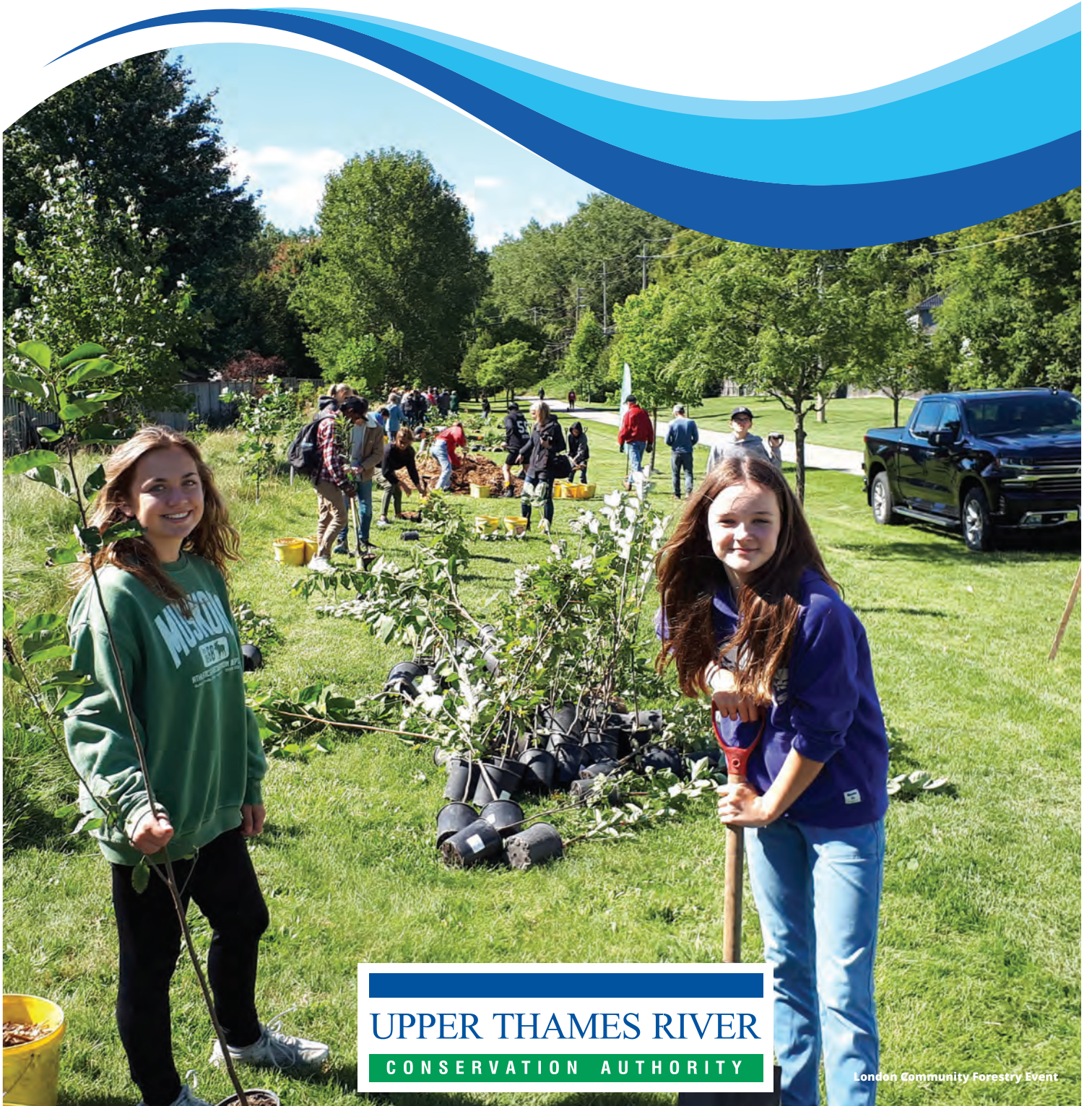


Board of Directors

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors'
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday October 26, 2022 at 9:30 A.M
Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 Pandemic

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: Tuesday September 27, 2022
Mover: A.Murray
Seconder: B.Petrie
THAT that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated September 27, 2022, including any closed session minutes, as posted on the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority web-site.
- 5.2. Business Arising from Minutes
- 5.3. Correspondence

6. Reports – For Consideration

- 6.1. Fees Policy Update
J.Allain - ENVP #12552
Mover: J.Reffle
Seconder: J.Salter
THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.

7. Reports – For Information

- 7.1. Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report
J.Allain – ENVP #12553
Mover: M.Schadenberg
Seconder: A.Westman
THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.
- 7.2. 2023 Rental House Rates
B.Verscheure – Lands and Facilities #7279
Mover: M.Blosh
Seconder: A.Hopkins
THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.
- 7.3. October For Your Information Report
Mover: M.Lupton
Seconder: N.Manning
THAT the Board of Directors receive the report for information.

8. Notices of Motion

9. Chair’s Comments

10. Members’ Comments

11. General Manager’s Comments

12. Reports – In Camera

Mover: H.McDermid
Seconder: P.Mitchell

THAT the Board of Directors adjourn to Closed Session – In Camera, in accordance with Section C.13 of the UTRCA Administrative By-Law, to discuss a plan and instructions to be applied to negotiations.

12.1. Plan and Instructions to be Applied to Negotiations
B.Verscheure – Lands and Facilities #7184

Moved by: B.Petrie

Seconded by: A.Murray

THAT the Board of Directors Rise and Report progress.

Mover: J.Salter

Seconder: J.Reffle

THAT staff be instructed to proceed in accordance with direction issued in closed session.

13. Adjournment

Mover: M.Schadenberg



Tracy Annett, General Manager

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Jenna Allain
Date: October 19, 2022
Filename: ENVP #12552
Agenda #: 6.1
Subject: Fees Policy Update

Recommendation

THAT the proposed updates to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy be approved by the UTRCA Board of Directors.

Background

On January 1, 2023 the *Conservation Authorities Act* is amended by repealing 21 (1) (m.1) which related to the power of CAs to charge fees for services approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and enacting section 21.2 (1)-(12) "Fees for Programs and Services". This Section sets out that every Conservation Authority shall prepare and adopt both a written fee policy and a fee schedule with respect to the fees that it charges for the programs and services it provides.

While UTRCA has had a fees policy in place since 2019, staff have undertaken a review of the policy to ensure it meets the requirements set out in the amended Section 21.2 of the *CA Act* and is consistent with a guidance document provided on September 13th, 2022 by Conservation Ontario titled "Guidance on Fee Policies and Fee Schedules".

It should be noted that only a review of the fees policy was undertaken at this time, and proposed amendments to the fees schedules will be brought forward to Board of Directors at a future meeting for implementation in 2023.

Summary of Requirements for Conservation Authority (CA) Fees Policy

The following is a summary of the legislative, regulatory and policy requirements for a CA Fees Policy.

Conservation Authorities Act (see 21.2 (1) – 21.2 (12)) to be enacted January 1, 2023

Must include:

- Fee schedule (21.2(6)), including
 - List of programs and services that it provides and charges a fee

- Amount of fee charged or manner in which fee is determined
- Frequency in which the fee policy will be reviewed (21.2 (7) (b))
- Process for carrying out a review, including rules for giving notice (21.2 (7) (c))
- Circumstances in which CA will reconsider a fee and the applicable procedure to do so (21.2 (7) (d))
- Made available to the public (21.2 (8))
- Requirement to periodically review fee schedule and fee policy (21.2 (9))
- Notice to public if changes are proposed to the fee schedule (21.2 (10))
- Procedure for re-consideration of a fee (21.2 (11)). Powers upon reconsideration include (21.2 (12))
 - Order to pay fee
 - Vary the fee amount
 - Charge no fee for program or service

Note that 21.2 (13)-(21) has no timeline associated with its effective date. It is expected that these clauses will not be enacted until a new Section 28 regulation is enacted. Once an effective date for these clauses is established, an additional review of the UTRCA Fees Policy will be undertaken at that time.

Summary of Policy Review

The review of the UTRCA fees policy concluded that all of the legislated requirements of the policy are captured under the existing policy, and no changes to those elements are required. The recommended updates included in the attached policy have been made to the “Basis” and “Legislative Framework” sections of the policy to reflect the recent changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Recommended by:

Tracy Annett, General Manager

Prepared by:

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

Attachments

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Fees Policy

Approved by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors,
November 26, 2019 [and amended on October 26, 2022](#)

Fee Schedules revised November 24, 2020; effective January 1, 2021; amended May 25, 2021

Fee Schedules revised November 23, 2021; effective January 1, 2022

Fee Schedules revised June 28, 2022; effective July 1, 2022

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy	1
Basis	1
Legislative Framework.....	1
Policy Direction.....	2
Exemptions and In-Kind Services.....	32
Process and Public Notification	32
Implementation.....	32
1. Planning and Regulations (Section 28 Permit Fees, Planning Act and Technical Reviews)	43
2. Conservation Areas Fees	4
3. Forestry Services Fees.....	54
4. Community Education Program Fees.....	54
5. Hunting Fees	65
Refunds.....	65
Appeal	6
Date of Effect.....	76
Transition.....	76
Review.....	76
Fee Schedules	87
Schedule 1: Planning and Regulations Fees	98
1a. UTRCA Section 28 Permit Fees	98
1b. UTRCA Plan Review Fees	1312
1c. UTRCA Technical Review Fees (to support Section 28 and Plan Review Services)...	1544
1d. Other UTRCA Fees	1645
Schedule 2 - Conservation Areas Fees	1746
Schedule 3 - Forestry Services Fees.....	1948
Schedule 4 - Community Education Program Fees	2049
Schedule 5 - Hunting Fees	2120

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Approved by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) Board of Directors, November 26, 2019 and amended on October 26, 2022.

Basis

Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act were undertaken in 2020 to clarify the programs and services that conservation authorities (CAs) deliver. In 2021, O. Reg. 686/21 Mandatory Programs and Services provided additional clarity regarding the programs and services that CAs are required to provide. In April 2022 the Minister released Policy: Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee ("Minister's List"). CAs may only charge a fee for a program or services that it provides if it is set out in the Minister's List. The Minister's List identifies that CAs may charge a fee for mandatory, municipal and other programs and services where the user-pay principle is appropriate.

The Minister's List replaces the 1997 Policies and Procedures for the Charging of Conservation Authority Fees which was approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. The new Minister's List will come into effect on January 1, 2023. This policy document is intended to fulfill the requirements for each authority to adopt a written policy with respect to the fees it charges for the programs and services it provides.

~~This Fees Policy has been prepared to satisfy the requirement for a policy of administrative guidelines regarding fees for services and to document the principles and practices regarding fees charged under un-proclaimed provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act (Section 21.2). This policy used the following documents as references:~~

- ~~• *Policies and Procedures for the Charging of Conservation Authority Fees*, established by the Ministry of Natural Resources (June 1997, updated March 1999);~~
- ~~• *Guideline for CA Fee Administration Policies for Plan Review and Permitting*, endorsed by Conservation Ontario Council (June 24, 2019).~~

The attached Fee Schedules are based on the user-pay principle. The fees and revenues generated are designed to assist with recovering the costs associated with administering and delivering the services on a program basis. Fees take into account estimated staff time, travel, and materials costs to provide the service, but do not exceed the cost of the service.

Legislative Framework

On January 1, 2023 the Conservation Authorities Act is amended by enacting section 21.2 (1)-(12) "Fees for Programs and Services". Subsection (1) enables the Minister to determine the classes of programs and services in respect of which an authority may charge a fee and (2) requires the minister to publish a List in a policy document. CAs may only charge a fee for a program or service that it provides if it falls within this list.

Under the Conservation Authorities Act, programs and services delivered by conservation authorities include:

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

- **Mandatory programs and services.** Mandatory programs and services that the conservation authority is required to provide [see 21.1 for further details]. These services are further defined in O.Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services and may be funded by provincial grants, other sources, municipal apportionment and/or conservation authority self-generated revenue (e.g., user fees) where the user-pay principle is appropriate.
- **Municipal programs and services.** Programs and services that an authority agrees to provide on behalf of a municipality under a MOU or agreement [see 21.1.1 for further details]. The program or service may be funded by the municipality or by other funding mechanisms (e.g., user fees where the user-pay principle is appropriate) as per the MOU or agreement.
- **Other programs and services.** Programs and services that an authority determines are advisable to further the purposes of the Act [see 21.1.2 for further details]. The program or service may be funded by the municipality or by other funding mechanisms (e.g., user fees where the user-pay principle is appropriate) as per the cost apportioning agreement and the Minister's List.

~~Since 1996, the *Conservation Authorities Act* empowered conservation authorities to charge fees for services approved by the Minister of Natural Resources. Section 21 (m.1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* allows for this collection of fees for the following services, where the service is not supported through provincial grant funding:~~

- ~~• *Conservation Authorities Act* Section 28 permit fees;~~
- ~~• Plan review;~~
- ~~• Response to legal, real estate and public inquiries;~~
- ~~• Extension services (e.g., technical advice/ implementation of erosion control measures, forest management/ tree planting, wildlife/ fisheries habitat management, management of forests/ recreational land owned by others, technical studies);~~
- ~~• Community relations/ information/ education services (e.g., tours, presentations, workshops, demonstrations, special events);~~
- ~~• Sale of products (e.g., reports, maps, photographs);~~
- ~~• Any services under other legislation authorized under agreement with the lead ministry.~~

~~The un-proclaimed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (December 2017) include the addition of Section 21.2 which clarifies that:~~

~~The Minister may determine classes of programs and services in respect of which an authority may charge a fee. The amount of a fee charged by an authority for a program or services it provides shall be,~~

- ~~a) the amount prescribed by the regulations; or~~
- ~~b)a) _____ if no amount is prescribed, the amount determined by the authority.~~

Policy Direction

When updating existing fee schedules or establishing new fees the following policy direction will be considered:

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

- 1) fees need to be set with regard to legislative requirements, ability to sustain programs, and be based on a user-pay philosophy;
- 2) fee increases should include inflation;
- 3) fees must not exceed the costs of delivering the services;
- 4) refunds of fees may carry an administrative cost/penalty;
- 5) fees are reviewed at least annually and regular adjustments to fees are desirable;
- 6) the fee schedule will be approved on an annual basis to inform the budget for the following year.

Exemptions and In-Kind Services

The Authority may waive fees for non-profit conservation groups contributing to the protection and restoration of the natural environment. Examples include but are not limited to: Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and various “Friends of” groups.

In addition, in-kind technical services are routinely provided by the Authority to assist non-profit conservation groups. Technical services may be required for non-profit groups that do not have qualified professionals nor the funding to acquire the expertise to undertake projects to further achieve the environmental targets of the Authority.

Process and Public Notification

When developing and establishing fees, the Authority also considers the fees of Conservation Authorities offering the same level of service and technical advice, the fees set by neighbouring Conservation Authorities, fees charged by local municipalities and agencies, and fees charged by the private sector for similar services.

Fees account for estimated staff time, travel, equipment and material costs plus a reasonable charge to cover administration of the program, which normally includes an allocation for shared corporate services.

This Fees Policy has been established by the UTRCA Board of Directors and is administered and applied by staff of UTRCA. The Management Team in consultation with the General Manager may, under extenuating circumstances, waive or reduce fees.

The public is notified of any proposed increases or revisions to the Fee Schedule, by way of posting a notice on the UTRCA website that the Fee Schedule will be reviewed on an identified date, at an open meeting of the Authority’s Board of Directors.

Implementation

While cost recovery is a requirement for certain services, noted above, the Authority considers other factors when setting fees, such as fees of neighbouring Conservation Authorities, the nature and level of fees charged by local municipalities for related services and in some cases, the value of similar services provided by the private sector. It should also be noted that for some circumstances and programs, an attempt to charge a fee that would provide complete cost recovery is not feasible due to inability to pay and would result in reduced demand for the service, e.g., school education programs.

1. Planning and Regulations (Section 28 Permit Fees, Planning Act and Technical Reviews)

UTRCA administers its fee program for Planning and Regulations to achieve a partial cost recovery to-date for the plan review function. UTRCA programs aims to achieve a 50-50 user fee to levy ratio to represent the maximum reliance on user-fees in order to safeguard the planning and regulations program and its services against economic volatility and subsequent budgetary uncertainty. It is also intended to reflect that significant effort and resources are used for pre-consultation related to activities, proposals and inquiries prior to application submissions as well as compliance activities. The fee schedules are based on the complexity of the application and technical review required, which influences the staff time and resources needed for the review. Administration may consider the following issues and data, where and when relevant to revise the fee schedule:

- analysis of trends in workload changes as a result of shifts in the development market and types of applications;
- consultation with developers/municipalities about work effort, new planning/legislative requirements and streamlining;
- general overview of status of cost recovery;
- statistics related to number of applications and annual changes, where required;
- level of service/review expectation for processing timing;
- areas of improvement of level of service/staffing demands;
- cost cutting measures as required;
- reserve fund requirements;
- identification of specific/specialized municipal requirements;
- trends in legal costs associated with appeals to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board), Mining and Lands Tribunal, and other legal services.

It is the objective of the UTRCA to provide an effective and efficient delivery of services consistent with the *Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review*, endorsed by Conservation Ontario Council, June 24, 2019.

Exemptions to the application of these fees include:

- Non-profit conservation groups contributing to the protection and restoration of the natural environment, examples include but are not limited to: Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters;
- UTRCA for permit applications, Planning Act applications, inquiries, and site assessments.

2. Conservation Areas Fees

Conservation Areas fees are reviewed annually by Conservation Unit staff following the end of the camping season in October. Criteria for setting fees are:

- impact on or opportunity to support the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan;
- anticipated operational expenses that will be incurred that will impact the budget;
- comments and feedback from CA users;
- comparison to similar operations and opportunities in the industry, including trends.

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

As part of the fee setting process, staff also review operational policies that pertain to the various aspects of the Conservation Area services and programs. Refund policies are included in this review and adjusted as necessary. Information pertaining to these policies is shared on our websites as well as available in print. Seasonal campers receive an electronic copy of both the fee schedule and policies annually.

In order to meet deadlines for print advertising as well as reservation system upgrades, fees are approved in November and come into effect January 1 of the new year. Once approved, new fees become public.

To be consistent with Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Regulation (O.Reg. 429/07) and the Human Rights Code, the Conservation Areas permit people with disabilities who use a support person to bring that person with them while accessing goods or services in premises open to the public or third parties, free of charge.

3. Forestry Services Fees

Fees for trees and services are reviewed and up-dated annually. An attempt is made to balance user fees with program costs while trying to maintain and, over the long-term, expand natural areas according to the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan. It must be noted that without cost-sharing opportunities such as the Clean Water Program, 50 Million Tree Program, Ontario Power Generation and others, the program would not be sustainable (i.e. tree numbers planted would drop considerably).

The cost of providing these services is based on the following principles:

- tree costs are based on wholesale tree costs dependent on individual stock items. A mark-up is applied to cover costs associated with tree delivery and storage requirements;
- planting fees for both machine and hand planting are based on staffing and equipment costs;
- where the UTRCA is asked to replant areas to comply with court orders (e.g., Woodlands Conservation By-Law, CA Act Permit requirements), the fees charged reflect full cost recovery.

4. Community Education Program Fees

Conservation Education program fees are reviewed annually and changes implemented in time for promotion of fall programs. The fees advertised in September are in place for the school year. UTRCA conservation education programs are funded through a number of avenues including fees charged directly to the school classes participating, fees charged directly to the School Board and through corporate, foundation or government sponsorships of specific programs.

The Authority offers programs on site (within Fanshawe or Wildwood Conservation Areas), off site (wetland, watercourse) and in-class and on the grounds of the school. The fees charged for an on-site program is a cost per student per half day program. There is a minimum fee per program. Most programs can accommodate two or three classes. This revenue is augmented by Authority levy funds to cover costs. Staff endeavour to control dependency on Authority levy funds by recovering as much of the program costs as the market will bear. To determine the fees charged directly to the school classes a number of factors are considered including:

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

- availability of similar services;
- surveys of prices charged by organizations offering similar services; and
- demand for the program.

Off site, specialty programs are sponsored through corporate, foundation or government agencies. At times, a school board will arrange for the UTRCA to provide programming or professional development to a number of classes or staff. In these instances, the fees charged cover all costs incurred by the Authority.

5. Hunting Fees

Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas Unit's fee for hunting will be reviewed annually. Criteria for increasing the hunting program fees are:

- anticipated operational expenses that will be incurred;
- comments and feedback from applicants and permitted users of designated hunting areas;
- comparison to similar operations and opportunities at other Conservation Authorities.

The fee setting process will include a review of operational policies. The Hunting Team will incorporate MNRF hunting regulation changes, UTRCA policy changes, admission agreements, terms and conditions (written permission) updates, GIS map updates, and applicable fee updates, which are shared on our websites as well as available in print.

Refunds

The UTRCA does not issue refunds for services or products once the application or order is submitted and the payment has been processed.

The Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas Unit has policies regarding refunds specific to the different programs and services offered. Policies regarding refunds are posted on the individual conservation area websites as well as copies are distributed to seasonal campers. Links to the websites are updated by January 1 for the upcoming operating season. Refunds are not offered for inclement weather nor are they offered when a permit holder is being evicted from the premises.

Appeal

The fee appeal process will be based on the principles of fairness, opportunity, and notification. Application for an administrative review may be received for, 1) an appeal if a fee is contrary to the fees set out in the fee schedule, or 2) that the fee set out in the fee schedule is excessive in relation to the service or program received.

Requests for an administrative review must be in writing to the General Manager (or delegate) and specify the reason(s) for the request for review. Upon reconsideration of a fee that was charged by the authority, the authority may:

- a) Order the person pay the fee in the amount originally charged;
- b) Vary the amount of the fee originally charged, as the authority considers appropriate; or
- c) Order that no fee be charged for the program or service.

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

If not satisfied with the outcome then an appeal will be directed to the UTRCA Board of Directors for a decision. Once heard, the appeal will be dismissed or upheld through a resolution passed by the Board of Directors. The appellant will be notified accordingly of the Board's decision.

If a refund is approved, a 10% administration fee will apply.

Date of Effect

The Fee Policy becomes effective as of the date of UTRCA Board of Directors approval unless stated otherwise.

Transition

The establishment of this Fee Policy supersedes and replaces all previous fee policies and/or schedules. The Policy also applies to proposals not previously invoiced, such as draft approved plans of subdivision which predated any fee schedule.

Review

This Fee Policy and Schedules will be reviewed annually by the UTRCA Management Team, in conjunction with the annual budgeting process. The Management Team will seek information regarding fees, from various sources, as identified in the process and public notification section above; prepare a proposed revised Fee Schedule with a report to members regarding recommendations. The Board of Directors shall receive and make recommendation as to the proposed Fee Schedule. Once approved, the revised Fee Schedule to this policy will be published on UTRCA's website, distributed to Municipal Clerks for posting, and in other materials used by the public.

Fee Schedules

Schedule 1: Planning and Regulations Fees (includes UTRCA Section 28 Permit Fees, Plan Review Fees, Technical Review Fees, and other fees)

Schedule 2: Conservation Areas Fees

Schedule 3: Forestry Services Fees

Schedule 4: Community Education Program Fees

Schedule 5: Hunting Fees

Schedule 1: Planning and Regulations Fees

Includes UTRCA Section 28 Permit Fees, Plan Review Fees, Technical Review Fees, and other fees

1a. UTRCA Section 28 Permit Fees

Category	Type	2022 Fee
Pre-consultation	Pre-consultation with the applicant regarding requirement	No Charge
Alterations to Wetlands and Watercourses	<u>Routine</u> - No engineering drawings required	\$525.00
	<u>Minor</u> - Engineering drawings required	\$1,100.00
	<u>Major</u> - Involves comprehensive review by various technical staff	\$1,500.00
Development Applications	<u>Routine</u> - Limited review, minor in nature relative to cost, location, or impact (decks, patios, etc.)	\$250.00
	<u>Minor</u> - Small scale (less than 500 square feet), and/or consistent with policy	\$1,100.00
	<u>Major</u> - Medium scale, primary structures (greater than 500 square feet) and/or consistent with policy	\$1,500.00
Linear Utility Corridor	<u>Routine</u> - May include linear utility crossings adjacent to watercourses and wetlands	\$1,100.00
	<u>Minor</u> - May include linear utility corridors where a watercourse or wetland crossing is proposed	\$1,500.00
	<u>Major</u> - May include linear utility corridors where multiple watercourse or wetland crossings are proposed	\$6,000.00
Municipal Drain Review	<u>Routine</u> - Project is drain maintenance consistent with Standard Compliance Requirements in DART Protocol	\$275.00
	<u>Minor</u> - Review of engineers report and/or within regulated wetland limits	\$850.00
	<u>Major</u> - Requires multiple site visits, and/or detailed review of engineering reports, and/or within regulated wetland limits	\$1,500.00
Municipal Project Review	<u>Routine</u> - Does not require any technical reports or analysis (may include bridge or culvert repairs)	\$1,100.00
	<u>Minor</u> - Requires technical reports or analysis to support the application (may include minor bridge or culvert replacements)	\$1,500.00
	<u>Major</u> - Works that cover large geographic areas such as multiple road culvert or bridge replacements	\$5,000.00

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Category	Type	2022 Fee
Complex Applications	Large scale development proposals, and/or inconsistent with policy (examples include multi-lot development, large scale municipal project, golf course, renewable energy project, etc.)	\$6,000.00
	Large Fill - Volumes > 1000 m ³	\$6,000.00 Plus \$0.50/m ³ of fill
	Aggregate Resources Act - Above water table	\$6,000.00
	Aggregate Resources Act - Below water table	\$10,500.00
Environmental Assessments	Standard	\$1,100.00
	Intermediate	\$5,000.00
	Full/Comprehensive	\$10,000.00
Hearing Request	Streamlined Hearing	\$800.00
	Full Hearing – Intermediate	\$1,200.00
	Full Hearing – Major	\$5,000.00
Clearance	Verification Letter (Hazards or Areas of Interference)	\$250.00
Extensions	Minor application revisions and minor permit revisions and/or extensions	\$135.00
Violation	Work commenced prior to approval - First occurrence - Second and subsequent occurrences Note: Applications will only be accepted retroactively where works undertaken meet UTRCA board approved policies or where works are proposed that are intended to bring a project into compliance with said policies.	100% surcharge (cost recovery) 200% surcharge
NEW - Minister's Zoning Order (MZO)	Permit associated with Minister's Zoning Order (MZO)	100% surcharge of the permit fee (cost recovery)

General Notes for All Permit Fees

Routine - Routine permit applications are activities that are documented through another approval process or are determined to have limited impacts on the control of flooding, erosion, pollution, or the conservation of land. Routine permit applications could be those involving Standard Compliance Requirements under the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol, and non-habitable buildings and structures that are less than 10 m² in size.

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Minor - Permit applications for development projects could be considered minor in nature due to the project size, level of risk, location, and/or other factors. These projects have minor impacts on the control of flooding, erosion, pollution, or the conservation of land. Based on the proximity of the project to the hazard, the minor permit applications are reviewed by UTRCA staff and generally require standard recommendations or conditions. Minor permit applications could be those involving, for example, minor fill, minor development, and minor site alteration where there is a high degree of certainty that issues associated with natural hazards are minimal.

Major - Major applications for Section 28 permits require significant UTRCA staff involvement. They could be highly complex projects, for example, large subdivisions requiring technical review supported by comprehensive analysis, or smaller scale site specific applications that require complex technical reviews. The proposals may involve developments with significant natural hazards, environmental impacts, or multiple approval processes requirements. Generally, these would include Plans of Subdivision and Condominium, large Site Plan Control applications, and major infrastructure development. Major applications could also include those where works have been undertaken, or are in process of being undertaken, without prior approval from the UTRCA; and those where works have been undertaken that do not comply with the UTRCA Section 28 policies and restoration/remediation measures are required.

1. The UTRCA reserves the right to charge technical report review fees over and above the permit fees for projects that require a detailed technical report or reports covering one or more issues.
2. Large fill projects involve proposals for fill movement which exceed 1000 m³. Smaller fill projects will be covered under other categories of the fee schedule.
3. Applications that fall under one or more of the categories will be charged at the highest rate.
4. Large renewable energy projects are defined as:
 - a. Class 3 solar facilities with a nameplate capacity greater than 10 kW.
 - b. Class 3, 4 or 5 wind facilities equal to or greater than 50 kW.
 - c. Any waterpower project involving construction of a new dam or retrofit of an existing dam.
 - d. Any bio-fuel project (anaerobic digestion, biofuel, biogas, or thermal treatment facility) that would not fall under our general categories for buildings or building additions as outlined in the table above.
5. Large scale municipal projects – Projects that have generally come forward following a Class Environmental Assessment, where input from the UTRCA has been solicited and the need for Section 28 approval has been acknowledged. UTRCA costs are related to multiple technical report reviews, preparation of correspondence, attendance at pre-consultation meetings, and site inspections. Estimated total project costs generally exceed \$1 million. Staff reserve the right to charge additional fees for significant technical report review.
6. Costs associated with legal review for agreements required for permits issued under Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) shall be paid by the applicant.
7. For Environmental Assessments undertaken by private proponents (i.e., non-municipal EAs), standard, intermediate and full/comprehensive categories are distinguished by the anticipated amount of staff time required for reviews. For the purposes of the fee schedule, intermediate will be defined as projects with estimated cumulative staff review time requirements of greater than 15 hours and major will be defined as projects with estimated cumulative staff review time requirements of greater than 30 hours. The

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

UTRCA reserves the right to charge additional fees if peer review requirements warrant additional cost-recovery.

8. For Municipal Drain applications where only a scoped review of the engineers report is undertaken, the lesser fee may be charged.
9. Projects carried out by the UTRCA or under the supervision of the UTRCA Clean Water Program may be exempt from this fee schedule.

Please contact UTRCA Regulations staff at 519-451-2800 to arrange a pre-consultation discussion prior to submission, or email Emailregulationsinquiry@thamesriver.on.ca

1b. UTRCA Plan Review Fees

Application Review	Type	2022 Fee
Formal Pre-consultation	Fee will apply when a formal pre-consultation comment letter has been requested by a municipality. This fee will be deducted from subsequent review fees once a formal application is submitted.	\$300
Comprehensive Official Plan Amendment and housekeeping amendments initiated by Municipality		No charge
Official Plan Amendment	<u>Minor/Routine</u> - i.e., Single family residence	\$550.00
	<u>Major</u> - Large scale, complex features, requiring technical studies	\$1,500.00
Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA)	Comprehensive ZBA initiated by Municipality	No charge
	<u>Minor/Routine</u>	\$550.00
	<u>Major</u> - Large scale, complex features, requiring technical studies	\$1,300.00
Consent (severance)	<u>Minor/Routine</u>	\$400.00
	<u>Major</u> - Large scale, complex features, requiring technical studies	\$800.00
Minor Variance	<u>Minor/Routine</u>	\$250.00
	<u>Major</u> - Large scale, complex features, requiring technical studies	\$1,250.00
Site Plan	<u>Minor/Routine</u>	\$550.00
	<u>Intermediate</u> – Intermediate scale requiring scoped technical studies	\$1,250.00
	<u>Major</u> - Large scale, complex features, requiring technical studies	\$3,000.00
Draft Plan of Subdivision or Condo		\$160.00 per Lot to a maximum of \$13,500.00
Processing Fee		\$250.00

General Notes for all Application Fees

1. Fees are only collected for applications where natural hazard or natural heritage features affect the property.
2. The UTRCA reserves the right to waive the application fee or reduce the fee on a case by case basis.
3. Major applications include complex natural hazard and natural heritage issues involving multiple meetings and peer reviews to be completed by the UTRCA and/or other qualified professionals. The UTRCA reserves the right to determine what is considered to be a major application on a case by case basis.

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

4. Fees for multiple applications made for the same parcel within one year will be discounted as follows:
 - First application: full fee per lot/application,
 - Additional applications: 50% of the lesser of the application fee per lot/application.
5. A processing fee is charged in the following cases:
 - Provision of an extension letter,
 - Provision of a letter for a Draft Plan of Condominium for those proposals that are limited to conversion of existing buildings with no new construction or as long as the design complies with criteria established through a previous circulation (e.g., Subdivision or Site Plan).

1c. UTRCA Technical Review Fees (to support Section 28 and Plan Review Services)

Technical Review	2022 Fee
Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) (Minor) – Limited assessment, adjacent to feature	\$750.00
EIS (Scoped) – Scoped assessment, adjacent to or within feature	\$1,200.00
EIS (Comprehensive)	\$2,200.00
Stormwater Management (SWM) Studies – Preliminary	\$1,200.00
SWM Studies – Detailed Design	\$2,200.00
Sediment and Erosion Control (SEC) Plan – Minor/Routine	No charge
SEC Plan/Report – Intermediate	\$250.00
SEC Plan/Report – Major	\$500.00
Geotechnical or Slope Stability Assessment – Scoped Report	\$750.00
Geotechnical or Slope Stability Assessment – Full Report (1 lot)	\$1,200.00
Geotechnical or Slope Stability Assessment – Full Report (multiple lots)	\$1,600.00
Hydrogeology Assessments	\$1,600.00
Other Technical Report	\$1,200.00
Technical Expert Peer Review - External (Instance where there is a need for an outside Technical Expert)	\$525.00 + TBD Technical Review

General Notes for Technical Review Fees

1. It is required that the proponent pre-consult with the UTRCA and the municipality prior to preparation and submission of a detailed technical report.
2. For the purpose of this fee schedule, Scoped Studies are generally recommended in situations where the nature of the natural heritage feature or hazard is well documented, similar development has been previously proposed, modelled and analyzed, impacts are not anticipated due to the location or nature of a proposed development, and mitigation options have been developed.
3. For the purpose of this fee schedule, Comprehensive Studies are generally recommended in situations that are more complex, where information is lacking, or where the risk or significance of the impact is high.
4. The fees for technical report review include one comprehensive report review and one revised report review. The UTRCA reserves the right to charge a processing fee or additional technical report fees for additional reviews.

1d. Other UTRCA Fees

Category	Type	2022 Fee
Inquiry or Release of Agreements	Written response provided	\$350.00
	Written response provide (rush request)	\$700.00
	Verbal response provided	No charge
	Regulation Maps provided as digital pdf via email	No charge
Maps	Printed standard legal sized hardcopy	\$25.00
	Custom Map Fees - Contact GIS staff for exact prices	\$55.00 (per hour rate)
Other	GPS Surveying (generally involves a crew of two staff)	\$90.00/hour + expenses, minimum charge 2 hours
	Aquatic Ecosystem – Preliminary Assessment (generally involves a crew of two staff)	\$90.00/hour + expenses, minimum charge 2 hours
	Terrestrial Ecosystem – Preliminary Assessment (generally involves a crew of two staff)	\$90.00/hour + expenses, minimum charge 2 hours
	Photocopies	\$0.10 per standard copy

Schedule 2 - Conservation Areas Fees

All fees effective January 1, 2022

Day Use Revenue Centres	2022 Fees
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Day Use Fees	Vehicle day pass	\$15.00
	Non vehicle day pass	\$8.00
	Seasons pass	\$135.00
	Bus day pass	\$150.00
Watercraft Fees	Motor/sail boat daily	\$15.00
	Motor/sail boat seasons pass	\$135.00
	Wet dock seasonal	\$410.00
	Wet dock monthly	\$185.00
	Wet dock weekly	\$125.00
	Wet dock daily	\$25.00
	Dry dock seasonal	\$185.00
	Dry dock monthly	\$110.00
	Dry dock daily	\$20.00
Pavilion Rental Fees	Watson Porter Pavilion – wedding	\$2,300.00
	Watson Porter Pavilion – inclusive	\$1,100.00
	Watson Porter Pavilion	\$400.00
	Lakeview Pavilion – wedding	\$900.00
	Lakeview Pavilion – inclusive	\$675.00
	Lakeview Pavilion	\$270.00
	Day Use Shelter	\$100.00

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Fees Policy

Campground Revenue Centres	2022 Fees	
Nightly Camping Fees	Reservation fee - Call Centre	\$14.00
	Reservation fee - Internet	\$14.00
	Reservation fee - Campground	\$14.00
	Change fee	\$16.00
	Cancelation fee	\$21.00
	Daily electricity - 15 amp	\$51.00
	Daily electricity - 30 amp	\$51.00
	Daily electricity - 50 amp	\$59.00
	Daily without electricity	\$41.00
	Back Country (no electricity) - daily	\$40.00
	Weekly electricity 15 amp	\$357.00
	Weekly electricity 30 amp	\$357.00
	Weekly electricity 50 amp	\$413.00
	Weekly without electricity	\$287.00
	Additional Vehicle Pass (overnight pass daily)	\$15.00
Seasonal Camping Fees	Seasonal 50 amp	\$3,600.00
	Seasonal 30 amp	\$3,100.00
	Seasonal 30 amp - Waterfront	\$3,350.00
	Seasonal 30 amp - Premium	\$4,000.00
	Seasonal 15 amp	\$2,800.00
	Seasonal non electric	\$2,030.00
	Seasonal non electric - Waterfront	\$2,110.00
	Swipe Card Seasons Vehicle Pass	\$130.00
	Seasonal Site Administration Fee	\$200.00
Storage Fees	Trailer	\$350.00
	Shed / deck only	\$175.00
	Boat	\$200.00
Sewage Fees	Sewage disposal - weekly	\$680.00
	Sewage disposal - bi-weekly	\$340.00
	Sewage disposal - single	\$53.00
	Sewage disposal - unscheduled request	\$110.00
	Sewage disposal - non camper	\$53.00

Schedule 3 - Forestry Services Fees

Stock			2022 Fee (+ HST)
Large Stock Trees	Coniferous Trees (45-60 cm balled and burlap)	Each	\$11.25 - \$16.00*
	Deciduous Trees (175-200 cm bare root)	Each	\$30.00 - \$37.00*
	UTRCA Planting Fee - Coniferous Trees (Includes 2 applications of herbicide) Minimum order 50 trees	Fee per tree	\$17.50 + Cost of tree
	UTRCA Planting Fee - Deciduous Trees (Includes stakes, guards, 2 applications of herbicide) Minimum order 25 trees	Fee per tree	\$37.50 + Cost of tree
	Landowner Planting - Minimum order 25 coniferous and/or deciduous trees		
Seedlings	Coniferous Seedlings (18-40 cm) Minimum order 50 seedlings	Each	\$1.00 - \$1.60*
	Deciduous Seedlings (26-90 cm) Minimum order 50 seedlings	Each	\$1.25 - \$2.10*
	Wildlife Shrubs (20-35 cm) Minimum order 50 seedlings	Each	\$1.25 - \$1.90*
	UTRCA Planting Fee - Seedlings (Includes 2 applications of herbicide) Minimum order 250 seedlings	Fee per tree	\$0.95 +Cost of seedling
	Landowner Planting - Administration Fee Minimum order 100 seedlings Seedlings must be ordered in lots of 50		\$30.00

*Price dependent on species

Schedule 4 - Community Education Program Fees

Fee schedule effective in September to align with the school year

Program		2022 Fees	
Conservation Education	On Site Programs	Per person	\$8.00
		Per group minimum	\$136.00
	In Classroom and Off-site Programs	Per group (sponsored)	\$175 - \$1,200
Nature School		Per session	\$100 - \$360
Specialist High Skills Major	GPS	Per person	\$30.00
		Minimum (full day)	\$500.00
	Project WILD and Below Zero Certificates	Per person	\$100.00
	Project WILD only	Per person	\$65.00
	Below Zero only	Per person	\$65.00
	Intro to Stream Assessment Protocol	Per person	\$15.00
		Minimum	\$300.00
	Intro to Watershed Management	Per person	\$15.00
		Minimum	\$300.00
	Intro to Species Identification	Per person	\$15.00
Minimum		\$300.00	
Intro to Habitat Restoration	Per person	\$15.00	
	Minimum	\$300.00	
ICE Training	Fully Facilitated	Per day	\$500.00
	Co-facilitated	Per day	\$250.00

Note: In some instances, educational program fees are supported by a sponsor or grant.

Schedule 5 - Hunting Fees

Hunting Fee (Lands, Facilities and Conservation Areas Revenue Centre)	2022 Fee
Hunting Permission (Permit)	\$65.00

Note: A review of the UTRCA's Hunting Program Fee to be undertaken in 2022.

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Date: October 19, 2022
Filename: ENVP # 12553
Agenda #: 7.1
Subject: Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report – *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (O.Reg.157/06)*

Section 28 Report

The attached tables are provided to the Board as a summary of staff activity related to the Conservation Authority's *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation* (Ontario Regulation 157/06 made pursuant to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act). The summary covers permits issued between September 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022.

To date, 207 permit numbers have been assigned this year with 149 of those permits issued before August 31st. A further seven permits have been issued in 2022 where the permit number was assigned in 2021, bringing the total number of permits issued in 2022 to 156. This number now exceeds the total number of permits that were issued during the calendar year of 2021 which was 153.

Recommended by:

Jenna Allain, Manager, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

Prepared by:

Jessica Schnaithmann, Land Use Regulations Officer
Ben Dafoe, Land Use Regulations Officer
Cari Ramsey, Land Use Regulations Officer
Mike Funk, Land Use Regulations Officer
Brad Dryburgh, Land Use Regulations Assistant
Karen Winfield, Planning and Regulations Resource Specialist

SECTION 28 STATUS REPORT SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR 2021

DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINE AND WATERCOURSES REGULATION ONTARIO REGULATION 157/06

Report Date: September 2022

[Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review \(CO, Dec 2019\)](#)

Permit #	Municipality	Location/Address	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Required By	Permit Issued On	Comply with Timelines	Staff
56-22	Zorra	Lots 33 and 34, Concession 2	Routine	Development	Road Maintenance	1-Sep-2022	2-Sep-2022	16-Sep-2022	6-Sep-2022	YES	Dafoe
168-22	West Perth	162 Clarke St. (Mitchell)	Routine	Development	Driveway enlargement	17-Aug-2022	23-Aug-2022	6-Sep-2022	2-Sep-2022	YES	Dafoe
173-22	London	56-82 Wellington St	Routine	Utility Corridor	Directional drill adjacent to South Thames River	Aug. 26, 2022	31-Aug-2022	14-Sep-2022	2-Sep-2022	YES	Funk
175-22	Perth South	Clifford Drain	Minor	Municipal Drain	Proposed relocation of 236 metres of municipal drain	30-Mar-2022	19-Aug-2022	9-Sep-2022	1-Sep-2022	YES	Ramsey
176-22	EZ Tavistock	Part Lot 26, Concession 12	Minor	Development	Wetland Creation	4-Aug-2022	16-Sep-2022	7-Oct-2022	27-Sep-2022	YES	Dafoe
177-22	Stratford	21 Douglas St.	Routine	Development	Deck Extension	9-Sep-2022	19-Sep-2022	3-Oct-2022	26-Sep-2022	YES	Dafoe
178-22	London	3700 Colonel Talbot Rd	Routine	Development	Demolition adjacent to watercourse	2-Sep-2022	15-Sep-2022	29-Sep-2022	15-Sep-2022	YES	Funk
180-22	London	88 Springfield Crescent	Minor	Development	Proposed Construction of Sunroom Addition, Stairs and Rooftop Patio	26-Aug-2022	12-Sep-2022	3-Oct-2022	13-Sep-2022	YES	Winfield
182-22	Middlesex Centre	13215 Ten Mile Rd	Routine	Utility Corridor	Placing fill to satisfy pipeline depth-of-cover requirements	6-Sep-2022	13-Sep-2022	27-Sep-2022	13-Sep-2022	YES	Dryburgh
186-22	Middlesex Centre	21502 Hyde Park Road	Routine	Development	Proposed new garage	9-Aug-2022	15-Sep-2022	29-Sep-2022	19-Sep-2022	YES	Ramsey
187-22	Woodstock	1055 Parkinson Rd.	Minor	Restoration/Creation	Wetland Restoration	28-Aug-2022	14-Sep-2022	5-Oct-2022	19-Sep-2022	YES	Dafoe

Permit #	Municipality	Location/Address	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Required By	Permit Issued On	Comply with Timelines	Staff
191-22	Middlesex Centre	49 Blackburn Cres	minor	Development	Construction of a pergola, hot tub and landscaping	14-Sep-2022	14-Sep-2022	5-Oct-2022	26-Sep-2022	YES	Ramsey
192-22	Middlesex Centre	21446 Denfield Rd	Minor	Development	Sun-Canadian to replace a Main Line Valve, expand compound	12-Sep-2022	22-Sep-2022	13-Oct-2022	22-Sep-2022	YES	Dryburgh
194-22	Thames Centre	3375 Gore Rd	Routine	Development	Proposed concrete patios (2)	13-Sep-2022	22-Sep-2022	6-Oct-2022	22-Sep-2022	YES	Ramsey

To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Brent Verscheure
Date: October 19, 2022
Filename: Lands & Facilities #7279
Agenda #: 7.2
Subject: Rental House Rates – 2023

Introduction

The attached report outlines the 2023 rental rates for the four Authority owned houses. Each year the Ontario Government announces the Provincial Rent Increase Guideline. The annual Rent Increase Guideline is the maximum percentage by which a landlord can increase the monthly rent for existing residential tenants. In 2021 there was a 0% increase (freeze) due to COVID -19. Last year the guideline increase was 1.2%.

The rent increase guideline for 2023 is 2.5% as shown on the attached table. Residential increase guidelines are released under the auspices of the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board, pursuant to the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA).

Prepared by:

Brent Verscheure, Manager, Lands, Facilities & Conservation Areas

House Location (& Name)	Municipal Area	2021 Monthly Rental Fee 2020 + 0.0%	2022 Monthly Rental Fee 2021 + 1.2%	2023 Monthly Rental Fee 2022 + 2.5%
#1 Wildwood Conservation Area (Lang House)	Township of Perth South, Downie Ward	\$708.00	\$716.00 (708.00 + 8.00)	\$734.00 (\$716.00 + \$18.00)
#2 Glengowan Area (Wood House)	Township of Perth South Blanchard Ward	\$719.00	\$727.00 (719.00 + 8.00)	\$745.00 (\$727.00 + \$18.00)
#3 Glengowan Area (Simpson House)	Township of Perth South, Blanchard Ward	\$118.00	\$119.00 (118.00 + 1.00)	\$121.00 (\$119.00 + \$3.00)
#4 Glengowan Area (Crinklawn House)	Municipality of West Perth, Fullarton Ward	\$742.00	\$750.00 (742.00 + 8.00)	\$769.00 (\$750.00 + 19.00)

fyi

October 2022

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Belted Kingfisher

New Shelter for Wildwood Nature School

“The Hollow” at Wildwood Nature School now features a wonderful new shelter constructed with building materials donated by the St. Marys Home Hardware Building Centre! Brad and Jenny Roth own the St. Marys Home Building Centre and Sam’s Home Hardware in St. Marys. They and their staff have been strong supporters of the education programs at Wildwood Conservation Area for many years.

Wildwood Nature School gives children opportunities to build a relationship with the land through repeated visits in familiar natural places. The new shelter provides a space where participants can gather to share experiences, explore natural artifacts and resources, and find shelter as needed.

Thank you to Brad and Jenny for this very generous donation and for supporting the Wildwood education programs!

Contact: [Maranda MacKean](mailto:Maranda.MacKean@utoronto.ca), Community Education Specialist



Local business owner Jenny Roth and UTRCA’s Vanni Azzano in the newly constructed shelter.

ESA Days Return

During London’s Doors Open weekend, September 17-18, the UTRCA partnered with the City of London’s Ecological Community Advisory Committee and local community groups to pilot events at three of the city’s [Environmentally Significant Areas \(ESAs\)](#). The goal of ESA Days was to improve public awareness and appreciation of the ESAs, through education, hikes, and community involvement.

On Saturday, two ESAs were highlighted, Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills and Kilally Meadows. On Sunday, Medway Valley



UTRCA Aquatic Biologist Erin Carroll talked with visitors about stream health.

Heritage Forest ESA was featured, with support from the Friends of Medway Creek and the London Environmental Network.

Two access points were manned at each ESA, with UTRCA ESA and Community Education staff and/or community volunteers leading hikes and providing information to highlight the features of the ESAs.

Overall, the event was well attended and feedback was very positive. The organizing committee will be meeting to evaluate the events and plan for the future.

Contact: [Brandon Williamson](#), Land Management Coordinator

Friends of Medway Creek Community Day

The [Friends of Medway Creek](#) hosted a Community Day at Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA on September 18 during London's Doors Open weekend. The day educated visitors about the importance of water health in Medway Creek, promoted the work of the Friends group, and encouraged people to get involved in grassroots efforts to improve the local environment. The event also increased awareness of this natural area as one of the ESA Days sites.



Members of the Friends of Medway Creek were on hand to talk about the group's activities.

Most activities were located at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate. A number of stations were set up including a welcome tent, activity centre with a recycle fishing game, a London Environmental Network booth, a tent highlighting the ESA, a benthic sampling activity, and electro-fishing demonstrations.

This event was funded through the London Environmental Network's [Environmental Action Incubator program](#).

Contact: [Jessica Penz](#), Water Resources Assistant/Community Partnership Specialist

Source Water Protection Series

The [Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region's Drinking Water Source Protection Risk Management Office](#), which is hosted at the UTRCA, is launching a series of articles to share information and local stories. Topics include why protecting drinking water sources is important, what we are doing locally to protect the quality and quantity of municipal drinking water, and how your actions matter.

Walkerton tragedy triggered change

In May 2000, bacterial contamination of the municipal water in Walkerton, Ontario, resulted in the worst public health disaster involving municipal water in Canadian history. At least seven people died and 2,300 became ill.

The Ontario government launched a public inquiry into this tragic event. Conservation Ontario provided the Walkerton Inquiry with recommendations focused on improvements such as watershed management to protect drinking water supplies.

Following the Walkerton Inquiry, Justice O'Connor made 121 recommendations on a wide range of areas related to protecting drinking water. These recommendations are the building blocks of Ontario's drinking water protection framework.

Today, Ontario has a comprehensive safety net to protect drinking water from its source to your tap. The safety net includes:

- regular and reliable testing and public reporting, backed up by strong legislation and stringent standards,
- a comprehensive program to protect sources of drinking water,
- licensed drinking water systems operated by highly trained, certified staff,
- regular inspections of drinking water systems and testing labs.



Ontarians can be confident that they enjoy clean and safe municipal drinking water, and that the Province will continue to take action to safeguard our water.

Trust the Tap, and stay tuned for more!

Contact: [Katie Ebel](#), Source Protection Policy and Risk Management Advisor

STEP Water's Stormwater Management Pond Inspection and Maintenance Training

On September 27, the UTRCA and City of London partnered with STEP Water (Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program) to provide site and resource support for a Stormwater Management Pond Inspection and Maintenance Training Field Day in London.

STEP Water is a partnership between Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation, and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. The training was provided at no cost to participants through funding from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and was geared toward local municipal and conservation authority (CA) staff.

The training was held at Summerside and Parker Ponds adjacent to Meadowgate Park. Participants rotated through six stations: inlets and outlets, embankments and surrounding area, forebays and aftbays, bathymetric surveys, sediment removal, and maintenance infrastructure and monitoring.

Each station had City of London or CA staff presenting. The UTRCA's Cole Volkaert and Richard Brewer spoke at the embankments and surrounding area station about "beaver baffle" flow devices our staff build and install in City of London stormwater management ponds and drains, invasive species and control methods, and issues such as garbage, erosion, and walkway damage. UTRCA Regulations Unit staff also participated in the training.



UTRCA staff discuss management activities they undertake at City stormwater ponds.

The field day received very positive reviews from the more than 70 municipal and CA staff who participated. It is anticipated that the London training will become an annual event. Contact: Vanni Azzano, Community Education Supervisor (Wildwood)

Installing LUNKERS for Fish Habitat on Medway Creek

Approximately 12 metres of wooden fish habitat structures has been installed along a bend on Medway Creek near Thirteen Mile Road, in Middlesex Centre. The wooden cover structures, also referred to as Little Underwater Neighbourhood Keepers Encompassing Rheotactic Salmonids (LUNKERS), are set just beneath the water's surface. They are constructed of oak hardwood which, so long as it stays wet, will last for many years.

The LUNKERS are located on the outside



River stone is piled on the LUNKERS to hold them down and protect the stream bank. Fish can hide in the cavity underneath the wooden structure.

of a bend where the natural water movement will scour the area clear of sediment, making it the perfect hiding spot for fish. Over time, the bank will become vegetated with grass and shrubs, which will shade the stream through this reach.

Funding for this work was

through Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program.

Contact: [Jessica Penz](#), Water Resources Assistant/Community Partnership Specialist

Let's talk soil health!

UTRCA stewardship staff recently met up with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Soil Team as well as local farmers, Jeremy O'Shea and Belinda Bowman, to discuss all things soil.

The morning began at one of the water sampling stations in the upper Medway Creek subwatershed. UTRCA staff discussed an initiative to improve soil health within the watershed by focusing on one specific agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP): cover crop trials.

Between fall 2018 and spring 2022, the UTRCA received funding for landowners in the upper Medway to take part in cover cropping trials which resulted in a surge in the adoption of this farming practice. These trials aimed for farm fields to have approximately 60% residue cover throughout the non-growing season, to reduce nutrient losses and soil erosion while promoting soil health and structure.

While staff are still analyzing the water quality data, we are optimistic about the beneficial potential of this BMP and are always appreciative of local landowners that are interested and willing to try new things.



The landowners talk with the OMAFRA Soil Team and UTRCA staff about their farming practices and goals.

Speaking of willingness to try new things, Jeremy and Belinda gave a quick tour of their farm and shared their agricultural goals. Their aim is to improve soil health by incorporating both cover cropping and rotational grazing into their farm operation. Rotational grazing has enabled them to cut

some farming costs while promoting soil fertility and forage production. Of course, the OMAFRA Soil Team could not resist grabbing a shovel and taking a look at their soil! Thank you to Jeremy and Belinda for being so welcoming and sharing your farming practices and goals with us.

All in all, it was a very interesting and informative morning to share ideas about soil health and the many ways it can be achieved. Contact: [Brynn Anderson](#), Stewardship Services Assistant

- Watch the “Remembering the Children” ceremony on line from Ottawa,
- Tune in to A Day to Listen 2022: Message of Hope, which is broadcast through a partnership between the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund and more than 540 radio stations,
- Explore Internet resources including Celebrating Indigenous Peoples in Canada: A Learning and Activity Guide, and various websites.

Contact: [Tracey Haycock](#), TIDE Chair

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

The UTRCA Team for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (TIDE) provided staff with the opportunity to become involved and show our understanding and solidarity, to bring a message of hope for the future. In advance of September 30, staff could order orange



t-shirts from Atlohsa Family Healing Services and were encouraged to wear orange on September 30. Wildwood Conservation Area used their entrance sign to acknowledge the day and its important message.

TIDE also provided other opportunities for staff to be involved and learn:

- Join a lunchtime walk inspired by the Walk for Wenjack to connect with nature,

Memorial Forest Dedication Services



Furtney Memorial Forest

The rain held off on Sunday, September 25, so that the 30th annual Furtney Memorial Forest dedication service could be held outdoors at Fanshawe Conservation Area. After two years of virtual dedication services, 200 people attended the event, which was hosted by [Logan and Evans Funeral Homes](#) and the UTRCA.

When George Furtney, the owner of Furtney Funeral Homes, passed away in the early 1990s, a program was set up to create a memorial forest in his memory. While the funeral homes have changed hands – and names - the program continues. Nearly 10,000 memorial forest trees have been planted throughout the City of London and on UTRCA property since.

Logan and Evans Funeral Homes plant a tree for each service they conduct. The memorial tree program is also available to anyone who wishes to have a tree planted in memory of a loved one.

Thank you to Fanshawe CA staff Alison Miller and Olivia Orsini for helping with this event.

Woodstock Memorial Forest

Sunday, October 2 was the annual Woodstock Memorial Tree Service at Pittock



CA. Pictured at this Brock and Visser Funeral Home event are (from left): UTRCA board member and Woodstock City Council member Mark Schadenberg, bagpiper Mike Pritchard, and Reverend

Gerard Hamoen of Westminster United Church in Thamesford.

Contact: [Karen Pugh](#), Resource Specialist

Tree Power Programs wrap up

300 New Trees in Perth South

The second annual [Perth South Tree Power](#) program was a success, with 300 trees purchased online and picked up by their new owners on Saturday, October 1. Residents chose from red maple, autumn fantasy maple (a cross between red and silver maple), sugar maple, downy serviceberry, hackberry, black cherry, and red oak.



Ready to hand out trees to their new owners, from the left, are Perth South Councilor Sue Orr, UTRCA staff Emily Chandler, Karen Pugh, and Vanni Azzano, and Perth South Councilor Jaime Martin.

The program has been well received, with hopes for a third run next year. Thank you to the Municipality of Perth South and to the residents for helping to increase tree cover, create shade, provide wildlife habitat and food, and add species diversity.

1st St. Marys Tree Power!

The first ever St. Marys Tree Power program was a hit with residents! All 300 trees sold on-line before the pick up day on Saturday, October 15. Residents selected their trees from downy serviceberry, red maple, sugar maple, autumn blaze maple, red oak, hackberry, and white birch. Thank you to the Town of St. Marys for supporting this exciting new initiative.



Pictured amongst the trees on pick up day, from the left, are UTRCA staff Emily Chandler and Vanni Azzano and St. Marys staff Morgan Dykstra and Kenny.

Contact: [Emily Chandler](#), Communications and Marketing Specialist, or [Karen Pugh](#), Resource Specialist

Communities for Nature Events

After a long hiatus due to the pandemic, the UTRCA [Communities for Nature](#) projects are back and keeping staff busy this the fall! Here are some highlights of the activities.

New Pollinator Garden for West Nissouri Public School

Four kindergarten classes planted 100 new pollinator plants in front of their school on September 15. The young students learned



The kindergarten students learned how to plant the pollinators. about different types of pollinators and why they need flowers. As the children grow and adapt to their new school, so will the plants.

Funding was provided by the Thames Valley District School Board, and the plants were grown locally by Heeman's Nursery.

Home Hardware Celebrates 30 Years of Tree Planting

Fifty-seven students from London District Christian Secondary School partnered with Home Hardware, Tree Canada, and the UTRCA to plant 150 trees in London on September 23. The students and teachers were excited to be a part of this event held during the week of National Tree Day.



The students were happy to get out of the classroom to plant trees.

Happy Planet Group and TD Tree Days at Burgess Park

Thank you to the Happy Planet Group and [TD Tree Days](#) for partnering with us to get new trees in the ground at Woodstock's Burgess Park on October 2. A young, environmentally aware group planted 100 trees and then toured the park with UTRCA's Brad Hertner to learn about past projects.



Happy Planet Group members planted trees in Burgess Park.

Oneida Nation of the Thames and TD Tree Days

The UTRCA was pleased to work with Oneida Nation of the Thames and TD Tree Days on October 7. A total of 250 new trees were planted, including pear, apple, peach, white cedar, white spruce, white pine, hemlock, sugar maple, and red maple.



Community members and UTRCA staff planted 250 trees.

Fruit trees planted in previous years were reported to now be bearing fruit! Tree planting visits to the homes of many elders throughout the community also revealed excellent growth in previously planted trees. Thank you to TD Tree Days for this funding opportunity.

Beal at Boler and TD Tree Days

Thanks to the TD Tree Days program, Boler Mountain has 150 new trees planted by grade nine geography students from Beal Secondary School on on October 13. The white spruce, white cedar, sugar maples, and red maples will create a buffer at the bottom of Hill 55 and expand existing tree corridors.

Over the past decade, the UTRCA has worked with several groups at Boler to create shade, increase biodiversity and wildlife



Beale Secondary School students enjoyed the tree planting trip to Boler Mountain.

habitat, and help control erosion. Thank you to Marty Thody and Jessika Gunton at Boler Mountain for welcoming Beal SS and UTRCA in this tree planting initiative.

Metis Community Building Day

The Métis Nation of Ontario and Thames Bluewater Métis Council partnered with UTRCA on October 17 for a community building day. Forty people planted 110 trees in the Plover Mills corridor along the North



Participants enjoyed a beautiful fall day.

of Métis culture games and enjoyed a lunch catered by Oneida Nation of the Thames.

Thames River. The planting took place on UTRCA land, next to an area that students had planted in the early 1990s through the Community Forestry program.

Attendees took part in a variety



Wood chips were placed around all the newly planted trees.

It was an inspiring day of working together for our environment while learning about culture and heritage.

Contact: [Karen Pugh](#), Resource Specialist

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 22: [Celebrating Natural Connections](#) at Lions Park, Mitchell
- Wednesday, October 26: [UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting](#) (virtual)
- Saturday, October 29: [Celebrating Natural Connections](#) at TJ Dolan Natural Area, Stratford
- Saturday, November 5: [Celebrating Natural Connections](#) at Fanshawe Conservation Area, London

On the Board Agenda

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held virtually on October 26, 2022. Please visit [Board Agendas and Minutes](#) for agendas, reports, audio/video links and recordings, and approved minutes.

- Fees Policy Update
- Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report
- 2023 Rental House Rates

Contact: [Michelle Viglianti](#), Administrative Assistant