

# Board of Directors

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority



## Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda – April 2025

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Date: April 22, 2025

Time: 10:00am (directly following the Source Protection Authority meeting)

Place: Watershed Conservation Centre Board Room, Fanshawe Conservation Area –  
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON

### **1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

### **2. Modifications to the Agenda**

### **3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

### **4. Presentations/Delegations**

### **5. Administrative Business**

5.1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: March 25, 2025

5.2. Business Arising from Minutes

5.3. Correspondence

### **6. Reports – For Consideration**

6.1. City of London 2026 Budget Request – BoD-04-25-28

6.2. Annual Updates to Regulated Area Maps – BoD-04-25-29

### **7. Reports – In Camera**

7.1. Closed Session – Potential Litigation Affecting the Authority BoD-04-25-30

## **8. Reports – For Information**

- 8.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report – BoD-04-25-31
- 8.2. Project Status Update – BoD-04-25-32
- 8.3. First Quarter Financial Update – BoD-04-25-33
- 8.4. Former Children’s Safety Village Update – BoD-04-25-34
- 8.5. Community Engagement – BoD-04-25-35
- 8.6. [Thames River Current April Edition](#)

## **9. Reports – Committee Updates**

- 9.1. Finance and Audit Committee
- 9.2. Hearing Committee

## **10. Notices of Motion**

## **11. Chair’s Comments**

## **12. Member’s Comments**

## **13. General Manager’s Comments**

## **14. Adjournment**

Tracy Annett, General Manager

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**To: UTRCA Board of Directors**  
**From: Tracy Annett**  
**Date: April 22, 2025**  
**File Number: BoD-04-25-28**  
**Agenda #: 6.1**  
**Subject: City of London 2026 Budget Request**

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## **Recommendation**

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report and direct staff to provide the attached letter to the City of London Mayor and Budget Committee Chair.

## **Background**

The City of London Mayor, Josh Morgan, and the Chair of the Budget Committee, Elizabeth Peloza, attended the March Board of Directors Meeting as a delegation. The message conveyed was “As we continue working through 2026 budget discussions, our goal is to collaborate in identifying opportunities that help maintain high-quality services while alleviating pressures on the tax base.”

Staff were directed to report back to the Board on potential opportunities and impacts with a first report at the April Board of Directors meeting. The following information is provided and attached is a draft letter to be provided to Mayor Morgan and Budget Chair Peloza on behalf of the Board of Directors.

## **Discussion**

The City of London is meeting with all of its Agencies, Boards and Commissions in an effort to identify a \$5 million dollar overall reduction in their 2026 budget requests. While the City recognizes that the UTRCA is not a City Board, the municipality is asking the Authority to identify opportunities to reduce levies in the coming year.

The UTRCA Budgetary and Reserves Policies (October 2024) highlight the Authority’s intent to fully fund Category 1 mandatory programs and services. These programs and services are apportioned among watershed municipalities in accordance with the Modified Current Value Assessment (MCVA). The Province provides this assessment information in late summer.

In 2025, London’s MCVA apportionment is 64% of the UTRCA’s General Distribution Levy. The other 16 member municipalities contribute the remaining 36%. Any reduction in the dollar amount to one municipality will also reduce dollar amounts to the remaining municipalities resulting in an increased underfunding of mandatory programs and services.

The focus of the City of London’s reduction is the Tax Base Levy. The City attributes 40% of UTRCA levy to the tax base and the remaining 60% to water and wastewater rates. London’s apportionment of the UTRCA’s General Distribution Levy for mandatory programs and services (Category 1) is approximately 64% (Current Value Assessment is updated annually by the



Province). As a result, any benefit to the City of a reduction in tax base levy will require the Authority to reduce levy to all members by 4 times. [64% X 40% = 26% to the tax base].

Staff have provided an overview of activities that are underway that **may** lead to cost changes while highlighting the potential implications.

Projects	Potential Considerations	Implications
Capital Projects	West London Dyke delayed or phased over a longer timeframe	Deferral of the project would impact funding received through other levels of government
Service Review – Planning and Development	Undertaking service and process review of Planning and Regulations. Results of the review are expected in June.	Review will inform the level of services needed in the City of London for UTRCA’s mandatory programs and services. Permitting timelines are defined in Ontario Regulation 41/24 under the Conservation Authorities Act. Results of service review may require increased service levels.
Fees Policy Review – Planning and Development	Implement the current UTRCA policy which directs that fees cover 50% of costs. Many CAs’ cost recovery is at least 70%	The current Minister’s Direction regarding planning and development Fees Freeze does not permit changes in fees to be undertaken.
Procurement Review	Review of purchasing by Schooley Mitchell will be undertaken when campground operations are fully underway.	Uncertain cost savings (purchasing local may increase some costs).
Conservation Ontario Group Buying	Conservation Ontario facilitates bulk purchases and provides access to shared tools and services that include: ESRI, Teranet.	Cost saving through participation has been realized for several years; further reductions are not anticipated.
Elgin Middlesex Oxford Purchasing Cooperative	Group buying of fleet fuel.	Cost saving through participation has been realized for over a decade; further reductions are not anticipated.
Group Insurance	Conservation Ontario Group Insurance	Insurance market has softened in 2024. Additional savings are unlikely.
Land Sales	Surplus lands may be disposed of in 2025.	Use of land sale revenue may be directed by the Minister. Use of revenue from land sales for operational needs is not recommended.

## Advocacy

The Mayor offered his advocacy efforts as Chair of the Big City Mayors and the City's Government Relations team to assist with letters of support or broader advocacy efforts.

## Provincial

To increase base funding, a number of areas of shared advocacy are provided below. These provincial advocacy priorities complement the efforts of Conservation Ontario.

- **Base funding for UTRCA water management programs** under Section 39 of the Conservation Authorities Act was reduced in 2019 by 50% to \$181,213. The funding remains unchanged since 2019. This funding covers 4% of the cost of the programs.
- **Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI)** has remained at \$5 million annually for all Conservation Authorities since the mid 90's . Additional funding is desperately needed to maintain infrastructure and a funding stream created to support smaller projects.
- **Provincial Water Monitoring support.** No provincial funding is currently received for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and limited funding is received for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network.
- **Fees Freeze** - Direction from the Minister to freeze the fees for planning and development related reviews results in an approximate loss of \$400,000 annually for the UTRCA.
- **Source Water Protection** – Funding does not explicitly include an inflation factor. The funding shortfall has the potential to impact program delivery.

Significant provincial funding increases are required to ensure effective delivery of Mandatory Programs and Services as required under the Conservation Authorities Act (O.Reg. 686/21).

## Summary

While staff develop the UTRCA's 2026 Draft Budget, opportunities for cost savings will continue to be investigated to benefit all watershed municipalities. Modified Current Value Assessment (MCVA) is a primary driver of how budgeted amounts are distributed among watershed municipalities. The Province provides this assessment information in late summer. The City's offer to advocate for an end to the fees freeze and stable funding for Mandatory Programs and Services is appreciated. Staff will continue to work with City finance staff to collaborate in identifying opportunities that help maintain high-quality services while alleviating pressures on the tax base of our watershed municipalities.

## Recommended by:

Tracy Annett, General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer  
Christine Saracino, Supervisor of Finance

April 22, 2025

City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON N6B 1Z2

Attention: Mayor Josh Morgan and Budget Chair Elizabeth Pelosa

Dear Mayor Morgan and Budget Chair Pelosa:

Re: City of London 2026 Budget Request

On behalf of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors, thank you both for your attendance at the March 25, 2025, meeting. Your presentation and the early discussion in preparation of the 2026 Budget were appreciated.

## 2026 Draft Budget

Conservation Authority distribution of levy amounts is driven by the Modified Current Value Assessment, provided by the province in late summer. At this time, it is difficult to estimate the distribution amongst UTRCA's watershed municipalities and if the City's portion will be increasing or decreasing. London's apportionment of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's (UTRCA) General Distribution Levy for Mandatory programs and services (Category 1) is approximately 64%.

We understand the City of London's reduction is focused on the Tax Base Levy. The city attributes 40% of UTRCA levy to the tax base and the remaining 60% to water and wastewater rates. Further analysis could be undertaken to support additional program costs to be shifted to the water and wastewater rates.

Staff have provided an overview of activities that are underway that **may** lead to cost changes while highlighting the potential implications.

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Potential Considerations</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Capital Projects	West London Dyke delayed or phased over a longer timeframe	Deferral of the project would impact funding received through other levels of government
Service Review – Planning and Development	Undertaking service and process review of Planning and Regulations. Results of the review are expected in June.	Review will inform the level of services needed in the City of London for UTRCA's mandatory programs and services. Permitting timelines are defined in Ontario Regulation 41/24 under the Conservation Authorities Act. Results of service review may require increased service levels.
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Land Sales	Surplus lands may be disposed of in 2025.	Use of land sale revenue may be directed by the Minister. Use of revenue from land sales for operational needs is not recommended.

In addition to the opportunities being explored above, significant provincial funding increases are required to ensure effective delivery of Mandatory Programs and Services as required under the Conservation Authorities Act (O.Reg. 686/21).

The offer to advocate for additional funding to Conservation Authorities as Chair of the Big City Mayors and the City's Government Relations team to assist with letters of



support or broader advocacy efforts is appreciated. Together with Conservation Ontario we will provide details of the efforts where further advocacy is required. Generally, advocacy and support provincially are provided below:

## Advocacy

To increase base funding a number of areas of shared advocacy are provided below. These provincial advocacy priorities complement the efforts of Conservation Ontario.

- **Base funding for UTRCA water management programs** under Section 39 of the Conservation Authorities Act was reduced in 2019 by 50% to \$181,213. The funding remains unchanged since 2019. This funding covers 4% of the cost of the programs.
- **Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI)** has remained at \$5 million annually for all Conservation Authorities since the mid 90's. Additional funding is desperately needed to maintain infrastructure and a funding stream created to support smaller projects.
- **Provincial Water Monitoring support.** No provincial funding is currently received for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and limited funding is received for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network.
- **Fees Freeze** - Direction from the Minister to freeze the fees for planning and development related reviews results in an approximate loss of \$400,000 annually for the UTRCA.
- **Source Water Protection** – Funding does not explicitly include an inflation factor. The funding shortfall has the potential to impact program delivery.

Thank you again for your presentation and willingness to collaborate to identify opportunities that help maintain high-quality services while alleviating pressures on the tax base of our watershed municipalities.

Dean Trentowsky  
Chair

Tracy Annett  
General Manager

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**To: UTRCA Board of Directors**  
**From: Erin Dolmage, Hazard Mapping Communications and Marketing Specialist**  
**Date: April 22, 2025**  
**File Number: BoD-04-25-29**  
**Agenda #: 6.2**  
**Subject: Annual Updates to Regulated Area Maps**

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## Recommendation

The Board of Directors approve the annual review and update of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's (UTRCA) Regulated Area maps to incorporate any new information available to regulate natural hazards such as floodplains, steep slopes and wetlands as per Ontario Regulation 41/24.

## Background

Ontario's municipalities and conservation authorities work to protect people and property against the risk of natural hazards, including flood and erosion hazards, watercourses, and valleys, as well as wetlands and the area surrounding them. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) reviews and regulates development in or near these natural hazards under the Conservation Authorities Act and [Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits](#). Proposed development in regulated areas needs to be reviewed and permitted by the UTRCA.

It is a key regulatory responsibility of the UTRCA to develop maps to delineate properties that may contain natural hazards within its area of jurisdiction as defined by the regulation. The regulated area depicted on the maps is approximate and based on the best available information at the time of map production. A property may contain natural hazards that are not identified on the current regulated area maps but would still be subject to regulation. As stated in Section 4(5) of O. Reg. 41/24, the description of those areas affected by the regulation prevails over any conflicts with the mapping.

## Discussion

Mapping is a dynamic process that evolves over time as new information is received, or software is improved. The regulated area is approximate, and refinements may need to be made based on a variety of factors such as new survey information or regional studies.

In 2006, with the introduction of the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (Ontario Regulation 157/06), the UTRCA was required to prepare regulation mapping. This mapping was developed

based on the criteria and standards as outlined in the document *Guidelines for Developing Schedules of Regulated Areas (2005)* which was co-authored by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and Conservation Ontario (CO). This document was updated by Conservation Ontario in 2018 and titled *Procedure for Updating Section 28 Mapping: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations*.

Minor mapping changes as outlined in the 2018 CO report are refinements based on field investigation by CA staff or other qualified professionals. These refinements include updates to wetland boundaries, stable top-of-bank verification, geotechnical studies, watercourse location confirmation, etc. Any changes are recorded in the meta-data file associated with the Geographic Information System (GIS) layers and shared with member municipalities. Sufficient public notification includes updating the UTRCA's online mapping portal, a Board of Directors report and a notice on the CA's website stating periodic minor updates may occur to the regulation mapping.

Major map updates are considered in the 2018 CO report to potentially be those made at the watershed, subwatershed, watercourse reach or multi-property scale. If major map updates are not part of a municipal process or project (e.g., Environment Assessment, Official Plan update, Zoning Bylaw update, etc.), the UTRCA should complete public consultation according to the CO guideline document. The extent of the public consultation depends on the watershed and the scope of mapping updates.

On April 1, 2024, the province modernized the Conservation Authorities Act and its associated regulations (O.Reg.41/24) with requirements that Conservation Authority regulated area maps be reviewed and updated on an annual basis in accordance with provincial standards.

### **Maps of regulated areas**

4. (1) An authority shall develop maps depicting the areas within the authority's area of jurisdiction where development activities are prohibited under paragraph 2 of subsection 28 (1) of the Act which shall be filed at the head office of the authority and made available to the public on the authority's website, and by any other means that the authority considers advisable.

(2) At least once annually, the authority shall,

- (a) review the maps referred to in subsection (1) and determine if updates to the maps are required;
- (b) make and file such updates to the maps at its head office if required; and
- (c) make the updated maps available to the public on its website and by any other means it considers advisable.

Staff have been working on formalizing internal processes to complete a streamlined and consistent minor and major map update moving forward. This has involved coordination between the Planning and Regulations staff, Water and Information Management staff, and GIS staff to determine a mapping update protocol.

## **Updates In-progress**

Currently, the UTRCA is moving through the public consultation process for the first major Regulated Area map update focusing on the Thames River within the City of London. This update will be brought forward to the Board of Directors in a separate report for approval once all comments have been addressed and appropriate refinements made.

Updates related to the South Thames River (Pittock to London), North Thames River (Mitchell Dam to London) and the Thames River Downstream (London to Delaware) will be brought forward following the public consultation on those study areas. Work continues on updates to other study areas which will be brought to the Board following peer review and public consultation of those study areas.

## **2024 Updates**

As a result of the legislative changes, UTRCA regulated area maps were updated on April 1, 2024 to reflect the reduction in jurisdiction around a wetland to 30 metres. This meant significant change for provincially significant wetlands, and wetlands larger than 2 hectares, that previously had a 120 metre allowance within the area of jurisdiction.

Staff submit the following changes to the regulated area maps in 2024:

- Revised wetland and allowance limits associated with Ontario Regulation 41/24 implementation;
- Wetland layer updated based on information provided by the City of London to align with the City's wetland mapping;
- "Screening area" designation placed on Thames River within the City of London for duration of public consultation period;
- Creation of a separate online mapping page for the draft study area map for the Thames River within the City of London consultation period;
- Site specific refinement of mapping layers based on information received through technical studies associated with an Environmental Assessment (EA), watershed/subwatershed study, or development application (e.g. slope stability assessment/geotechnical report, environmental impact study (EIS), flood modelling report or analysis;
- Site specific refinement of mapping layers based on site visits conducted by UTRCA staff to confirm the presence, absence, or extent of a feature.

O. Reg. 41/24 Section 1(1) also restructured the definition of a watercourse to mean "a defined channel, having a bed and banks or sides, in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs". This new definition provides some mapping challenges and will require updates to the watercourse layer as information is received from staff site visits or technical reports that are submitted as part of the permitting process.

Moving forward, a Board of Directors report will be provided every year at the January meeting to reflect the mapping changes from the previous year. The updated map layers will be posted on the UTRCA's online mapping application as well as provided to

member municipalities on the UTRCA's data download site. If the changes are major in nature, then appropriate public consultation will occur.

**Recommended by:**

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

Chris Tasker, Manager, Water and Information Management



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**To: UTRCA Board of Directors**  
**From: Joe Gordon, Regulations Coordinator**  
**Date: April 22, 2025**  
**File Number: BoD-04-25-31**  
**Agenda #: 8.1**  
**Subject: Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report**

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## Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors receive the Section 28 Status Report for information.

## Background

The attached tables are provided to the Board as a summary of staff activity related to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits. Table 2 covers staff activities and information for the month of March 2025.

### Summary of 2025 Permit Activity To-Date (Jan - March):

- **47 permit numbers** have been assigned with **29 of those permits issued**.
- **Eight (8)** permits have been issued in 2025 where the application was submitted in 2024.
- **Four (4)** Hydro One Standard Compliance Permits have been issued.
- **10** Permit Extensions or Amendments have been issued.
- **61** Site Clearances for regulated properties where proposed development was reviewed and determined not to require a Section 28 Permit.

### TOTAL Permits In-Progress:

There are currently **24 total permits in progress** where additional information is still required prior to processing the permit application. There are twelve (12) permits-in-progress from 2024 and one (1) from 2023 (ie. *Permit 209-23. The applicant has been provided verbal consent from UTRCA, but the permit will not be issued until associated planning approvals are in place*). 50% of those permits-in-progress are within the City of London. Twenty-four (24) permit numbers previously reported in annual reports have been canceled due to inactivity where the application was subsequently withdrawn or where no application form and/or applicable fee have been received.

The following table provides information on ALL permit in-progress in a tally format  
Table 1: Permit In-Progress Tracker

YEAR	PERMIT #'S ASSIGNED	MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED	PERMIT ISSUED	HEARING DECISION	INACTIVE* (CLOSED)
2025	47	11	29	0	0
Permits in Progress (Prior Year Submission):					Prior Years
2024	219	12	184	4	19
2023	235	1*	229		5

The attached Table 2 provides further details of those permits issued in March 2025 and demonstrates compliance with processing timelines required by O. Reg. 41/24 unless otherwise stated.

### Recommended by:

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

### Prepared by:

Joe Gordon, Regulations Coordinator  
Jessica Schnaithmann, Land Use Regulations Officer  
Mike Funk, Land Use Regulations Officer  
Cari Ramsey, Land Use Regulations Officer  
Dave Griffin, Land Use Regulations Assistant  
Richard Brewer, Land Use Regulations Assistant  
Carly Sing-Judge, Land Use Regulations Assistant

Section 28 Status Report – Summary of Permits Issued for 2025  
Ontario Regulation 41/24

Report Date: March 2025

Application #	Municipality	Location	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Response Notice	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Issued On	Comply with Timelines	Staff
210-24	London	66 Blackfriars Street	Development	Major	Rebuilding Single dwelling home	29-Nov-24		14-Feb-25	19-Feb-25	YES	Sing-Judge
30-25	London	159 Paul Street - West London potential SPA	Development	Major	Proposed second floor addition and interior renovation	11-Feb-25	24-Feb-25	25-Feb-25	05-Mar-25	YES	Sing-Judge
28-25	Stratford	67, 71 (Lot 1) Worsley Street	Development	Major	Proposed Semi-Detached Residences & Attached Garages	11-Feb-25	24-Feb-25	28-Feb-25	06-Mar-25	YES	Winfield
29-25	Stratford	59, 63 (Lot 2) Worsley Street	Development	Major	Proposed Semi-Detached Residences & Attached Garages	11-Feb-25	24-Feb-25	28-Feb-25	06-Mar-25	YES	Winfield
34-25	Stratford	50 McManus Road	Development	Minor	Septic System upgrade & relocation of beds	07-Feb-25	18-Feb-25	04-Mar-25	07-Mar-25	YES	Brewer

Application #	Municipality	Location	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Response Notice	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Issued On	Comply with Timelines	Staff
13-25	London	693 Proudfoot Lane	Municipal Project	Minor	Community Garden pathway	10-Jan-25	23-Jan-25	07-Mar-25	10-Mar-25	YES	Sing-Judge
35-25	London	2206 Bradley Avenue	Development	Major	New Dog Kennel Facility	04-Mar-25	12-Mar-25	13-Mar-25	19-Mar-25	YES	Funk
24-25	Perth East	Structure 56 on Road 122	Municipal Project	Minor	Proposed repair for structure 56 bridge/culvert	09-Dec-24	17-Dec-24	18-Mar-25	21-Mar-25	YES	Brewer
36-25	Zorra	Intersection of 31st Line and Oxford Rd 16	Municipal Project	Minor	Replacement of Culvert #843613	04-Feb-25	20-Feb-25	18-Mar-25	21-Mar-25	YES	Brewer
38-25	Woodstock	760 Juliana Drive	Restoration/Creation	Minor	Creation of eight small wetland cells on former Cedar Creek Golf Club property.	12-Mar-25	27-Mar-25	27-Mar-25	27-Mar-25	YES	Griffin
37-25	London	1746 Hamilton Road	Development	Minor	Septic Replacement	17-Mar-25	17-Mar-25	27-Mar-25	27-Mar-25	YES	Schnaithmann

**To: UTRCA Board of Directors**  
**From: Tracy Annett**  
**Date: April 22, 2025**  
**File Number: BoD-04-25-32**  
**Agenda #: 8.2**  
**Subject: Project Status Updates**

## Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

## Background

To assist the Board with previously discussed items the following status updates are provided. This report is updated and included at each meeting to identify project timelines and expected future reports.

## Discussion

The table below provides progress and estimated timelines associated with significant UTRCA projects and items identified by the Board of Directors requesting reports. As the Strategic Plan is completed, workplans deliverables will also be incorporated into the tables below.

Report Back Items	Planned report or update	Project lead(s)	Status
City of London 2026 Budget Request	April 2025	Tracy & Christine	In Progress – Draft initial response in April with additional updates to be provided through 2026 budget development
Green Leaders Participating Schools	April 2025	Karlee and Brad	In Progress – Requested details on Schools participating in Green Leaders Program. Details are provided and included as part of Community Engagement and Events update.
Hazard Mapping Consultation	April 2025	Jenna & Erin	In Progress - Hazard Mapping Consultation Thames River in the City of London Report was provided at September Meeting and Presentation in October 2024. Status update in April
Land Options (March 2025)	May 2025	Brent & Tracy	In progress - As requested at the October meeting, report provided March 2025



Report Back Items	Planned report or update	Project lead(s)	Status
			with a report on options for parcels identified in closed session. Report with priorities expected in May.
Administrative Review / Interim Policies (March 2025)	June 2025 quarterly updates	Jenna	Administrative Review Policy in November 2024 December - Environmental Policy Manual Updates and Interim Response Mechanisms: Discussion Papers 1) Overview and Discussion 2) Wetland Management Policies 3) Access Standards February – Floodplain Freeboard Interim Response (Administrative Review Report in no later than March 31, 2025) First report provided in March with next Quarterly report planned in June
Section 28 Regulation Policies (March 2024, September 2024)	May 2025	Jenna	In Progress - Release of new Regulations on Friday February 16th, effective April 1, 2024. May Meeting included Technical Checklists and S28 Compliance Procedures Staff will continue to: develop policies and procedures, and undertake consultation with municipalities, partners, and development groups, etc.
Children's Safety Village (June 2023, February 2024)	October - Postponed to April	Teresa & Brent	Overdue – Internal Discussions on-going, business plan for use as education / visitors centre and campground registration. Update to be provided to BOD as Day-Use Plan is advanced.
Retention Policy	August – Postponed to June	Tracy & Michelle	Overdue – updated retention policy to be prepared based on a collaborative CA draft. The CA draft has been legally reviewed. Aligning retention policies with integration of Microsoft 365 (file structure, naming conventions, etc.) Currently migrating from GroupWise to Outlook and Microsoft 365.
Cyber Security	October – Postponed to May	Tracy Christine Chris	Overdue - Report to F&A – Staff to prepare a report on the current state of cyber security for the organization and any recommendations to improve to be presented to the Finance and Audit Committee at the April meeting, in-camera. Directed staff for future updates.

Report Back Items	Planned report or update	Project lead(s)	Status
			Report to the Board to follow.
UTRCA Asset Management Plan	May 2025	Brent & Christine	In progress - Groups of Assets e.g., Natural Hazard Infrastructure, Fleet, Facilities etc. Regular progress reports expected. (Note* suggested to add graphics similar to those used by the City of London in their asset management plans to identify overall condition of asset)  Asset Management Policy – Approved January 2024
Land Tenant Program Update (Last update provided November 2024)	As required	Brent	In Progress – Ongoing status of land tenant program, in-camera. Report provided. Update provided in October. Verbal in-camera update in November. Future update as required

#### Definitions

Progress	Timeline
Not started	indicate project initiation date
In progress	anticipate completion date
Complete	date completed
Overdue	expected completion date and reasons for the delay
On Hold	other circumstances

## Summary

The summary provided is intended to help track items requesting report updates to the Board and project updates. It is noted that items may be shifted to accommodate the number of agenda items, staff workload and board meeting schedules.

### Recommended by:

Tracy Annett, General Manager

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**To: UTRCA Board of Directors**  
**From: Christine Saracino**  
**Date: April 22, 2025**  
**File Number: BoD-04-25-33**  
**Agenda #: 8.3**  
**Subject: First Quarter Financial Update**

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## **Recommendation**

The Board of Directors accepts this report, the Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Operations attached for information.

## **For Information**

The first quarter of the year is normally one when we see many financial entries created based on the previous year end results (deferrals and reversals), which can cause unusual revenue figures. Our operations may be impacted by flood events and much planning for the season is well underway. The parks are preparing to open and capital projects continue from winter slowdowns. It is a busy time, nevertheless. Therefore, with an approved 2025 budget, we can report results which have arisen over January, February, and March.

Revenues are tracking well albeit with diverse annual percentages of budget showing. Levy invoices have been issued, and many member municipalities have remitted against them already. Deferred revenue amounts from 2024 are now showing in the accounts, and investment revenues accrued in 2024 have reversed until the time they mature in 2025. Investment returns for 2025 may yet be pressured given market volatility and uncertainty over the direction of interest rates for the remainder of the year, but budget estimates were conservative for this reason. Many financial claims and reports have recently been submitted or will be submitted in April to funders for contracts which have a year-end of March 31, the WECI program being one. Overall, revenues are as expected, showing 24% of the budget amount for the year thus far.

Expenses in the first three months of the year are also on track. Typically, we see the personnel expense group of expenses higher than 25% of the year as staff requirements are fulfilled in anticipation of parks opening and as many seasonal staff are being taken on. This year the percentage is lower due to an increase in planned training costs for staff included in the budget. Total staff wage costs are also typically lower than 25% of the year as the wage grid is changed only in late March. It stands at 20% for the year thus far. Depreciation expenses will be reviewed and monitored.

Other positive financial information worth noting is:

1. WISB fund surplus distribution of \$176,124 was received. This bonus was announced late last year and is our portion of a \$2B WSIB fund surplus. It was not included in the budget as it was not known what our portion would be, but it will help support the

projected Category 1 deficit. Equally, there was news on April 7<sup>th</sup> of the province's spending plan in support of tariff impacts. An additional \$2B WSIB surplus distribution is to be made so we may expect a further \$176K bonus in 2025.

2. Insurance premiums for April 2025 – March 2026 are lower than in the previous year by \$63,000. This unexpected reduction will also reduce the deficit projected for 2025. We have taken advantage of increasing cyber coverage for ransomware as a result.

Turning to the Statement of Financial Position, we see a snapshot of operating results over these first three months against the organization's permanent accounts. Asset balances are managed to allow for adequate working capital for operating, so cash has been adequate. Accounts receivable are higher than at the same time in 2024 due to the increase in levy this year and other grants expected to be collected at this time. Liabilities are higher than in 2024 due to the grants to landowners about to be issued under the federal Nutrient Program. Capital assets continue to rise as major repair projects are completed prior to end the March. The 'All Other Equity' accounts were adjusted at year end in conjunction with the Budget and Reserves Policy approved late last year.

In other respects, the Statement of Financial Position is unremarkable except for noting the market value of the long-term investment pool held with RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Funds. With recent global stock market instability, our investment fund is also experiencing turbulence. The total portfolio value is down 5% this year as of Apr 10<sup>th</sup>, spared by tariff news of only 25%, which by many accounts is good. For information, in 2024, the PH&N investment pool earned 18.5% with a return since inception (Apr 2018) of 8%.

**Recommended by:**

Christine Saracino, Supervisor of Finance

Tracy Annett, General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer

**Upper Thames River Conservation Authority**  
**Statement of Operations**  
**to March 31, 2025**

	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Campgrounds		Total	YTD	Total
	YTD Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	of Budget	Budget
<b>REVENUES:</b>											
Municipal Levy + Cost Apportionments	2,049,392	8,197,570	-	-	156,222	626,156	-	-	2,205,615	25%	8,823,726
Municipal Levy amortized from deferrals	158,664	282,212	-	-	19,517	1,584	12,629	-	190,810	67%	283,796
Provincial Transfer Payment - CA Act	-	181,213							-	0%	181,213
Provincial Transfer Payment - Clean Water Act	158,975	489,537							158,975	32%	489,537
Municipal Contracts	5,246	415,967	189,940	1,240,207	144,250	317,000	62,290	75,000	401,726	20%	2,048,175
Provincial Contracts	500,896	601,848	-	-	21,600	180,600	-	-	522,496	67%	782,448
Federal Grants and Contracts	(126,542)	188,236	-	-	943,929	6,139,538	-	-	817,388	13%	6,327,773
Land Management Agreements	419,606	430,913	65,728	-	188,038	717,006	11,579	104,435	684,951	55%	1,252,353
User Fees	175,422	1,076,573	2,000	-	273,409	836,345	947,789	5,193,552	1,398,619	20%	7,106,469
Donations and Other	177,780	46,702	-	-	93,397	93,500	-	-	271,177	193%	140,202
Investment Revenue	16,731	638,250	-	-			-	-	16,731	3%	638,250
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>3,536,170</b>	<b>12,549,021</b>	<b>257,668</b>	<b>1,240,207</b>	<b>1,840,363</b>	<b>8,911,728</b>	<b>1,034,286</b>	<b>5,372,987</b>	<b>6,668,487</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>28,073,942</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>											
Wages and Benefits	2,101,065	10,090,378	146,043	733,141	513,850	2,323,208	284,441	2,394,935	3,045,399	20%	15,541,661
Property Related	179,917	783,434	23,386	50,625	134,606	678,195	161,310	805,565	499,219	22%	2,317,819
Technical and Consulting Services	68,026	670,410	7,319	30,420	6,223	282,354	32,970	195,800	114,538	10%	1,178,984
Computers and Communications	106,990	496,375	742	16,100	7,220	24,119	3,073	22,850	118,026	21%	559,444
Insurance and Risk Management	110,862	392,083	473	2,000	4,460	16,696	22,306	117,075	138,102	26%	527,854
Supplies	53,201	370,750	46,449	65,850	52,081	505,995	48,532	299,325	200,264	16%	1,241,920
Travel, other Personnel Expenses	44,342	182,560	6,173	20,250	4,508	30,240	6,784	49,723	61,807	22%	282,773
Fleet Related	34,385	200,600	-	-	-	1,315	-	3,250	34,385	17%	205,165
Other Expenses	5,678	28,320	-	-	997,373	3,993,780	-	-	1,003,051	25%	4,022,100
Depreciation Expenses	453,622	1,497,266	-	-	5,256	21,026	39,308	157,054	498,186	30%	1,675,346
Allocated Costs	(381,054)	(1,964,759)	75,827	283,777	187,069	1,218,863	118,158	462,120	(0)	0%	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,777,035</b>	<b>12,747,417</b>	<b>306,412</b>	<b>1,202,163</b>	<b>1,912,649</b>	<b>9,095,790</b>	<b>716,881</b>	<b>4,507,697</b>	<b>5,712,977</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>27,553,067</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>759,135</b>	<b>(198,397)</b>	<b>(48,744)</b>	<b>38,045</b>	<b>(72,286)</b>	<b>(184,062)</b>	<b>317,405</b>	<b>865,290</b>	<b>955,511</b>		<b>520,876</b>
Depreciation Expense (added back)	453,622	1,497,266	-	-	5,256	21,026	39,308	157,054	498,186	30%	1,675,346
<b>CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>1,212,757</b>	<b>1,298,869</b>	<b>(48,744)</b>	<b>38,045</b>	<b>(67,029)</b>	<b>(163,036)</b>	<b>356,713</b>	<b>1,022,345</b>	<b>1,453,697</b>		<b>2,196,222</b>



**Upper Thames River Conservation Authority**  
**Statement of Financial Position and Accumulated Surplus (unaudited)**  
as at March 31, 2025

<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Cash and equivalents</b>			
Bank Balances	1,308,805	915,487	
Petty Cash, Floats and Advances	6,500	6,590	
Investments under 7 years	9,791,842	7,783,255	
PHN Investment Portfolio at cost	6,888,876	6,489,487	MV 31 March \$8.202M ; 10 April \$7.856M
	17,996,023	15,194,818	
<b>Receivable Amounts</b>			
Accounts Receivable	10,238,635	9,584,927	
Federal Taxes Receivable	73,202	46,544	
Accrued Receivables	14,008	32,567	
	10,325,845	9,664,038	
	28,321,868	24,858,857	
<b>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities</b>			
Wage-related payables	642,056	549,860	
Federal Taxes Payable	106,367	169,125	
Accounts Payable	1,481,472	990,965	Includes grants to issue for Nutrient Program Includes deferred levies for remainder of 2025
Amounts held for other groups	8,017,925	6,184,610	
	10,247,821	7,894,560	
<b>Deferred Revenues</b>			
Funding carried forward temporarily	470,241	389,343	
Customer prepayments	70,875	84,597	
Advanced WECl funding	445,245	262,244	
Deferred and Committed Capital Funding	7,804,160	8,147,056	
	8,790,521	8,883,240	
	19,038,342	16,777,800	
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	9,283,527	8,081,057	
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Capital Assets	72,950,138	71,346,334	
less accumulated amortization	(31,852,115)	(30,313,595)	
Net tangible capital assets	41,098,023	41,032,739	
Capital projects in progress	16,983	112,783	
Prepaid Expenses, Deposits and Inventories	69,208	448,645	
<b>Net Financial and Non-financial assets</b>	50,467,740	49,675,224	
Equity in Tangible Capital Assets	40,848,078	40,331,502	
All other Equity	245,403	(2,259,093)	
Current year Surplus to date	1,082,738	2,278,458	Includes capital spending to date
Reserves	8,291,520	9,324,357	
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	50,467,740	49,675,224	

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**To: UTRCA Board of Directors**  
**From: Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager of Community and Corporate Services**  
**Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas**  
**Date: April 22, 2025**  
**File Number: BoD-04-25-34**  
**Agenda #: 8.4**  
**Subject: Former Children's Safety Village - Update**

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## **Recommendation**

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

## **Background**

In 2021, the UTRCA concluded a 20-year land lease agreement with the London & Area Children's Safety Village (hereafter referred to as CSV) and in January 2023, the UTRCA accepted official ownership of the CSV building.

Throughout 2023, facility renovations were undertaken in an effort to return the building back to a functional space. While these infrastructure improvements were ongoing, internal brainstorming sessions were held where staff were engaged to develop a high-level plan for how the building would best serve the current and future needs of staff, our partners and the watershed community.

Ongoing and regular facility management tasks and health and safety-related updates and improvements such as fire safety plans and first-aid stations were also developed and incorporated into the building plans for future use.

## **2024 Year in Review**

### **Facility Upgrades and Funding Support**

Planned capital improvements including the installation of fibre internet with full connection to the UTRCA network were completed in 2024 and will support the current and future demands of programs and services that the Authority will continue to offer.

Additional grant funding was secured for various other improvements including small building upgrades to support programming, notably the installation of a new drinking water refill station and a new energy efficient fridge. Funds from a private donation were used to build out the "Maker Space" in the building. Two 3D printers, plus tools and supplies to support 3D printing were purchased. This equipment is being used to produce materials to support education programs and their use by students will be built

into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programming offered on site.

Authority staff continue to look for opportunities to use the CSV as a LEED building demonstration site where feasible. The Authority was successful in receiving \$50,000 from RBC's Community Infrastructure Grant to install solar panels and energy-efficient lighting. This work will be completed in 2025.

The Authority also retained the Rick Hansen Foundation to complete an Accessibility Gap Analysis of the CSV and surrounding day use area. The findings from this report will be used to formulate funding applications to address the building's accessibility shortcomings.

Applications to other potential funding programs such as the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council and Environment and Climate Change Canada have been unsuccessful.

### **Community Education and Partnership Usage**

The former Children's Safety Village (CSV) has become a central hub for a wide range of education programs and events. Several long-standing UTRCA education programs that were traditionally operated out of the Watson Porter Pavilion or other shelters within Fanshawe Conservation Area have now been moved to the CSV, including Christmas for the Animals, Map, Compass, and Global Positioning System (GPS) Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Certifications, and Orienteering. The Authority's full-day, curriculum-linked Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs are also now based at the CSV, including Grade 3 *Slow the Flow*, Grade 5 *Model and Test*, and Grade 7/8 *Watershed Report Card STEM* programs. The facility has also accommodated specialized programming such as Survival Skills, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Training, and other Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) certifications, which were previously delivered in the WCC boardroom or in other day-use areas.

Education programs make especially heavy use of the building during the winter and spring months, particularly from November to December and January through April. The indoor space provides a reliable and comfortable environment for programming during colder or unpredictable weather. Having access to indoor space, storage, and washroom facilities has been a major advantage and has allowed the UTRCA to offer more programming during the winter and shoulder seasons — something not previously feasible at Fanshawe.

In contrast, the facility is used sporadically during the fall and late spring — specifically in September, October, May, and June — when outdoor conditions are generally more favourable and programs can more easily be delivered in natural spaces throughout Fanshawe Conservation Area.

Beyond school programming, the CSV has supported a number of public events and partner initiatives. For example, in May of 2023, the London-Middlesex Children's Water

Festival (LMCWF) (organized by over 15 community organizations including the City of London) was held at Fanshawe Conservation Area and the CSV held many of the activity stations for the daily educational portion of the festival. The CSV was also home to the LMCWF family event and saw over 3,500 visitors. In September 2024, it served as the central hub for the *Hope and Action: Climate Change Festival*, held at Fanshawe Conservation Area and delivered in partnership with the City of London, London Environmental Network, London Public Library and many other community partners. It has also been used for the GREEN Leaders Training and year-end celebrations.

### **Authority Staff and Partners**

Staff have been regularly using the facility for internal meetings and training sessions such as Provincial Offences Act (POA) training, Use of Force training, seasonal security staff training and hands on drinking-water certification training for our conservation area staff. We have also hosted many collaboration sessions with various agencies and watershed partners, including the London Police and London Fire which we have received very positive feedback. Community interest in utilizing this versatile meeting space for meetings and professional development continues to grow, and we look forward to future opportunities for additional community and partnership engagement.

### **Next steps**

Staff continue to rely heavily upon grant funding to support select infrastructure improvement costs and operating costs. While the facility is functional, some equipment and retrofits will be required to recognize the full potential of the building. The need for some equipment such as adult-sized furniture, presentation technology (e.g. projectors and screens), telecommunications equipment, displays, and interpretive elements have been identified.

In 2025, a summer internship from Western University will be tasked with researching additional funding sources to support future upgrades and programming enhancements at the CSV.

Transforming the CSV building into a multi-use facility that serves as both a Conservation Authority Visitor's Centre and Education Centre has taken thoughtful collaboration and careful planning to ensure space versatility while maintaining respectful working spaces.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, staff continued to engage in internal planning sessions to refine facility design and layout to ensure the proposed use is compatible with individual and collective programming needs and are aligned with the UTRCA's organizational objectives.

The planned building use will focus on an Authority "Visitor's Centre" that will showcase and highlight the various programs and services the UTRCA offers through passive interpretive features. The building will also host as a versatile flex space to accommodate and deliver UTRCA education and partnership programming, external agency and partner bookings, and the publicly accessible space also includes plans to

integrate staff workstations into the functional space in 2025 and support future growth as needed.

While there was initial consideration for the building to also serve as the hub for the expanding Fanshawe CA recreational equipment rentals, the Fanshawe CA Day-Use open space concept plan (draft) has redirected these opportunities to a more centralized location immediately adjacent to the reservoir for access and accessibility benefits.

**Recommended by:**

Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager of Community and Corporate Services  
Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas

**Prepared by:**

Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager of Community and Corporate Services  
Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas  
Karlee Flear, Coordinator, Community Education  
Brad Hertner, Coordinator, Community Partnerships



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**To: UTRCA Board of Directors**  
**From: Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager, Community & Corporate Services**  
**Tatianna Lozier, Acting Manager, Integrated Watershed Management**  
**Date: April 22, 2025**  
**File Number: BoD-04-25-35**  
**Agenda #: 8.5**  
**Subject: Community Engagement – Presentations, Events, Workshops**

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## Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

## Background

Staff from across the Authority have been involved with delivering presentations and workshops and participating in community events to promote awareness of and involvement in UTRCA programs and services. Work that has been completed to date and work planned into the fall season is outlined below. Also included is a graphic illustrating a summary and highlights of 2024 Social Media coverage.

## Presentations

**January 23** – Conservation Drainage Workshop Presentation  
**February 5** – Stewardship presentation to Forest City Fly Fishing Club  
**February 6** – Water Quality presentation with OSCIA's ONFARM program  
**February 25** – Phosphorus Presentation at Middlesex Soil and Crop Annual Meeting  
**February 24** – River Safety Education Presentation to the Ingersoll Lions Club  
**March 13** – Presentation for Fanshawe College, Horticulture Apprentice Program  
**March 18** – Phosphorus Presentation at Welburn Agromart Customer Meeting  
**March 25** – Western University Teachers College Presentation about the power of place-based education and how teachers can use CA information, tools and data in their classrooms  
**March 26** – Presentation Fanshawe College, Agri-business Management Program  
**April 25** – Staff presentation to Stratford Secondary School students about the UTRCA programs and services as well as job opportunities.

## Events

**January 25** - Stratford WinterFest - Outreach booth with general information about UTRCA, hands-on activities for children, and a story walk  
**January 31** – PA Day Nature School Camp at Stratford Perth Museum  
**February 8** – Green in the City Westminster Ponds: UTRCA community partnerships and ESA staff hosted an Outreach booth highlighting ESAs, watershed report cards, and general watershed conservation.

**February 7-8** - West Perth: Connect, Engage & Register 2025: Outreach booth promoting stewardship programs in partnership with ABCA and MVCA

**March 1** – Seedy Saturday London. Outreach booth highlighting the connection between rain gardens (Low Impact Development) and flood control.

**March 8** – Seedy Saturday Woodstock. Outreach booth highlighting native plants, trees, and shrubs.

**March 5-7** – London Farm Show: Outreach booth promoting stewardship, funding programs, source water protection and watershed science

**March 29** – Thames Valley Science Fair. Judged and awarded the Conservation Award to a Junior Division project that best explores the topic of conservation with a local focus.

**April 1-12** – Clean and Green City of London. Attended launch of London Clean and Green, supported sister event—Thames River Cleanup. Participated in cleanup at Fanshawe Conservation Area.

**April 5** – Hope in the Land Expo (hosted by Carolinian Canada at the Western Fair District Agriplex in London: Outreach booth with general information about UTRCA, hands-on activities for kids, seed packet giveaway.

**April 12** – Thames River Cleanup (TRCU). A watershed-wide cleanup with over 40 locations in London and across the Thames Watershed. Organized and hosted a site coordinators orientation and safety meeting which included presentations by TRCU organizers and City of London Manager for Coordinated Informed Response. Participated in cleanup at Fanshawe CA location.

**April 12** – Friends of Medway Creek clean-up: Community clean-up of the Medway Valley Heritage Forest in partnership with the Thames River Cleanup and London Clean and Green.

**April 13** – Friends of Stoney Creek Clean Up: Community clean-up of the Stoney Creek at Constitution Park in partnership with the Thames River Cleanup and London Clean and Green.

**April 17**- Tree Planting event with the Thames River Anglers along Medway Creek.

**April 24** - Tree Planting with Town of St. Marys and high school students from St Marys District Collegiate and Vocational Institute

**April 24** – Tree Planting at Toyota Tsusho and Green Metals Woodstock

**April 25-28** – City Nature Challenge: A four-day bioblitz hosted in partnership with Fanshawe College, the City Nature Challenge encourages Londoners to use iNaturalist and document plants, animals, and fungi across the city.

**April 26** – Hike and Water Blessing at Museum of Ontario Archaeology: Hosted as a part of the City Nature Challenge. The Water Blessing will be conducted by Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and is followed by a hike through the Medway Valley Heritage Forest led by the Friends of Medway Creek.

**April 26** – Mill Pond Thames River Clean Up at Dorchester Mill Pond

**April 26** – Earth Fest (London): A community event involving over 60 community partners. UTRCA staff coordinating and participating in Water-is-Life Zone which includes CAs, Indigenous artists/performers, City of London water management, and community groups working on water issues. UTRCA booths highlighting flood safety, flood modeling, aquatic species at risk, button-making, children's activities.

**April 27** – Climate Momentum's Earth Day Street Party: Fourth annual Earth Day Street Party in Stratford for all-ages eco-centric fun. UTRCA staff participating with a booth promoting Conservation Areas, Nature School and facilitating a tree giveaway.

**April 28** – Family Nature Walk at Fanshawe CA: Hosted as part of the City Nature Challenge, attendees will be led on a short hike on the Lake Trail at FCA where they will collect insects and aquatic species and learn how to identify them.

**April 30 - May 1** – Tree planting on the Medway with students

**April 30** – City Nature Challenge ID Event: A chance for local naturalists to go through the iNaturalist observations made throughout the City Nature Challenge and accurately identify their species.

**May 1** - Tree Planting with City of Stratford with high school students from Stratford District Secondary School

**May 2** – PA Day Nature School Camp at Wildwood CA

**May 6-9** – Tree Planting in Woodstock at former Cedar Creek Golf Club

**May 7** – Tree planting on the Medway

**May 10** – City of London Emergency Preparedness Day, Flood Safety Preparedness and Mitigation

**May 10** – Science Rendezvous public event at Western University – Flood Safety Preparedness and Mitigation

**May 12-16** – Oxford Children's Water Festival held at Pittock CA - Education event focuses on five water-based themes of water conservation, water protection, water science, water technology, and water attitude.

**May 15** – Oxford Children's Water Festival Family Night at Pittock CA

**May 22** – Science Olympics at Western University: high school science competition with UTRCA providing a Water Health challenge.

**May 25** – Perth Children's Water Festival, Milt Dunnell Field, St. Marys: Education event focuses on five water-based themes of water conservation, water protection, water science, water technology, and water attitude.

**June 3** – Green Leaders Student Summit at Huron University College

**June 7** – Oxford Trails Day – hosted by Oxford County Trails Council at Pittock CA

**June 14** – Museum of Ontario Archaeology Celebrate the Medway event: UTRCA and Friends of Medway Creek will host an outreach booth to promote Medway Creek, ESAs, watersheds, etc. Friends of Medway Creek will also lead a hike through the Medway Valley Heritage Forest.

**June 14-** Breakfast on the Farm (East Zorra-Tavistock): Stewardship project information presented by UTRCA staff during event.

**September 13** – Mill Pond Community Day at Mill Pond, Dorchester - Linda

**October 5** – Stoney Creek Community Day along the Stoney Creek trail – Linda

**October 25** – Hope & Action Festival: Building Resilient Communities – Linda & Tom

## **Workshops**

**February 12** – Great Lakes Education Workshop for CAs, teachers and school boards to help reenvision and help shape future directions of Great Lakes education

**February 13** - Soil and Fertility Management Workshop (postponed due to weather): Outreach event in partnership with local industry experts to promote soil health, soil testing and nutrient management.

**March 19-** Landowner Workshop in St. Marys: Outreach event promoting stewardship, funding programs, water quality, conservation drainage and watershed science.

**April 3** – Low Impact Development (LID) Design & Construction Workshop for students in the Construction Project Management course at Fanshawe College

**April 24** - Envirothon - Presenting a workshop about healthy soils to high school students

**May 10** – London Environmental Network Residential Rain Garden Workshop hosted at the WCC

## **Tree Power**

**April 11-12** – Tree Power (London)

**April 26** – Tree Power (Stratford)

**May 3** – Tree Power (West Perth)

**May 3** – Tree Power (Thames Centre)

## **GREEN Leaders** (17 classes participating in 2025)

- 2 classes from Hickson Central PS in East Zora Tavistock. Community Project Focus: Habitat Loss from Development, Improve School Recycling
- 2 classes from Innerkip Central PS in East Zora Tavistock. Community Project Focus: Improving Biodiversity
- 2 classes from St Jude's Catholic Elementary in Ingersoll. Community Project Focus: Species at Risk: Snakes and Turtles, Improving Community Gardening
- 1 class from Jeanne Sauve Catholic Elementary in Stratford. Community Project Focus: Litter in the Community
- 1 class from Holy Name of Mary Catholic Elementary in St Marys. Community Project Focus: Invasive Species
- Head, Heart and Hand Environmental Leadership Program (HELP) (successful applicants from Thames Valley District School Board). Community Project Focus: Protecting the Westminster Ponds
- 2 classes from Ashley Oaks PS in London. Community Project Focus: Improving Park Habitat, Species at Risk: Turtles
- 2 classes from Stoney Creek in London. Community Project Focus: Cigarette Butt Litter, Climate Change
- 1 class from Byron Northview PS in London. Community Project Focus: Deforestation, Habitat Loss
- 2 classes from Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary in London. Community Project Focus: Climate Change, Pollinators

## **Recommended by:**

Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager, Community & Corporate Services

Tatianna Lozier, Acting Manager, Integrated Watershed Management

## Facebook Top Performer



**Views:** 139, 284  
**Interactions:** 875  
**Link clicks:** 1,153

# 2024 Social Media Recap

UTRCA general accounts

## Facebook



**7,538** followers  
**1,260** net follows (up 22%)  
**23.2k** interactions (up 125%)  
**752.4k** views

Jan. 2024 - Dec. 2024

## Instagram



**2,925** followers  
**141** net follows (up 18%)  
**2.1k** interactions (up 100%)  
**62.6k** views

Jan. 2024 - Dec. 2024

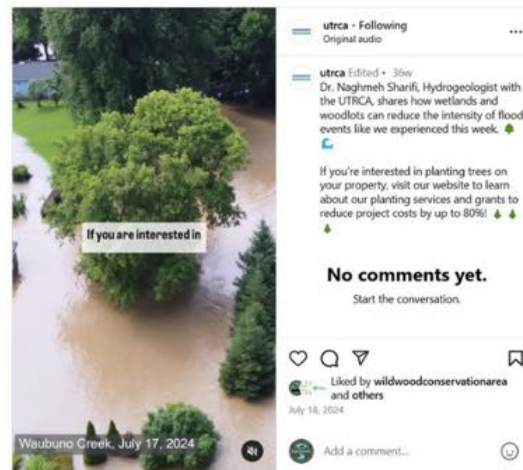
## LinkedIn



**1,746** total followers  
**544** new followers (up 45%)  
**926** interactions  
**43.1k** views

Mar. 2024 - Mar. 2025

## Instagram Top Performer



**Views:** 18,969 **Interactions:** 163

## LinkedIn Top Performer



**Views:** 2,960  
**Interactions:** 105  
**Link clicks:** 302