

October 15, 2018

NOTICE OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

TIME: 11:10 A.M – 12:10 P.M

LOCATION: 2/3 ROOM, PYRAMID CENTRE 317 JAMES ST. S., ST MARYS

BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET AT THE PYRAMID CENTRE AT 9:00AM TO GO ON A TOUR OF THE GLENGOWAN LANDS & THE CADE PROPERTY

AGENDA:	TIME
1. Approval of Agenda	11:10am
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Tuesday September 25, 2018	
4. Business Arising from the Minutes	
5. Business for Approval	11:15am
(a) 2019 Draft Budget Approval (I.Wilcox/C.Saracino)(Doc: #120492) (Report attached)(30 minutes)	
(b) Cade Tract – Hunting Opportunities (A.Shivas/B.Mackie)(Doc: L&F #4497) (Report attached)(5 minutes)	
6. Closed Session – In Camera	11:50pm
(a) Recommendation for Auditor Selection (S.Levin/C.Saracino) (Report attached)(5 minutes)	
7. Business for Information	11:55pm
(a) Administration and Enforcement - Section 28 (T. Annett) (Doc: ENVP #6612) (Report attached)(5 minutes)	

(b) House Rental Rates
(A.Shivas/B.Mackie)(Doc: #111063)
(Report attached)(5 minutes)

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| 8. | October FYI | 12:05pm |
| 9. | Other Business (Including Chair and General Manager's Comments) | |
| 10. | Adjournment | 12:10pm |



Ian Wilcox, General Manager

c.c. Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

T.Annett	G.Inglis	C.Ramsey	M.Snowsell	M.Viglianti
B.Glasman	D.Charles	C.Saracino	P.Switzer	I.Wilcox
C.Harrington	B.Mackie	A.Shivas	C.Tasker	K.Winfield
T.Hollingsworth	S.Musclow	J.Skrypnyk	B.Verscheure	C.Quinlan
J.Howley				

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Ian Wilcox, General Manager
Christine Saracino, Supervisor, Finance and Accounting
Date: October 11, 2018 **Agenda #:** 5 (a)
Subject: 2019 Draft Budget Projections- For Approval **Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT_MAIN.UT
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Recommendation: That the Board of Directors approve the attached UTRCA 2019 draft budget projections for the purpose of circulation to member municipalities for their review and comment.

Please find attached the financial projections that will comprise the UTRCA's 2019 Draft Budget. Once approved, a full budget package will be developed and circulated to member municipalities for comment, with an offer for the General Manager and local Board representative to provide a presentation explaining program priorities for the next year.

The operating budget is estimated at \$15,647,885 representing a reduction of 8.9 % from 2018. This results in a forecast operating deficit of \$112,661. The municipal levy increase for operating activities, at present, is forecast to be 9.2%. The overall municipal levy increase (operating and capital) is forecast to be 1.5%.

The UTRCA's 2019 budget projections include a number of significant influences and challenges. Some are strategic in nature such as continued implementation of the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan. Others are externally influenced such as the impact of Bill 148 regarding mandatory payment for on-call staff. These challenges are further explained below.

2019 Budget Influences and Challenges:

1. **Environmental Targets Strategic Plan (\$288,130):** 2019 will be the third year of a four year municipal levy investment plan supporting the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan. New levy investment of \$288,130 is being requested for 2019. The Board discussed this investment during their May 2018 Board meeting, and confirmed their commitment to continue with implementation as planned. The distribution of this portion of the levy increase, by municipality, would be as follows:

2019 Environmental Targets Share of Municipal Levy

Municipality	2019 CVA	2019 Targets Levy Apportionment
Oxford County	16.5514	\$47,690
London City	64.6982	\$186,415
Lucan/Biddulph	0.3179	\$916
Thames Centre	3.2168	\$9,269
Middlesex Centre	2.2866	\$6,588
Stratford	7.2851	\$20,991
Perth East	1.3728	\$3,955
West Perth	1.4187	\$4,088
St. Marys	1.5092	\$4,348
Perth South	1.1431	\$3,294
South Huron	0.2002	\$577
Total	100.0000	\$288,130

2. Wage Pressures

Bill 148 The Fair Work Places, Better Jobs Act (2017)

- a. **Minimum Wage Increase:** Commonly referred to as “minimum wage legislation” this Bill increased Ontario’s minimum wage in 2018 to \$14/ hour and it was expected a further increase to \$15/ hour would be implemented January 1, 2019. A government announcement in late September confirmed the increase for 2019 will not be implemented meaning minimum wage will remain at \$14/ hour. The expected additional wage increase has therefore been removed from our draft budget.
- b. **On-Call Payment (\$308,000):** Also included in Bill 148 is a mandatory three hour stand-by wage payment per 24 hour on-call period for affected staff. This provision is to be implemented January 1, 2109. Current practice has been for the UTRCA to provide “time-in-lieu of payment” for those hours where an employee is called in to work (no cash payment, no stand-by payment). Staff have reviewed our on-call needs in light of these new financial obligations and have determined an equivalent of 3.2 full time equivalents are needed to cover flood emergencies, dam operations, and campground emergencies. Affected staff will receive three hours stand-by pay for each 24 hour on-call period, plus their regular time-in-lieu payment for hours where they are actually called in to work.

Cost of Living Increase (\$170,500): The Board of Directors has an approved policy directing that the annual April- March Consumer Price Index (CPI) be used as a guide for annual levy increases. Ontario’s CPI for the period April 2017- April 2018 was 2.1%. A rate of 1.9% has been applied to the 2019 draft budget.

In total, both the on-call and cost of living increases have been contained in the 2019 draft budget with a zero net effect on wages and benefits over 2018.

3. **Uncertainty Regarding Provincial Transfer Payments and Grants:** The recent change in provincial government may impact the UTRCA’s 2019 budget. All 36 Conservation Authorities agree there is a degree of uncertainty regarding continuation of transfer payments to support operating (Section 39 Grants), capital (WECI), and Source Water Protection as well as some special contracts. Conservation Ontario is working on our behalf to engage the new government

and emphasize the value of our work. At present, the UTRCA draft budget assumes the 2019 transfer payment will remain unchanged from 2018.

The UTRCA also relies on provincially funded contract revenue (e.g., Canada Ontario Agreement which supports the Thames River Clear Water Revival, WISKI database development, species at risk work, Low Impact Development funding from MECP, the Great Lakes Guardian Fund, etc.). We have already experienced lost revenues from these sources in 2018. A reduction of 22% from provincial contract revenues for 2019 has been included as part of the 2019 operating budget projections.

4. **Flood Control:** Costs are expected to rise due to both on-call needs and the requirement for matching local funding for through the NDMP program for Flood Forecasting Database Enhancements, Hydrometric Network Modernization, and the Thames River Flood Mitigation Plan.
5. **Significant CVA/ Municipal Apportionment Change:** The formula that determines how municipal levy is apportioned among the 17 member municipalities is dictated by the province and is based on the current value assessment (CVA) of properties for each municipality within the watershed. Land assessment values change annually so the formula and levy apportionment percentages also change annually. The UTRCA only recently received the 2019 apportionment data and it has a significant impact on the levy rate for several municipalities. Generally speaking, staff’s interpretation of the change is that farm land values have increased more than other property classes resulting in rural municipalities experiencing the greatest assessment growth (that’s the good news) and therefore bearing more of the levy burden as a result of this new found “ability to pay” through increased tax revenue. Specific impacts of the apportionment changes are described in the table below:

2019 Levy Apportionment Change Resulting from Changes in Municipal Property Assessment

Municipality	2018 CVA	2019 CVA	Levy Increase using 2018 CVA	Levy Increase using 2019 CVA
Oxford County	16.373	16.5514	9.2%	10.3%
London City	65.0448	64.6982	10.1%	9.6%
Lucan/Biddulph	0.3093	0.3179	10.2%	13.2%
Thames Centre	3.1569	3.2168	9.9%	11.9%
Middlesex Centre	2.287	2.2866	10.2%	10.2%
Stratford	7.3221	7.2851	8.6%	8.2%
Perth East	1.3257	1.3728	9.8%	13.6%
West Perth	1.3647	1.4187	2.2%	4.8%
St. Marys	1.5322	1.5092	-6.9%	-8.0%
Perth South	1.0867	1.1431	10.2%	15.9%
South Huron	0.1976	0.2002	10.2%	11.6%

Capital Budget

The 2019 Draft Capital Budget is estimated at \$5,229,711 representing a reduction of 15.5% from 2018. This results in a capital spending deficit of \$596,798. The municipal levy will also decrease for capital costs and is at present forecast to be reduced by 15.4%

The capital budget needs further refinement. Most costs are round estimates and the total is dependent on which projects become approved under the WECI program.

Budget Values of Note: The attached budget tables include a “Notes” column to explain significant changes in revenue or expenditure as compared to 2018. The Supervisor of Finance and Accounting will be available to answer questions regarding these changes at the Board meeting.

Other Considerations:

- The City of London has already approved the UTRCA’s levy increase for 2019 as part of their four year budget approval process.
- Municipal elections will take place this coming October with 2019 municipal budgets being approved by the in-coming councils. Typically the budget process for the UTRCA and municipalities is delayed during election years as we wait to receive comments and input from in-coming councils.
- New appointments and re-appointments to the UTRCA’s Board of Directors will be made following the October municipal elections. This appointment process can extend into the new year. The first official meeting of the new Board will be at the UTRCA’s February Annual General Meeting and their first order of business will be approval of the 2019 budget. This process can be somewhat awkward with the current Board involved in developing the draft budget but the new Board providing approval.

Any questions regarding the 2019 budget projections may be directed to Christine Saracino at ext. 232 or saracinoc@thamesriver.on.ca.

Prepared and Recommended by:

Christine Saracino
Supervisor, Finance and Accounting

Ian Wilcox
General Manager

UTRCA
2019 - Operating Budget

	2018 YTD Actual	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	% Incr (decr)	Notes
REVENUES:					
Levy Funding					
Municipal General Levy	3,696,564	3,605,251	3,963,385	9.9%	
Dam and Flood Control Levy	1,351,126	1,351,126	1,452,256	7.5%	
Previous year Dam and Flood Control Levy	27,083	-	59,755	100.0%	Levied in 2018 but deferred for use in 2019
Operating Reserve Levy	32,400	32,400	33,048	2.0%	
	5,107,173	4,988,777	5,508,444	10.4%	
MNRF Transfer Payment	351,020	351,020	351,016	0.0%	
Contracts and Grants					
Municipal within Watershed	580,526	812,337	714,151	-12.1%	
Municipal without Watershed	12,920	75,840	107,340	41.5%	Work for other authorities, WISKI, LSWIMS
Provincial	894,334	930,411	726,431	-21.9%	Anticipated drop in funding
Federal	369,834	993,815	1,284,860	29.3%	Continuing project funding until 2020
All Other	1,867,679	1,636,069	1,588,139	-2.9%	
	3,725,294	4,448,472	4,420,921	-0.6%	
User Fees and Other Revenues					
Conservation Areas	3,515,907	3,559,859	3,670,699	3.1%	
Planning and Permit Fees	178,442	195,000	205,000	5.1%	
Education Fees	135,373	129,700	145,000	11.8%	
	3,829,721	3,884,559	4,020,699	3.5%	
Other Revenues	1,786,872	2,132,186	1,178,144	-44.7%	Less carryforward into 2019 than into 2018
Funding from Reserves	-	1,491,366	56,000	-96.2%	
TOTAL REVENUES	14,800,080	17,296,380	15,535,224	-10.2%	
EXPENDITURES:					
Mission Cost Centres					
Community Partnerships	1,117,626	1,448,396	1,325,607	-8.5%	
Water and Information Management	1,998,558	2,686,574	2,861,791	6.5%	
Environmental Planning & Regs	1,347,110	1,858,588	1,913,111	2.9%	
Conservation Services	1,194,619	1,689,792	2,152,118	27.4%	Expanded ECCC program
Watershed Planning & Research	853,247	1,036,483	1,073,437	3.6%	
Conservation Areas	3,411,165	4,544,804	4,633,978	2.0%	
Lands and Facilities Management	3,065,772	3,641,273	1,549,241	-57.5%	Skewed from land transaction costs in 2018
Service Cost Centres	38,297	104,368	33,092	-68.3%	Change in allocations
Program Operating Expenditures	13,026,393	17,010,278	15,542,375	-8.6%	
Desired Transfer to Reserves	52,400	165,407	105,510	-36.2%	Less will be available to keep in reserve
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13,078,793	17,175,685	15,647,885	-8.9%	
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	1,721,287	120,695	(112,661)		
Depreciation Expense	593,716	828,446	1,023,671	23.6%	
CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	2,315,003	949,141	911,010	-4.0%	

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2019 - Capital Budget

	2018 YTD Actual	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	% Incr (decr)	Notes
Capital Funding for Flood Control					
Flood Control Capital Levy	618,343	2,189,754	1,774,604	-19.0%	
Federal - NDMP	135,657	1,874,231	1,576,227	-15.9%	
Provincial - WECl	313,825	1,401,535	827,104	-41.0%	
Funding from reserves	-	217,255	283,288	30.4%	
Total funding for Flood Control Capital	1,067,825	5,682,775	4,461,223	-21.5%	
Capital Projects					
Fanshawe Dam	479,361	1,139,866	20,000	-98.2%	
Wildwood Dam	1,910	220,685	175,000	-20.7%	
Pittock Dam	-	41,339	65,000	57.2%	
London Dykes	393,359	3,195,600	3,394,706	6.2%	
St Marys Flood Wall	483,455	738,513	444,515	-39.8%	
RT Orr Dam	968	14,284	100,000	600.1%	
Mitchell Dam	110	30,000	30,000	0.0%	
Small Dams	1,354	6,127	109,490	1687.0%	
Transfer to structure reserves	-	225,000	125,000		
Total Flood Control Capital Spending	1,360,517	5,611,414	4,463,711		
Net Flood Control Capital Budget	(292,692)	71,360	(2,488)		
Capital Funding for Other Capital needs					
Capital Maintenance Reserve	27,312	168,324	171,690	2.0%	
	27,312	168,324	171,690	2.0%	
See accompanying list for detail					
Land Improvements	108,400	176,000	74,000	-58.0%	**See accompanying list for detail
Buildings and Building systems	-	50,000	160,000	220.0%	on all these categories of items**
Infrastructure	50,406	70,000	100,000	42.9%	
Furniture and Fixtures	7,876	50,000	77,000	54.0%	
Vehicles and Equipment	131,323	104,500	255,000	144.0%	
Technology Equipment	78,712	110,000	100,000	-9.1%	
	376,717	560,500	766,000	36.7%	
Net Other Capital Budget	(349,405)	(392,176)	(594,310)		
Surplus (Deficit) in Capital Spending Activities	(642,097)	(320,816)	(596,798)	0.0%	

**UTRCA
2019 Planned Capital Expenditures**

Category	Location	Cost for Approval	Previously Approved	Need addressed or problem solved	Estimated Life in years	Annual Budget Impact for new approvals
Land Improvements						
Erosion Control project	PCA		24,000	not yet completed in 2018	25	-
Mullock pits	FCA Campground only	50,000		Limits waste being collected	25	2,000
Buildings and Building systems (fixed)						
Fan Coil unit	Change rooms	60,000		Insufficient moist air extraction	20	3,000
Sound baffles study	WCC Admin area	5,000		Meeting room noise distraction		
Recreation Centre	FCA		80,000	Funded 50% by campers' assoc'n	35	-
Washroom water heaters	WCA	15,000		Current units failing	10	1,500
Infrastructure						
Hydro Poles and Wires	WCC Feed	50,000		Regulatory (Killay to Gatehouse)	25	2,000
Access configuration (gates, signs, some roadwork)	PCA	50,000		Control of traffic under new management agreement with City of Woodstock	25	2,000
Furniture & Removable Fixtures						
Charging Station	WCC Parking lot	25,000		Provision for staff and visitors	20	1,250
Lockers	Change rooms	12,000		To make more available to staff	30	400
Dishwasher/Refrig.	Lunchroom	5,000		Current units failing	5	1,000
Dock (accessible)	WCA	35,000		Cater to a wider audience for water activities	15	2,333
Vehicles & Equipment						
2 tractors	PCA and WCA	200,000		Existing equipment require extensive repairs and early replacement	12	16,667
2 snowblowers		10,000		For new tractors	5	2,000
2 snowblades		10,000		For new tractors	5	2,000
Compact pick up truck		35,000		Included in 10 year planned replacement		
Computer Equipment		100,000		Planned technology upgrades	3	33,333
Total Other Capital Expenditures		\$ 662,000	\$ 104,000			\$ 58,983

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2019 Consolidated Operating and Capital Budgets

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	5,752,828	7,346,855	7,454,738	1%	
Government Transfer Payments	351,020	351,020	351,016	0%	Assumes MNRFP transfer payment continues
Contracts	4,195,545	7,724,238	6,824,252	-12%	Other provincial grants expected to decline
User Fees	3,964,911	4,017,859	4,235,499	5%	
All Others incl deferred amounts	1,563,573	3,707,507	1,302,632	-65%	Less use of reserves and deferred revenues in 2019
Total Revenues	15,827,877	23,147,479	20,168,137	-13%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	7,564,175	10,058,577	10,085,898	0%	Includes on call costs of 3.2 FTE
Training	50,026	114,400	98,350	-14%	
Legal, Audit, Insurance	329,267	400,042	385,294	-4%	
Services	2,853,784	6,991,805	4,119,625	-41%	All flood control capital contracts are here
Computers, Property and Utilities	2,316,198	2,648,877	2,402,082	-9%	
Supplies	624,031	1,275,728	1,269,239	-1%	
Flow Through Expenses	56,012	91,850	283,061	208%	New landowner incentive programs in 2019
Depreciation Expenses	593,716	828,446	1,023,671	24%	
Allocated Costs	-	(13,033)	213,866	-1741%	
Total Operating Expenditures	14,387,209	22,396,692	19,881,086	-11%	
Capital Expenditures	376,717	560,500	766,000	37%	These are organization-wide capital needs, not flood control
Desired Transfers to Reserves	52,400	390,407	230,510	-41%	
Surplus (deficit)	1,011,551	(200,121)	(709,459)	255%	

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2019 - Unit Budget - Community Partnerships

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	610,200	610,200	673,032	9%	
Contracts	467,025	599,830	264,930	-56%	Uncertainty on many provincial contracts
User Fees	135,373	129,700	145,000	12%	
All Others incl deferred amounts	7,992	8,935	98,500	1002%	
Total Revenues	1,220,590	1,348,665	1,181,462	-12%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	584,063	815,513	691,086	-15%	Staff hours to be reduced
Training	3,217	4,200	4,100	-2%	
Services	19,120	28,250	14,150	-50%	Fewer and smaller programs undertaken
Computers, Property and Utilities	101,443	71,520	47,220	-34%	
Supplies	74,033	111,430	118,120	6%	
Flow Through Expenses	30,649	9,350	31,700	239%	
Depreciation Expenses	961	1,442	1,442	0%	
Allocated Costs	304,138	406,691	417,789	3%	
Total Operating Expenditures	1,117,626	1,448,396	1,325,607	-8%	
Surplus (deficit)	102,964	(99,731)	(144,145)	45%	

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2019 - Unit Budget - Water & Information Management

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	2,270,248	3,814,576	3,577,784	-7%	Reflects change in capital projects primarily
Government Transfer Payments	322,068	322,068	322,064	0%	
Contracts	631,346	3,841,466	3,172,131	-17%	
User Fees	150	-	60,000	100%	New services agreement arranged
All Others incl deferred amounts	(42,480)	397,655	339,288	-15%	
Total Revenues	3,181,332	8,375,765	7,471,267	-11%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	1,194,783	1,582,687	1,602,853	1%	
Training	6,579	26,350	4,900	-81%	Reflects actuals better
Legal, Audit, Insurance	28,683	32,366	23,000	-29%	Apportionment changed
Services	509,666	4,382,219	3,632,275	-17%	Some WECI projects were not approved
Computers, Property and Utilities	1,050,235	1,034,621	688,689	-33%	
Supplies	(75,531)	186,610	119,736	-36%	
Depreciation Expenses	210,890	248,009	457,461	84%	Includes most recent works at Fanshawe and other dams
Allocated Costs	433,771	580,126	671,588	16%	
Total Operating Expenditures	3,359,075	8,072,988	7,200,502	-11%	
Capital Expenditures	60,323	-	-		
Desired Transfers to Reserves	-	338,007	178,110	-47%	
Surplus (deficit)	(238,066)	(35,231)	92,655	-363%	

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2019 - Unit Budget - Environmental Planning & Regulations

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	710,000	710,000	862,331	18%	
Government Transfer Payments	28,952	28,952	28,952	0%	
Contracts	471,597	717,497	805,977	12%	Includes SWP program
User Fees	178,442	195,000	205,000	5%	
All Others incl deferred amounts	304,898	303,278	183,000	-40%	Risk Management Services reducing carryforwards
Total Revenues	1,693,889	1,954,727	2,085,260	7%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	857,723	1,198,710	1,210,155	1%	
Training	3,858	10,600	13,500	27%	New staff training needs
Legal, Audit, Insurance	9,860	22,000	27,000	23%	Legal fees for appeals increasing
Services	137,942	185,975	171,500	-8%	
Computers, Property and Utilities	16,808	25,400	27,750	9%	
Supplies	7,428	7,750	8,400	8%	
Allocated Costs	313,491	408,153	454,806	11%	
Total Operating Expenditures	1,347,110	1,858,588	1,913,111	3%	
Surplus (deficit)	346,778	96,139	172,149	79%	

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2019 - Unit Budget - Conservation Services (Soil & Forestry Programs)

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	614,538	614,538	742,289	17%	Considerable Targets funding here
Contracts	996,680	774,040	819,750	6%	
User Fees	129,156	130,000	151,500	17%	Increasing landowner fees due to tree price increases
All Others incl deferred amounts	569,789	794,698	414,744	-48%	
Total Revenues	2,310,163	2,313,276	2,128,283	-8%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	561,747	750,378	740,758	-1%	
Training	1,044	1,000	9,000	800%	New staff training required
Services	12,668	62,800	40,700	-35%	
Computers, Property and Utilities	55,722	50,675	187,603	270%	
Supplies	185,490	291,130	423,133	45%	Estimate of supplies expense is generous
Flow Through Expenses	25,363	73,500	243,361	231%	Landowner incentives from ECCC program
Depreciation Expenses	1,602	2,403	2,403	0%	
Allocated Costs	350,984	457,906	505,160	10%	
Total Operating Expenditures	1,194,619	1,689,792	2,152,118	27%	
Capital Expenditures					
	10,000	-	-		
Surplus (deficit)	1,105,544	623,484	(23,835)	-104%	

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2019 - Unit Budget - Watershed Planning, Research & Monitoring

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	696,142	695,408	701,511	1%	
Contracts	176,111	174,875	130,800	-25%	Uncertainty surrounds available provincial contracts
User Fees	40	-	-		
All Others incl deferred amounts	18,907	10,941	10,000	-9%	
Total Revenues	891,200	881,224	842,311	-4%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	542,382	715,363	704,739	-1%	
Training	500	5,250	5,250	0%	
Services	89,251	23,000	18,000	-22%	Reduction in services from reduction in grants
Computers, Property and Utilities	6,473	10,500	8,500	-19%	
Supplies	13,187	15,001	16,000	7%	
Depreciation Expenses	1,451	2,176	2,176	0%	
Allocated Costs	200,004	265,193	318,772	20%	Allocations may still be redistributed
Total Operating Expenditures	853,247	1,036,483	1,073,437	4%	
Surplus (deficit)	37,953	(155,259)	(231,126)	49%	

UTRCA
2019 - Unit Budget - Conservation Areas

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	202,087	109,830	112,027	2.0%	
Contracts	740,971	703,287	828,119	17.7%	New Woodstock management agreement included here
User Fees	3,513,799	3,557,759	3,668,699	3.1%	Estimate only - 2019 fees not yet set
All Others incl deferred amounts	300	88,000	150,000	70.5%	Funding user seurvey and capacity needs
Total Revenues	4,457,157	4,458,876	4,758,845	6.7%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	1,646,759	1,986,878	2,120,246	6.7%	Some on-call costs reflected here
Training	12,032	17,250	16,200	-6.1%	Staff training needs to be finalized
Legal, Audit, Insurance	72,382	107,250	107,000	-0.2%	
Services	135,176	308,111	161,000	-47.7%	Refining plans for contracted services
Computers, Property and Utilities	659,997	886,200	924,120	4.3%	
Supplies	227,790	376,907	360,700	-4.3%	
Depreciation Expenses	51,780	76,301	76,373	0.1%	
Allocated Costs	605,548	785,907	868,339	10.5%	
Total Operating Expenditures	3,411,464	4,544,804	4,633,978	2.0%	
Capital Expenditures	158,806	296,000	254,000	-14.2%	Includes capital projects which may not be complete in 2018
Total Unit Budget	886,887	(381,928)	(129,133)	-66.2%	

UTRCA
2019 - Unit Budget - Lands & Facilities

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	591,579	591,579	581,026	-2%	
Contracts	710,441	913,243	801,045	-12%	
User Fees	4,283	2,100	2,000	-5%	
All Others incl deferred amounts	625,222	1,982,000	-	-100%	2018 skewed by large land transaction
Total Revenues	1,931,525	3,488,922	1,384,071	-60%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	672,953	942,748	910,484	-3%	
Training	5,562	8,850	9,100	3%	
Legal, Audit, Insurance	11,232	32,575	12,900	-60%	Planned reduced need for land legal work
Services	1,914,015	1,969,200	35,000	-98%	
Computers, Property and Utilities	71,441	124,986	77,200	-38%	
Supplies	44,617	98,400	42,800	-57%	
Flow Through Expenses	-	9,000	8,000	-11%	
Depreciation Expenses	11,714	17,572	17,572	0%	
Allocated Costs	334,237	437,942	436,185	0%	
Total Operating Expenditures	3,065,772	3,641,273	1,549,241	-57%	
Surplus (deficit)	(1,134,246)	(152,351)	(165,170)	8%	

UTRCA

2019 - Unit Budget - Service Cost Centres

	2018 YTD Total	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Change from last year	Notes
Revenues					
Municipal Levies	58,034	200,724	204,738	2%	
Contracts	1,374	-	1,500	100%	Rental revenue for WCC meeting space
User Fees	3,668	3,300	3,300	0%	
All Others incl deferred amounts	78,945	122,000	107,100	-12%	
Total Revenues	142,021	326,024	316,638	-3%	
Operating Expenditures					
Wages, Benefits, Per Diems	1,503,765	2,066,300	2,105,577	2%	
Training	17,234	40,900	36,300	-11%	More accurately reflects actual
Legal, Audit, Insurance	207,110	205,851	215,394	5%	
Services	35,946	32,250	47,000	46%	Added investment management fees
Computers, Property and Utilities	354,079	444,975	441,000	-1%	
Supplies	147,017	188,500	180,350	-4%	
Depreciation Expenses	315,318	480,543	466,244	-3%	
Allocated Costs	(2,542,172)	(3,354,951)	(3,458,773)	3%	
Total Operating Expenditures	38,297	104,368	33,092	-68%	
Capital Expenditures	147,588	264,500	512,000	94%	More WCC capital projects desired
Desired Transfers to Reserves	52,400	52,400	52,400	0%	
Surplus (deficit)	(96,265)	(95,244)	(280,854)	195%	

2019 UTRCA Municipal Levy

Current Year Operations															Capital Investments								2019 Totals							
Municipality	2018 CVA	2019 CVA	General Levy		Operating Reserve Levy		Dam and Flood Control Levy		Specific Project Funding		Yr 3of 4 Enviro. Targets	Total Municipal Operational Funding		Year over Year Increase		Capital Maintenance	Flood Control Capital Levy			Total Municipal Capital Funding		Year over Year Increase		Total Municipal Funding for Operations and Capital		Year over Year Increase				
			2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2019	2018	2019		\$	%	2018	2019	2018	2019	\$	%	2018	2019	\$	%		
Oxford County	16.373	16.5514	528,772	590,927	5,305	5,470	194,300	208,376			47,690	772,701	852,463	79,762	10.3%	27,560	28,111		124,407	125,000	151,967	153,111	1,144	0.8%	924,668	1,005,574	80,906	8.7%		
London City	65.0448	64.6982	2,100,643	2,309,891	21,075	21,382	854,866	948,929	105,000	105,000	186,415	3,257,670	3,571,617	313,947	9.6%	109,485	111,675	Total Structures	1,906,526	1,486,104	2,016,011	1,597,779	(418,232)	-20.7%	5,273,681	5,169,396	(104,285)	-2.0%		
Lucan/Biddulph	0.3093	0.3179	9,989	11,350	100	105	2,176	2,466			916	13,103	14,836	1,733	13.2%	521	531				521	531	10	2.0%	13,624	15,368	1,744	12.8%		
Thames Centre	3.1569	3.2168	101,953	114,848	1,023	1,063	27,272	30,120			9,269	138,794	155,299	16,505	11.9%	5,314	5,420				5,314	5,420	106	2.0%	144,108	160,720	16,612	11.5%		
Middlesex Centre	2.287	2.2866	73,860	81,637	741	756	16,068	17,725			6,588	96,860	106,707	9,847	10.2%	3,850	3,927				3,850	3,927	77	2.0%	100,710	110,634	9,924	9.9%		
Stratford	7.3221	7.2851	236,470	260,097	2,372	2,408	125,219	131,803			20,991	383,883	415,298	31,415	8.2%	12,325	12,572	RT Orr Dam		50,000	12,325	62,572	50,247	407.7%	396,208	477,869	81,661	20.6%		
Perth East	1.3257	1.3728	42,814	49,012	430	454	11,861	13,233			3,955	58,693	66,655	7,962	13.6%	2,231	2,276				2,231	2,276	45	2.0%	60,924	68,931	8,007	13.1%		
West Perth	1.3647	1.4187	44,074	50,651	442	469	47,956	45,583			4,088	96,167	100,791	4,624	4.8%	2,297	2,343	Fullerton Dam		5,000	2,297	7,343	5,046	219.7%	98,464	108,134	9,670	9.8%		
St. Marys	1.5322	1.5092	49,483	53,882	496	499	41,792	29,524			4,348	95,920	88,253	(7,667)	-8.0%	2,579	2,631	St. Marys Floodwall	100,000	102,000	102,579	104,631	2,052	2.0%	198,499	192,884	(5,615)	-2.8%		
Perth South	1.0867	1.1431	35,095	40,812	352	378	7,622	8,841			3,294	46,011	53,324	7,313	15.9%	1,829	1,866				1,829	1,866	37	2.0%	47,840	55,189	7,349	15.4%		
South Huron/Usborne	0.1976	0.2002	6,382	7,148	64	66	1,384	1,547			577	8,365	9,338	973	11.6%	333	340				333	340	7	2.0%	8,698	9,678	980	11.3%		
Zorra Township		0					15,000	8,500				15,000	8,500	(6,500)	-43.3%								6,500	6,500			15,000	15,000		0.0%
SW Oxford							5,610	5,610				5,610	5,610		0.0%												5,610	5,610		0.0%
Total	100.0000	100.0000	3,229,535	3,570,256	32,400	33,048	1,351,126	1,452,257	105,000	105,000	288,130	4,988,777	5,448,691	459,914	9.2%	168,324	171,690		2,130,933	1,774,604	2,299,257	1,946,294	(352,963)	-15.4%	7,288,034	7,394,986	106,952	1.5%		

Fanshawe Dam	10,000
Wildwood & Pittock Dams	120,000
London Dykes	1,356,104
Total London Structures	1,486,104

2019 UTRCA Municipal Levy

Dam and Flood Control Levy													
Municipality	2018 CVA	2019 CVA	Flood Forecasting	Plan & Tech Studies	Small Holdings	Wildwood Dam		Pittock Dam		100% Structures		2018	2019
			\$	\$	\$	%	\$	%	\$		\$		
Oxford County	16.373	16.5514	116,425	8,640	1,134	0.97	1,095	62.07	58,582	Ingersoll Channel	22,500	194,300	208,376
London City	65.0448	64.6982	455,096	33,772	4,432	83.91	94,757	36.81	34,741	Total Structures	326,131	854,866	948,929
Lucan/Biddulph	0.3093	0.3179	2,236	166	22	0.02	23	0.02	19			2,176	2,466
Thames Centre	3.1569	3.2168	22,627	1,679	220	0.19	215	0.19	179	Dorchester Mill Pond and CA Dams (\$2,600 ea)	5,200	27,272	30,120
Middlesex Centre	2.287	2.2866	16,084	1,194	157	0.14	158	0.14	132			16,068	17,725
Stratford	7.3221	7.2851	51,244	3,803	499	0.44	497	0.44	415	RT Orr Dam & Channel	75,345	125,219	131,803
Perth East	1.3257	1.3728	9,656	717	94	0.08	90	0.08	76	Shakespeare Dam	2,600	11,861	13,233
West Perth	1.3647	1.4187	9,979	741	97	0.08	90	0.08	76	Mitchell Dam (\$32,000) & Fullarton Dam (\$2,600)	34,600	47,956	45,583
St. Marys	1.5322	1.5092	10,616	788	103	14.10	15,923	0.10	94	St. Marys Floodwall	2,000	41,792	29,524
Perth South	1.0867	1.1431	8,041	597	78	0.06	68	0.06	57			7,622	8,841
South Huron/Usborne	0.1976	0.2002	1,408	105	14	0.01	11	0.01	9			1,384	1,547
Zorra Township							-			Harrington & Embro Dams	8,500	15,000	8,500
SW Oxford							-			Centreville Dam	5,610	5,610	5,610
Total Member Municipalities	100	100	703,412	52,202	6,850	100.0000	112,927	100.000	94,380		482,486	1,351,126	1,452,257

Fanshawe Dam	300,825
Springbank Dam	14,616
London Dykes/Erosion Control	10,690
Total London Structures	326,131

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Alex B. Shivas
Manager, Lands & Facilities
Date: October 4, 2018 **Agenda #: 5 (b)**
Subject: Cade Tract - Hunting Opportunities **Filename: L&F #4497**
-For approval

Recommendation:

That the UTRCA Board of Directors approves recreational hunting within the boundaries of the Cade Tract, 4695 Line 5 Road, Perth South - WMU 86B.

Background:

For the past 60 years, the UTRCA has provided hunting opportunities on specific tracts of land, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. In 2009, an internal Hunting Team was established with staff from the Lands & Facilities Unit and the Conservation Areas Unit. The Team's mandate includes determining if other lands can be opened for hunting.

Current Status:

As part of the Cade Tract Management Plan, staff asked the Hunting Team to look at the possibility of opening the Cade Tract for recreational hunting opportunities. The Cade Tract was evaluated using the Hunting Criteria Checklist and the property passed the initial criteria check. As part of this process, land use surveys were mailed in August 2018 to adjacent landowners as well as to the Township of Perth South asking for input on the potential opening of these properties for this type of activity. These results indicate that a majority of the adjacent landowners who responded support the idea of these areas being opened and managed for recreational hunting.

If the Board of Directors approves this recommendation, the next step in the process is to complete the operational requirements to ensure the properties are clearly marked, access points identified and all checks and measures in place, as is done with all UTRCA-approved hunting properties. It is anticipated that these properties would be ready to open in late 2018.

Recommended by:

Alex B. Shivas
Manager, Lands & Facilities

Prepared by:

Michael Knox
Chair, Hunting Team
Lands Management Technician
Lands & Facilities Unit

To: Chair and Members of the UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett, Manager – Environmental Planning and Regulations
Date: October 15, 2018 **Agenda #:** 7 (a)
Subject: Administration and Enforcement – Sect. 28 Status Report – **Filename:** Document
Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alteration to **ENVP 6612**
Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

This report is provided to the Board as a summary of staff activity related to the Conservation Authority's *Development, Interference of Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation* (Ont. Reg. 157/06 made pursuant to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act). The summary covers the period from September 18, 2018 to October 12, 2018.

Application #110/18

Paul Titus – City of London

Stoney Creek – City of London

- proposed construction of a dry stormwater management facility with outlet to Worrall Award Drain
- plans prepared by MTE Consulting Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued September 19, 2018

Application #126/18

Meadowridge Properties Limited

Stoneridge Subdivision – Town of St. Marys

- proposed site grading, road works, installation of servicing and construction of a new stormwater management pond and outlet associated with Phase II of the Stoneridge Subdivision.
- plans prepared by Johnson Engineering Consultants and Klomp's Landscaping Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued September 21, 2018.

Application #162/18

Jamie and Leann Brown

40 Holcroft Street – Town of Ingersoll

- proposed alteration to a morning glory spillway associated with an on-line pond and dam.
- plans prepared in accordance with report by Riggs Engineering Limited.
- staff approved and permit issued October 4, 2018.

Application #163/18

Dennis Nuhn

Part Lot 21, Concession 1 – Township of Perth East

- proposed removal of the upper layer of concrete blocks from a weir/dam and the subsequent relocation of these blocks to stream grade to remove the blockage and instead create a low bed stream crossing.
- plans prepared by MTE Consultants Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued September 28, 2018.

Application #164/18
Steven Underhill – Distinctive Homes London Limited
145 Empress Avenue - City of London

- proposed construction of rear two storey addition within potential West London SPA
- plans prepared by D.C. Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued September 26, 2018

Application #166/18
Savile Pools
453 Queen Street East – Town of St. Marys

- proposed construction of new inground pool and associated pool shed, pool deck and terraced armour stone landscaping.
- plans prepared by Savile Pools in accordance with geotechnical report from MTE Consultants Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued October 2, 2018.

Application #169/18
Lukas Janic
199 Rathowen Street - City of London

- proposed construction of rear two storey addition within potential West London SPA
- plans prepared by D.C. Buck Engineering
- staff approved and permit issued September 27, 2018

Application #170/18
Start.Ca
South Thames River – City of London

- proposed communications tower upgrades within flood plain of the south branch of the Thames River
- plans prepared by Costello Associated Inc.
- staff approved and permit issued October 1, 2018

Application #171/18
BJ Nevin
6045 Perth County Line 44 – Municipality of West Perth

- proposed wetland construction adjacent to watercourse and existing wetland
- plans prepared by Ducks Unlimited Canada
- staff approved and permit issued October 15, 2018

Application #172/18
City of Stratford
Court Drain

- proposed brushing of one side of a Class C drain
- staff approved and permit, signed notification form and SCR for debris removal/brushing issued September 27, 2018

Application #173/18
City of Stratford
McNamara Drain

- proposed bottom cleanout of 1570 metres of a Class C drain
- staff approved and permit, signed notification form and SCR for bottom cleanout and spot cleanout issued September 27, 2018

Application #175/18

Brian and Marina Sider

7116 Hamilton Road – Municipality of Thames Centre

-proposed construction of rear yard patio within flood plain of Reynolds Creek Drain

-plans prepared by Brian Sider

-staff approved and permit issued October 9, 2018

Application #177/18

Siddique Siddiqui

583 Ridgeview Drive - City of London

-proposed excavation and installation of three egress windows in lower level of existing residence

-plans prepared Siddique Siddiqui

-staff approved and permit issued October 15, 2018

Reviewed by:

Tracy Annett, MCIP, RPP, Manager
Environmental Planning and Regulations

Prepared by:

Karen Winfield
Land Use Regulations Officer

Mark Snowsell
Land Use Regulations Officer

Brent Verscheure
Land Use Regulations Officer

Cari Ramsey
Env. Regulations Technician

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Alex B. Shivas
Manager, Lands & Facilities

Date: October 4, 2018

Agenda #: 7 (b)

Subject: 2019 Rental House Rates
- For Information

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The attached report outlines the 2019 rates for Authority owned rental houses. Each year the Ontario Government announces the Provincial Rental Increase Guideline. The annual Rent Increase Guideline is the maximum percentage by which a landlord can increase the monthly rent for existing residential tenants. The 2019 guideline has been set at 1.8%

Rental increase guidelines are released under the auspices of the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board pursuant to the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA).

Prepared by:

Alex B. Shivas
Manager, Lands & Facilities

Bill Mackie
Lands & Facilities Supervisor

<i>HOUSE LOCATION</i>		<i>MUNICIPAL AREA</i>	<i>2017 MONTHLY RENTAL FEE 2016 + 1.5%</i>	<i>2018 PER MONTH RENTAL FEE 2017 + 1.8%</i>	<i>2019 PER MONTH RENTAL FEE 2018 + 1.8%</i>
WILDWOOD CONSERVATION AREA	#1	Township of Perth South, Downie Ward	\$669.00	\$681.00	\$693.00 (681.00 + 12.00)
GLENGOWAN AREA	#2	Township of Perth South, Blanshard Ward	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT
GLENGOWAN AREA	#3	Township of Perth South, Blanshard Ward	\$680.00	\$692.00	\$704.00 (692.00 + 12.00)
GLENGOWAN AREA	#4	Township of Perth South Blanshard Ward	\$112.00	\$114.00	\$116.00 (114.00 + 2.00)
GLENGOWAN AREA	#5	Township of West Perth, Fullarton Ward	\$703.00	\$715.00	\$727.00 (715.00 + 12.00)
GLENGOWAN AREA	#6	Township of West Perth, Fullarton Ward	\$639.00	\$650.00	\$661.00 (650.00 + 11.00)

2019 Annual Rental House Revenue Increase - \$588.00 (\$49/mo. x 12)



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FYI

www.thamesriver.on.ca

October 2018



Friends of Medway by the Numbers 2008-2018

The Friends of Medway Creek have been busy over the past 10 years!

Public Outreach

- Involved more than 30 committee members
- Engaged more than 16 landowners in projects stretching the entire rural main branch
- Involved more than 10,000 students in tree planting, stewardship activities and programs
- Involved more than 300 community members over 5 community day events
- Installed 4 interpretive signs and 3 benches
- Involved First Nations in programs
- Published 10 newsletters
- 100s of newsletters sent to rural landowners
- Represented our group on city committees
- Built relationships with Municipality of Middlesex Centre and City of London

Restoration Efforts

- Planted trees over 88 days
- Planted buffers on more than 22 acres of land
- Planted more than 20,000 trees and shrubs
- Removed 3 large flow barriers
- Installed 9 riffles to improve oxygenation
- Installed 3 underwater structures for fish habitat
- Installed 15 bluebird nest boxes
- Installed 1 owl nest box
- 10 years of cleaning up trash from Medway Creek
- Assisted with the release of 10s of thousands of trout

Committee Hands-On

- Further education with guest speakers – beavers, bees, fish, turtles, mussels, City issues, etc.
- Farm tours and hikes
- Representation on outside committees
- Organized community events
- Created interpretive signs
- Door-to-door cold calls to find new projects
- On-site meetings with landowners
- Planted trees
- Tree maintenance – tree collar removal
- Fundraised through calendar sales
- Assisted with articles in our newsletters

Contact: Julie Welker, Community Partnership Specialist



26th Annual Furtney Memorial Forest Dedication Service

For only the second time in 26 years, weather conditions moved the Furtney Memorial Forest Dedication Service indoors to the Watson Porter Pavilion at Fanshawe Conservation Area. On Sunday, September 30, 200 people observed the dedication service in memory of loved ones who passed away during the past year. One symbolic tree was planted near the pavilion at the end of the service.

Logan Funeral Home and Evans Funeral Home in London plant a tree in partnership with the UTRCA for every funeral conducted through them; as well, anyone can purchase a memorial tree as a living tribute for \$50. All the memorial trees are planted within the City of London boundaries.

Contact: Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist



Photos from some of this year's TD Tree Day events in London (Hickory Woods, Meander Creek Park and Greenway Park, at left) and Mitchell.

TD Tree Days 2018

The month of September has come to be known as TD Tree Days month. TD Tree Days has been bringing people together since 2010 and is helping to create a more vibrant planet by growing and enhancing green spaces and contributing to The Ready Commitment's target of helping plant 1 million trees by 2030.

With the support of the municipalities of St. Marys, Dorchester, London, Mitchell and Woodstock, as well as the Oneida Nation of the Thames, there are 2200 more trees planted on nine sites. More than 400 keen TD employees, friends, families and community members joined in to make this impact. Thank you to all involved in supporting this initiative that keeps on growing.

Contact: Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist

Home Hardware Provides Habitat on National Tree Day

Home Hardware in London East partnered with the UTRCA and Tree Canada to plant 100 native trees in Bellwood Park East on National Tree Day, September 26. Students from London District Christian Secondary School planted a variety of trees that will attract more songbirds to the area, provide nesting opportunities and shade for neighbours. The City of London will have reduced mowing and the tree cover will increase over time. Thank you to Dave Kirk of Home Hardware who has initiated the planting of hundreds of trees over several years for the Forest City.

Contact: Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist



Spreading Like Wildflowers at 3M

The UTRCA is working with 3M Canada on Tartan Drive, next to Veteran's Memorial Highway, to naturalize 1.5 acres of property into native wildflowers and grasses. Steve Tebokkel, Facility Manager, initiated the project with an aim to reduce grass cutting and increase native vegetation. Steve's enthusiasm included communicating with 3M staff at a sustainability fair about the importance of native plants.

Contact Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist



UTRCA's Jay Ebel and 3M's Steve Tebokkel at the 3M site.



Sharing Experience

The UTRCA’s Steve Sauder and Karen Pugh hosted 55 first year Fanshawe College students from the Recreation and Leisure program on September 26. The college has made the UTRCA an annual visit so that students gain a better understanding of the Authority and all that it does, particularly around recreation. Students learn about current trends and issues, and are introduced to the various UTRCA programs.

Steve and Karen (alumni of the same program at Fanshawe) toured the students through the Watershed Conservation Centre at the end of their visit, and several students have signed up to volunteer for the upcoming “The River Talks” event.

Contact: Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist



Drone photo looking north towards the 8 acre plot, planted in 2007.

Reconnecting Perth County Woodlands

One of the best places to plant trees is next to an existing mature woodlot to help expand the woodlot’s size and function, and to take advantage of the natural seed source. An even better place is between two woodlots to re-join them together. This is exactly what the UTRCA has been able to do on one of its farm properties in Perth South.

There were four nearby but disconnected “back 40” woodlots in this concession. In 2007, trees were machine-planted in an 8 acre plot between the three northern woodlots, with 80% conifers and 20% hardwoods. Today, most of these trees are over 10 feet tall. In 2015, a second plot was planted between the south woodlot and the neighbouring woodlot, which borders Flat Creek. The 17-acre south plot was planted with 50% hardwoods and 50% conifers. The tree survival in both plots has been excellent due to good site preparation and maintenance.

As a result, four woodlots (57, 5, 19 and 85 acres in size, from north to south) are now connected by an 8 acre and 17 acre plantation, creating a future 191 acre woodlot connected to Flat Creek. Some of the neighbouring landowners also had reforested sloping land next to their woodlots in the past, further expanding the natural habitat.

Habitat connectivity is very important in a natural heritage system, allowing seeds and wildlife to move safely from one habitat to another, reducing the risk of local extinctions. Staff took drone footage of the site (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/utrca/albums/72157700458362251>) to see the bird’s eye view of the new and mature woodlands. Perth County has the lowest forest cover in the Upper Thames watershed, owing to its strong agricultural land use, so it is important to strategically plant trees where they can do the most good.

Contact: Cathy Quinlan, Terrestrial Ecologist, or Brenda Gallagher, Forestry Technician and Vegetation Specialist



Zorra Township Memorial Forest



Working in partnership with Zorra Township and the UTRCA, Darwin Cooper helped to plant one of eight memorial trees he purchased in memory of his father. Darwin is from the Embro area, and worked with the UTRCA and Zorra's Matthew Brown to choose an appropriate area for the trees.

Anyone interested in purchasing a memorial tree as a

living tribute through the Township of Zorra is invited to contact Karen Martin at 519-485-2490 x228 or kmartin@zorra.on.ca.

Contact: Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist

Native Habitat Increase at the Coves

The UTRCA has been working with City of London Parks Planning and Design and the Friends of the Coves over several years to eradicate non-native species and introduce native wildflowers and grasses in naturalized areas. The Environmentally Significant Areas team has worked on buckthorn removal, and Conservation Services staff carried out site preparation as well as planting native species such as black-eyed Susan, wild bergamot, foxglove beardtongue, purple coneflower, New England aster, and greyheaded coneflower.

Neighbours have commented on the increase of butterflies and birds in the area since the establishment of native species.

Contact: Karen Pugh, Resource Specialist



These UTRCA staff planted 800 wildflower plugs in October.

Autumn Open House

On Sunday, September 30, UTRCA staff welcomed the public to Wildwood Conservation Area for the Autumn Open House. Many people braved the wet, chilly weather to enjoy Wildwood for the afternoon.

Activities included wagon rides through the park to highlight the services the Conservation Area has to offer, and an



interpretive trail through the Dr. Murray Forest where people could take a leisurely walk and learn some interesting facts about the area. Participants enjoyed sipping on hot apple cider while they looked at natural history displays in the Visitor Services Centre. A campfire outside the centre warmed attendees while they waited for the wagon to arrive. Visitors were pleased to learn that the park is open on weekdays for the public to enjoy even after the campground closes.



Contact: Erin Dolmage, Community Education Technician

Biofilters & Phosphorus Removal

The UTRCA co-authored a paper, entitled “Low cost media can filter particulate phosphorus from turbid stream water under short retention times,” to be published in the Ecological Engineering Journal. The research was led by Dr. Will Robertson (University of Waterloo), with whom the UTRCA has been collaborating on woodchip biofilter research for more than 20 years.

The paper examines how well different materials filter particulate phosphorus from turbid stream water. Five low cost, highly permeable media types, including woodchips, sawdust, bark mulch, corn cob chips and peastone, were tested in eight pilot-scale biofilters. Seven of the eight biofilters removed an average of 53-64% total phosphorus load and an average of 85-97% of suspended solids. Dr. Robertson continues to work with the UTRCA on implementing biofilter technology in the watershed to help achieve nutrient reduction and improve water quality.

Contact: Craig Merkley, Conservation Services Specialist

Board of Directors – On the Agenda

The next Board of Directors meeting will be October 23, 2018, at the Pyramid Centre in St. Marys. Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our “Publications” page at www.thamesriver.on.ca.

- 2019 Draft Budget Approval
- Reserves Policy
- Recommendation of Auditor
- Hunting at the Cade Property
- Administration and Enforcement - Section 28
- House Rental Rates

Contact: Michelle Viglianti, Administrative Assistant