer purchases as grants were used for these purchases

- The Longwoods Road CA Server was over budget due to increased costs in this type of hardware

Summary

The 2025 implementation of the LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan was completed with a number of changes to address asset issues. With all the changes considered, no significant impact will be seen in future years of the implementation of the plan.

Recommended Resolution:

That the First Year Implementation Report – LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan be received for information purposes.

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

Prepared By:
Todd Casier, CPA, CA,
Manager, Corporate Services

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

9.3) Restructuring of LTVCA Reserves

Date: December 18, 2025
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: Restructuring of LTVCA Reserves
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services
Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

Background

In December 2024, the Board of Directors approved the LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan. The total cost to implement the plan over the first 10 years was estimated at \$1,806,900 with an average cost per year of \$180,690. The Board approved drawing down reserves and using operating surpluses while increasing levy by 1% per year to fund the plan.

The following table shows the impact of this plan on LTVCA reserves and operating surpluses:

Year	Cost	Levy 1%/yr	Removed From Reserves
2025	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 16,610.53	\$ 228,389.47
2026	\$ 237,000.00	\$ 34,051.58	\$ 202,948.42
2027	\$ 175,900.00	\$ 52,015.87	\$ 123,884.13
2028	\$ 231,000.00	\$ 70,519.08	\$ 160,480.92
2029	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 89,577.39	\$ 40,422.61
2030	\$ 192,000.00	\$ 109,207.45	\$ 82,792.55
2031	\$ 242,000.00	\$ 129,426.41	\$ 112,573.59
2032	\$ 153,000.00	\$ 150,251.94	\$ 2,748.06
2033	\$ 101,000.00	\$ 171,702.24	-\$ 70,702.24
2034	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 193,796.04	-\$ 93,796.04
	\$ 1,806,900.00	\$ 1,017,158.53	\$ 789,741.47

The total cost to implement the LTVCA Asset Management Plan is \$789,741. These funds will need to be covered from general reserves and operating surpluses generated in the next 9 years. It is noted that in the last four years the average operating surplus has been over \$150,000 per year.

Movement of Reserves into an Asset Management Reserve

The approved LTVCA Capital Asset Management Plan foresaw the use of Capital Reserves as the main source of funding. The Reserves are currently held in a number of specifically named reserves. The reserves are as follows: (as noted in the LTVCA 2024 Audited Financial Statements)

13. RESERVES

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority sets up internal reserves for operations, capital replacement, legal and other items in order to ensure funds are available to finance shortfalls. These reserves are replenished from operating surplus and, where appropriate, as directed by the Board of Directors.

	<u>BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR</u>	<u>TRANSFER FROM SURPLUS</u>	<u>TRANSFER TO SURPLUS</u>	<u>BALANCE, END OF YEAR</u>
Reserve for vehicle and equipment acquisitions	\$ 38,390	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,390
Reserve for capital and maintenance projects on Authority lands and structures	189,036	2,843	-	191,879
Reserve for provincially eligible and mandated projects	44,107	2,842	-	46,949
Reserve for insurance deductibles	30,000	-	-	30,000
Reserve for restructuring	216,677	-	-	216,677
Reserve for eastern district properties	<u>7,858</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,858</u>
	<u>\$ 526,068</u>	<u>\$ 5,685</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 531,753</u>

Through acceptance of these financial statements, the Board of Directors approves a transfer of \$5,685, (2023 - \$8,099) from the annual surplus to reserve accounts and approved a transfer of \$nil, (2023 - \$nil) from reserve accounts to the statement of operations.

It is noted that the provincially eligible and mandated projects reserve includes asset management as an eligible project. Staff recommend moving all reserves, except for the Reserve for Eastern district properties (funds to address the Crane Property divestment), to a new reserve entitled LTVCA Asset Management Reserve. As of December 18, 2025, the LTVCA Asset Management Reserve has a value of \$523,895.

Transfer of Deferred Revenue into Specific Reserves

Stewardship Projects Reserve

Several years ago, the LTVCA received a grant from the federal government for forest clearing the LTVCA undertook during the Emerald Ash Bore infestation and future remediation. Over the years, stewardship services have used this funding for remediation or as a backstop for funding for remediation. This is due to the funding nature of stewardship at the LTVCA. Many of the stewardship costs are funded through grant programs that require matching funding. At the beginning of the year many of the grants used are not yet

confirmed and so funding for staff is uncertain. However, during the year staff typically generate enough revenue to cover their costs through charges for projects undertaken and grants for those projects. Over the years the LTVCA has met all the requirements required to recognize this deferred balance. The amount currently in the deferred account is \$268,516.75. It is recommended that this amount be placed into a Stewardship Projects Reserve to be used to generate further grant funding.

Wetlands Projects Reserve

Over a number of years, stewardship services has received numerous grants to offset costs of constructing wetlands. In most years, the LTVCA undertakes approximately twenty wetland construction projects. The deferred revenue is used to fund the LTVCA matching portion of wetland projects. This portion is often recovered from other funding sources as the project is developed. Currently the wetland deferred revenue is \$180,042.77. It is recommended that these funds be placed in a reserve entitled “Wetland Projects Reserve” as all deferred obligations regarding these grants have been met. This reserve will be used to generate future grant funding. It is also understood that this reserve will fluctuate annually as projects are undertaken and funding grants/donations/reimbursements are received.

Recommended Resolution:

Be it resolved that the following reserves be created from LTVCA funds:

LTVCA Asset Management Reserve – current value \$523,895

Stewardship Projects Reserve – current value \$268,516.75

Wetland Projects Reserve – current value \$180,042.77

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, CA
Manager, Corporate Services

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

9.4) LTVCA Personnel Policy Update

Date: December 18, 2025

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: **Personnel Policies Update**

From: Kally Casier, HR Coordinator and Corporate Services Assistant

The Human Resources Committee, advised by the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, has completed the review and has fully updated the Authority's Personnel Policies manual.

The policy manual will be a living document to allow for regular review and revisions, ensuring the Authority can meet current needs, legal requirements, accommodate any emerging societal, legislative or judiciary changes, and ensure best practice and compliance. As changes or updates are required, each individual policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary and presented to the Board for approval.

The first three sections of the policy manual comprised of 35 individual policies were provided to the Board of Directors and presented at the October meeting and the final three sections containing an additional 13 policies were provided to be presented at the December Board meeting.

The Personnel Policies will be finalized and implemented upon approval by the Board of Directors in December 2025.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive the report and presentation and approve the updated LTVCA Personnel Policies dated December 2025.

9.5) ERO Comments Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities

The report and recommended motion will be walked into the meeting.

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

Date: December 18, 2025
 Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
 Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to October 31, 2025**
 From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Corporate Services

Background:

Review the 2025 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 10 months ended October 31, 2025.

REVENUE	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET OCT PROJECTED		2025 ACTUAL TO OCT 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	5,368,352	4,473,626	*	2,441,036	(2,032,590)
GENERAL LEVY	1,760,716	1,760,716	^	1,760,716	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	213,200	213,200	^	213,200	0
GENERAL REVENUES	832,764	693,970	*	976,713	282,743
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	5,387	5,387
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
CASH FUNDING	8,175,032	7,141,512		5,397,052	(1,744,460)
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	8,175,032	7,141,512		5,397,052	(1,744,460)

*-based on a 10 of 12-month proration of the budget

^-based on cash received to date

Grant income is less than budgeted due to timing of grants invoiced. A large portion of the difference is due to the Clean Water Program-Precision Phosphorous Reduction Program not making payments to participants until later in the year and into the new year and the revenue for those payments not being invoiced.

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

Apportionment revenue is shown on a cash basis. The all municipalities are paid in full as of December 11th, 2025.

General Revenue is above budget due to the following factors:

- Permit Fees are above budget due to an increase in permits over budget expectations, Conservation Areas is above budget due to receiving seasonal camping revenue and a small increase in camping revenue over budget, Conservation Services and Chatham Kent Greening are above budget as tree planting is complete and billed and due to an increase in Prairie planting and tree sales, and interest income is above budget due to higher interest rates.

Foundation Grants and Revenues are above budget due to the payment of memorial trees for 2025 versus the uncertainty of funds available when budgeting.

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

EXPENSES	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET OCT PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO OCT 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	224,158	186,799	143,332	(43,467)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	9	8	10	2
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	111,333	92,777	80,837	(11,940)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	197,211	164,343	120,513	(43,830)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	464,496	387,080	342,637	(44,443)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	169,902	141,585	172,183	30,598
SOURCE PROTECTION	28,312	23,593	23,403	(190)
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
Water Management Subtotal	1,195,421	996,185	882,915	(113,270)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	871,678	726,398	892,393	165,995
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	149,477	124,564	128,677	4,113
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	134,671	112,226	94,091	(18,135)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	126,990	105,825	70,228	(35,597)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	411,138	342,615	292,996	(49,619)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	246,071	205,059	180,270	(24,789)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	584,604	487,170	619,303	132,133
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	4,742,504	3,952,086	1,338,312	(2,613,774)
SPECIES AT RISK	123,616	103,013	161,282	58,269
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	5,696,795	4,747,328	2,299,167	(2,448,161)
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,175,032	6,812,526	4,367,471	(2,445,055)

Water Management

Flood Control Structures expenses are below budget due to some larger annual expenses that are incurred later in the year and staff time spent on other programs.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are below budget due to some larger annual expenses that are billed at year-end.

Technical Studies and Planning and Regulations expenses are below budget due to staff time being spent in other areas and some positions not being filled for the full year.

Watershed Monitoring expenses are above budget due to spring sampling and extra staff time spent on the project.

Source Protection expenses are comparable to budget.

Conservation Areas

Conservation area expenses are above budget due mostly to the costs of opening the Conservation Area campgrounds, work on the House at the Lighthouse Conservation Area and other Asset Management Expenditures at Wilson and Longwoods CAs.

Community Relations and Education

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

Conservation Services/Stewardship

Conservation Services (Forestry) are below budget due to staff time being spent in other areas. Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are above budget as most large activities, like tree and prairie planting, and the related expenses have been completed and some increased prairie and tree sales over budget and increased grants and expenditures above budget in Urban Stewardship.

Phosphorous Reduction is significantly below budget mostly due to the Clean Water Program-Precision Phosphorous Reduction Program not making payments (≈\$2.7M) to participants until later in the year and potential into the new year.

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

Capital/Miscellaneous

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

Summary:

	2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET OCT PROJECTED	2025 ACTUAL TO OCT 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	8,175,032	7,141,512	5,397,052	(1,744,460)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,175,032	6,812,526	4,367,471	(2,445,055)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	328,986	1,029,581	700,595

At October 31, 2025, LTVCA’s operating surplus is favourable mostly due to less expenditures compared to budget because of the seasonal nature of a large amount of the Conservation Authorities expenses as noted above.

Note: Part of the difference between the projected budget funding and projected budget expenditures is due to the recognition of the annual General Apportionment and Special Apportionment versus all other income and expenses being prorated for the period.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended October 31, 2025.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted

Todd Casier, CPA, CA
Manager, Corporate Services

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

10. Business for Information

10.1) CAO / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: December 18, 2025
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors
Subject: CAO /Secretary-Treasurer Report
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

CA Amalgamation Proposal EBO Posting

Bill 68, known as the Plan to Protect Ontario Act, was enacted on November 27, 2025, and introduces significant changes to various legislative frameworks in Ontario, particularly concerning conservation authorities. Key Changes Introduced by Bill 68 were Conservation Authorities Act Amendments. These changes create a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency that will oversee these authorities and their operations. The Act has received royal assent (less than 30 day between 1st reading and royal assent) and is now in force.

In addition to the Act, An EBO position of a proposed amalgamation of the 36 conservation authorities into 7 regional Conservation authorities has been posted. The comments on the posting are due by December 22, 2025. Draft responses to the posting were presented at the special board meeting of November 20, 2025. Meetings with other CAs, municipalities, First Nations and the public are ongoing. Final recommended responses to the EBO posting will be presented at the LTVCA December Board of Director's meeting.

2026 Budget Process

With approval from the Chair, staff concentrated on work with municipalities regarding Amalgamation of CAs. Due to this additional work, the levy letter was not set to municipalities immediately after the October meeting of the board. This letter has now been provided to municipalities as a number of municipal staff have asked for our 2026 levy numbers for their 2026 budget deliberations. Should municipalities express concerns with the levy, an additional meeting of the board can be arranged for January to address concerns prior to the budget vote to be held during the Annual General Meeting at the end of February.

Tilbury Northside Conservation Area

In 1990 the Board of Directors of the LTVCA approved a motion to allow staff to transfer the Tilbury Northside Conservation Area to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (at that time: the Town of Tilbury). As of this date, the LTVCA ceased to pay taxes for this property. The Municipality moved forward with maintenance and development of the area at the time of divestment. In 2004 it was determined that the property had not been transferred and the LTVCA approved transferring the land again. It has recently come to our attention that the property was never properly conveyed to the municipality. The titles were merged with existing Chatham-Kent lands, but the legal transfer never occurred. To address this, staff have signed documents to legally have the lands conveyed to the municipality. We believe that the property has now been finally transferred.

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 only one flood messages issued since the last written report for the Board of Directors. The message was a Shoreline Condition Statement – Safety Bulletin, issued on November 25th. Environment and Climate Change Canada had issued a Special Weather Statement for high winds, and the Marine Forecast had a Gale Warning. Sustained wind speeds over 60 km/h with gusts up to 90 km/h, from the southwest, were forecasted which could have produced large waves in the nearshore area. Since water levels on Lake Erie have dropped to near normal conditions, the shoreline is much less susceptible to flooding. As a result, only a Safety Bulletin was issued.

Report on Lake Conditions

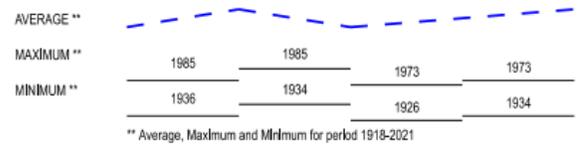
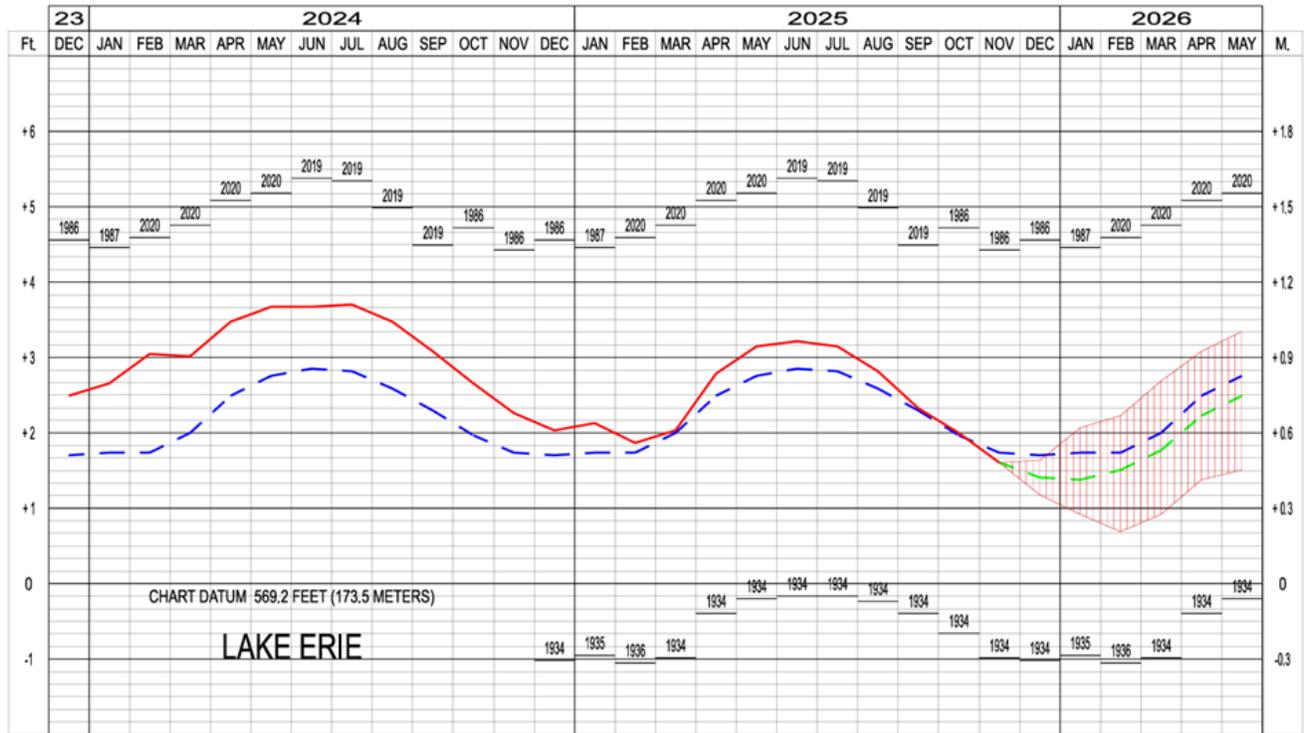
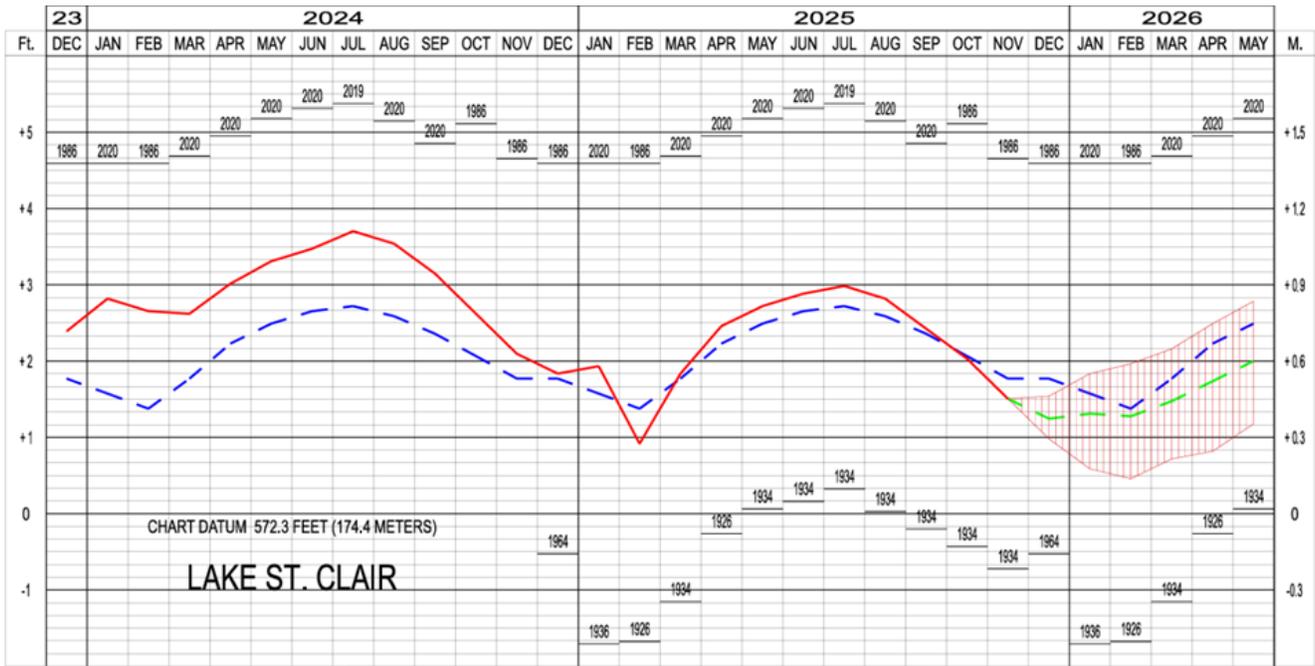
Average daily water levels on Lake Erie at the beginning of December were around 173.95 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for December was 174.89 m, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of December were 2 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of December. Forecasts suggest water levels are near their seasonal lows and will rise by 2 or 3 cm by the beginning of January.

Average daily water levels on Lake St. Clair at the beginning of December were around 174.79 m (I.G.L.D.). The all-time record high monthly average for December was 175.80, set in 1986. Water levels at the beginning of December were 1 cm above what would be considered normal for the month of December. Forecasts suggest water levels are near their seasonal lows and will rise by 2 or 3 cm by the beginning of January.

Water levels on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair began rising in 2017, creating conditions that made the shorelines in the LTVCA more susceptible to flooding and erosion. Water levels on the lakes have been considered above average since that time, with record setting and near record setting lake levels in 2019 and 2020. In November, water levels on both lakes dropped below their long-term averages. Long range forecasts of lake levels suggest that Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair water levels will remain slightly below the long-term average through the Spring of 2026.

With respect to shoreline flooding, the drop in lake levels means that only very strong winds (i.e. gale force or stronger wind events lasting several hours in duration) are now required to cause minor flooding along the LTVCA's Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie shorelines. However, there is always the possibility that inappropriate shoreline alterations could increase the flooding potential. Once the lakes freeze over for the winter, the risk of any shoreline flooding will be over until the spring melt.

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 December.



10.2.2) Flood Control Structures

There has been little activity surrounding the LTVCA's flood control structures over the last few months. There have been no significant rainfall events over the last few months so there have been no operations since the last report. Seasonal maintenance has continued for the flood control structures, including further vegetation control on the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel.

10.2.3) Low Water Response Program

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

When looking at the Ontario Low Water Response Program indicators, the precipitation indicators and the flow indicators seemed to be going in different directions. In September and the beginning of October, 3-month rainfall totals were near the Level 1 threshold, while flows had dropped down to near the Level 2 threshold. When examining the November values, the situation has flipped.

For November, flows on the Thames River were within 2% of the Level 1 Low Water Condition threshold, with the average monthly flow at Dutton being 101% of the LASF and at Thamesville being 98% of the LASF. McGregor Creek, the only tributary monitored for the program, is a very flashy system, so the median value is generally examined rather than the mean. McGregor Creek flow was under the Level 1 threshold by 10% when looking at the median flow value.

The precipitation indicator seems to say the opposite. When looking at the 3-month rainfall totals for 11 gauges around the watershed, 8 gauges showed less than 60% of normal rainfall. This clearly places the watershed within a Level 2 Low Water Condition. Only the rain gauge at Dutton showed greater rainfall, and it was still in the Level 1 Condition range.

At the time of writing this Board Report, the LTVCA has recommended moving the watershed to a Level 2 Low Water Condition and is awaiting feedback from the Low Water Response Team regarding whether to remain at a Level 1 Low Water Condition or to move to a Level 2.

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 on a monthly basis. This sampling is required to be able to determine nutrient loadings related to the phosphorous reduction targets under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. As it is winter, this sampling is being funded through the MECP under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA). Usually, the LTVCA is also conducting event-based sampling at this time of the year. However, conditions have been so dry that there has not been any event-based sampling. Maintenance of the equipment and autosamplers for the water quality program continues. The pesticide sampling program being undertaken for Health Canada has wrapped up for the season. Algae monitoring has also wrapped up for the season.

Groundwater monitoring for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) program also continues. For that program, the LTVCA monitors and maintains the wells, and water level and temperature data is downloaded from data loggers by LTVCA staff, even for those sites that have telemetry to allow the MECP to automatically download the data. Every autumn there is also a program where LTVCA staff pump seven of the PGMN wells and takes water quality samples to be analysed by the MECP. This sampling is now complete for 2025.

The MECP COA grant is coming up for renewal next year. LTVCA staff have therefore been working on reporting. An annual report describing water quality and phosphorous loadings up to the end of 2023-2024 water year has been submitted to the MECP. This report is expected to be updated next spring when data from the 2024-2025 water year can be added. Interim financial reporting has also been completed. The LTVCA looks forward to working with MECP on a renewal of this agreement.

Alignment with the LTVCA's Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

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

2. Monitoring the Health of the Watershed
3. Supporting Sustainable Growth
4. Improving Transparency and Customer Service in Planning and Regulations
5. Protecting the Community from Natural Hazards
6. Educating the Community about Natural Hazards
7. Supporting Community Understanding of the Watershed

10.3) Planning and Regulations

10.3.1) Planning

From the end of September 2025 through to the end of November 2025, there were 44 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 76 phone calls and over 289 email responses to inquiries that staff have responded to.

Planning Numbers	2024 Totals	Jan Totals	Feb Totals	Mar Totals	Apr Totals	May Totals	June Totals	July Totals	Aug Totals	Sept Totals	Oct Totals	Nov Totals	2025 Totals
Chatham-Kent	197	5	16	7	22	30	7	13	13	10	13	12	148
Elgin	33	5	0	1	5	4	4	3	6	4	3	4	39
Essex	31	0	0	0	4	2	1	3	2	3	1	1	17
Middlesex	28	7	2	1	3	3	2	4	3	3	6	4	38
Total Numbers	289	17	18	9	34	39	14	23	24	20	23	21	242

Planning Fees

No planning submission fees were received from member municipalities for the time period between October 1, 2025 through to November 30, 2025.

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

10.3.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

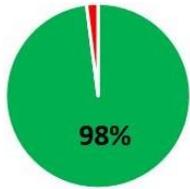
With respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24, the LTVCA received a total of 59 new permit applications in the months of October and November. The total number of permit applications received so far in 2025 is 574.

Of the new applications and, combined with previously submitted “incomplete” applications, a total of 54 applications were deemed to be “complete” in October and November and could be reviewed for permitting. Those 54 applications were in addition to the previous queue of one “complete” application leading into this reporting period. 52 of the 55 “complete” applications were processed and all were approved by staff with or without conditions. As of the end of November, three “complete” applications were in the queue for processing.

\$100,725 in permit application fees had been, or was to be, collected as of the end of November which is an increase of \$8,600 since the last board report at the October meeting.

10.3.3) Application Timelines:

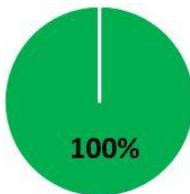
Review for Completeness:



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 October and November, the average response time with respect to this was three days (ranging between 0 and 25 days). 98% of all applications met the provincially required timeline for a “completeness” response.

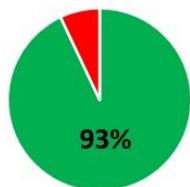
Permit Processing:

For applications issued in October and November, the table and charts below indicate that 100% of “routine” applications and 93% of “minor” applications met their applicable LTVCA customer service standard for turnaround time.



Routine Applications:

For the months of October and November, the average turnaround time for a routine permit application was two days (ranged between 0 and 7 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 October and November, the average turnaround time was six days (ranged between 0 and 37 days) for minor permit applications. The LTVCA’s customer service standard for minor complexity permits is a turnaround within 21 days. The processing time for minor permit applications is generally meeting the LTVCA’s customer service target.

10.3.4) Property Inquiries:

Up to the end of November, 1,675 property inquiries (including permit pre-consultation questions) were received and responded to by the Regulations Technician which is 274 more since the last board report. The October and November inquiries were responded to with ~480 e-mails, ~30 phone calls, and 6 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 5 business days for e-mails and 10 business days for phone calls. The length of time to respond to both e-mails and phone calls is similar to the last board report.

10.3.5) Policies and Procedures Update:

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

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

10.3.6) Section 28 Enforcement:

In the first 11 months of 2025, 25 complaints / tips were received from the public about possible enforcement issues. This is an increase of two from the last board report in October.

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) O. Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications

O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permit Decisions in October and November 2025)

B.D. 12/18/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
443-2025	7494 Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 03, 2025	2
462-2025	Sterling Drains Outlet in Rondeau Bay	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 08, 2025	0
502-2025	Mills Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Oct 06, 2025	20
509-2025	2961 to 3009 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 24, 2025	1
514-2025	15620 Braemore Line	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 01, 2025	0
515-2025	388 Indian Creek Road West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 07, 2025	1
516-2025	894 Charing Cross Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 10, 2025	2
517-2025	8068 Union Road	Fingal	Southwold	Granted: Nov 12, 2025	37
518-2025	9210 Union Road @ Natural Watercourse	Southwold	Southwold	Granted: Oct 10, 2025	4
519-2025	Mumford Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Oct 28, 2025	25
520-2025	22025 Tecumseh Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Granted: Oct 28, 2025	7
521-2025	30 Rosewood Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 24, 2025	3
523-2025	11 Goldpark Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 20, 2025	0
524-2025	6498 7th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 25, 2025	4
525-2025	6833 8th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 25, 2025	4
526-2025	7068 to 7134 9th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 25, 2025	4
527-2025	7186 9th Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 25, 2025	4
528-2025	9th Line at Waddick Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 25, 2025	4
529-2025	14193 Cowal Road	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Granted: Oct 22, 2025	0
530-2025	1280 Kerr Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 23, 2025	1
532-2025	178 Victoria Street	Rodney	West Elgin	Granted: Oct 28, 2025	0
533-2025	Coatsworth Road at Tunnel Relief Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 24, 2025	0
534-2025	5415 Gleeson Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
535-2025	Morris Line @ Government Drain #1	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
536-2025	22486 Merlin Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
537-2025	5834 6th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
538-2025	5706 6th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
539-2025	7048 to 7234 6th Line East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
540-2025	5898 to 6144 6th Line West	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
541-2025	Merlin Road by Port Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
542-2025	22644 Dillon Road	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
543-2025	6360 Queens Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 21, 2025	1
544-2025	228 Erie Street South	Merlin	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 27, 2025	3
545-2025	75 Fenceline Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Oct 29, 2025	2
552-2025	Markham Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Granted: Oct 28, 2025	0
553-2025	Dobie Drive	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Granted: Nov 04, 2025	5

**O.Reg. 41/24 Permit Applications
(Permit Decisions in October and November 2025)**

B.D. 12/18/2025

App No.	Location	Community / Township	Municipality	Decision	Processing Time (days)
554-2025	Tecumseh Road at Baptiste Creek	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 05, 2025	6
555-2025	Merlin Road at Raleigh Plains Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 05, 2025	6
556-2025	Third Line at Raleigh Plains Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 05, 2025	6
557-2025	Queens Line at Raleigh Plains Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 05, 2025	6
558-2025	Thames River, area of 6081 Riverview Line & 6236 Grande River Line	Dover & Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 06, 2025	7
559-2025	4 Cornerstone Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 10, 2025	6
560-2025	8 Cornerstone Place	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 10, 2025	6
561-2025	Third Street & Stass Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 05, 2025	1
562-2025	1031 Mersea Road 10	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Nov 06, 2025	7
563-2025	19055 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 13, 2025	3
565-2025	Hookaway Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Granted: Nov 12, 2025	12
569-2025	54 Heather Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 14, 2025	0
570-2025	2339 Mersea Road 8	Mersea	Leamington	Granted: Nov 17, 2025	0
571-2025	503 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 19, 2025	0
573-2025	30 Bruinsma Avenue	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Granted: Nov 25, 2025	0

10.4) Conservation Lands

10.4.1) Conservation Areas

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The Longwoods Resource Centre has officially received public health approval for our Kitchen. In the new year we will be able to rent out the facility to users. We have a few ongoing projects on site regarding the water system and building drainage however those projects are underway and being managed by our wonderful land staff.

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

At C.M. Wilson Conservation Area we upgraded our water system; the system has experience some working hiccups that the staff are working through at this time and should be completed by the end of the year. The furnace in the rental house on the property did also require additional parts and has since been repaired and the shop will be receiving a new gas line and a gas furnace prior to the new year.

Campgrounds

The campgrounds and hunt camps have come to an end for the winter, and the main campgrounds have been closed and winterized. E.M. Warwick is still available for winter rentals as this facility is open year-round.

Land Donations

The LTVCA has received two land donations this past fall.

The Ward Property was donated by Brent Ward and Jane Marie Ward, this property is approximately 1 acre inside on Talbot Trail, Wheatley area close to their last donated property the Ward Conservation Area. This new Conservation Area will be called the Ward Erie Outlook Conservation Area.

The Stoss Property was donated by Werner and Myrna Stoss; this conservation area is approximately 78 acres in the Township of Southwold between Fingal and Shedden. This property will be named Five Maples Conservation Area; this new Conservation Area will be announced to the public on December 19th from 1pm-3pm at the Shedden Firehall (9331 Union Road, Shedden). This announcement will involve the Mayor, Southwold Staff, LTVCA Staff and Board Members, the Werner Family and the media.

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

Healthy and Climate Resilient Watersheds
Connecting People to Nature
Organizational Excellence

10.5) Conservation Services

10.5.1) General Update

Urban Stewardship:

From October to the present, the Urban Stewardship Program has remained deeply engaged in community-based restoration, education, and planning efforts across Chatham-Kent. Early in the season, pollinator plugs were planted at Rose Beach Line alongside an environmental science class from Ursuline College Chatham (UCC), giving students a hands-on opportunity to participate in habitat restoration and learn about the importance of native prairie species. The students also cleaned up litter from the beach and adjacent road. Native seed collection also took place at the Turin Paw Prairie with the environmental club from Chatham-Kent Secondary School (CKSS), where students assisted in gathering prairie seed to support future restoration projects and deepen their understanding of local tallgrass ecosystems.



CKSS environmental club students collecting prairie seed

Tree planting efforts continued through a partnership with Enbridge and Nature CK, resulting in 130 trees being planted in a park within a new residential development in Chatham-Kent. This project contributed to community greening and long-term climate resilience in an expanding neighbourhood. The program was also invited to attend the Ridgetown 150 celebration to be recognized for contributing 150 trees earlier in the spring, helping mark the community's milestone anniversary with a meaningful environmental legacy. Professional development progressed as well through participation in another session of the Youth Conservation Professionals Leadership Program, hosted by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at the Claremont Nature Centre, offering valuable training and collaboration with conservation professionals across the province.



UCC environmental science students planting & cleaning up Rose Beach

Significant progress was made on the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP), developed in partnership with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The program has now reached over 700 applicants from the communities of Wallaceburg, Thamesville, and Ridgeway, reflecting strong local interest in home-based climate adaptation and stormwater management projects. Additionally, project reporting was completed for several major grants, including the CWA LTVCA Filtering for the Future initiative and the MECP's Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF), ensuring successful closure and continued transparency across program funding streams.

Overall, this year has been exceptional for the Urban Stewardship Program, marked by high levels of volunteer participation, meaningful restoration projects, and a significant amount of grant funding secured. These combined efforts have strengthened community engagement, expanded environmental impact, and positioned the program for continued success in the years ahead.

ALUS Elgin - Russel Vey: December Update

The Farmer Liaison initiative is ongoing and remains a central priority as we move into year-end. Over the fall, ALUS Elgin PAC members have been assessing participant projects to maintain database accuracy and strengthen relationships with landowners. This initiative is expected to wrap up by late December or early January, and it has already proven valuable for confirming project conditions, supporting participant engagement, and improving overall program accountability.

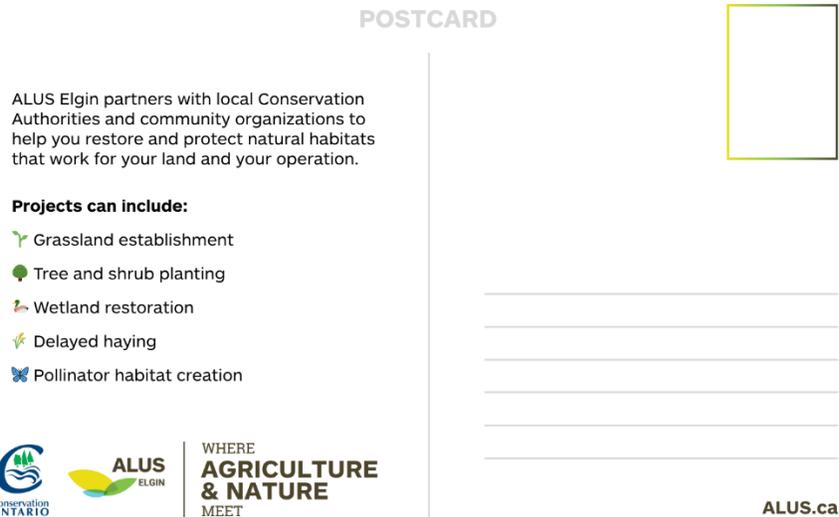
The Terms of Reference for the PAC has now been fully completed and finalized. With this updated governance framework in place, the PAC enters the new year with clearer expectations, improved decision-making procedures, and strengthened structures for long-term operational continuity.

In October, I attended the ALUS East Hub Field Conference in Chatham, Ontario, hosted by ALUS Chatham-Kent (CK). This two-day conference offered an exceptional learning experience and an opportunity to connect with coordinators from across the Eastern Hub. Day 1 featured guided field tours showcasing a range of ALUS CK projects across Chatham-Kent, all of which demonstrated great innovation and community partnerships driving ALUS CK's success. The tour also included a meaningful visit to Walpole Island First Nation, where speakers shared perspectives on stewardship, cultural history, and restoration priorities in the region from an Indigenous perspective. Day 2 focused on workshops and presentations led by ALUS coordinators and managers from across the East Hub, covering program delivery strategies, common implementation challenges, and practical tools used in their day-to-day work (e.g., database management, software platforms, and workflow systems). The conference concluded with a dinner and the presentation of the Dave Reid Award, where Chris Crump—a local farmer, ALUS Middlesex PAC member, and wetland contractor—was recognized for his contributions.

Year-End Reports are now underway. I have been working through database updates to ensure all 2025 projects are accurately recorded and verified. All new projects have been GPS ground-truthed, and annual payments are being updated and prepared for issuance later this month. This process has also provided an important opportunity to clean and optimize toolkits used for program monitoring (e.g., the Allocation Tool) ahead of the 2026 cycle.

To support outreach and communications for ALUS Elgin in the new year, a program postcard has been designed, printed, and is ready to be distributed through Canada Post in the coming weeks. The postcard was created with a clean and versatile layout so that it can be reused for future mail-outs and landowner engagement efforts.





ALUS Elgin outreach postcard.

Eastern District – Tyler Thornton:

During the fall & winter months I have been busy coordinating the completion of my remaining 2025 wetland & erosion control projects. Five wetland projects were completed, which combined for a total of approximately 3 restored acres, as well as two erosion control projects where a total of 15 WASCOB structures were constructed to assist landowners who were experiencing severe rill erosion within their agricultural fields. I have submitted a “Tremendous Communities” grant to Trees Canada in the hopes of receiving funding for large stock tree planting with the Municipality of Dutton in the late spring of 2026, as well as I have assisted in the grant writing for an ECO-Action grant through the Canada Water Agency. Future tree sapling projects for 2026 that are to be funded through Trees Canada were also to be submitted on Dec 5, and I have submitted the required project proposal template. In the end of November, I assisted our agricultural team by participating in a showcase video, which will be used during future events to educate farmers on what LTVCA staff are assisting local landowners with in the local community. Stewardship staff including myself have been consistently attending site visits and answering inquiries from the local community regarding future stewardship projects within our watershed.

Please see below for pictures encapsulating some of the work conducted in the eastern district this fall/winter.

Fall/Winter Wetland Sites 2025



Pearce Williams Summer Camp Site near Fingal- 1 acre (few days after construction)



Hunt Wetland Repair & Enhancement near Fingal - 0.4 acres (Few Days after construction)



Vowel Wetland Site near Fingal – 0.5 acres (Day of completion)

Fall/Winter Erosion Control Sites



Delellis Erosion Control Site near Glencoe – 5 WASCObS



Giret Erosion Control Site near Dutton – 7 WASCObS

Western District – Michael Young: The fall proved to be perfect weather to wrap up the last wetland and erosion control projects. Stewardship staff were able to help assist the Ag team in implementing multiple erosion control projects which aims to protect soil health and reduce phosphorous loading in Lake Erie. Leads are still being gathered for next year with plans and designs being developed for next summer.

Effort is shifting more to tree projects now, preparing for Spring 2026 planting. The team has met multiple times to discuss the current project load and start planning logistics to handle next Spring's tree planting. Staff are continuing to complete site visits for trees, grasslands, wetlands and erosion control.



Vojvodin Shrub Planting – LTVCA staff, with the help of the landowner planting shrubs along the slope of the bank on the Thames River after completing a wetland and erosion control project on site.



Morris wetland completed. Staff will return to this site in the Spring to plant native shrubs to increase diversity in the area.



McGeachy erosion project completed.

ALUS Middlesex – Erica Ion: By the end of November, ALUS Middlesex successfully implemented the last conservation projects for the year. Since then, we have begun preparing for the exciting year ahead and continued to meet with interested landowners for next year’s projects. In preparation for 2026 planting

projects, in the beginning of October, ALUS Middlesex visited several local grassland sites to collect seeds from a variety of native grasses, wildflowers, and tree species. Additionally, the fall was busy with writing grant applications in our attempt to secure community-sourced funds for 2026.



Last tallgrass prairie project of 2025 for ALUS Middlesex being seeded using a no-till drill on a landowner's field.

Not only were we busy wrapping up projects for the year, but we have also been engaged in outreach activities and attending events. On October 7th & 8th, ALUS Middlesex attended the 2025 East Hub ALUS Conference hosted by ALUS Chatham-Kent in Chatham, Ontario. The conference led its participants on an amazing tour of ALUS Chatham-Kent projects across the county, teaching participants the importance of land restoration. Furthermore, the group had the incredible opportunity to visit Walpole Island and learn about its history and tour the beautiful landscape. Throughout the conference, ALUS Middlesex was able to connect with local partners and stakeholders interested in funding the ALUS program.



ALUS 2025 East Hub Conference participants at the first site visit in Chatham-Kent.

ALUS Middlesex also attended the Tallgrass Prairie Workshop hosted by ALUS Chatham-Kent and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) at a landowner's tallgrass prairie on October 8th. Guest speakers presented their experiences and successes with tallgrass prairies to the crowd of curious landowners, and the owner of the prairie answered many questions surrounding the successful establishment of a tallgrass prairie.

Continuing to support our local community partners, ALUS Middlesex assisted Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) with planting around a newly established wetland just outside the town of Ailsa Craig. The planting took place on October 27th at New Moon Community Homestead, and more than 300 plants were planted by hand around the wetland to enhance the growth of native flora and encourage wildlife to use the wetland. Big blue stem, purple coneflower, smooth/sweet-oxeye and meadowsweet are just a few of the species that were planted.



Erica Ion (ALUS Middlesex, Program Director) and Angela Van Niekirk (Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Wetlands Specialist) planting over 300 plants around a new wetland at New Moon Community Homestead

As a member of the London Environmental Network (LEN), ALUS Middlesex also had the opportunity to attend local events and share our program successes. On November 6th, ALUS Middlesex attended a fundraising workshop hosted by LEN to learn about writing successful grant applications and how to apply to various types of funding sources including governmental, corporate sponsorships, and securing individual financial support.

Lastly, as 2025 winds down, ALUS Middlesex looks back at the hard work throughout the year restoring marginal farmland into beautiful acres of native habitat. This year, we have restored 150+ acres of wetlands, grasslands, and trees, with over 16,000 trees and shrubs planted, and 20+ acres of modified agriculture practices enrolled into our program, adding an additional 12 landowners into the program this year.

ALUS Chatham-Kent - Rashed Tremblay:

The ALUS Chatham-Kent PAC held its seventh meeting of 2025 on November 10. The PAC received a presentation from ALUS Canada - an update on acreage established across the ALUS community, field conference highlights, and verification progress. The PAC approved 2 new projects: a 1-acre riparian buffer and a 1.5-acre tallgrass prairie riparian buffer. We reviewed our 2025 targets, confirming that we had easily surpassed them, and discussed target projections for 2026 before submitting our 2026 budget to ALUS Canada.

This year ALUS CK conducted 74 site visits, for new projects, renewals, assessments, and consultations. We worked with 41 participants and completed 45 projects. As part of our wildlife habitat efforts, we distributed 10 Bat boxes, 8 Bluebird boxes, and 12 Wood Duck boxes for use in ALUS projects.

Our overarching target for 2025 was 73 new and 40 renewed acres. Our 2025 results are:

- **Tree projects:** 19 projects totaling 56 acres, with 29,140 Trees and Shrubs planted (target: 28 acres and 16,000 Trees and Shrubs).
- **Grassland projects:** 18 projects totaling 65.5 acres (riparian target: 25 acres).
- **Wetland projects:** 8 projects totaling 6.25 acres.
- **Renewals:** All eligible renewals have been successfully completed, covering 40.5 acres.

Events

In October, we distributed 140 free Kentucky Coffee trees, a Species at Risk, to ALUS CK participants.

The ALUS East Field Conference was another major highlight. It brought together 100 participants from Ontario, Quebec, and Ohio, including program leads, support staff, ALUS Canada representatives, and funders from both the federal government and the private sector. Attendees came to see what ALUS Chatham-Kent has accomplished. We showcased three outstanding projects and provided a guided tour of Walpole Island in the afternoon.



Our first Tallgrass Prairie Workshop was a success! Fifty people attended and learned from native plant expert Rick Gray and Tallgrass planting specialists from Ontario NativeScape. The team demonstrated their specialized drill seeder, and participants donated \$234 to support ecosystem services in Chatham-Kent.

Finally, the PAC voted to invite the LTVCA team for lunch before our December meeting, to thank them for their ongoing support and collaboration.

10.5.2) Agricultural Initiatives

Agricultural Program Coordinator – Donna Small

The Agricultural Program Coordinator attended multiple events and workshops recently to promote the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program and contribute to phosphorus reduction research initiatives. On October 10th, 2025 the Lake Erie Action Plan (LEAP) Workshop was hosting in Ingersoll, Ontario. The workshop provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships between partners involved in LEAP efforts to reduce phosphorus loss. Donna Small and Jason Wintermute engaged in key discussions related to phosphorus loss pathways, priority actions and LEAP challenges. Multiple parties were in attendance including Conservation Authorities, municipalities, agricultural industry representatives, Indigenous communities and government stakeholders.



Participants of the LEAP Workshop, Ingersoll Ontario, Oct. 2025

The Rotary Club of Chatham invited the Agricultural Program Coordinator to present at a local rotary meeting on November 12th, 2025. The presentation showcased the on-the-ground accomplishments of the 2025 Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program. Successes to date for the 2025/2026 program year include:

- 237 Farmer participants enrolled in PPRP
- 68,375 Acres of implemented Best Management Practices (BMP)
- \$958,775 Dollars of incentive funding granted to farmers for BMP implementation

On December 4th, 2025 the Agricultural Program Coordinator represented the LTVCA as an environmental panelist for the Ontario Agri-Food Research Alliance. Alongside members from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA), Agriculture Canada and professors from the University of Guelph, the group reviewed proposed research projects that align with meeting the OMAFA environmental stewardship priorities in the following four categories: soil health, water quality and quantity, sustainable

production, and productive land capacity. As the proposed projects aim to enhance the sustainability and productivity of Ontario's agri-food sector, the agricultural program coordinator gained new insights related to agricultural research.

Staff members from Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program and the LTVCA Water Management department attended a modeling workshop in Guelph, Ontario on December 5th, 2025. The *Development of an Ensemble of Watershed Modelling and Monitoring Tools for Lake Erie Workshop*, focused on the progress in modelling the Canadian side of the Lake Erie Basin. This knowledge transfer event helped to identify links with on-going modeling research on regional and field scales. Information related to the development of public interfaces that are available to communicate the modelling and monitoring results was shared. Collaboration with modelling partners provides a valuable opportunity for the LTVCA to raise compelling research questions and address uncertainties of model outputs.

Agricultural Administrator – Leah Ripley

Over the past few months, the Agricultural Administrator has been updating the LTVCA database with applicant records and field data.

As applicants submit their audit documents, Leah has continued sorting and filing the submissions to ensure all program participants have completed their funding requirements prior to distribution of funds.

PPRP funding dollars have recently arrived from Canada Water Agency and the payment distribution process for program applicants has begun.

Agricultural Stewardship Specialist – Andrew Mickle

PPRP BMP Update

The Agricultural Stewardship Specialist has been focusing on the collection, review and approval of grower documentation to fulfill program application audit requirements. With the recent arrival of funding dollars, it's been a priority to coordinate distribution of payments to approved applicants.

Several erosion control construction projects were completed this fall as a collaborative team effort with LTVCA stewardship staff. These projects involved coordinating details from contractors to landowners, identifying issues and forming solutions to complete construction before the end of the season. After dedicating time to these projects since spring or summer, it's been rewarding to see them come to life.

In addition to overseeing project completion, October & November have been a busy period of initial site assessments for potential 2026 projects.

At Walter Devereux Conservation Area, Andrew, along with Brittney Littlefield continued working on the cover crop and residue management OMAFA trial project. The cover crops that were aerial seeded at this site in September were regularly monitored. Corn harvest recently finished, allowing for stand count measurements and select tillage of specific trial areas. Brittney and Andrew completed intensive GPS soil testing of the site with fertility and soil health analysis to get baseline data. They will consult with the grower and use this data to outline improved farming practices for the field.

Water Resource Analyst – Elizabeth Arango Ruda

The Water Resource Analyst harmonized all calculated loads (kg/year) for ungauged sites based on data from LOADEST, ELT, and Lerp for gauged subwatersheds (where flow data is collected). Additionally, correlations were analyzed between loads and watershed characteristics, including annual land use types such as forest, wetlands, and pastures.

The interim GAP report has been submitted to MECP for revision. Feedback from the program's supervisor will be valuable for enhancing the final GAP report. Due to the relevance and comprehensiveness of the data, discussions are ongoing with researchers from the University of Toronto about the potential development of a more robust research project aimed at better analyzing the available water quality data.

The PPRP water quality story map was completed to present to the CWA project manager during his latest visit to the LTVCA office. This project was a collaborative endeavor finalized with the assistance of many staff members who spent time proofreading, designing graphics, submitting site data, and contributing their time to the final product. Feedback from the project manager will influence future story maps required for PPRP funding deliverables.

Agricultural Outreach and Communications Technician – Amanda Doucette

The Outreach and Communications Technician prepared a high school educational program focusing on water monitoring, agricultural best management practices and the influence these practices have regional phosphorus reduction. In November, Amanda and the Phosphorus Program Coordinator delivered a seminar including a presentation and interactive water monitoring demonstration, to the Grade 11 environmental science classes at John McGregor Secondary School in Chatham.

After months of production, the educational water quality video Amanda worked on with a local videographer was finalized just in time to utilize as a resource for the high school presentation. Now that it's complete, this video will be used for future education opportunities and program promotion.

Production of a second video is now underway. Two farmers participating in the phosphorus program and LTVCA's Tyler Thornton were selected to star in the next video. Video interviews, soil testing and PPRP project footage were captured prior to the recent snowfall. Amanda hopes to finalize the production with some final footage of a warmer landscape in early spring 2026.

Water Quality Technician – Amber Frak

The Water Quality Technician is continuing monthly water quality monitoring by collecting samples across the region for the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program. With a lack of rainfall this season, no extra water samples were taken. Amber has used this time to focus on routine maintenance of equipment at monitoring sites. This maintenance helps ensure all equipment remains in good working condition in preparation for future event sampling.

Agricultural Technical Assistant – Ani Pearn

The Agricultural Technical Assistant has finalized analysing data from the last decade of LTVCA agricultural projects. Ani mapped this data to show the location of best management practices implemented from 2015-2024. Having this historical data accessible is essential to PPRP for measuring program growth over the years and calculating phosphorus reduction. Next steps are to create a story map helping visualize this data to showcase the impact of former and current agricultural initiatives.

Additional support was provided to the ALUS program to assist with end of year projects. This involved attending site visits of new or renewing applicants. This information was recorded to accurately document site details and ensure funding can be paid out in a timely manner.



Map of LTVCA agricultural BMP projects, 2015-2024

Soil and Water Quality Technician – Brittney Littlefield

On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program

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



There was only 95mm of rain over the last three months of September to early December leading to dry soil conditions. This amount of rain combined along with the soil's large holding capacity led to no surface or tile runoff events. The LTVCA staff has been focused on conducting the monthly data logger downloads and reinforcing the enclosures prior to winter.

Additionally, the LTVCA staff has been prioritizing the Merlin dataset. In collaboration with the University of Waterloo, the LTVCA has been processing the 2022-2025 tile runoff, surface runoff, groundwater, and weather data. This data is to be used in future reports and presentations for the On-Farm program.



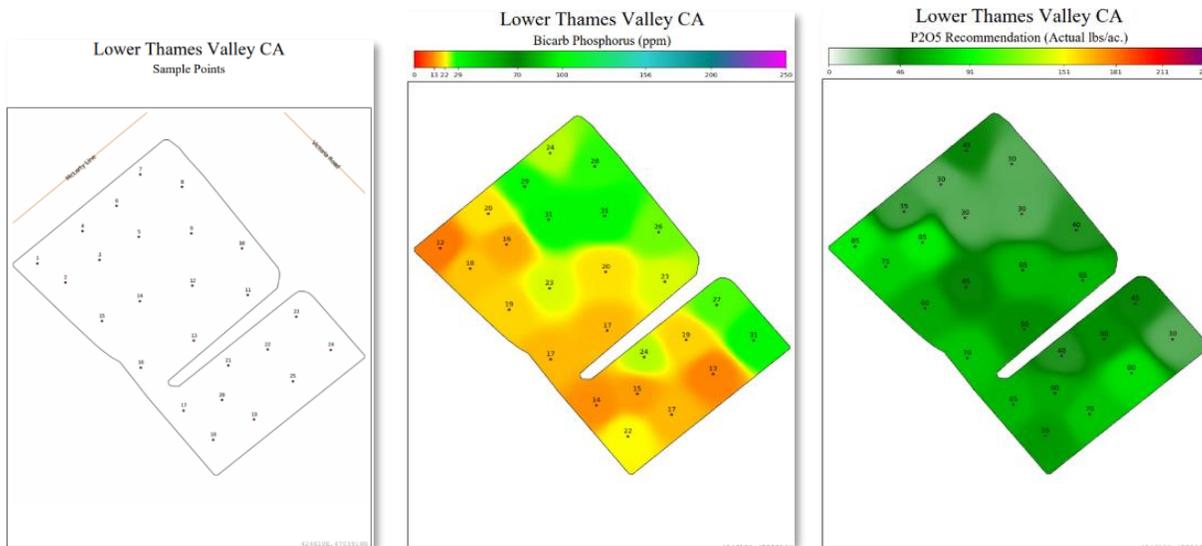
Clear Gel Flocculant Trial

OMAF and the LTVCA have partnered to conduct a phosphorus reduction trial at the Fairview site. In collaboration with the landowner, two tanks were cleaned out on November 19, 2025. The trial phosphorus removing gel blocks were installed the same day. The aim of this research is to assess how well the gel blocks can separate out the phosphorus from the field's tile water runoff. If phosphorus is removed, it should settle to the bottom of the tank instead of continuing into the local waterways. Water samples are to be collected before and after the gel blocks to quantify the difference in the nutrient loads.

OMAF- COA Funding

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

On November 20, 2025, 25 soil samples were taken to gain insight into the field's characteristics. Samples were taken strategically within a 1-acre grid to provide a representative sample for the area. This data is vital for addressing the soil and nutrient variation in the field allowing for improved nutrient recommendations. This is the first step in the creation of a profitability map to help encourage farmers to apply the right level of nutrients to zones within the field while reducing the opportunity for excess nutrient loss to local waterways.



Soil Maps of the Walter Devereux Conservation Area farm field, Nov 2025

10.5.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Temperature and dissolved oxygen data loggers have been collected from all 16 stations for the 2025 field season. Volunteer Harrison Howe is helping the SAR Biologist with data processing.

Funding proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Species Conservation Program and the Canada Summer Jobs program to continue aquatic SAR work into the future. Another proposal is in preparation for Fisheries and Oceans' Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP).

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

10.6.1) Communications

Fishing Line and Cigarette Receptacles

As part of a new initiative led by Pollution Probe in collaboration with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), the LTVCA has installed six recycling receptacle(s) for fishing line and cigarette butts at C.M Wilson, Sharon Creek and Delaware CA. This initiative engages recreational fishers and waterfront users to take tangible action in preventing plastic pollution in the Great Lakes. Community members and visitors are provided with an easy, responsible way to dispose of materials that are commonly found in Great Lakes waterways and along shorelines.



Cigarette Receptacle at Sharon Creek



Fishing Line Receptacle at Sharon Creek

2025 Conservation Authorities Bonspiel

On November 15 the LTVCA hosted the 2025 Conservation Authorities Bonspiel! The event was a huge success with eight teams participating from SCRC, Conservation Ontario, CVC, TRCA, Conservation Hamilton, LSRCA and two teams representing the LTVCA! Thanks to the Wellness Committee and Mrs. Claus and her elves for putting on a great event!

3rd Place: Hackberry Hurlers Alyssa Broeders Michael Young Jason Homewood Nick Ladd	5th Place: Thames River Mussels Elizabeth Arango Ruda Colin Little Connor Wilson Nolan Thibert
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The River Report

The LTVCA Newsletter has a new name “The River Report” and a new logo (see below). The newsletter comes out about once a month and shares news and events happen at the LTVCA.



Government of Ontario Proposed Consolidation

On November 20, 2025 the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) held a special board meeting by request from the Chair. Its main point of discussion was the Province’s proposal to consolidate Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional entities under Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025. The plan, announced by Environment Minister Todd McCarthy on October 31, includes creating an Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to oversee the consolidation and consult on proposed boundaries.

As proposed the LTVCA would become part of the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority (LERCA), which would include eight local Conservation Authorities and 81 municipalities across the proposed region. The proposed region would have a total population of approximately 2.2 million.

The communication strategy for the proposed boundaries has been a key part in sharing the LTVCA’s message. A Media Release was sent out on October 31, after the announcement. Once the ERO was posted on November 7, a social media post was shared to encourage people to comment. Another media release was sent out on December 8 with the LTVCA Board resolution and a letter from Paul Tiessen, Chair was sent out with the resolution to MPPs, Municipalities and Conservation Authorities.

Media Releases

Media releases are sent out to local media and all board members.

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Ontario Announces Conservation Authority Consolidation



Chatham, ON – 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).

We understand the Province will introduce amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency.

Further, the Province will consult on proposed boundaries for regional consolidation of Conservation Authorities with impacted stakeholders, municipalities, CAs, and Indigenous communities.

Media Release

For Immediate Release

ALUS Chatham-Kent Hosts National Conference and Welcomes Local Member as New CEO



Chatham, ON- October 15, 2025- Chatham-Kent hosted the 2025 ALUS Canada Eastern Hub Conference, bringing together ALUS communities and employees from across the country. Attendees included ALUS Canada employees, representatives from many Ontario communities, several municipalities in Quebec and one community from the USA.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board Opposes Proposed Conservation Authorities Consolidation



Chatham, ON- December 3, 2025- The Government of Ontario is proposing consolidating Ontario’s 36 local Conservation Authorities into seven Regional Authorities.

On November 20, 2025 the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) held a special board meeting by request from the Chair. Its main point of discussion was the Province’s proposal to consolidate Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional entities under Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025. The plan, announced by Environment Minister Todd McCarthy on October 31, includes creating an Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to oversee the consolidation and consult on proposed boundaries.

10.6.2) Education

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



Promotional Image for a Rekindle the Spark Conference Session

The Curator and Tyler French, Indigenous Community Educator at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, attended Rekindle the Spark, November 19-21, 2025. Rekindle the Spark is a conservation educator conference, held annually. This year educators gathered at [Bluewater Outdoor Adventure Centre](#). The 2025 theme was ***Learning the Language of Our Landscapes***.

Rekindle the Sparks 2025 aims to inspire conservation educators to reconnect with the land by deepening relationships with plants, animals, and people through innovative workshops, engaging speakers, and creative activities.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Education programs have run at / or near capacity through fall 2025. Programs will continue through December 16, 2025. Programs are being booked for the new year with the last three weeks of January only having one day each still available.

Most bookings for the new year will come in at the end of December / start of January, though some holds are already in place through August.



A young child examines a bear skull with educator, Alison Klages, Curator / Team Lead Education.

The Curator and Indigenous Community Educator will be providing on-the-road programs at the London Children’s Museum twice during November. On November 14, 2025 we provided drop-in exploration of our hands-on fur and feathers with approximately 267 participants, and on November 30, 2025 we hosted 2 Corn Husk Doll Making Workshops.

C.M. Wilson Learning Centre

In October, Mariah Alexander, Indigenous Community Educator at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, met with the Chatham Sunrise Rotary group to share the Seven Grandfather Teachings: Truth, Love, Respect, Bravery, Humility, Honesty, and Wisdom. The session sparked meaningful discussions on connecting with the land and fostering these values in our community.



Mariah Alexander, Indigenous Community Educator, and Alison Klages, Curator / Team Lead Education at the Make Children Better Now 20th Anniversary Gala

Two members of our education team attended the Make Children Better Now 20th Anniversary Gala, a special evening honoring the association’s work and its supporters. During the event, Mike Neuts announced the naming of rooms in the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, including Eagle Hall, which will feature a plaque dedicated to the late Myles Neuts—whose tragic loss inspired the creation of the Safety Village within the Conservation Area.

Throughout October, high school students participated weekly in our Soil and Water Quality Program. Students explored benthic macroinvertebrates, identified soil types, and analyzed water samples using YSI readings. Teachers plan to return with second-semester classes in the spring.

On Friday, November 21, 2025, an Autumn Drop-In program was held at C.M. Wilson Learning Centre. It was attended by approximately 20 people. We look forward to continuing to build public recognition of opportunities at this location.

Chatham-Kent Lambton Children’s Water Festival

We successfully hosted our 14th annual Children’s Water Festival, and it was a tremendous success. This year featured four new activity centres, including a seed art booth from the Walpole Island Heritage Centre and a reptile and amphibian station courtesy of Reptilia. On the final day, we welcomed a record-breaking 800 elementary students. The Water Festival Steering Committee has already begun planning for next year’s event.

Western Lake Erie Student Summit

Our education team continues to work with other local Conservation Authorities on the WLESS project. Our team has delivered four (4) in-class programs to two (2) of our four (4) classes this fall. We will be providing the same in-class opportunities to two (2) further classes in the winter semester. Our Indigenous Community Educators will also be assisting some of the Conservation Authorities by providing a class focused on Indigenous knowledge around water. Four stewardship activities will be planned with classes for the spring in collaboration with the Urban Stewardship Technician. And finally, a joint student conference will also be held in the spring.

10.6.3) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

As of November 26, 2025 the Ska-Nah-Doht Village's Facebook page has 4,051 Followers. The Instagram page for the Village has 767 Followers.

Re-Opening Plans



A young person explores Ska-Nah-Doht Museum up close using binoculars.

As a result of ample school group bookings, the team at SND has been able to complete a successful soft-launch of the renovated building with classes this fall. The team will plan to reopen the building to the public as of Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

At that time, regularly scheduled hours of Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will continue through to the Victoria Day weekend. At that point, summer hours will be in effect, with the indoor Museum being open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Canadian Thanksgiving.

The Village has remained open to the public for the duration of our construction period.

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

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



Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held in person and remotely via the Indigenous Community Learning Centre at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum, Longwoods Road Conservation Area at 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 25, 2025. The following members were in attendance: B. Bruinink, C. Parker, K. Loveland, T. Cobban, S. Hipple, P. Chrisjohn, and M. Peacock. Regrets D. Fairbairn. Also, in attendance: A. Klages.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SND-2025-18 K. Loveland – T. Cobban

Moved that the minutes of the September 18, 2025 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) The Curator recommended that a dugout canoe be formally transferred to the Muskoka Discovery Centre, then deaccessioned from Ska-Nah-Doht's artifact collection.

SND-2025-19 P. Chrisjohn. – C. Parker

Moved that the canoe fragment recommended for transfer and deaccession in item 2.1 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan

Mariah Alexander has sent her regrets. She was unable to attend and will provide a presentation about the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre Strategic Plan at a later date. The Curator provided general information about the consultation taking place at C.M. Wilson. A similar process will be undertaken for the creation of Ska-Nah-Doht's next strategic plan, 2027-2031.

3.2) Staff Update

The Curator and Indigenous Community Educator at Longwoods Road Conservation Area attended Rekindle the Spark, an annual conservation educator conference, hosted at the Bluewater Outdoor Adventure Centre in mid-November. Learning opportunities included sessions on: animal tracking, waterways, nature journaling, accessibility, and inspiring curiosity.

3.3) Grant and Funding Updates

A Canada Summer Jobs application for 2 Community Museum Technician roles for youth has been submitted. We have identified that we will prioritize Indigenous youth. Successful applications will be notified in the spring.

An application to Middlesex County's Tourism Initiative Sponsorship program was not submitted for 2025. A formal event to recognize the Museum reopening to the public is being explored for early 2026.

The Curator continues to look for funding to replace logs on the front of the Munsee-Delaware Cabin and support roof replacements for all 3 heritage log cabins.

Funding to support restoration at the longhouse village is also being investigated.

P. Chrisjohn recommended talking to the Councils of each of the local Nations to seek support for repairs to the cabins and Village. The Curator relayed that Oneida Works has supported projects in the past and that she will be working with the Manager, Conservation Lands and Services on applications to Oneida Works and Ontario Job Creation Project in early 2026.

P. Chrisjohn also recommended connecting with other organizations from the Nations for learning exchanges and to help Feast the Village and buildings. The Curator agreed, and let the committee know that the Indigenous Community Educators at both Longwoods and C.M. Wilson have recommended similar courses of action. These will be explored in 2026.

The committee inquired about the presence of a donor program at the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority or Ska-Nah-Doht. The Curator reminded the committee that current donations were being driven to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation to support the capital campaign to revitalize the museum and build the Indigenous Community Learning Centre. As these campaigns transition to a new phase, a donor program for the Village and Museum will be re-examined, and past suggestions will be refreshed for current market considerations.

3.4) Education Programs

Education programs are being booked for the 2025/2026 school year.

The Education Team, continues to support the LTVCA's participation in a multi-conservation authority education program focused on Western Lake Erie, which is being funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

Outreach programs at the London Children's Museum are taking place throughout November.

3.5) Update on Museum Re-Opening

The soft reopening of the Museum with schools, ongoing since September, has been going well. The intention is to reopen the building to the public on January 6, 2026.

The Curator noted that a new 3 year exhibit plan will be developed in early 2026, reflecting new space availability in the Indigenous Community Learning Centre and Museum. This plan will hopefully include collaborative exhibits with the elementary schools on Oneida Nation of the Thames (Standing Stone Elementary School) and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (Antler River Elementary School). C. Chrisjohn suggested a pottery exhibit feature student creations and cultural belongings from the Museum's collection.

3.6) Events and Workshops

The Education Team participated in two Halloween events this October, one hosted by the Oneida Nation of the Thames Environmental Department and the other led by London Children’s Museum. Approximately 700 participants were reached between the two events.

Initial plans for the Battle of Longwoods 2026 are underway.

SND-2025-20 T. Cobban – K. Loveland

Moved that items 3.1 through 3.6 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) A late addition to the agenda was accepted. M. Peacock provided a brief report on Bill 60 and the proposed amalgamation on Ontario’s Conservation Authorities. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is currently proposed to be part of the Lake Erie region group. Consultation on the map and borders of the areas continues through December 22, 2025. The LTVCA will provide the committee with information on how to submit comments regarding the proposal.

SND-2025-21 K. Loveland – C. Parker

Moved that items 4.1 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting Date

March 19, 2026

6. Adjournment

SND-2025-22 C. Parker – P. Chrisjohn

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

B. Bruinink
Chair

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

10.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association November 6, 2025 Minutes

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on Nov. 6 2025 at the Wheatley Friendship Club

Attendance: Pauline Sample, Sheilah Marans, Mike Diesbourg, Mark Peacock, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Joe Dama, Gerry & Muggs Soulliere, Rick Taves, Roger Dundas.

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

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

Mem. Groves : Roger purchased 6 post spikes. Joe Dama has supplied us with some posts. L.T.V.C.A. has delivered approximately 6 small trees to us.

Prop. & Equip.: Ciliska Excavating has removed the old Willow culvert for \$2000.00 and also delivered some fox blocks worth \$2000.00. We also decided to get 10 yards of gravel delivered to help rebuild the culvert. We received our new portable sign to replace the old one near the road. Some boards have been replaced on the Flood Plains and North bridges.

Concerts: Joe has booked quite a few concerts for next year. We will talk about possibly changing the price of the buttons. We will have 15 concerts again next year and will discuss bringing in the Mudmen for next year. Our website has been updated to include the indoor concerts.

Financial Report: Submitted by Roger. Account balance as of Sept. 30 2025 was \$42,892.86. Account balance as of Oct. 31 2025 was 39,821.64. Moved by Roger, sec. by Lorna report be accepted as given.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: Our website needs updating.

New Business: We will talk about buying picnic table frames for \$350.00 and also construct 4 tables with the frames have in storage. We decided to donate \$100.00 for the use of the Friendship Club room, moved by Phil, sec. by Lorna (Carried).

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

Phil Humphries, secretary.

11. Correspondence

11.1) Bill 68, ERO Posting #025-1257

Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No.2)

and

*Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities,
Environmental Registry of Ontario posting #025-1257*

Summaries and Messaging for Consideration

BACKGROUND:

Conservation Authorities deliver a range of services including natural hazard permitting and reviews, drinking water source protection, flood forecasting and warning, management of flood and erosion control infrastructure, low water response coordination, public access to conservation areas and trails, education, and implementation of restoration and resilience projects.

Conservation Ontario is the association of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.

SUMMARY:

Summary of Government Proposals:

1. Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No.2)

- On November 5, 2025, the Ontario government released the 2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: A Plan to Protect Ontario, known as the Fall Economic Statement (FES).
- The government also introduced Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No.2) that makes the corresponding legislative changes.
- Through the Bill, the Province proposes amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency.
- It is expected this Bill will pass 3rd reading later this month (November 2025).

2. Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities,

Environmental Registry of Ontario posting #025-1257

- On November 7, 2025, the Ontario government posted ERO Posting #025-1257 on the ERO seeking feedback on proposed boundaries for consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into regional conservation authorities, and the criteria applied to inform proposed boundaries.
- The consultation period is currently open and closes on December 22, 2025.

- The province’s decision on the number and configuration of regional conservation authorities will be finalized following technical analysis and consideration of the feedback received during this consultation phase.
- Consultation topics include the delineation of regional boundaries, the governance model for the regional CA board, and strategies to ensure continuity of programs and services during the transition to governance under the Regional CA and OPCA.
- Implementation of the new framework is proposed to occur post the October 26, 2026 municipal elections.
- As proposed, current boards will continue serving until regional authorities are formally constituted.

Conservation Authority Individual Analysis: *Assuming your individual CA will make additional analysis here.*

POTENTIAL KEY MESSAGES:

Opportunity to provide comment and recommendations:

In addition to Conservation Authorities, as the legislative process advances, municipalities, regional governments, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders should monitor the consultation process and consider preparing submissions addressing governance structure, funding mechanisms, and approaches to preserving regional expertise and accountability.

A reminder that the commenting period is currently open until December 22, 2025.

[Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

- 1) Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities continue to operate without disruption to the protection of public health and safety on a watershed basis.
- 2) Proposals are available for review on the ERO (see full details above).
- 3) Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities are working with member Municipalities to review the proposal and provide comments during the consultation period.
- 4) From a governance perspective, a regionalized framework could alter existing relationships between the province, municipalities, and conservation authorities.
- 5) Municipalities provide significant funding through levies. Representation and decision-making must be carefully structured to reflect their financial contributions.
- 6) We are committed to ensuring the proposed framework delivers watershed programs and services at the local, watershed scale, on a long-term basis.

- 7) Conservation Authorities appreciate the opportunity to be engaged during the provincial consultation and will provide feedback on the Government's proposed framework.
- 8) Conservation Authorities are prepared to coordinate expert resources and suggestions.
- 9) It's business as usual for watershed protection and environmental services, including conservation areas and trails, source water protection, natural hazard management, watershed protection and management, stewardship programs, agricultural extension services, and education.
- 10) CAs continue to deliver on their important local programs and services.
- 11) Conservation Authorities are committed to watershed protection at the local level.
- 12) CAs are committed to delivering programs and services we have under agreement with our member municipalities, and other partners.

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES – HOUSING/ DEVELOPMENT

- 13) Conservation Authorities remain one of Ontario's best tools for balancing the province's urgent housing needs with the equally urgent imperative of watershed protection and climate resilience.
- 14) Both the governments of Canada and Ontario are clear that they expect progress in the acceleration of our regulatory processes that relate to land use. Ontario's CAs are committed to being part of the solution and will work to achieve these goals for an effective balance between watershed protection and Ontario's housing goals.
- 15) CAs are sharpening their focus and finding new ways to collaborate with municipalities and developers to ensure Ontario's growth remains both rapid and resilient.
- 16) CAs are aligning with the province's clear service standards for decisions with streamlined permitting and review processes including standardized checklists, pre-consultation protocols, and clearer application requirements. All to help minimize delays and provide developers with more certainty.
- 17) CAs recognize they need modern tools for modern challenges. To make the process more efficient, many CAs are investing in process improvements informed by LEAN methodologies, online permitting portals, and standardized technical guidance. These tools allow developers to self-screen sites and prepare more accurate submissions, speeding up approvals without sacrificing environmental safeguards.

ADDITIONAL MESSAGING SAMPLES CA Staff & Board:

The Province introduce legislation to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).

We understand from the Province that the OPCA is intended to provide centralized leadership, efficient governance, strategic direction and oversight of conservation authorities.

In addition, the government will begin consultations with the public, municipalities, stakeholders, Indigenous communities and other partners on a watershed-based consolidation of conservation authorities, including the proposed regional boundaries of each conservation authority. The Province has indicated that proposed changes may be implemented at some point after the 2026 municipal elections.

We are awaiting further information from the Province to determine any potential impacts to xCA and we expect that this will become clearer as the Province releases materials and the consultations begin.

- xCA remains focused on our current priorities and will continue to operate without disruption, delivering the high-quality services our communities rely on.
- xCA staff are expected to continue demonstrating service excellence. Please direct any partner inquiries on this announcement that you may receive to your Director so that follow-up with our partners can occur at the appropriate stage.
- Direct any media or public inquiries to *Designated spokesperson @XCA.ca*. Please do not speak on behalf of xCA about the Province's proposed changes unless authorized by the GM/CAO or your Director to do so.
- Please remain mindful of xCA's Code of Conduct and Social Media policies when engaging with posts commenting on or speculating about the Province's proposed changes.
- Watch for further staff communications and information about how TRCA will be involved in this consultation process as it unfolds.

We will continue to share updates with staff as more information becomes available. Thank you for your professionalism and ongoing commitment to the resilience of the communities we serve.

11.2) CA Act As Amended Bill 68

This document is available upon request.

Conservation Authorities Act,

as proposed to be Amended by

Bill 68, An Act to implement Budget measures and to enact and amend various statutes

R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER C.27

Additions shown ~~dimly~~

Repeals shown ~~dimly~~

Last amendment: 2024, c. 16, Sched. 12, s. 16.

Legislative History: 1993, c. 27, Sched.; 1994, c. 27, s. 127; 1996, c. 1, Sched. M, s. 40-47; 1996, c. 32, s. 66; 1997, c. 5, s. 64; 1997, c. 26, Sched.; 1997, c. 29, s. 54; 1997, c. 43, Sched. G, s. 19; 1998, c. 3, s. 33; 1998, c. 15, Sched. E, s. 3; 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 1-14; 2000, c. 5, s. 8; 2001, c. 8, s. 203; 2001, c. 9, Sched. K, s. 1; 2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table; 2004, c. 8, s. 46, Table; 2006, c. 3, Sched. D; 2006, c. 21, Sched. F, s. 105; 2006, c. 22, s. 113; 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 8; 2008, c. 7, Sched. A, s. 19; 2009, c. 12, Sched. L, s. 2; 2010, c. 16, Sched. 10, s. 1; 2011, c. 9, Sched. 27, s. 22; 2017, c. 8, Sched. 17, s. 5; 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4 (but see 2019, c. 9, Sched. 2, s. 10 and 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 27); 2017, c. 23, Sched. 5, s. 20-23; 2018, c. 16, s. 3; 2019, c. 9, Sched. 2, (but see 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 28); 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 1-25 (but see 2021, c. 4, Sched. 6, s. 81 and 2022, c. 21, Sched. 2, s. 15); 2021, c. 4, Sched. 6, s. 39; 2022, c. 21, Sched. 2, s. 1-15; 2024, c. 16, Sched. 12, s. 16.

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11.3) City of London, Forest Capital of Canada Announcement



300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

Subject: Forest Capital of Canada announcement

Dear Mark,

On behalf of The City of London, I am pleased to share that London has received the honour of being designated the 2026 Forest Capital of Canada. This distinction recognizes London's commitment to the vital role that trees and forests play in the socio-economic and environmental health of our communities – past, present and future.

The City will issue its formal announcement in the new year.

This designation would not have been possible without your support and advocacy. We sincerely thank you for providing a letter of support. Your commitment and collaboration strengthen our shared vision of sustainable urban forestry, community engagement, environmental stewardship.

We look forward to raising awareness, driving change, continuing our partnership and advancing these important initiatives together.

For more information on the Forest Capital of Canada Designation please visit: [Forest Capital of Canada Designation – CIF-IFC](#).

Warm regards,

Timea Filer

Timea Filer, R.P.F. (She/Her)
Manager, Urban Forestry
City of London www.london.ca/trees
519-661-CITY (2489) x 5811 | tfiler@london.ca

12. Other Business

13. Adjournment
