

**UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**TUESDAY, August 24, 2021 at 9:30 A.M**  
**Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Mover: P.Mitchell

Seconder: A.Murray

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Agenda as posted.

**2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings: Tuesday June 22, 2021**

Mover: B.Petrie

Seconder: J.Reffle

THAT that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated June 22, 2021, including any closed session minutes, as posted on the Members' web-site.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**5. Delegations**

**6. Business for Approval**

**6.1 2021 Mid-Year Financial Update and Revised Budget – C.Saracino/T.Annett FIN #1211**

Mover: M.Schadenberg

Seconder: A.Westman

THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.

**6.2 Minister's Zoning Orders Preparations – T.Hollingsworth #124746**

Mover: M.Blosh

Seconder: A.Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.

**7. Business for Information**

**7.1 Administration and Enforcement - Section 28 Status Report – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (O.Reg157/06) – J.Allain ENVP #10685**

Mover: T.Jackson

Seconder: S.Levin

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

7.2 Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks Recommendations – T.Annett/C.Tasker  
Admin #4150  
Mover: M.Lupton  
Secunder: N.Manning  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

7.3 2021 Agricultural Property Tender Results – A.Shivas /B.Mackie #115346  
Mover: H.McDermid  
Secunder: P.Mitchell  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

7.4 Correspondence Requesting Access to the House Located at 1424 Clarke Road, London  
T.Annett/A.Shivas Admin #4170  
Mover: A.Murray  
Secunder: B.Petrie  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report and correspondence as presented.

7.5 UTRCA and City of London Development Memorandum of Understanding (DMOU)  
J.Allain #124771  
Mover: J.Reffle  
Secunder: J.Salter  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

**8. August 2021 For Your Information Report**

**9. Other Business (Including Chair and General Manager’s Concluding Remarks)**

**10. Closed Session – In Accordance with Section C.13 of the UTRCA Administrative By-Law**

Mover: M.Schadenberg  
Secunder: A.Westman

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 commercial information, supplied in confidence to the Authority, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to interfere significantly with the contractual negotiations of an organization and an update on a matter before the local planning appeal tribunal.

10.1 Commercial information, supplied in confidence to the Authority, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to interfere significantly with the contractual negotiations of an organization – A.Dale/C.Saracino FIN #1202  
Mover: M.Blosh  
Secunder: A.Hopkins  
THAT the Board of Directors approve the recommendation as presented in the report.

10.2 Update on a Matter Before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal – A.Shivas/B.Mackie  
L&F #7005

Mover: T.Jackson

Seconder: S.Levin

That the Board of Directors receives the report as presented for the information of the Board and for discussion purposes.

Moved by: M.Lupton

Seconded by: N.Manning

THAT the Board of Directors Rise and Report progress.

**11. Adjournment**

Mover: H.McDermid



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Tracy Annett, General Manager

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

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors

**From:** Tracy Annett, General Manager and Christine Saracino, Supervisor, Finance & Accounting

**Date:** August 17, 2021

**Filename:** FIN # 1211

**Agenda #:** 6.1

**Subject:** 2021 Mid-year Finance Report and Budget Revisions for Approval

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## **Recommendation:**

**The UTRCA Board of Directors approves revisions to the 2021 Budget as presented: projected operating surplus \$31,598 and projected capital spending deficit \$215,360.**

## **Financial Results to Date:**

The Statement of Financial Position and Accumulated Surplus (Balance Sheet) at the end of July 2021 reflects net financial assets very similar to the same point in time last year. Liabilities, in general, are slightly higher but only reflect timing of project payments and accumulating deferred revenues.

The federal government has been quick to clear the claims with respect to the DMAF program as has the City of London so there are no cash issues with respect to that program. It is only the NDMP balance owing which gives pause; the balance we await to receive has now fallen to \$580K for the remaining projects which were completed in late 2018 and early 2019.

We have no existing liability for the CEWS but continue to file claims and receive rejections of those claims while TRCA proceed with their appeal. Should any claims be accepted and funded, those amounts will appear as revenue in the future.

The YTD actuals on the Operating Budget - Revised identify that we have recorded 79% of our planned annual revenues to date for the year. Contract revenue is expected to be higher than originally anticipated owing primarily to approval for a project from NDMP intake 6.

On the expense side, we've recorded 54% of our planned annual expenditures. Spending is slightly lower than expected at this point in time, some of which is COVID-related. Some spring education programs were cancelled and the parks opened slightly later than originally anticipated. While some mission centres may experience increases in spending between now and the end of the year, others expect decreases resulting in a very small difference overall.

## **Budget Revisions:**

Vacant positions from earlier in 2020 have now largely been filled and others planned to be filled in 2021 may still yet be filled. Many small adjustments to staffing and wages have been included in the budget revisions due to the degree of staff change which has already happened in 2021. Because

labour costs constitute more than 60% of our operating costs, staffing estimates have been carefully reviewed for this budget revision. In addition, a full review of project revenues and planned spending through the remainder of 2021 was undertaken by the managers recently, for both operating and capital activities.

Forecasts for revenues have been revised to include:

- Some levy funding was redistributed which had been earmarked as matching funding for NDMP applications, some of which were not approved to proceed
- Funding for individual Targets efforts was adjusted and further incorporated in the revisions
- Completion of a consultation for a salary review increased
- Estimates for park revenues were edited to reflect a later opening date (June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1<sup>st</sup> May)
- NDMP approved \$200K for a continuation of our Hazard Mapping and Modelling endeavors, of which \$150K was been incorporated for 2021, the remainder to be used in Q1 of 2022
- Additional provincial contracts have been approved as well
- Carry forward capital levies and DMAF grants for West London Dyke which were largely approved in 2020 but needed updating

Forecasts for expenses were edited to accommodate:

- Expense savings because swimming pools were not opened again this season
- Updated costs for buildings removal
- Higher property taxes than anticipated. Even though MPAC suggested assessments would remain at 2016 rates provincially, some UTRCA properties were reassessed late in 2020 and the effect to property tax is now felt.
- Unanticipated costs associated with issues in a washroom septic
- Road paving was completed at \$4K over budget, incorporated here
- Cost estimates for West London Dykes work have been revised since last winter to reflect contracted amounts not completed in 2020

The bottom line change to the forecast for 2021 is not large given the sizes of the two budgets, however, there has been a great deal of refinement occurring in 5 of 7 Mission Centres resulting in double digit changes there. The projected operating deficit approved in February is now forecast to be a small surplus. For this reason we recommend a revision to our approved 2021 budgets to reflect understanding of the many changes which are incorporated here.

Please note that we continue to *plan* for reserve transfers in budgets almost exclusively in the Flood Control programs, but that you generally do not see *actual* reserve transfers. We use reserve transfers to balance programs, that is, to identify which flood control structures may need support from reserves and which structure reserves may increase each year. These movements are predicated on the work envisioned at each structure in the course of the year be it capital or operational.

Aside from these reserve transfers, which are estimates, the bottom line surplus or deficit becomes the actual reserve impact at the end of each year. This effectively means that we should be adding to the balance of reserves at the end of 2021 (by \$32K) and dipping into reserves over future years due to capital spending (by \$215,360).

Recommended by: Tracy Annett, General Manager

Prepared by: Christine Saracino, Supervisor, Finance & Accounting

**Upper Thames River Conservation Authority**  
**Statement of Financial Position and Accumulated Surplus (unaudited)**  
as at July 31, 2021

FINANCIAL ASSETS	Current Year	Prior Year	Notes
<b>Cash and equivalents</b>			
Bank Balances	3,019,884	5,326,114	
Petty Cash, Floats and Advances	6,802	5,802	
Short-term Investments	5,941,983	3,279,590	
PHN Investment Portfolio	5,667,513	4,106,369	
	<u>14,636,181</u>	<u>12,717,874</u>	
<b>Restricted Cash</b>			
Source Water Protection Bank Account	1	100,702	Trend is towards delayed funding so little
	<u>1</u>	<u>100,702</u>	balance is maintained
<b>Receivable Amounts</b>			
Accounts Receivable	3,634,433	2,385,338	
Federal Taxes Receivable	93,648	26,303	
Accrued Receivables	579,665	2,588,565	\$400K received for NDMP in June 2021
	<u>4,307,746</u>	<u>5,000,206</u>	
	<u>18,943,928</u>	<u>17,818,782</u>	
<b>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities</b>			
Wage-related payables	945,611	678,213	
Federal Taxes Payable	59,536	56,682	
Accounts Payable	869,475	302,940	
Amounts held for other groups	248,155	538,491	
	<u>2,122,777</u>	<u>1,576,327</u>	
<b>Deferred Revenues</b>			
Funding carried forward temporarily	1,526,602	280,017	Some deferred may yet be cleared in 2021
Customer prepayments	1,278	225,419	
Advanced WECl, and SWP	7,051	856,424	
Deferred and Committed Capital Funding	4,700,962	3,929,651	
	<u>6,235,893</u>	<u>5,291,511</u>	
	<u>8,358,669</u>	<u>6,867,837</u>	
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	10,585,258	10,950,945	Comparable between years
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Capital Assets	65,920,850	65,771,792	
less accumulated amortization	(27,616,135)	(26,726,551)	
Net tangible capital assets	<u>38,304,715</u>	<u>39,045,241</u>	
Capital projects in progress	7,729	17,572	
Prepaid Expenses, Deposits and Inventories	117,006	104,809	
	<u>49,014,708</u>	<u>50,118,566</u>	
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<u>49,014,708</u>	<u>50,118,566</u>	
Equity in Tangible Capital Assets	38,607,512	39,469,004	
All other Equity	(380,788)	(1,673,106)	
Current year Surplus	3,943,998	5,478,682	
Reserves	6,843,986	6,843,986	
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<u>49,014,708</u>	<u>50,118,566</u>	

**UTRCA**  
**2021 - Operating Budget - REVISED**

	YTD 2021 Actuals	Approved 2021 Budget	Revised 2021 Budget	% Change from Budget Approved Feb	Notes
<b>REVENUES:</b>					
<b>New Levy Funding</b>					
Municipal General Levy	3,797,520	4,154,463	4,154,463	0%	
Dam and Flood Control Levies	1,625,294	1,591,062	1,591,062	0%	
Operating Reserve Levy	34,014	34,014	34,014	0%	
	5,456,828	5,779,539	5,779,539	0%	
<b>Amortized Levy from previous years</b>					
Municipal General Levy	477,917	337,486	560,214	66%	Some Targets work can now continue
Flood Control Levies	24,644	95,142	119,786	26%	Revised for projects completed in spring
Capital Maintenance Levy	52,944	51,926	54,457	5%	
	555,504	484,554	734,457	52%	
<b>MNRF Transfer Payment</b>					
	181,213	181,213	181,213	0%	
<b>Contracts and Grants</b>					
Municipal within Watershed	443,300	967,700	996,200	3%	
Municipal outside Watershed	-	132,176	132,176	0%	
Provincial	834,444	1,167,751	1,152,224	-1%	
Federal	360,239	281,528	635,075	126%	NDMP and other federal funding approved
All Other	1,383,726	1,785,268	1,763,487	-1%	
	3,021,709	4,334,423	4,679,161	8%	
<b>User Fees and Other Revenues</b>					
Conservation Areas	2,735,827	3,554,298	3,455,733	-3%	Updated estimate due to delayed opening
Planning and Permit Fees	231,723	365,000	355,000	-3%	
Education Fees	92,136	143,500	137,000	-5%	Some spring programs had to be cancelled
Landowner, tree sales, cost recoveries	179,818	221,443	229,193	3%	
	3,239,504	4,284,241	4,176,926	-3%	
<b>Other Revenues</b>					
From deferred revenues	68,373	623,297	538,297	-14%	Deferrals planned to match NDMP in 2022
Donations, interest and gains	18,051	140,370	77,206	-45%	Interest rates lowered in spring affecting gains, and
	86,424	763,667	615,503	-19%	donations are down
<b>Funding required from Reserves</b>	-	201,975	285,576		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	12,541,181	16,029,611	16,452,375	3%	
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
<b>Mission Cost Centres</b>					
Community Partnerships	786,062	1,573,450	1,765,700	12%	
Water and Information Management	1,693,545	2,778,149	3,000,802	8%	
Environmental Planning & Regs	1,192,854	2,370,697	2,218,022	-6%	
Conservation Services	1,065,974	1,817,297	1,914,209	5%	
Watershed Planning & Research	628,912	1,149,750	1,150,060	0%	
Conservation Areas	2,450,796	4,550,739	4,238,181	-7%	Some park services still not available due to COVID
Lands and Facilities Management	885,704	1,716,146	1,724,133	0%	
<b>Service Cost Centres (unallocated)</b>	30,276	98,725	155,657	58%	Includes wage review, add'l staff, new software costs
<b>Program Operating Expenditures</b>	8,734,124	16,054,952	16,166,763	1%	
<b>Desired Transfer to Reserves</b>	-	326,614	254,014		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	8,734,124	16,381,566	16,420,777	0%	
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	3,807,057	(351,955)	31,598	-109%	\$156K of this change is reserve-related
Depreciation Expense	664,500	1,161,434	1,148,343	-1%	
<b>CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	4,471,557	809,480	1,179,941	46%	

UTRCA  
**2020 - Capital Budget - REVISED**

	YTD Actuals 2021	Approved 2021 Budget	Revised 2021 Budget	Notes
<b>FLOOD CONTROL</b>				
<b>Capital Funding</b>				
Flood Control Capital levy	1,126,896	537,877	1,844,248	Difference due to West London Dykes phase 7
Federal Funding	586,922	160,000	1,028,976	DMAF funding for WLD phase 7
Provincial - WECl	110,103	126,150	81,371	
Funding deferred	(107,011)	-	(6,687)	
Funding from (to) reserves	-	81,411	(54,666)	
<b>Total current year funding</b>	<b>1,716,909</b>	<b>905,438</b>	<b>2,893,242</b>	
<b>Capital Projects</b>				
Fanshawe Dam	76	40,230	40,230	
Wildwood Dam	26,056	103,154	80,319	
Pittock Dam	1,117	80,091	52,091	
London Dykes	1,538,422	418,099	2,618,561	Work carried forward which was approved in 2020 but with a small addition for consulting in 2021
Mitchell Dam	2,193	36,760	36,760	
Small Dams	4,301	58,517	64,267	
Erosion Control Structures	4,029	-	-	
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>1,576,194</b>	<b>736,851</b>	<b>2,892,228</b>	
<b>Surplus (Deficit) from Flood Control Capital</b>	<b>140,715</b>	<b>168,587</b>	<b>1,014</b>	
<b>OTHER CAPITAL NEEDS</b>				
<b>Capital Funding</b>				
Capital Maintenance Levy	-	178,626	178,626	
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Land Improvements	23,885	-	-	
Infrastructure	44,075	190,000	194,000	
Vehicles and Equipment	38,020	151,000	151,000	
Technology Equipment	(3,778)	50,000	50,000	
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>102,202</b>	<b>391,000</b>	<b>395,000</b>	
<b>Surplus (Deficit) from other Organizational Capital</b>	<b>(102,202)</b>	<b>(212,374)</b>	<b>(216,374)</b>	
<b>Total Capital Budgets Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>38,514</b>	<b>(43,787)</b>	<b>(215,360)</b>	



**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager, Community and Corporate Services  
**Date:** August 11, 2021  
**Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT\_MAIN.UTRCA\_PO.File\_Centre\_Library:124746.1  
**Agenda #:** 6.2  
**Subject:** Minister's Zoning Orders Preparations

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**Recommendation:**

- 1. That UTRCA Board members commit to notifying staff of any proposed MZO(s) within their municipality; and**
- 2. That the Board approve the following general statement opposing MZOs when they are used to override natural hazard and / or heritage features:**

On [DAY MONTH YEAR], the Ontario government announced a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) at the request of [Municipality] to expedite construction of [PROJECT]. The Planning Act authorizes the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to issue zoning orders for regulating the use of land and the location, use, height, size, and spacing of buildings and structures. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) has no approval authority in the issuance of an MZO. The UTRCA was notified on [DAY MONTH YEAR] that the MZO had been posted on the Ontario government's website.

Consistent with the UTRCA's Strategic Objective to advocate for natural heritage restoration and protection, the UTRCA opposes this project due to [REASON FOR OPPOSITION, e.g., involves development in wetlands, etc.]. Community concerns regarding this MZO should be provided to the Province using the contact information provided by the MMAH.

**Background:**

On April 12, 2021 the provincial government passed Bill 257: An Act to enact the Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021 and to make other amendments in respect of infrastructure and land use planning matters. Schedule 3 of this Act amends the Planning Act and provides that Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) are not required and are deemed to never have been required to be consistent with Planning Act policy statements. The Schedule is clear that an MZO that applies to lands in the Greenbelt Area is required to be consistent with a policy statement.

In addition, Bill 229: Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 (Budget Measures) included provisions in Schedule 6 which stipulate that once a MZO has been issued, the Conservation Authority must issue a permit and may include conditions. The added provisions are included in Section 28.01 of the CA Act.

The UTRCA Board of Directors discussed these changes in the context of amendments to the UTRCA's Section 28 Permit Fee Schedule at the May 25, 2021 board meeting.

### *MZOs and implications for the Upper Thames Watershed and the UTRCA*

In an effort to protect people and property from flooding and erosion hazards, the Authority reviews development proposals for any impact on a natural hazard feature. The Authority typically does not permit development proposals that involve areas that contain flooding or erosion hazards or are located in wetlands.

When an MZO is issued, the Authority is required to issue a permit regardless of the features being impacted. MZOs are approved on a site-by-site basis, often outside of the normal development approvals framework under the Planning Act. This limits opportunities to effectively protect, avoid and mitigate impacts to natural heritage features, flooding, and erosion and to determine the type and location of stormwater controls. These matters are typically addressed through a comprehensive review and analysis process (e.g., environmental impact studies, stormwater management reports, hydrologic/hydraulic analysis, hydrogeological analysis).

In addition, the Authority is expected to be involved in determining the ecosystem compensation / offsetting provided by the developer for the loss of any natural hazard features when an MZO is issued. Clarification provided by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry indicates the following:

- Permit holders (proponents) are required to compensate for ecological impacts from the development.
- There is significant breadth on what can be included in a compensation agreement when a conservation authority and a permit holder (proponent) agree on the content of the agreement and the compensation being provided.
- Where a conservation authority and a permit holder cannot agree on the content of a compensation agreement, the CA Act does not empower a conservation authority to require ecological compensation for impacts from the development on lands outside of the conservation authority's regulated area.
- While other approval authorities, municipalities in particular, may have authority to address ecological impacts in those areas, at this time the Minister has not elected to create a regulation setting out what must be contained in all compensation agreements.

### *Implications for UTRCA operations:*

MZOs are issued to greatly increase the speed at which projects can be completed. Due to the expedited process, an MZO requires staff to prioritize the project to meet the accelerated deadlines. Some of the staff actions required during the MZO process may include:

- Review the environmental impact statement (provided by the developer);
- Issue permits required as part of the project;
- Determine ecosystem compensation;
- Meet with developer and consultants;
- Determine conditions to be attached to the permit in order to mitigate:
  - Any effects the development project is likely to have on the control of flooding, erosion, or pollution or the conservation of land;
  - Any conditions or circumstances created by the development project that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property;
- Respond to public inquiries and communicate with news media.

### *UTRCA Preparations*

Work is currently underway to ensure that the UTRCA is prepared to respond should an MZO be issued that requires Authority involvement.

**1. Updated Fee Structure**

A motion was passed at the May 25, 2021 UTRCA meeting of the Board to amend the fee structure to include Mandatory Permits, Zoning Orders under Section 28.1.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act. The fee schedule now includes a new category: Permit Associated with MZO, 100% surcharge of the permit fee (cost recovery). In addition, the notes for all permits will be updated to include legal review as a fee to be paid by the applicant. Staff are monitoring the experiences of other Conservation Authorities that have tracked expenses related to an MZO.

**2. Ecosystem Compensation / Offsetting**

Staff are currently developing an ecosystem compensation policy for Board review in the fall of 2021.

**3. Communication/Notification**

With the accelerated deadlines associated with MZOs, the Authority would benefit from early notification of an MZO and from pre-approved messaging that would allow staff to quickly respond to community questions. Staff are currently performing an ongoing scan of proposed MZOs in the watershed.

**Recommended by:**

Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager, Community and Corporate Services

**Prepared by:**

Emily Chandler, Communications and Research Assistant

Teresa Hollingsworth, Manager, Community and Corporate Services

Eleanor Heagy, Communications Specialist

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors

**From:** Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

**Date:** August 17, 2021

**Filename:** C:\Users\vigliantim\Documents\GroupWise\10685-1.doc

**Agenda #:** 7.1

**Subject:** Administration and Enforcement – Section 28 Status Report – *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (O.Reg157/06)*

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**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 reports for June 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021.

**Recommended by:**

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

**Prepared by:**

Cari Ramsey, Environmental Regulations Technician

Jessica Schnaithmann, Land Use Regulations Officer

Brent Verscheure, Land Use Regulations Officer

Karen Winfield, Land Use Regulations Officer

Ben Dafoe, Land Use Regulations Officer

**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: June and July 2021

[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
64-21	London	704-706 Boler Road	Major	Complex	Proposed Bulk Earthworks, Grading and Servicing including Erosion and Sediment Controls for the Boler Heights Subdivision	28-Apr-2021	31-Mar-2021	28-Apr-2021	4-Jun-2021	YES	Verscheure
77-21	Woodstock	Part Lots 15 & 16, Concession 2 East	Major	Municipal Project	Proposed site Grading, Road Construction, Instalation of Storm and Sanitary Servicing Including Storm Sewer Headwalls, Construction of Stormwater Management Facility and Outlet and Installaion of Perimeter Conveyance Swale and Bioswale Associated with the Pattullo Avenue Business Park, Industrial Subdivision	6-May-2021	6-May-2021	3-Jun-2021	4-Jun-2021	NO	Winfield
82-21	London	Blakie Road ROW at 4525 Blakie Road	Major	Municipal Project	Blakie Road Extension including Installation of New Box Culvert and Servicing Crossing Tributary 1 of White Oak Drain	27-Jan-2021	26-Apr-2021	24-May-2021	5-Jun-2021	NO	Verscheure
19-21	London	1835 Canvas Way	Routine	Municipal Project	Proposed Removal of Sediment Uplands North B2 Stormwater Management Facility	21-Jan-2021	3-Jun-2021	17-Jun-2021	8-Jun-2021	YES	Schnaithmann
68-21	St Marys	309 Thomas Street	Minor	Municipal Project	Proposed Upgrades to the St. Marys Wastewater Treatment Plant	18-May-2021	18-May-2021	8-Jun-2021	8-Jun-2021	YES	Schnaithmann

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
80-21	London	Waubuno Creek at Trafalgar Road, Dundas Street, and Nissouri Road	Minor	Utility Corridor	Proposed Directional Drill within Right of Way under Waubuno Creek to Install 2 inch Plastic Duct for Fibre Installation	4-Jun-2021	6-Jun-2021	27-Jun-2021	9-Jun-2021	YES	Verscheure
83-21	London	852 Commissioners Road East	Major	Complex	Proposed Construction of 4th/Final Construction Building per Approved Development Agreement including the Realignment of Dayus Creek and Natural Channel Design	30-Apr-2020	27-Apr-2021	25-May-2021	9-Jun-2021	NO	Verscheure
78-21	West Perth	155 Blanchard Street	Minor	Municipal Project	Proposed Playground Equipment Installation	26-May-2021	8-Jun-2021	29-Jun-2021	11-Jun-2021	YES	Schnaithmann
49-21	London	121 Bloomfield Drive	Minor	Development	Proposed Renovation and House Addition	15-Jun-2021	14-Jul-2021	4-Aug-2021	26-Jul-2021	YES	Verscheure
88-21	London	23 Metamora Crescent	Minor	Municipal Project	Proposed Metamora Storm Sewer Outfall, Tributary Rehabilitation and Remediation of Ravine Slope	30-Apr-2021	17-Jun-2021	8-Jul-2021	18-Jun-2021	YES	Verscheure
92-21	London	North of 946 Longworth Road	Routine	Municipal Project	Proposed Replacement of Existing Erosion Control Mat	24-Jun-2021	7-Jul-2021	21-Jul-2021	19-Jul-2021	YES	Schnaithmann
99-21	Stratford	Cedar Street Crossing Waldie Drain	Routine	Municipal Project	Proposed Replacement of Existing Culvert and Installation of Watermain	20-Jun-2021	13-Jul-2021	27-Jul-2021	20-Jul-2021	YES	Schnaithmann
103-21	London	Hamilton Road, Old Victoria Subdivision - Phase 2	Minor	Utility Corridor	Proposed Extension of Gas Main Service to Old Victoria SD	11-Mar-2021	11-Mar-2021	1-Apr-2021	20-Jul-2021	NO	Verscheure
106-21	Middlesex Centre	236 Edgewater Boulevard	Major	Development	Proposed Single Family Residence & Attached Garage	22-Apr-2021	22-Apr-2021	20-May-2021	29-Jul-2021	NO	Winfield
108-21	London	Greenway Park, London	Minor	Municipal Project	Rehabilitation of Coves Water Control Structure	15-Jul-2021	15-Jul-2021	5-Aug-2021	23-Jul-2021	YES	Verscheure

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
109-21	London	3506 and 3544 Dingman Drive	Major	Municipal Project	Proposed New Sanitary Pumping Station and Modifications to Existing Storage facility including New Overflow	5-Oct-2021	2-Jun-2021	30-Jun-2021	23-Jul-2021	NO	Verscheure
111-21	London	Tributary 12 - Dingman Creek (Malpass Road to Colonel Talbot	Major	Municipal Project	Remediation of Channel and Installation of Culverts to address Flooding	25-Jun-2021	26-Jul-2021	23-Aug-2021	27-Jul-2021	YES	Verscheure
112-21	Woodstock	165 Tamarack Boulevard	Major	Development	Proposed Construction of Single Family Residence with Attached Garage	17-Jul-2021	19-Jul-2021	16-Aug-2021	27-Jul-2021	YES	Winfield

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Tracy Annett  
**Date:** August 12, 2021  
**Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT\_MAIN.UTRCA\_PO.Administration:4150.1  
**Agenda #:** 7.2  
**Subject:** Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks re: Recommendations

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## SUMMARY

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority received the attached correspondence from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) outlining four proposed recommendations. Staff will continue to discuss options to address the recommendations with Town staff.

## DISCUSSION

The recommendations from MECP are as follows:

1. *UTRCA and Golf Club establish and maintain staff-level communication.*
2. *UTRCA continue to take the Golf Club's concerns into consideration and when possible, given weather prediction limitations and the need to augment summer flows downstream, make adjustments to winter and spring reservoir storage volumes in advance of large storm events.*
3. *The Golf Club consider UTRCA's guidance and expertise on property-specific measures they can take to mitigate the impacts of seasonal high-water levels. This may include recommendations to install onsite drainage modifications, riparian buffers, channel widening, and other measures that would build the golf course's resiliency to seasonal flooding.*
4. *UTRCA consider seeking an external review of Wildwood Dam's operating strategy for third party input, at a scope consulted on with the Town and Golf Club, such as by another conservation authority or a consultant with the necessary experience and qualifications.*

### **Recommendation 1**

Staff-level communication between the UTRCA and Golf Club has continued. Further, staff suggest that the protocol for communications with the Golf Club be formalized to ensure communication is respectful and timely.

### **Recommendation 2**

UTRCA staff continues to take into consideration the Golf Club's concerns and communicates when operations may affect the golf course. While MECP suggests UTRCA when possible make adjustments to winter and spring reservoir storage volumes in advance of large storm events, it has been discussed that there are very limited opportunities where this would be possible to the extent that it would benefit the Golf Club and not impact flow augmentation storage. We will also continue to minimize, to the extent possible, the duration of time that flows exceed the banks in the golf course as was also requested by the Golf Club.



**Recommendation 3**

The UTRCA will continue to offer guidance and expertise related to measures that would build the golf course's resiliency to seasonal flooding.

**Recommendation 4**

UTRCA and Town staff have had an initial discussion regarding an external review of Wildwood Dam's operating strategy. Through discussion with Town Staff, the main concern of the Town is that we are not compromising the flood safety of the Town as the St. Marys Golf and Country Club has suggested. An option was suggested to utilize the planned Wildwood Dam Safety Review as an opportunity to provide some external perspective on our operations of Wildwood Dam. The scope of the review could include not only the inflow design flood that is considered during the Dam Safety Review (DSR), but also consider a few lower flow events, our augmentation expectations and downstream flooding. The DSR is currently planned to be initiated in 2022.

**CONCLUSION**

While the MECP recommendations do little to resolve the issue from either perspective, their proposed actions are intended to initiate resolutions to the longstanding concerns to this local issue. As well, the letter recognizes the recommendations are "to address any outstanding concerns associated with the operation of Wildwood Dam for the benefit of the entire community". The consideration of an external review could provide further direction on the operating strategy related to all uses of Wildwood Reservoir for the benefit of the entire community. Staff will continue to work with the Town to refine how a scoped external review may be accomplished within the DSR and how to appropriately engage the Golf Club. Staff will also continue to communicate operations affecting the Golf Club with their staff. Updates will be provided to the Board as options are finalized and recommendations addressed.

**Prepared By:**

Tracy Annett, General Manager

Chris Tasker, Manager, Water and Information Management

**Attachment:** MECP correspondence dated June 17, 2021 (357-2021-43) Debbie Scanlon, Manager, Conservation and Source Protection Branch Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

357-2021-43

June 17, 2021

His Worship Al Strathdee  
Mayor, Town of St. Marys  
Email: [astrathdee@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:astrathdee@town.stmarys.on.ca)

Tracy Annett, General Manager/Secretary  
Treasurer  
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
Email: [annett@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:annett@thamesriver.on.ca)

Dear Mayor Strathdee and Tracy Annett:

I would once again, like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us in March to discuss the ongoing flooding concerns downstream of Wildwood Dam. As a result of those productive discussions, our ministries have had further discussions and developed a set of recommendations to address this longstanding, local issue. Our recommendations are as follows:

1. UTRCA and Golf Club establish and maintain staff-level communication.
2. UTRCA continue to take the Golf Club's concerns into consideration and when possible, given weather prediction limitations and the need to augment summer flows downstream, make adjustments to winter and spring reservoir storage volumes in advance of large storm events.
3. The Golf Club consider UTRCA's guidance and expertise on property-specific measures they can take to mitigate the impacts of seasonal high-water levels. This may include recommendations to install onsite drainage modifications, riparian buffers, channel widening, and other measures that would build the golf course's resiliency to seasonal flooding.
4. UTRCA consider seeking an external review of Wildwood Dam's operating strategy for third party input, at a scope consulted on with the Town and Golf Club, such as by another conservation authority or a consultant with the necessary experience and qualifications.

We appreciate the history and complexity of this local issue. We trust that completing these actions will serve as a step forward. It is our expectation that the UTRCA will work with the Town of St. Marys and the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, to address any outstanding concerns associated with the operation of Wildwood Dam for the benefit of the entire community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 416-627-5917, or at [Debbie.Scanlon@ontario.ca](mailto:Debbie.Scanlon@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

*Debbie Scanlon*

Debbie Scanlon, Manager, Conservation and Source Protection Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Mitch Wilson, District Manager, Regional Operations Division, Southern Region, MNRF  
Chris Tasker, Manager, Water and Information Management, Upper Thames River CA  
Brent Kittmer, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of St. Marys  
Erin Harkins, Program Analyst, Conservation and Source Protection Branch, MECP

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Alex B. Shivas – Manager, Lands & Facilities  
**Date:** August 6, 2021  
**File Name:** #115346  
**Agenda #:** 7.3  
**Subject:** 2021 Agricultural Property Tender Results

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A full tendering process was initiated for the Authority agricultural properties in July 2021. Existing tenants were contacted in advance of the tendering process and tender notifications were placed in newspapers throughout the watershed and on the UTRCA Website.

Tender packages were developed and distributed for each of the four geographic locations of Fanshawe, Pittock and Wildwood Conservation Areas as well as the Glengowan area. The packages included an outline of the recommended tillage, cropping, and other best management practices required to meet minimum soil erosion objectives for each property. Potential tenants were encouraged to submit their own management plans to be considered during the tender process.

The outline submitted by each bidder detailing their proposed tillage, cropping and best management practices served as the primary criteria for determining the successful bidder. Upon reviewing the tenders and determining that the land management practices were acceptable, the tenders were then awarded to the highest per acre bid. Hence, the successful bid was chosen based on a combination of an acceptable management plan in combination with a high bid. During review of the bid submissions, it should be noted that some high bids were rejected due to proposed unacceptable management plans.

The bids submitted for the upcoming five year term were higher than those submitted during the 2016 tender process. The attached chart identifies each agricultural property tendered and compares existing per acre fees with the new tendered fees that will be in effect from 2022-2026.

Prepared by:

Alex B. Shivas, Manager, Lands & Facilities  
Brad Glasman, Manager, Conservation Services  
Bill Mackie, Lands & Facilities Supervisor  
Tatianna Lozier, Agricultural Soil & Water Quality Technician

<b>Parcel &amp; Acres</b>	<b>NEW- Fee Per Acre 2022-2026 (5 YR)</b>	<b>Current Fee Per Acre 2017-2021 (5 YR)</b>	<b>Plus - Minus in Revenue Per Acre</b>
F3 - 65 acres	\$365.00	\$ 302.00	Plus - \$63.00/acre
F4 - 87 acres	\$365.00	\$ 302.00	Plus - \$63.00/acre
P1 - 116 acres	\$360.00	\$ 322.00	Plus - \$38.00/acre
P4 - 80 acres	\$377.00	\$ 300.00	Plus - \$77.00/acre
W1 - 18 acres	\$ 410.00	\$262.00	Plus - \$148.00/acre
W2 - 99 acres	\$ 410.00	\$262.00	Plus - \$148.00/acre
W3 - 42 acres	\$ 400.00	\$262.00	Plus - \$138.00/acre
W4 - 108 acres	\$ 410.00	\$262.00	Plus - \$148.00/acre
W5 - 38 acres	\$ 400.00	\$262.00	Plus - \$138.00/acre
G-EAST - 88 acres	\$ 427.00	\$ 302.00	Plus - \$125.00/acre
G-WEST - 254 acres	\$400.00	\$ 302.00	Plus - \$98.00/acre

**\*Note:**

- The total revenue generated from the agricultural land rental for 2022 will be approximately \$416,000.
- The 2021 total revenue from agricultural land rentals was approximately \$320,700.

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Tracy Annett, General Manager  
**Date:** August 12, 2021  
**Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT\_MAIN.UTRCA\_PO.Administration:4170.1  
**Agenda #:** 7.4  
**Subject:** Correspondence Requesting Access to the House Located at 1424 Clarke Road

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## SUMMARY

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority received the attached correspondence from Maggie Whalley, dated August 11, 2021.

## DISCUSSION

The attached request was directed to the Board through the chair, Alan Dale. Specifically, the request is to allow access to the farmhouse located at 1424 Clarke Road known as the Comfort House. The purpose is to update research by gaining access to the house with a view to designating the property due to its cultural heritage. London Heritage Committee Members will be required to sign a *"Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risks, and Indemnity Agreement"*.

The most recent report to the Board regarding this building was provided in September 2016. Staff will provide an update report at a future meeting.

## Prepared By:

Tracy Annett, General Manager  
Alex Shivas, Manager, Lands & Facilities

## Attachments:

Correspondence dated August 11, 2021 Maggie Whalley  
Board Report item 8c) September 17, 2016 Abandoned - House Fanshawe C.A.

[REDACTED]  
London [REDACTED]

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

Alan Dale

Chairman UTRCA

Dear Mr Dale and the Board of UTRCA

**Re: 1424 Clarke Rd**

Members of the heritage community in London are very interested in the old farmhouse presently at the address of 1424 Clarke Rd.

We believe that this house has significant architectural and historical significance. We have done considerable research on it and discovered that it was built by Nathaniel Tackabury, a son of John Tackabury. John was a very early settler in these parts (1829), he built the farmhouse at 1588 Clarke Rd and owned quite a large amount of land in this area. He, and his family, were prime movers in establishing 'The Grove' a village that straddled Huron St. Another son owned another house on Huron St and helped build The Grove school and church there.

This house at 1424 is the most architecturally significant of the three 'Tackabury' houses being a modified Ontario farmhouse with Gothic Revival features. It is a rare example of decorated Ontario farmhouse that still exists within London city limits. A previous study by a SW Ontario heritage consultant suggested an age of about the 1860s.

We would very much like to update our research by gaining access to the house with a view to future designation of the property.

We do hope that you would find this possible and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Maggie Whalley [REDACTED]

cc. Alex Shivas, Anna Hopkins, Tracey Annett

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Bill Mackie, Lands & Facilities Supervisor  
**Date:** September 13, 2017 2016  
**Subject:** Abandon House - Fanshawe C.A.

**Agenda #:** 8 (c)  
**Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT\_MAIN\UT  
RCA\_PO.HR:5336.1

**Recommendation:**

**That the Board of Directors direct staff to enter into discussions with the City of London to assess and possibly remove the abandon house at Fanshawe C.A. located across from the WCC.**

**Report:**

The house adjacent to the gravel lot where Authority vehicles are parked on the west side of the main entrance road across from the WCC ( map attached) is currently abandoned and boarded up. The house was occupied by a rental tenant up until August 2007. After the tenant vacated, the structure was used to store equipment and the adjacent parking lot utilized to park Authority vehicles. The storage of equipment in the house ceased a couple of years ago as it became a safety issue for staff to occupy the structure due to animal presence. There have also been issues with vandals and the homeless attempting to break into the structure therefore deeming it a public liability issue if anyone was to be injured on the site.

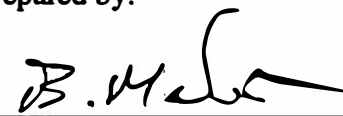
The house has been identified on the City of London's Heritage Building Inventory list. The house is not designated, however. Inclusion on the list means that if a demolition permit application was submitted, it would be denied until an assessment was performed to determine if the structure has potential heritage or cultural significance.

Based on this information, staff feel it responsible to discuss with the City of London options regarding the future demolition of the structure and are asking for authorization to proceed with this inquiry.

Recommended by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Shivas  
Manager, Lands & Facilities

Prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Mackie  
Lands & Facilities Supervisor

\*Map Attached





Notes:

Created By: BM September 13, 2018



**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations  
**Date:** August 13, 2021  
**Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWIS\UT\_MAIN.UTRCA\_PO.File\_Centre\_Library:124771.1  
**Agenda #:** 7.5  
**Subject:** UTRCA and City of London Development Memorandum of Understanding (DMOU)

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## **Background Information:**

Conservation Authorities are involved in plan input and review of planning applications under the Planning Act in four ways: as an agency with provincially delegated responsibility for the natural hazard policies of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS); as a municipal technical advisor; as a public body; and as landowners. The City of London (CoL) and the UTRCA have a Development Memorandum of Understanding (DMOU) in place which defines roles and responsibilities for these planning and review functions. This agreement, which was established in 1997, pertains to land use planning, infrastructure and development related issues only, and reflected the staffing and expertise within both organizations at that time. It should be noted that this DMOU is different from the Memorandum's of Understanding (MOU's) to be developed for all CA services by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

In 2019 a template agreement was developed by Conservation Ontario to help conservation authority staff develop new Planning and/or Development Approvals Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with municipal partners. The template was originally drafted by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and was further developed by Conservation Ontario following a review of current MOUs between CAs and municipalities for Planning and Development service agreements and partnerships. The final template document went through extensive consultation with external stakeholders that included the Ontario Homebuilders Association, the Building Industry and Land Development Association, and the Residential Construction Council of Ontario. With the release of the final CO template agreement, UTRCA and City of London staff have been engaged in conversation about using the template to update the 1997 agreement to reflect changes to legislation as well as changes to staffing, capacity and expertise within both organizations.

On June 21<sup>st</sup> a report on the DMOU was taken to the City of London's Planning and Environment Committee requesting endorsement for the update of the DMOU to be delegated to the Deputy City Manager of Planning and Economic Development. It was then reviewed by City Council at their July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting where it was resolved:

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, the following actions be taken with respect to updating the Memorandum of Understanding between The Corporation of the City of London and the Upper Thames Conservation Authority with respect to processes undertaken by both parties in the review of Planning Act applications:

- a) the proposed updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Corporation of the City of London and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority BE APPROVED substantially in the form appended to the staff report dated June 21, 2021 as Appendix "A";
- b) subject to the approval of a) above, the Civic Administration BE AUTHORIZED to undertake all administrative acts that are necessary to finalize the MOU noted in a) above, including, potential revisions resulting from discussions between the two parties that relate to improved level of service that reduces duplication of actions and incorporates the pillars of continuous improvement; and,
- c) subject to the approval of a) and b) above, the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development BE DELEGATED the authority to execute the final MOU noted in a) above, and make any further revisions that may be necessary to reflect legislative and/or regulation changes and amendments in response to Municipal Council's direction on planning related matters, or to recognize resource constraints; and,
- d) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to bring forward the final DMOU to a future meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee. (2021-E20) (AS AMENDED) (2.2/10/PEC)

**Next Steps:**

UTRCA staff are continuing to meet with City of London staff to review and finalize the updated DMOU. The CoL has identified late September as the target date for reporting back to the Planning and Environment Committee. UTRCA staff will therefore be aiming to bring a further report including the finalized DMOU to the UTRCA Board of Directors at the September or October meeting.

**Recommended by:**

Jenna Allain, Manger, Environmental Planning and Regulations

**Prepared by:**

Jenna Allain, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations  
Tracy Annett, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer

*fyi*

August 2021



**Spiny Softshell Turtle**

[www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca)

Twitter [@UTRCMarketing](https://twitter.com/UTRCMarketing)

Facebook [@UpperThamesRiverConservationAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/UpperThamesRiverConservationAuthority)

## Summertime Job Experience

The Conservation Services unit welcomes Brynn Anderson, who has joined the UTRCA for the summer through the Canada Summer Jobs program.



*Brynn geared up for fish sampling*

From water quality and fish sampling to wildflower plantings and assisting with new trail bridges, Brynn has been busy helping with a number of projects.

Luckily, Brynn said, "my favourite thing would have to be the

various projects I've gotten to help work on. I've been a part of so many things in such a short period!" She also shared that, "it has been an environmental science lover's dream come true!!" to work at UTRCA for the summer. We are so glad you've enjoyed this work experience, Brynn!

## Keep Green and Carry On

The UTRCA's Communities for Nature program gratefully acknowledges new funding from Home Hardware, Tree Canada, and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, in the amount of \$22,200.

The funding will support planting in various locations throughout London, St. Marys, Mitchell, and Oneida Nation of the Thames. Native trees and shrubs will be planted through the program in September and October.

The benefits of trees are obvious. We are taught that trees absorb carbon dioxide, provide oxygen, give us shade, protect against soil erosion, provide food for birds and other wildlife, and increase property values, to list just a few benefits. Let's also remember that when we spend more time in nature, our well-being increases in terms of mood, mental calm, and better sleep, and we feel a decrease in stress and negativity.

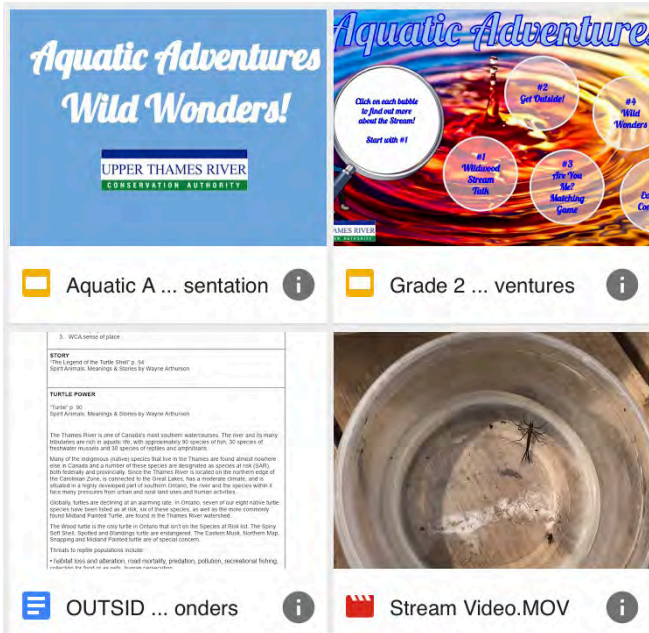
Tree planting helps everyone feel more connected to nature. Thanks to our supporters and volunteers, these positive actions will benefit us and our environment today, and far into the future.

**Contact: [Karen Pugh](mailto:karen.pugh@utrc.on.ca), Resource Specialist**

## Wildwood Virtual Field Trips

Wildwood Education staff took a different approach to field trips this spring, developing and offering curriculum connected virtual experiences for Grade 1 to Grade 6 classes. The calendar filled up quickly and the opportunity to engage, inform, and visit with students and staff to share in the wonders and joys of nature was a great way to connect when connecting in person wasn't possible.

Classes were offered a topic-specific Google Choice Board that provided asynchronous links to outside project suggestions, electronic games, and cross curricular extension ideas. Each Choice Board also included a video that Wildwood Education staff created to ensure classes could experience different destinations. These included a Puppet Show, Stream Talk, Wildflower Walk, Rock Pit and Habitats Tour, and Floodplain Model. Also included were videos from other UTRCA staff removing invasive species.



The culmination of the trips was a 30 to 45 minute synchronous session with Wildwood Education staff for sharing, games, mindfulness moments, and some interesting and wonderful student Q&A. Most of these sessions included a tripod, a cell phone, and a seat in the woods so staff could share nature, from nature!

**Contact: [Maranda MacKean](#), Community Education Specialist (Wildwood)**

## Festival Hydro "Tree Power" approved for 2<sup>nd</sup> Year!

The UTRCA is pleased to work in partnership with Festival Hydro and Stratford's Energy and Environment Committee to offer the Tree Power program for a second year.

A total of 300 trees will be available for purchase by residents served by Festival Hydro. The on-line ordering system will open in March 2022 (date to be determined). Last spring, all the trees sold out in less than two hours!

We are happy to see that the demand for trees is high, which has been the case across the province for some time now. However, this also means securing trees is a challenge and COVID-19 added extra links to the supply and demand chain.

Stay tuned, and thank you to Festival Hydro for their continued support of this popular program. **Contact: [John Enright](#), Forester, or [Karen Pugh](#), Resource Specialist**

## Western Lake Erie Student Summit: Learning in Action!

The Western Lake Erie Student Summit project brought together almost 400 students and staff from seven different school boards across Southwestern Ontario. Staff from six different conservation authorities collaborated to provide the framework, teaching and support, and a webinar for all participants.

The aim of the project was to provide teachers with opportunities to use Lake Erie and connecting watersheds as a context for teaching and learning. The project was designed to provide students with experiences to help develop personal connections with Lake Erie by learning about and developing solutions to local and authentic issues affecting the lake through interactive opportunities provided.

Participating classes were led through a process designed to engage students to learn and think critically about issues in their local community affecting Lake Erie and connecting watersheds. The first session, called DISCOVER, provided context for learning in the form of an interactive

watershed based presentation that focused on environmental issues in the community impacting the health of Lake Erie, leading to students identifying a local issue they felt should be addressed. During the second sessions, called CREATE, students worked with a Conservation Authority facilitator to explore the chosen issue through a series of brainstorming activities and formed a plan of action to address the issue. The third element, called SHARE, had students and teachers develop a video submission that articulated the class idea to be shared during the last session.

The project culminated in the CONNECT session, a Zoom webinar, where participants joined to share their plan of action to improve the health of Lake Erie and hear feedback on their ideas from experts from across the region. Guest speakers from different levels of government, the community, and environmental organizations provided feedback on class submissions and presentations on connections and considerations around the health of Lake Erie.

#WLESS #GreatLakes



Many, many references were made to taking action, inspiration, and motivation on how to do so, and the importance of feeling connected in order to feel compelled to make change. We hope this is just the beginning!

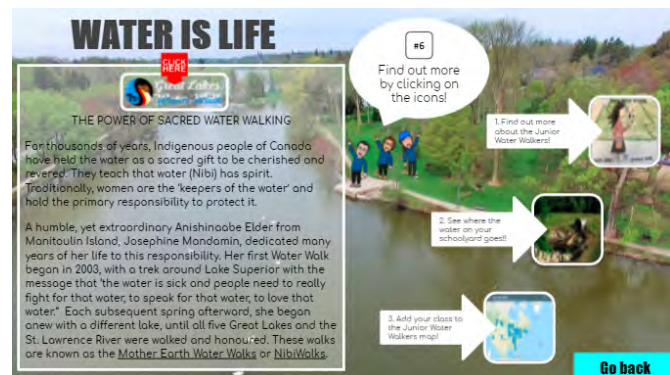
Many thanks go out to the students, school staff, speakers, organizers, and funders of this project. The project was supported with funding from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and led by the UTRCA, in partnership with the

Catfish Creek, Essex Region, Kettle Creek, Lower Thames Valley, and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities.

**Contact: Maranda MacKean, Community Education Specialist (Wildwood)**

### Student Summit: Water Is Life

The UTRCA partnered with the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board and local Indigenous Knowledge Keepers over the past school year to create an initiative called Water Is Life. The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority also contributed. This collaboration created opportunities for the integration of Outdoor and Indigenous Education and the continuation of relationship building among groups. The inspiration for this initiative came from, and often referenced, the book “The Water Walker” by Joanne Robertson. Ms. Robertson was aware of and supportive of the use of her book for this initiative.

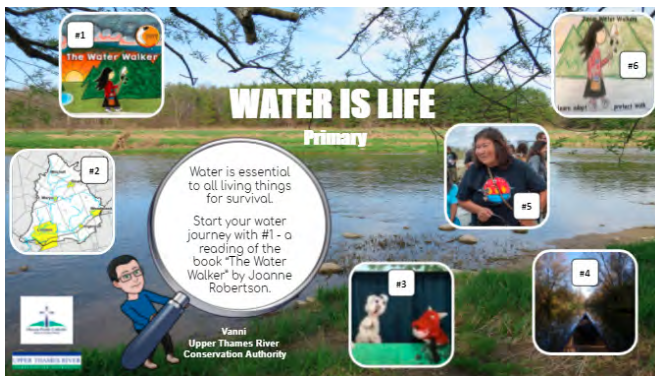


To support the Water is Life initiative, Wildwood Education staff created resources that were curriculum based and age appropriate. Each division was offered an audio recorded presentation explaining what a watershed is, how they function, and ways that they can be adversely affected and helped. Each also had the opportunity to view a division specific resource including a video of a puppet show focused on environmental actions primary students can take to support healthy waterways, a video of a floodplain model focused on functions and issues impacting habitats, structures and biodiversity for junior students, and a video of

the Wildwood Dam focused on ecosystems and water systems for intermediate students.

As well, all divisions were provided with a video intended to encourage students to reflect on the importance of water and actions they can take using guiding questions and scenic footage from the watershed. A digital resource library was also created to showcase the good happening and many actions being taken in the watershed and further afield.

Finally, the resource included a call to action. In partnership with a movement called “The Junior Water Walkers,” students were provided with information about the history of the Mother Earth Water Walks and encouraged to LEARN-ADOPT-PROTECT-WALK. An audio recorded story map of each participating school’s stormshed to its outfall was created to show students the journey water takes from their schoolyard to the connecting watershed in order to help them LEARN-ADOPT-PROTECT-WALK for their local waterway.



The scope of this initiative grew and changed over the course of time in response to the pandemic, Wildwood Education staff’s own learning journey, and the needs of the school community. Plans are already in place to continue the initiative in various forms in the future. Wildwood Education staff look forward to further building relationships with local Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and the Huron Perth Catholic School Board.

**Contact: [Maranda MacKean](#), Community Education Specialist (Wildwood)**

## Saturated Buffer to Protect Water Quality

Grass bufferstrips are not new to agricultural drains in Ontario. They protect stream banks from erosion and remove sediment and nutrients from water entering the open waterway. A saturated bufferstrip, however, is relatively new to Ontario’s drainage system.

To create a saturated buffer, the existing tile drain line that is carrying water from the field into the watercourse is intercepted and a water level control structure is installed. The structure has a series of stop-gates that can be raised or lowered, thus redirecting the water into a separate tile that is installed parallel to the stream (perpendicular to the outlet tile). This tile extends 150-200 metres at a very low grade and has a filter sock on it.

As water flows from the field tiles, the buffer becomes “saturated,” which allows water to be



*An Agri Drain Inline Water Level Control Structure is installed along this field tile outlet to intercept runoff and direct it into the tile being installed by the drainage plow in the distance.*

moved into the surrounding subsoil, rather than flowing directly into the watercourse. Through plant uptake, denitrification, and microbial activity, nutrients are removed from the tile water, thereby reducing nutrients entering the drain.

The UTRCA installed a saturated buffer on property near St. Marys earlier this summer. The project was funded by the Canada-Ontario Agreement through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The buffer will be monitored to determine how effective it is in removing nutrients from tile water.

**Contact: [Craig Merkley](#), Conservation Services Specialist**

## Community Education Programs

After a year and a half of virtual programming and online activities, UTRCA Community Education staff have been thrilled to interact with the public again and host in-person community events at Fanshawe, Wildwood, and Pittock Conservation Areas this summer.



The turnout was great among both families and beetles for our Firefly Walk, the first event of the season. Kids filled the forest and meadow with shrieks and giggles while they tried to catch one of the many fireflies putting on an impressive show of twinkling lights among the trees.

The fun with critters continued with the Bug Safari event as participants cautiously examined a unique white crab spider, chased elusive butterflies, and admired a sleek praying mantis.

Community members grabbed their flashlights and ventured out to Fanshawe at night to discover owl adaptations and call for local species during our Owl Prowl. Even though



no owls were heard, attendees enjoyed a bat sighting and were very excited about owls. During our Owl Prowl at Pittock Conservation Area earlier this month, enthusiastic participants were lucky to hear some screech owls.

In addition to structured events, the Fanshawe Family Nature Play series has offered a chance for families with young kids to enjoy child-led, free-form play outdoors every week followed by a short, themed activity. Staff set up five different stations in the forest and children chose where and how they want to play. Some children enjoyed mud painting at the Creativity Station and relaxing under a tree in the Reading Nook,





while other kids preferred to build with sticks and stones at Loose Parts, bake tree cookies in the Mess Kitchen, or pull out the magnifying glasses and field guides at the Explorer Station. Themed activities have included a bug hunt, pond dipping, and birdwatching.

Wildwood Community Education staff have also hosted in-person summer events out of Wildwood Conservation Area this summer, including well-attended and fun events such as a Stream Safari, Story Walk and Nature Play, and Finding Your Way Orienteering.

As summer passes into August and fall approaches, Community Education staff are offering a few late summer events, including a Family Bioblitz event at Fanshawe and Become a Community Scientist program at Wildwood.

UTRCA staff have been energized by seeing the faces of kids light up with new discoveries and hearing families laugh together again our conservation areas. These opportunities for connection, education, and outreach are priceless and have been sorely missed by all. Community Education staff are very much looking forward to more in-person programming this fall!

**Contact: [Heather Hawkins Jensen](#), Community Programs Assistant, (Fanshawe)**

## On the Agenda

The next UTRCA Board of Directors meeting will be held virtually on August 24, 2021. The following items are on the draft agenda:

- Mid-year Financial Update and Revised Budget
- Minister's Zoning Orders Preparations
- Administration and Enforcement - Section 28 Status Report – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (O.Reg157/06)
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Recommendations
- 2021 Agricultural Property Tender Results
- Correspondence Requesting Access to the House Located at 1424 Clarke Road, London
- UTRCA and City of London Development Memorandum of Understanding (DMOU)

Please visit the "Board Agendas & Minutes" page at [www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca) for agendas, reports, audio/video recordings, and minutes.

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