

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

**AGENDA**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 at 9:30 A.M**  
**Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Mover: N.Manning

Seconder: H.McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Agenda as posted.

**2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings: Tuesday November 17th, 2020 and Tuesday November 24, 2020**

Mover: P.Mitchell

Seconder: A.Murray

THAT that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors' minutes dated November 17, 2020, as posted on the Members' web-site.

Mover: B.Petrie

Seconder: J.Reffle

THAT that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated November 24, 2020, including any closed session minutes, as posted on the Members' web-site.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**5. Delegations**

**6. Business for Approval**

**7. Business for Information**

**7.1 Section 28 Status Report – T.Annett ENVP #9900**

Mover: J.Salter

Seconder: M.Schadenberg

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

- 7.2 Pittock Reservoir Incident/Ice Condition Messaging/River Safety Education  
J. Howley/T.Hollingsworth CA #8691  
Mover: A.Westman  
Seconder: M.Blosh  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.
- 7.3 Fanshawe Conservation Area Cottage Program - Landlord Tennant Board Appeal  
Decision – J.Howley CA #8690  
Mover: A.Dale  
Seconder: D.Edmiston  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.
- 7.4 Additional Capital Funds for Conservation Area Hydro Infrastructure Improvements  
J. Howley/A.Shivas CA #8692  
Mover: A.Hopkins  
Seconder: T.Jackson  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.
- 7.5 Conservation Authorities Act Update – Bill 229 – I. Wilcox/T.Annett Doc #124077  
Mover: N.Manning  
Seconder: H.McDermid  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.
- 7.6 Ontario Flood Strategy Summary – T.Annett/C.Tasker Admin #3943  
Mover: P.Mitchell  
Seconder: A.Murray  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.
- 7.7 2021 Draft Budget: Municipal Feedback to Date – I.Wilcox Doc # 124138  
Mover: B.Petrie  
Seconder: J.Reffle  
THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.
- 7.8 Annual Meeting Details – I.Wilcox (Verbal)
- 8. 2021 Elections – I.Wilcox Admin #3944**
- i) Chair
  - ii) Vice-Chair
  - iii) Hearings Committee (3 positions)
  - iv) Finance & Audit Committee (2-4 positions)
  - v) Source Protection Striking Committee/Committee Liaison (1 position)
- 9. January 2021 For Your Information Report**

**10. Other Business (Including Chair and General Manager's Concluding Remarks)**

**11. Closed Session – In Camera**

Mover: J.Salter

Secunder: M.Schadenberg

THAT the Board of Directors adjourn to Closed Session – In Camera

**11.1 Litigation Affecting the Authority - Summary of Existing Statements of Claim – A.Shivas**

Moved by: A.Westman

Secundered by: M.Blosh

THAT the Board of Directors Rise and Report progress.

Mover: D.Edmiston

Secunder: A.Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

**12. Adjournment**

Mover: T.Jackson



Ian Wilcox, General Manager

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

MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

Members Present:	M.Blosh A.Dale D.Edmiston A.Hopkins T.Jackson S.Levin – Chair H.McDermid	P.Mitchell A.Murray B.Petrie J.Reffle J.Salter M.Schadenberg A.Westman
Regrets:	N.Manning	
Solicitor:	G.Inglis	
Staff:	T.Annett F.Brandon-Sutherland B.Glasman C.Harrington T.Hollingsworth J.Howley	C.Saracino J.Schnaithmann A.Shivas C.Tasker M.Viglianti – Recorder I.Wilcox K.Winfield

1. Approval of Agenda

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder for approval of the agenda were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: M.Blosh

Secunder: H.McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Agenda as posted.

Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair inquired whether the members had any conflicts of interest to declare relating to the agenda. There were none.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
November 17, 2020 and November 24, 2020

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: P.Mitchell

Secunder: A.Murray

THAT that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors' minutes dated November 17, 2020, as posted on the Members' web-site.

Carried.

Mover: B.Petrie

Secunder: J.Reffle

THAT that the UTRCA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors' minutes dated November 24, 2020, including any closed session minutes, as posted on the Members' web-site.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Business for Approval

There was no business for approval.

7. Business for Information

7.1 Section 28 Status Report  
(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

There was a discussion and clarity provided regarding the definitions of major and minor works, specifically in the context of permit 138-20.

Mover: J.Salter

Seconder: M.Schadenberg

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

7.2 Pittock Reservoir Incident/Ice Condition Messaging/River Safety Education  
(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Board members raised questions around liability and clarified that the message being sent out is the reservoirs are unsafe and users use them at their own risk.

Mover: A.Westman

Seconder: M.Blosh

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

7.3 Fanshawe Conservation Area Cottage Program - Landlord Tennant Board Appeal Decision  
(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: A.Dale

Seconder: D.Edmiston

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

7.4 Additional Capital Funds for Conservation Area Hydro Infrastructure Improvements  
(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

The upgrades will begin with sites at Fanshawe with the intent that the oldest infrastructure be targeted first. The year by year return on the upgrade investment will determine how the rest of the project unfolds. It was clarified that the voltage upgrade is a business decision, while the moving of the posts is an order from the Electrical Safety Authority. The two are being done at the same time to reduce costs.

It was clarified that the funding for this project would be coming out of the campground reserve and no municipal dollars would be spent.

Mover: A.Hopkins

Seconder: T.Jackson

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

7.5 Conservation Authorities Act Update – Bill 229

(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Board members voiced their disappointment in hearing the Province's decision to make the meetings and discussions of the working group confidential and raised questions and concerns regarding the potentially limited opportunities for public consultation.

Mover: A.Hopkins

Seconder: H.McDermid

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

7.6 Ontario Flood Strategy Summary

(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: P.Mitchell

Seconder: A.Murray

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

7.7 2021 Draft Budget: Municipal Feedback to Date

(Report attached)

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

The Chair informed the Board a letter of response will be sent to the Mayor of St. Marys as per his request. Staff reported the receipt of a letter from Minister Yurek, indicating his staff would be arranging a meeting between St. Marys and the UTRCA to address concerns regarding the operation of Wildwood Dam.

One member voiced their concern regarding the assumption there were no Municipal concerns with the 2021 draft budget. The member felt with the financial burden being felt by some Municipalities and tax payers due to COVID, any increase would not be justifiable and a draft budget scenario with a 0% increase should be explored.

Staff noted no formal feedback regarding the circulated 2021 draft budget had been received. Board members were asked to encourage their municipalities to formally communicate to staff or the Board any concerns regarding the 2021 budget they would like the Board to take into consideration when debating the budget at the Annual General Meeting in February.

Mover: B.Petrie

Secunder: J.Reffle

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.

Carried.

#### 7.8 Annual Meeting Details (Verbal)

Staff reminded the Board of the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) taking place on Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the 2021 AGM will be treated as a regular business meeting, with the addition of service award recognitions and a presentation in honour of former Board member Dr. Doug Bocking and his contributions to the UTRCA.

#### 8. 2021 Elections (Report attached)

The Chair requested a motion to nominate Grant Inglis as Acting Chair for the purpose of conducting the 2021 elections.

Mover: A.Hopkins

Secunder: M.Blosh

THAT G.Inglis be nominated as Acting Chair for the purpose of conducting the 2021 elections.

Carried.

G.Inglis outlined the procedures for electing all available positions as specified in the Conservation Authorities Act and the UTRCA Board of Directors' Administrative By-Law.

#### i) Chair

S.Levin moved to open nominations.

G.Inglis called for nominations for the position of Chair of the UTRCA Board of Directors for 2021.



S.Levin nominated A.Dale for the position of Chair of the UTRCA Board of Directors for 2021.

G.Inglis called twice more for further nominations. A.Dale stated he would allow his name to stand.

Mover: B.Petrie

Secunder: P.Mitchell

THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.

Carried.

Alan Dale was declared Authority Chair for 2021.

ii) Vice-Chair

S.Levin moved to open nominations.

G.Inglis called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the UTRCA Board of Directors for 2021.

S. Levin nominated B.Petrie for the position of Vice-Chair of the UTRCA Board of Directors for 2021.

G.Inglis called twice more for further nominations. B.Petrie stated he would allow his name to stand.

Mover: D.Edmiston

Secunder: A.Hopkins

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed.

Carried.

Brian Petrie was declared Authority Vice-Chair for 2021.

iii) Hearings Committee (2 positions)

G.Inglis noted that the Hearing Committee consists of the Authority Chair, Vice-Chair, past Chair, and two additional Authority members.

J.Salter moved to open nominations.

G.Inglis called for nominations for the two positions on the 2021 Hearings Committee.

H.McDermid nominated T.Jackson to be a member of the Hearing Committee for 2021.

S.Levin nominated M.Blosh to be a member of the Hearing Committee for 2021.

G.Inglis called twice more for further nominations.

Both nominees agreed to let their names stand for the positions on the Hearing Committee for 2021.

Mover: S.Levin

Seconded: A.Murray

THAT nominations for the positions on the Hearing Committee be closed.

Carried.

Sandy Levin (Past Chair), Alan Dale (Newly elected Chair), Brian Petrie (Newly Elected Vice-Chair), Tony Jackson, and Marie Blosh were declared as the 2021 Hearings Committee.

iv) Finance & Audit Committee (2-4 positions)

G.Inglis noted that the Finance & Audit Committee consists of the Authority Chair, plus two to four additional Authority members.

B.Petrie moved to open nominations.

G.Inglis called for nominations for the positions on the 2021 Finance & Audit Committee.

J.Salter nominated J.Reffle to be a member of the Finance & Audit Committee for 2021.

P.Mitchell nominated B.Petrie to be a member of the Finance & Audit Committee for 2021.

S.Levin nominated A.Murray to be a member of the Finance & Audit Committee for 2021.

A.Dale nominated S.Levin to be a member of the Finance & Audit Committee for 2021.

G.Inglis called twice more for further nominations.

All four nominees agreed to let their names stand for the positions on the Finance & Audit Committee for 2021.

Mover: T.Jackson

Seconded: H.McDermid

THAT nominations for the positions on the Finance & Audit Committee be closed.

CARRIED

Jim Reffle, Brian Petrie, Annamarie Murray, Sandy Levin and Alan Dale were declared as the 2021 Finance & Audit Committee.

v) Source Protection Striking Committee/Committee Liaison (1 position)

S.Levin moved to open nominations.

G.Inglis called for nominations for the position on the Source Protection Striking Committee and Committee Liaison.

J.Reffle nominated J.Salter to be the Source Protection Striking Committee Member and Committee Liaison.

G.Inglis called twice more for further nominations.

J.Salter agreed to let his name stand.

Mover: A.Dale

Secunder: S.Levin

THAT nominations for the position of Source Protection Striking Committee Member and Committee Liaison be closed.

Carried.

Joe Salter was declared as the Source Protection Striking Committee Member & Committee Liaison.

With the conclusion of the 2021 Elections, G.Inglis relinquished the Chair to A.Dale. The Chair congratulated all newly elected members and thanked S.Levin for his work and dedication during his time as Chair.

9. January 2021 For Your Information Report

The January FYI was presented for the Member's information.

10. Other Business (Including Chair and General Manager's Concluding Remarks)

The Chair, Vice-Chair, and all other members elected to positions and Committees were congratulated and S.Levin was thanked for his work and dedication during his time as Chair.

The Board was informed of the passing of former UTRCA Board member Albert Bannister, who represented London Township and later Middlesex Centre and served as Chair, Vice-Chair and on many other Committees and roles over the course of his twenty one years on the Board. A

donation was made in his honour and a tree will be planted in the member's grove in his memory in the spring.

Staff reported that COVID-19 related practices in UTRCA workplaces were reviewed and are in compliance with the most recent COVID-19 public health direction. These practices will be reviewed again once the Provincial stay at home order is lifted.

11. Closed Session – In Camera

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: J.Salter

Secunder: M.Schadenberg

THAT the Board of Directors adjourn to Closed Session – In Camera  
Carried.

11.1 Litigation Affecting the Authority - Summary of Existing Statements of Claim

Progress Reported

The Chair confirmed the mover and seconder were willing to let their names stand.

Mover: D.Edmiston

Secunder: A.Hopkins

THAT the Board of Directors receives the report as presented.  
Carried.

12. Adjournment

The Chair confirmed the mover was willing to let their name stand. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am on a motion by T.Jackson.



---

Ian Wilcox  
General Manager  
Att.

---

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Tracy Annett, Manager – Environmental Planning and Regulations  
**Date:** January 14, 2021 **Agenda #:** 7.1  
**Subject:** Administration and Enforcement - Section 28 **Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT\_M  
Status Report – *Development, Interference with* AIN.UTRCA\_PO.ENVP:990  
*Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and* 0.1  
*Watercourses Regulation (O.Reg157/06)*

---

**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 reports for November 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

**Recommended by:**

Tracy Annett, MCIP, RPP, 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

SECTION 28 STATUS REPORT  
SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR 2020

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

Report Date: November and December 2020

Permit #	Municipality	Location/Address	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Required By	Permit Issued On	Comply with Standards	Staff
115-20	Middlesex Centre	207 Union Avenue	Minor	Development	Proposed Construction of Deck adjacent Oxbow Creek	5-Nov-2020	5-Nov-2020	26-Nov-2020	5-Nov-2020	YES	Winfield
161-20	Woodstock	Tecumseh Street	Major	Development	Proposed Detached Accessory Structure	20-Jul-2020	4-Nov-2020	2-Dec-2020	5-Nov-2020	YES	Verscheure
163-20	Stratford	4010 Perth Line 36	Minor	Alterations to Wetlands & Watercourses	Proposed Construction of Temporary Access Culvert	7-Jul-2020	3-Nov-2020	24-Nov-2020	5-Nov-2020	YES	Schnaithmann
169-20	London	89 Oxford Street West	Major	Development	Construction of Two Storey Addition to Rear of Existing Single Family Residence	27-Oct-2020	28-Oct-2020	25-Nov-2020	5-Nov-2020	YES	Schnaithmann
170-20-	London	420 Callaway Road	Major	Development	High Density Residential Development of 4 Apartment Buildings	28-Oct-2020	4-Nov-2020	2-Dec-2020	6-Nov-2020	YES	Verscheure
171-20	Stratford	Bannerman Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	proposed spot clean out of a Class E drain	6-Oct-2020	2-Nov-2020	16-Nov-2020	6-Nov-2020	YES	Ramsey
172-20	Stratford	Hislop Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	Proposed spot cleanout of a Class F drain	6-Oct-2020	2-Nov-2020	16-Nov-2020	6-Nov-2020	YES	Ramsey
173-20	Stratford	Western Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	Proposed bottom cleanout of a Class E drain	6-Oct-2020	2-Nov-2021	16-Nov-2021	6-Nov-2020	YES	Ramsey

Permit #	Municipality	Location/Address	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Required By	Permit Issued On	Comply with Standards	Staff
174-20	Zorra	Lot 7, Concession 13	Routine	Utility Corridor	Proposed Sun Canadian Pipeline integrity dig within a wetland and the floodplain of the George Roberts Municipal Drain.	1-Nov-2020	9-Nov-2020	23-Nov-2020	11-Nov-2020	YES	Winfield
138-20	Stratford	North Side of Lake Victoria on Walking Trail	Minor	Municipal Project	Proposed Replacement of an Existing Wooden Bridge Spanning an Inlet of Lake Victoria	17-Aug-2020	12-Nov-2020	3-Dec-2020	17-Nov-2020	YES	Schnaithmann
167-20		Fanshawe CA Cottage Lot - 20913 Lakeside Drive	Minor	Development	Proposed Replacement of Attached Cottage Shed	23-Oct-2020	19-Nov-2020	10-Dec-2020	19-Nov-2020	YES	Winfield
175-20	West Perth	3897 Road 164	Major	Development	Proposed Replacement of a Single Family Dwelling	22-Oct-2020	9-Nov-2020	7-Dec-2020	23-Nov-2020	YES	Schnaithmann
177-20	Perth East	Stewart Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	proposed bottom cleanout of 770 metres of a Class F drain	16-Nov-2020	16-Nov-2020	30-Nov-2020	23-Nov-2020	YES	Ramsey
180-20	West Perth	Mogk Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	proposed bottom cleanout of a Class F drain	5-Nov-2020	5-Nov-2020	19-Nov-2020	23-Nov-2020	NO	Ramsey
181-20	Middlesex Centre	Flood Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	brushing of 500 metres of a Class C drain	27-Oct-2020	27-Oct-2020	10-Nov-2020	23-Nov-2020	NO	Ramsey
188-20	EZ Tavistock	Lot 15, Concession 12	Routine	Utility Corridor	Emergency Bell Canada Fibre Conduit/Cable Repairs on Mud Creek.	18-Nov-2020	20-Nov-2020	4-Dec-2020	23-Nov-2020	YES	winfield

Permit #	Municipality	Location/Address	Category	Application Type	Project Description	Application Received	Notification of Complete Application	Permit Required By	Permit Issued On	Comply with Standards	Staff
143-20	Middlesex Centre	222 Edgewater Boulevard	Major	Development	Proposed Construction of New Single Family Residence and Attached Garage	6-Oct-2020	20-Nov-2020	18-Dec-2020	24-Nov-2020	YES	Winfield
187-20	Middlesex Centre	170 Edgewater Boulevard	Major	Development	Proposed Construction of New Single Family Residence and Attached Garage	12-Nov-2020	20-Nov-2020	18-Dec-2020	24-Nov-2020	YES	winfield
185-20	Lucan-Biddulph	14464 Elginfield Road (Part Lot 2, Southern Boundary)	Major	Development	Proposed Construction of New Driveshed and Associated Driveway Access	18-Nov-2020	18-Nov-2020	16-Dec-2020	27-Nov-2020	YES	winfield
183-20	Perth East	East Branch of the Kuhyville Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	proposed bottom cleanout of 1230 metres of a Class F drain	22-Oct-2020	22-Oct-2020	5-Nov-2020	30-Nov-2020	NO	Ramsey
191-20	Woodstock	271 Wedgewood Crescent	Minor	Development	Proposed Construction of Shed Adjacent Sally Creek.	30-Nov-2020	30-Nov-2020	21-Dec-2020	30-Nov-2020	YES	Winfield
186-20	Zorra	149 Brock Street	Major	Restoration/ Creation	Proposed Environmental Site Remediation Adjacent the Middle Thames River.	16-Nov-2020	30-Nov-2020	28-Dec-2020	1-Dec-2020	YES	Winfield
194-20	SW Oxford	Reynolds Creek Drain	Routine	Municipal Drain	beaver dam removal	30-Nov-2020	30-Nov-2020	14-Dec-2020	3-Dec-2020	YES	Ramsey
165-20	St Marys	35 St. George Street North	Minor	Development	Proposed Installation of Retaining Walls and Inground Pool	21-Oct-2020	1-Dec-2020	22-Dec-2020	10-Dec-2020	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 Standards	Staff
196-20	Norwich	Lot 20, Concession 4 East	Major	Restoration/Creation	Proposed wetland restoration and habitat creation project (Phase III - 2020) in the historical Hodge's Pond Reservoir	18-Oct-2020	18-Oct-2020	15-Nov-2020	10-Dec-2020	NO	Winfield
197-20		2564 Woodhull Road	Routine	Development	Demolition Only of Existing Single Family Residence	11-Dec-2020	11-Dec-2020	25-Dec-2020	11-Dec-2020	YES	Verscheure
193-20	Perth East	4709 Line 36	Major	Development	Proposed Tear Down and Rebuild of Existing Dairy Barn	14-Sep-2020	8-Dec-2020	5-Jan-2021	15-Dec-2020	YES	Schnaithmann
198-20	Zorra	5364 Cobble Hills Road	Minor	Municipal Drain	proposed culvert installation	16-Dec-2020	16-Dec-2020	6-Jan-2021	17-Dec-2020	YES	Ramsey
200-20	London	7 McAlpine Avenue	Minor	Development	Proposed Construction of a Detached Garage	14-Nov-2020	22-Dec-2020	12-Jan-2021	22-Dec-2020	YES	Schnaithmann
157-20	London	10 Cove Road	Minor	Development	Proposed Construction of an Addition to the Existing Dwelling	21-Aug-2020	22-Dec-2020	12-Jan-2021	24-Dec-2020	YES	Schnaithmann

---

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors

**From:** Jennifer Howley, Manager Conservation Areas  
Teresa Hollingsworth, Manger Corporate and Community Services

**Date:** January 14, 2021 **Agenda #:** 7.2

**Subject:** Pittock Reservoir Incident / Ice Condition **Filename:** CA # 8691  
Messaging / River Safety Education Program

---

### **Incident Background**

On Sunday, December 20, 2020, staff learned via social media that 2 youths under the age of 11 fell through the ice on Pittock Reservoir and were rescued by Woodstock Fire Department. Police were also on scene. EMS transported the youths to the hospital as a precaution. Fortunately no one was hurt.

Upon learning of the incident, Assistant Superintendent Sean Howley, contacted the Woodstock Police Department to retrieve an occurrence number and complete a follow up. The investigating officer was only able to share limited details of the event but did say numerous calls were received about the boys on the ice and that they were not injured at all. The reservoir was accessed via Roth Park (south shore).

The following is taken from the Sentinel Review. It was also on local news channels and in social media. <https://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/news/local-news/youth-rescued-after-falling-through-ice-at-pittock>

### **Keeping People Safe on UTRCA Lands**

A priority of staff is to keep those visitors that come to our Conservation Areas and managed lands safe. During the shoulder season when staff availability is limited we rely on signs and social media to apprise park visitors of risks associated with our lands. This includes warning people that ice conditions are not monitored and can be compromised by the fluctuating water levels.

### **River Safety Education Program**

The River Safety Education Program was developed after a potentially fatal accident occurred in 1996 at Springbank Dam in London. Three grade eight students on a field trip were swept over the dam when they made some poor safety decisions. Subsequently, a study was undertaken to minimize public hazards in that area. Study results identified the need for education regarding river safety in general. In response, Community Education staff developed the River Safety Education Program. The program has been revised over time but continues to emphasize how students “stay safe near rivers and streams.” Students are made aware of the danger of high, fast flowing water, and slippery banks that potentially occurs throughout the year in the UTRCA watershed. Additionally, it creates an awareness of the hazards associated with our structures, reservoirs, as well as stormwater, irrigation and natural ponds. Students are warned that ice covered water surfaces are not safe.

The River Safety Education Program is a one hour program of hands-on, interactive activities designed for grade two students, traditionally delivered in-class. It supports the grade two curriculum expectations in

science (Water) and health (Safety). This age cohort is targeted with the program as research shows this group is especially vulnerable.

In the one hour program, students participate in several activities. Water droplet characters Splish and Splash familiarize students with the water cycle and lead the children down an imaginary river in an interactive story that introduces them to dangers along the way. The next activity has students putting together a large wooden puzzle using clues that reinforce the importance of rivers to animals, plants, and people as well as discussing the topics of canoe/boat safety and staying away from flooded and icy areas. A smartboard/power point presentation reviews safety near pools and natural areas of water. Using the smartboard; the students participate in guessing and then finding out how much water it takes to sweep them off of their feet, to drown, and to float a car or bus. A collection of photos are shown that strengthen the student's flooded river danger awareness. At the conclusion of the program, each child receives a Splish/Splash bookmark and activity booklet that reinforces these key messages.

In 2021, with restrictions on classroom visits due to COVID-19, UTRCA Community Education staff have developed a virtual version of the River Safety program that will be shared with teachers and students through Google. The virtual program consists of a curriculum-based Teacher's Guide; an engaging "Staying Safe" Slideshow for students which teaches them how they can be safe near rivers and streams; and a "Water Near You" section which includes an interactive Story Map to allow students to explore some important features of the UTRCA watershed. The program also includes an online version of "The Journey of Splish and Splash" story that can be read aloud by teachers (with an additional version that includes audio of Community Education staff reading the story for remote learners) along with an interactive "Matching Game" to test students' knowledge and retention of the program information. In addition, the virtual program includes a virtual version of the "Activity Booklet" for students which teachers can print out for their students to complete; a "Flooding on the Thames River" slideshow which demonstrates the intensity of the flood that occurred on the Thames in February 2018; and a list of additional resources for teachers.

The UTRCA has have received a very enthusiastic response from schools for this year's virtual version of the River Safety program and will now include additional schools in the watershed. At this time the program has been booked for 1465 grade two students at 41 schools throughout the UTRCA watershed, with the virtual program commencing in February 2021. Community education staff are very much looking forward to a time when UTRCA staff can return to schools to teach this important and engaging program directly to students.

Prepared by:

Jennifer Howley, Manager Conservation Areas

Teresa Hollingsworth, Manger Corporate and Community Service

# MEMO

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Jennifer Howley Manager, Conservation Areas  
**Date:** January 13, 2021 **Agenda #:** 7.3  
**Subject:** Fanshawe Cottage Program – Landlord Tenant Board Appeal Decision **Filename:** CA # 8690

## Background

The Fanshawe Cottage Program has been discussed at great lengths at the Board of Directors over time. The year round occupancy request from the cottagers has been the area of focus which involved a hearing in front of the Landlord Tenant Board. The following provides a brief summary of the issues and outcomes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity/Outcome</b>
<i>December 2016</i>	<p><i>Fanshawe Cottage Association filed an application to the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) on behalf of 27 of the 55 Cottagers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application to determine if the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) applied to the UTRCA cottage program.</li> <li>• The applicants sought an order preventing the landlord (UTRCA) from restricting the applicant/tenant’s access to their homes or their personal occupation of their homes, at any time or days for 365 days per year.</li> </ul>
<i>August 22, 2017</i>	<p><i>Landlord and Tenant Board Hearing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UTRCA argued that unfettered access and occupation is not required by the RTA; therefore, the provision in the lease agreement pertaining to occupancy should not be removed (i.e., three month non-occupancy period except for weekends).</li> </ul>
<i>June 5, 2018</i>	<p><i>Order Received from Landlord and Tenant Board</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found that the RTA does apply and that the tenants ought to have unrestricted access to the rental units.</li> </ul>
<i>June 29, 2018</i>	<p><i>UTRCA Filed an Appeal to Divisional Court</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UTRCA appealed the decision of the LTB on the grounds including that the LTB erred on the basis that the RTA does not regulate the content or terms of leases, except as specifically identified in the RTA.</li> </ul>

## Decisions and Next Steps

On December 8, 2020, the Divisional Court heard the appeal of the June 2018 Landlord and Tenant Board decision, which granted the tenants of the UTRCA unrestricted access to their cottages. The UTRCA was represented at the hearing by Ian Wright of Scott Petrie LLP Law Firm. Due to the pandemic, the appeal was heard virtually by a panel of three judges. A decision was not made on the date of the hearing however it was agreed at the hearing that the losing party would pay \$9,000.00 in total as reimbursement for most of the legal costs associated with the appeal.

On December 16, 2020, the Divisional Court released its decision in which it supported the UTRCA’s appeal and over-ruled the decision of the June 5, 2018 LTB order.

The Divisional Court agreed that there are no provisions within the RTA that prohibit parties to a lease from mutually agreeing to include a provision limiting a tenant's right to occupy the rental unit during certain periods of time during the term of the lease, and that the Landlord Tenant Board's decision in this case was an error. A copy of the Divisional Court's Reasons for Judgement is attached for your reference.

On December 23, 2020, the UTRCA received notification that the cottagers have instructed their legal representative to bring a Motion for Leave to Appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal from the Order of the Divisional Court. This is a two-step process with the following time line:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
January 31, 2021	Tenant's (Fanshawe cottagers) legal representatives are required to file their materials
February 25, 2021	UTRCA legal representatives are required to file their materials
April 1, 2021 (approx.)	Step 1 – Court of Appeal will decide if it grants Leave to Appeal to the Tenants – this is done without oral argument
TBD (if necessary)	Step 2 – If the Leave to Appeal is granted, there will be a full appeal with oral arguments in front of the Court of Appeal

The UTRCA is refraining from enforcing rights under the lease agreements relating to occupancy and access until the Tenants' Motion for Leave to Appeal is heard and determined. All other provisions of the lease agreement between the UTRCA and the cottage lease holder are in effect and will continue to be enforced by staff. The outstanding \$9,000.00 as owed to the UTRCA has yet to be collected and commencement for that will proceed following the Leave to Appeal outcome.

Staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of updates to that matter as they become available.

Prepared by:

Jennifer Howley  
Manager, Conservation Areas

CITATION: White et al. v. Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, 2020 ONSC 7822  
DIVISIONAL COURT FILE NO.: DC-24-18  
LANDLORD TENANT BOARD NO.: SWT-98147-17  
DATE: 2020/12/16

ONTARIO  
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE  
DIVISIONAL COURT

Sachs, Abrams, O’Bonsawin JJ.

BETWEEN: )  
 )  
John White et al. )  
 ) Vedran Simkic, for the Applicants  
Applicants )  
 )  
– and – )  
 )  
Upper Thames River Conservation ) Ian Wright, for the Respondent  
Authority )  
 )  
Respondent )  
 )  
 )  
 )  
 ) HEARD via videoconference:  
December 8, 2020

**O’Bonsawin J.**

**Introduction**

[1] The Applicant, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (“Upper Thames”), appeals the Order dated June 5, 2018 of the Landlord and Tenant Board (“the Board”), *Re SWT-98147-17*, 2018 CanLII 88444 (ON LTB) (“the Order”) finding that the Tenants were to have unrestricted access to their rental units. The Board held that the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*, S.O. 2006, c. 17 (“the *Act*”) applied to the rental units in question, but that a clause in the Lease between the parties that limited the Tenants’ access to the units during the winter months was prohibited by the *Act* and void.

[2] For the reasons that follow I would allow the appeal and set aside the Order, with the result that the Tenants' right to access the rental units is governed by the Lease between the parties.

**Background**

[3] The parties entered into a Lease and Licence ("Lease") on January 1, 1983 for a period of twenty years. The Tenants are owners of permanent, non-mobile homes located on a residential complex ("rental units") covered by the Lease. The rents are paid annually. The Lease governs a twelve-month period and includes the following restrictions at paragraph 3:

The lease and license permits the Tenant, the Tenant's family and guests to occupy the dwelling house and other improvements constructed on the lot only at the following times:

- (a) From the first day of March to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November in each and every year during the term hereof;
- (b) During the months of January, February and December, occupancy shall be weekends only commencing on Friday at 1:00 p.m. and concluding on Sunday at 9:00 p.m. Where Friday or Monday is a public holiday, such shall be included in the weekend with the times so enlarged.

Occupancy of the dwelling house other than at the times as herein provided, shall be a violation of the terms of this lease and licence and the lease and license shall at the option of the Authority become forfeited and such option may be exercised by delivery of notice of termination hereunder.

[4] Subsequently, the parties added an Appendix to the Lease effective January 1, 1994 that dealt with the rental, fees and the water system.

[5] On December 4, 2003, the parties added a second Appendix to the Lease that had the effect of extending the terms of the Lease for the years 2004 to 2013 inclusively. The Appendix added paragraph B that reads as follows:

B. As part of the consideration for the rental and fees for the period 2004 to 2013 inclusive, the Authority and tenants agreed as follows:

- 1. The Authority will provide an annual option for individual cottagers to change the (3) month non-occupancy period from January/February/December to January/February/March. The tenant must submit this request in writing, prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> each year, otherwise the January/February/December term outlined in the lease will apply.

2. The Authority will extend the existing weekend departure time during the (3) month non-occupancy period from Sunday night at 9:00 p.m. to Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. Occupancy of the dwelling other than at the times provided, is a violation of the terms of this lease and will result in delivery of Notice of Lease Termination.

[6] Upper Thames has been inconsistent in enforcing the terms of the Lease with regards to occupancy. At times, Upper Thames sent a representative to the main gate to advise the Tenants that occupation should not take place during the restricted time but took no further action to prohibit occupation. The matter came to a head during the renegotiations of the terms of the new Lease.

[7] In their two Applications to the Board, the Tenants sought the following Orders:

a) in the first application (Board Form A I), a finding that the *Act* applies to the rental units; and

b) in the second application (Board Form T2), an Order preventing Upper Thames from restricting the Tenants' access to the rental units or their personal occupation of their rental units, at any time or days for 365 days per year.

[8] At the initial hearing before the Board, there was no dispute regarding the application of the *Act* to the rental units. However, in Upper Thames' subsequent written submissions, it stated that it did not consider the *Act* applicable and consequently the Board ruled on this issue. On the appeal before us, Upper Thames conceded that the *Act* did apply. Thus, the only issue before us was where the Board erred in law in finding that the *Act* prohibited the provision in Lease that limited the Tenants' access to their rental units.

### **Decision of the Board**

[9] The Board concluded that the *Act* applied to the rental units in this case because a) there was no likelihood of Crown ownership now or in the near future and b) there was much less of a barrier to the occupation and access of the Tenants' rental units in this case than those in *Galey v. 1927510 Ontario Inc.*, 2018 ONSC 1073, where the *Act* was found to apply.



[10] In addition, the Board found that if the *Act* applied, it followed “that the Tenants ought to have unrestricted access to the rental units. Restricting their access, in my view, would amount to substantial interference with the reasonable enjoyment of their rental units. However, having so found, I note that the Landlord essentially took no action to prohibit access and so no remedy is necessary for substantial interference to the date of this hearing” (at para. 13).

**Issues on the appeal**

[11] Upper Thames submits that the Board erred in law:

- a) by failing to address meaningfully or at all that the *Act* does not regulate the ability of landlords and tenants to agree to such terms that they deem appropriate in their Lease;
- b) by failing to address meaningfully or at all that the *Act* neither expressly nor impliedly limits, restricts or prohibits the parties to a tenancy agreement from expressly agreeing that the Tenants will not occupy the rental units during the agreed-upon periods throughout the term of the Lease;
- c) by determining that s. 22 of the *Act* prohibits any interference with the reasonable enjoyment of a rental units which is not caused solely by Upper Thames;
- d) by determining that s. 22 of the *Act* prohibits the parties to a Lease from mutually agreeing to include a provision limiting the Tenants’ right to occupy the rental units during certain agreed-upon periods of time during the term;
- e) by equating a clause in the Lease mutually agreed upon by the parties thereto, which limits the Tenants’ right to occupy the rental units during certain agreed-upon periods of time during the term, to substantial interference by Upper Thames with the reasonable enjoyment of the rental units;
- f) by failing to determine that a clause in a lease mutually agreed upon by the parties thereto which limits the Tenants’ right to occupy the rental units during certain agreed-upon periods of time during the term is not inconsistent with s. 22 of the *Act*;

- g) by failing to address in the Order the issue placed before it by the parties, which related to the Tenants' "occupancy" of Upper Thames' rental units during certain periods during the year, rather than their "access" to those rental units during the same periods;
- h) by equating the ability of the Tenants to "access" their rental units during certain agreed-upon periods during the year with their ability to "occupy" those rental units during those agreed-upon periods;
- i) by failing to define or differentiate between the terms "access" and "occupancy" for the purposes of the Board's decision.

[12] The last three issues raise a point that was not raised before the Board either before or after it made its Order. It was Upper Thames' position before us that the Board erred when it failed to differentiate between the Tenants having unrestricted access to their rental units, which is not prohibited under the Lease, and the Tenants having an unrestricted right to occupy their rental units. Therefore, when the Board made an Order that the Tenants were to have unrestricted access to their rental units, this did not mean that they had a right to occupy their rental units.

[13] In our view, given the reasons of the Board, this argument is a disingenuous one. The Board's Order was clearly driven by its finding that the provision in the Lease between the parties restricting access or occupancy was prohibited by the *Act* and void. Given this, there would be no basis for finding that the Board intended to make a distinction between occupancy and access. If the provisions in the Lease are void, the Tenants' right to both is unrestricted. Further, if Upper Thames was taking a different position as to the meaning of the Board's Order, it should have raised this matter with the Board as a part of settling the terms of the Order.

[14] The other issues Upper Thames raised essentially boil down to one question – Did the Board err in determining that the *Act* prohibits the parties to a lease from mutually agreeing to include a provision limiting the Tenants' right occupy the rental units during certain agreed-upon periods of time during the term of the lease?

*What is the standard of review?*

[15] At the hearing, the parties agreed, and submissions were made on the basis that the standard of review was correctness.

[16] The Supreme Court recently issued three decisions on the law applicable to the review of administrative decisions: *Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) v. Vavilov*, 2019 SCC 65, 59 Admin. L.R. (6th) 1, and its companion case *Bell Canada v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2019 SCC 66, 441 D.L.R. (4th) 155.

[17] The revised standard of review analysis now begins with a presumption that reasonableness is the applicable standard in all cases. There are two instances where the reasonableness standard may not apply: first, where the legislature has indicated that it intends a different standard to apply and second, where the rule of law requires that the standard of correctness be applied: see *Vavilov*, at paras. 34-35 and *Vavilov*, at para. 53, respectively. The legislature's creation of a statutory right of appeal is an indication that appellate standards of review, pursuant to *Housen v. Nikolaisen*, 2002 SCC 33, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 235, are to apply to those appeals: see *Vavilov*, at para. 37. More specifically, the Supreme Court of Canada stated at para. 37:

It should therefore be recognized that, where the legislature has provided for an appeal from an administrative decision to a court, a court hearing such an appeal is to apply appellate standards of review to the decision. This means that the applicable standard is to be determined with reference to the nature of the question and to this Court's jurisprudence on appellate standards of review. Where, for example, a court is hearing an appeal from an administrative decision, it would, in considering questions of law, including questions of statutory interpretation and those concerning the scope of a decision maker's authority, apply the standard of correctness in accordance with *Housen v. Nikolaisen*, 2002 SCC 33, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 235, at para. 8. Where the scope of the statutory appeal includes questions of fact, the appellate standard of review for those questions is palpable and overriding error (as it is for questions of mixed fact and law where the legal principle is not readily extricable): see *Housen*, at paras. 10, 19 and 26-37. Of course, should a legislature intend that a different standard of review apply in a statutory appeal, it is always free to make that intention known by prescribing the applicable standard through statute.

[18] As per s. 210(1) of the *Act*, “[a]ny person affected by an order of the Board may appeal the order to the Divisional Court within 30 days after being given the order, but only on a question of

law” [emphasis added]. Since the *Act* stipulates that this court can only review an appeal on a question of law, the standard of review is correctness. Consequently, I agree with the submissions of the parties that correctness is the standard that applies in this matter.

***Did the Board err in determining that the Act prohibits the parties to a lease from mutually agreeing to include a provision limiting the Tenants’ right to occupy the rental units during certain agreed-upon periods of time during the term of the Lease?***

**Positions of the Parties**

[19] Upper Thames argues that the *Act* incorporates the common law doctrine of quiet enjoyment “with all of the uncertainties that follow”: see *Re TSL-71705-16-IN-AM*, 2016 CanLII 79649 (ON LTB).

[20] Upper Thames submits that in order for there to be a substantial interference with a tenant’s right of quiet and reasonable enjoyment of a rental unit, the landlord must have engaged in some conduct which interferes with the tenant’s right to quietly and reasonably enjoy the rental unit. As such, quiet and reasonable enjoyment of a rental unit is not interfered with when the tenant’s enjoyment is disrupted, not by the landlord’s conduct, but, instead, by a consensual arrangement or act that was agreed to by a landlord and tenant and recorded in a tenancy agreement. In this matter, the Board erred in concluding that the agreement of the parties to a restricted right of the Tenants to occupy their rental units for only a part of the year, which was agreed to voluntarily, constitutes a substantial interference with the reasonable enjoyment of the rental units as per s. 22 of the *Act*.

[21] For their part, the Tenants submit that, since the Board concluded that they should have unrestricted access to their rental units because the alternative would amount to a substantial interference with their reasonable enjoyment of them, and did so while alive to the interplay between the Lease and s. 22 of the *Act* to the extent that the Lease restricts the Tenants’ access to their rental units, the Lease is void since the *Act* supersedes any contractual provisions.

[22] It is also the Tenants’ position that two of the cases relied on by Upper Thames, namely, *Putnam v. Grand River Conservation Authority*, [2005] O.R.H.T.D. No. 12 and *Pietens v. Lighthouse Cove Trailer Park*, [2006] O.R.H.T.D. no. 72, are not binding on this court because

they are Board decisions and not curial decisions. With regards to these two cases and *Matthews v. Algoma Timberlakes Corp.*, 2010 ONCA 468, 102 O.R. (3d) 590, they are distinguishable from this matter because they do not address the issue of whether restricting access to rental units constitutes a substantial interference with a tenant's right of enjoyment.

**The relevant provisions of the Act**

[23] The purposes of the *Act*, as described in s. 1, are to “provide protection for residential tenants from unlawful rent increases and unlawful evictions, to establish a framework for the regulation of residential rents, to balance the rights and responsibilities of residential landlords and tenants and to provide for the adjudication of disputes and for other processes to informally resolve disputes.”

[24] Section 3(1) of the *Act* notes that the *Act*, except Part V.1, “applies with respect to rental units in residential complexes, despite any other Act and despite any agreement or waiver to the contrary.”

[25] According to s. 9 of the *Act*, the landlord or tenant can apply to the Board for an order determining (a) whether this Act or any provision of it applies to a particular rental unit or residential complex; and (b) any other prescribed matter.

[26] According to s. 29(1)3 of the *Act*, a tenant of a rental unit may apply to the Board for an order determining whether the landlord has substantially interfered with the reasonable enjoyment of the rental unit for all usual purposes by the tenant or a member of his or her household.

[27] Section 22 of the *Act* deals with the interference with reasonable enjoyment by the landlord. More particularly, s. 22 states:

A landlord shall not at any time during a tenant's occupancy of a rental unit and before the day on which an order evicting the tenant is executed substantially interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of the rental unit or the residential complex in which it is located for all usual purposes by a tenant or members of his or her household.

[28] According to s. 4 of the *Act*, should a provision in a tenancy agreement be found to be inconsistent with the *Act* or the regulations, the provision is void.

[29] Lastly, with regards to particular relevant sections of the *Act*, s. 202 deals with findings of the Board and notes that the Board must “ascertain the real substance of all transactions and activities relating to a residential complex or a rental unit and the good faith of the participants and in doing so, (a) may disregard the outward form of a transaction or the separate corporate existence of participants; and (b) may have regard to the pattern of activities relating to the residential complex or the rental unit”.

### Analysis

[30] Section 22 of the *Act* is at the heart of this appeal. The Board relied on this section to provide the Tenants with year-long access to their rental units. As a starting point, it is necessary to review the modern rule of statutory interpretation. As noted in *Matthews*, at para. 22, the rule requires that,

the words of an Act ... be read in their entire context and in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the Act, the object of the Act, and the intention of Parliament: *Bell ExpressVu Ltd. Partnership v. Rex*, [2002] 2 S.C.R. 559 (S.C.C.), at para. 26, citing Elmer A. Driedger, *Construction of Statutes*, 2d ed. (Toronto: Butterworths, 1983), at p. 87. Given the remedial nature of the Act, its provisions must be interpreted liberally to ensure the realization of its objectives. See *C.U.P.E. v. Canadian Airlines International Ltd.*, [2006] 1 S.C.R. 3 (S.C.C.), at para. 16.

[31] I recognize that the *Act* is remedial legislation, its provisions must be read broadly to ensure that residential tenants are protected in accordance with the purposes of the *Act*.

[32] In *Matthews*, the Applicants leased land from the Respondent’s predecessor and erected cottages which they used as year-round secondary residences. When the Respondent required the land, it sent eviction notices to some lessees and gave notices of significant rent increases to others. The Respondent also purported to replace the leases with licences which gave it an unfettered discretion as to whether to renew the licence upon its annual expiration. The Applicants brought an application for a determination that the *Act* applied to their land lease community. The Court of Appeal concluded that the *Act* applied.

[33] Upper Thames relies on *Matthews* to support its argument that it is not inconsistent for the *Act* to apply to a property for which there exists a lease in which the tenant has agreed with the

landlord to limit occupancy of the rental property during certain times of the year. The main distinguishing feature between *Matthews* and this case is that, in the latter, the tenants used their rental units as secondary residences and in this matter, there is evidence that some Tenants use their rental units as their primary residences. The Court of Appeal concluded that there is no difference between a rental unit described as cottages in that case and a “recreational” rental apartment. More specifically, the court stated:

Accordingly, in my view, the term “residential” in the Act refers to the residential use of the premises and the Act does not provide a blanket exclusion for recreational properties. There being no dispute about the facts, I conclude that the lessees' sites are subject to the Act.

[34] In *Galey v. 1927510 Ontario Inc.*, 2018 ONSC 1073, the Divisional Court reviewed an appeal from the Board regarding the proper interpretation of sections 2 (certain definitions) and 5 (exemptions) of the *Act*. As in *Matthews*, the tenants owned their cottages, had twenty-year leases, and rent was paid annually. In 2016, the tenants advised the landlord that they intended to use their cottages year-round. The landlord advised them that the lease agreement and the zoning did not permit year-round use. In *obiter*, the Divisional Court stated that “this was not correct” (para. 30). The Court further noted:

Thirdly, there is no basis in the plain wording of the legislation or the legal authorities to excluded tenants who use their cabins for recreation in a second home. The exemption applies to accommodations for “travelling or vacationing people” and that use is of “a seasonal or temporary period” (emphasis added). This is not the case with these Appellants who alone, have been coming to the very same cabins (their cabins) for over 20 years” (at para. 45).

The Divisional Court granted the appeal and declared that the *Act* applied to the leases, the tenants resided in a land lease community within the meaning of s. 2(1) of the *Act* and the tenants had the right to upgrade their septic systems in accordance with the provisions of the lease.

[35] *Matthews* and *Galey* do not deal with the application and/or interpretation of s. 22 of the *Act*. Thus, they are not determinative of this appeal. However, they are cases where, on the facts, the tenants’ right to access their rental premises was limited. This limited right to access their premises did not preclude their lease arrangements from being subject to the provisions of the *Act*,

[36] Upper Thames submits that there is no provision in the *Act* that explicitly provides for unfettered occupation of a rental unit. Upper Thames further argues that, by way of its Order, the Board effectively used s. 22 of the *Act* to amend the Lease by permitting access to the Tenants to the rental units, notwithstanding that the parties had agreed to restricting access during particular periods of time. I agree with Upper Thames that there are no provisions in the *Act* that explicitly deal with situations when parties agree to add a provision to a rental agreement permitting the restriction of accessing a rental unit (which in turn may affect the rent paid).

[37] Furthermore, the *Act* does contain sections that explicitly state what is not permitted in a lease. One example is s. 14, the *Act*, which explicitly provides that a “no pet” clause in a tenancy agreement is void. If there was a limitation regarding limiting access or occupation of a residential unit, the court would expect there to be a specific section in the *Act* dealing with this issue.

[38] The Tenants argue that they were not asking the Board to re-write the Lease as alleged by Upper Thames. Instead, they were asking the Board to enforce the *Act*. More specifically, the Tenants were asking the Board to confirm that they had unfettered access to their rental units. At this point, it is important to note that the Tenants entered voluntarily into the Lease. It can hardly be said that when a party voluntarily agrees to a provision of the residential agreement that is not specifically provided for by the *Act*, this leads to a determination that the provision is inconsistent with the *Act*.

[39] A reading of the ordinary sense of s. 22 of the *Act* does not lead to a determination that Upper Thames substantially interfered with the reasonable enjoyment of the Tenants’ rental units when these Tenants voluntarily agreed to the provision in the Lease. To be clear, s. 22 of the *Act* cannot be read as to indicate that any limitation to access to a rental unit during certain periods of time, agreed upon by both landlord and tenant, equates to a substantial interference by the landlord with the reasonable enjoyment of the rental units. To find otherwise would be to unnecessarily limit the ability of landlords and tenants to enter into flexible arrangements regarding the leasing of premises. For example, if the Board’s Order were to stand, a lease between the owner of a cottage and a tenant that contained a term providing that the owner is to continue to be able to occupy the cottage during certain limited times during the year (for example, a week at Christmas),



would be an arrangement that would be prohibited under the *Act*. Given the stated purposes of the *Act*, there is no reason why this should be the case.

[40] For the reasons listed above, I find that the Board erred in determining that the *Act* prohibits the parties to the Lease from mutually agreeing to include a provision limiting the Tenants' right to occupy the rental units during certain agreed-upon periods of time during the term of the Lease.

### **Conclusion**

[41] For these reasons, I would allow the appeal and set aside the Board's Order as it pertains to the Tenants' right to access the premises.

[42] The Supreme Court recognized in *Vavilov* that there are instances when remitting the matter back to the decision maker is unnecessary. More specifically, the Supreme Court stated at para. 142:

Declining to remit a matter to the decision maker may be appropriate where it becomes evident to the court, in the course of its review, that a particular outcome is inevitable and that remitting the case would therefore serve no useful purpose...Elements like concern for delay, fairness to the parties, urgency of providing a resolution to the dispute, the nature of the particular regulatory regime, whether the administrative decision maker had a genuine opportunity to weigh in on the issue in question, costs to the parties, and the efficient use of public resources may also influence the exercise of a court's discretion to remit a matter, just as they may influence the exercise of its discretion to quash a decision that is flawed.

[43] This is not a case that I would send back to the Board for a redetermination as, in my view, the result is inevitable and it would be a waste of resources to do so.

Costs

[44] The parties have agreed that the successful party will receive costs from the other party in the amount of \$9,000. Thus, the Tenants are ordered to pay Upper Thames its costs of this appeal, fixed in the amount of \$9000.

*M. O'Bonsawin J.*

O'Bonsawin J.

I agree

*Sachs J.*

Sachs J.

I agree

*Abrams J.*

Abrams J.

**Released:** December 16, 2020

**CITATION:** White et al. v. Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, 2020 ONSC 7822  
**DIVISIONAL COURT FILE NO.:** DC-24-18  
**LANDLORD TENANT BOARD NO.:** SWT-98147-17  
**DATE:** 2020/12/16

**ONTARIO**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**DIVISIONAL COURT**  
**Sachs, Abrams, O'Bonsawin JJ.**

**BETWEEN:**

John White et al.

Applicants

– and –

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Respondent

---

**REASONS FOR JUDGMENT**

---

O'Bonsawin J.

**Released:** December 16, 2020

# SCOTT PETRIE LLP

LAW FIRM

Barry R. Scott, LL.B., ACCL, FCCI.

Angelo C. D'Ascanio\*, B.A., LL.B., LL.M.

Marcia J. Oliver†, B.A.(Hons.), LL.B., Q.Arb.

John D. Goudy, B.A.(Hons.), LL.B., B.C.L.

Jeff Van Bakel, B.A.(Hons.), LL.B.

J.H. (Kim) Little, Q.C., B.A.

Ian S. Wright, B.A., LL.B.

Kristi M. Sargeant-Kerr, B.A.(Hons.), LL.B.

E. Glenn Hines\*, B.Sc., LL.B.

Erin M. Naylor, B.PAPM., LL.B.

R. Grant Inglis, B.A., LL.B.

David S. Swift, B.A., LL.B.

Jeffrey A. Bell\*, B.A.(Hons.), B.Ed., LL.B.

*\*Practicing through a professional corporation*

*†Certified Specialist in Construction Law*

Ext 223

e-mail: [iwright@scottpetrie.com](mailto:iwright@scottpetrie.com)

## ***VIA EMAIL***

December 22, 2020

Jennifer Howley  
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority  
1424 Clarke Road  
LONDON ON N5V 5B9

Dear Madam:

**Re: White et al. v. UTRCA  
Appeal of Landlord and Tenant Board decision  
Appeal to Divisional Court – File No. DC-24-18  
Divisional Court December 16, 2020 decision**

## ***Introduction***

We are writing to advise you that Divisional Court who heard the UTRCA appeal of a June 2018 Landlord and Tenant Board decision (which essentially granted Tenants of UTRCA unrestricted access and occupancy of their rental properties), has allowed the appeal, rescinded the Board's June 2018 decision and confirmed that rights of the Tenant and UTRCA are governed by the terms of the lease and licence agreements signed by the parties.

The Divisional Court has also ordered the Tenants to pay \$9,000.00 to UTRCA to reimburse it for some of the legal costs of this successful appeal.

We are very pleased with Divisional Court's Reasons for Judgment, a copy of which we have attached.

## ***Background***

In 2018 a number of the tenants who signed lease and licence agreements with UTRCA as the authority made an application to the Landlord and Tenant Board seeking an order from that

Board that the terms of the lease and licence limiting their occupancy of their units were contrary to provisions in the *Residential Tenancy Act* and therefore void.

The Tenants sought an order “... preventing the [UTRCA] from restricting tenant’s access to their homes or their personal occupation of their homes, at any time or days for 365 days per year.”

This requested order was contrary to terms of the amended lease and licence agreement which permits occupancy during the months of January, February and December only on the weekends from Friday to Sunday and that occupancy other than as provided is a violation of the terms of the lease and licence.

On June 5, 2018, Board Member Ferguson of the Landlord and Tenant Board issued his decision concluding that the Tenants ought to have unrestricted access to the rental units and restricting their access amounted to a substantial interference with the reasonable enjoyment of the rental units, which is a violation of the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

Board Member Ferguson then ordered that the Tenants were entitled to access their rental units which the Tenants interrupted as access and occupy their rental units without restrictions.

### ***Appeal of Board’s decision***

UTRCA appealed the Board’s decision. An appeal from a Landlord and Tenant Board decision is to the Divisional Court, which is a panel of three judges who review the documents and hear submissions from the lawyers as to whether the Board’s decision was correct.

The Divisional Court only sits twice a year in London which slows the speed at which an appeal is heard. As a result of the suspension of the operations of the superior court which includes the Divisional Court in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hearing of UTRCA’s appeal was delayed further.

On December 8, 2020 the Divisional Court heard UTRCA’s appeal of Board Member Ferguson’s June 5, 2018 decision by zoom conference.

The UTRCA’s position on the appeal was straight forward: the *Residential Tenancies Act* does not require a lease agreement to provide for unrestricted occupancy of any leased premises for the period of the lease, it was open to the Tenants and UTRCA to agree in their contract that there would be periods during the lease when the Tenant could not occupy the premises and if the Tenants agreed to a term in the lease requiring them to vacate the premises at certain times they could not later complain that this was a “substantial interference” in the enjoyment of their premises.

The Tenant’s position on the appeal was equally straight forward: the premises leased by the Tenants from UTRCA are residential homes, not seasonal dwellings, and UTRCA knows and should reasonably expect that these homes will be accessed and occupied year-round without interruption. Restricting the occupation of their homes by these Tenants was a substantial

interference in the Tenant's reasonable enjoyment of the premises and any term of any lease and/or licence which restricts this access and occupation is void under the *Residential Tenancies Act*.

The president of the panel of three judges asked several questions of both the writer and the Tenant's lawyer and then advised that the panel would reserve its decision, which meant that the three judges would review the document and submissions after the oral hearing of the appeal and release their decision later.

It was agreed at the hearing that whomever was the successful party, the losing party would pay it \$9,000.00 in total as reimbursement for most of the legal costs to which it was put.

### ***Divisional Court's decision***

On December 16, 2020 the Divisional Court released its decision in which it allowed the UTRCA's appeal and set aside Board Member Ferguson's June 5, 2018 as it pertains to the Tenant's right to access the premises.

The Divisional Court agreed that there is no provision in the *Residential Tenancies Act* prohibiting parties to a lease from mutually agreeing to include a provision limiting a tenant's right to occupy the rental units during certain agreed-upon periods of time during the term of a lease and the Board's decision in this case was in error.

The Divisional Court then ordered the Tenants in this case to pay UTRCA \$9,000.00 as the agreed upon amount to be paid from the losing party to the successful party.

### ***Conclusion***

There is some further documentation which needs to be finalized to complete this appeal, following which the writer's retainer for this appeal will come to a conclusion.

We will be in touch with Tenant's lawyer to determine if the Tenants will voluntarily pay the \$9,000.00 without UTRCA taking enforcement proceedings. As a matter of courtesy, there is typically a 30 day period following the release of a court decision to permit a losing party to pay a cost award.

If the Tenant's do not voluntarily pay the \$9,000.00 in costs, UTRCA has several options available to it to collect this amount from some or all of the Tenants.

Thank you very much for retaining the writer on this matter.

Yours very truly,  
Scott Petrie LLP

“Ian S. Wright”

Per:  
Ian S. Wright  
ISW

*Encl.*

---

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors

**From:** Alex Shivas, Manager Lands & Facilities  
Jennifer Howley, Manager Conservation Areas

**Date:** January 14, 2021 **Agenda #:** 7.4

**Subject:** Additional Capital Funds for Conservation **Filename:** CA #8692  
Area Hydro Infrastructure Improvements

---

## Background

The UTRCA is part of the Continuous Safety Services Program (CSSP) offered by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA). This program supports businesses in Ontario in complying with the requirements of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. As a member of the CSSP, ESA inspections are completed bi-annually in all three Conservation Areas (CAs).

During an inspection in 2015, it was brought to the attention of CA staff that there was a change in the Ontario Electrical Safety Code regarding the use of electrical cords for the purpose of bringing hydro to seasonal campsites. The change limits the distance from the pedestal to the RV unit, eliminating the use of extension cords for seasonal campsites. It is felt that an extension cord on a seasonal site could be subjected to severe physical abuse or extended periods of wear due to the fact it is being exposed for long periods of time, versus a transient camper on an overnight campsite. This change in code is applicable only to new construction of campsites; however the use of an extension cord for a seasonal campsite is viewed by the ESA as “permanent wiring” which violates another existing section of the code.

This view of not permitting the use of an extension cord for the purpose of connecting a seasonal trailer to the electrical service pedestal has major implications for the seasonal camping hydro infrastructure layout in all three CAs. A visual inspection completed by CA staff last summer identified that approximately 40% of our seasonal campers require the use of an extension cord to reach the hydro supply. This number does not include cords that may be buried in the ground that we cannot see; therefore, we expect that the usage is much higher than what we visually noted.

In 2017, the Conservation Area Unit retained the services of Power Core to complete an infrastructure study of the hydro services at each campground. The primary reason for the study was the address the issue of seasonal campers using extension cords as “permanent wiring” to access site pedestals as identified by the Electrical Safety Authority. In addition, the study provided an up to date inventory of existing hydro services and estimated costs for upgrades.



As camping continues to be a popular family pastime, a common complaint from park users is our 15 amp services do not provide the power needed to supply the trailers of today. Combined with the age of the existing infrastructure, can cause great frustrations for both staff and public on a hot summer day when the systems become overloaded.

In November 2020, when the Board approved the draft budget, included within the capital investment was \$75,000 to initiate the hydro upgrade. Upon further review of the Power Core study and identifying the areas of greatest need, staff would need to spend more on the actual investment and are requesting an additional \$75,000 to be allocated for the project. These dollars would come from the Conservation Area Reserves. This reserve was created from annual savings within the unit for such investments. With the additional monies based on the estimates provided in the study, staff would retain the services of a consultant to initiate the upgrades.

The overall project will proceed one step at a time due to the magnitude of the investment required. The investment would be twofold – ESA compliance by eliminating extension cords while at the same time upgrading hydro infrastructure from 15 amp to 50 amp. Staff have established criteria for identifying priority areas and for 2021, a 27 seasonal campsite section at Fanshawe CA would be completed.

If approved as part of the 2021 Budget, staff would finalize the plan for communications with campers and instruct the consultant to move forward with the tender process for work to commence in the fall once the park has closed. Fees would be adjusted to reflect the upgrade for the 2022 season for those sites.

These upgrades are extensive and long overdue. The expenses associated with the investment will require annual investment to bring our infrastructure up to date and this is the beginning of a worthwhile project that will benefit park visitors.

Prepared by

Jennifer Howley  
Manager, Conservation Areas

Alex Shivas  
Manager, Lands and Facilities

---

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors

**From:** Ian Wilcox, General Manager  
Tracy Annett, Manager Planning and Regulations

**Date:** January 15, 2021 **Agenda #:** 7.5

**Subject:** Conservation Authorities Act Update – Bill 229 **Filename:** C:\Users\vigliament\Documents\GroupWise\124077-1.doc

---

### **Introduction (Bill 108 and 229)**

*(Past reports provided to the Board regarding Conservation Authorities Act changes are available on the Members Website and were specifically included as part of 2019's May, June, August and September meetings, as well as 2020's February and November meetings.)*

In 2019 the Provincial Government introduced the first of two significant legislative changes affecting the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Bill 108 was passed in 2019 and introduced fundamental changes to Conservation Authority (CA) mandates. Specifically the province intends to reclassify certain long-standing CA programs as “non-mandatory” and ineligible for municipal levy funding unless secured through individually negotiated agreements with each member municipality. For the UTRCA this will require the development of 17 municipal agreements in which municipalities may opt out of programs that, in practice, are interrelated through their environmental objectives and delivery. The administrative effort and cost required to negotiate these agreements is expected to be significant. This legislative change potentially eliminates one of the founding principles of Conservation Authorities, the watershed management approach, that has been at the heart of our success for more than 70 years. There is concern comprehensive watershed management programming could be replaced with a patch-work of programs justified by financial considerations alone rather than environmental objectives and the public interest.

Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures) was introduced as an omnibus budget bill late in 2020 and included Conservation Authorities Act changes under Schedule 6. As a budget bill, passage of the legislation did not require public consultation. Bill 229 and Schedule 6 add to the constraints being imposed on Conservation Authority programs and funding. Many of the changes are technical in nature but collectively they remove tools that allow Conservation Authorities to achieve their mandated objectives, including those now considered “core.” As an example, the amendments allow the province to override Conservation Authority science-based decisions and would require an Authority to issue a permit when a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) has been granted. It is now mandatory for a permit to be issued even when the application is contrary to provincial policy and puts people and property at risk of flooding and other natural hazards. In addition, amendments to the *Planning Act* further restrict the circumstances when CA's can appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) as a Public Body.

**Discussion**

This report summarizes amendments made to Schedule 6 by Standing Committee since the Board's November meeting. Attachment 1) provides a summary of technical changes approved at Standing Committee prior to passage of the Bill. Attachment 2) lists public supporters who objected to many of the changes proposed by Bill 229 despite the absence of any public input process, and Attachment 3) presents the new Provincial Working Group and its membership which will work to develop regulations and implementation strategies.

The timing of these changes is still uncertain beyond the first meeting of the Working Group (January 20) and a goal of implementing budgetary changes for the 2022 fiscal year.

Prepared by:

Ian Wilcox, General Manager

Tracy Annett, Manager Planning and Regulations

## **Attachment 1: Bill 229 Summary of Final Changes**

The following slides were prepared by Conservation Ontario as part of a staff presentation to Council on December 14, 2020. Note that only relevant slides from the original presentation have been included in this report.

# BILL 229 AND SCHEDULE 6

Conservation Ontario Council Meeting  
December 14, 2020



## THE CONCERNS

- Not a stand-alone bill
- Changes were significant
- Not representative of consultations
- Limits the critical role of conservation authorities in protecting people and their properties and the environment
- Detrimental impacts



# OUR RESPONSE

- Proposed changes were so significant that we called for the removal of Schedule 6
- Continue to work with CAs in finding solutions
- Respect the current CA/Municipal Relationship
- Embrace our long-standing partnership
- Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs



## Final Key Amendments to Schedule 6 of Bill 229; Upcoming Regulations and Next Steps

**Bonnie Fox** (Conservation Ontario)

*December 14, 2020 – CO Council*



## Bill 229 – Schedule 6

- Royal Assent of Bill 229 with amendments on December 8<sup>th</sup>
- Most of the clauses are to be enacted at a future date; except MZO related clauses and some ‘housekeeping’ amendments



## Governance – the Good News

CO Ask/Commentary	Standing Committee Amendment
Remove duty of members to “act on behalf of their respective municipalities” (14.1)	<b>Concern Addressed:</b> Returns the duty of members (14.1) to the original wording; “act... with a view to furthering the objects of the authority”



# Governance

CO Ask/Commentary	Standing Committee Amendment
Amend restriction on only allowing municipal councilor appointees on Board; enable municipality choice	<b>Partially Addressed:</b> at least 70% of the appointees are municipal councilors. The municipality can apply to the Minister to have that percentage reduced; the decision is at the Minister’s discretion (including adding any conditions or restrictions).
May be a municipal concern around agricultural representatives appointed by the Province related to voting privileges, per diems and appointments as Chair/Vice Chair	<b>No concern raised:</b> limits the voting powers of an agricultural representative appointed as a member of a conservation authority by the Minister. Agriculture members cannot vote on enlarging, amalgamating or dissolving an authority or on any budgetary matter.



# Governance

CO Ask/Commentary	Standing Committee Amendment
May be a municipal concern around Chair/Vice Chair appointments related to Municipal councilor interest and availability to meet the requirements	<b>No concern raised:</b> Provides additional detail on proposed amendment (1.1) on the Terms of chair, vice-chair. The new clauses (1.2) to (1.3) provide additional rules for appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs and the option for a CA or municipality to request the Minister’s permission to vary from the rules





# Scoping Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

Commentary	
Remove ability to prescribe standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs and services	<b>Concern Not Addressed?:</b> new Section 40(1)(b)(iv) has been deleted from LGIC regulations re: prescribing or limiting non-mandatory programs and services however it appears this was a clean-up of legislative drafting because Minister’s regulation (also new) Section 40(3)(c) prescribes standards and requirements for Agreements for non-mandatory programs and services



## Budgetary Matters - Addition

- **NEW** Added regulation making powers for the LGIC regarding conservation authorities budgetary matters. Addresses agriculture representative voting exceptions (i.e 14(4.0.1)(d)), budget preparation process and required consultations, and providing for rules and procedures (including quorum, voting). Regulation would also override Section 16.

NOTE: Section 16 Decision-making at meetings (1) one vote/member, (2) quorum, and (3) majority vote required



# CA permitting

Remove Minister's Ability to Issue a Permit (order/power)	<b>Concern Not Addressed:</b> Minister can order a CA not to issue a permit and the Minister has power to issue instead
Remove multiple appeal avenues and retain the Mining and Lands Tribunal	<b>Concern Not Addressed:</b> appeals will go to Minister for Review and/or the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal



# CA permitting and planning

CO Ask/Commentary	Standing Committee Amendment
Amend warrantless entry requirement to give notice to owner <b>and</b> to occupier for permit applications	<b>Concern addressed:</b> amended to "or"
Amend changes to the <i>Planning Act</i> to allow for appeals re. natural hazards and as landowner	<b>Concern partially addressed:</b> Natural hazards- yes Landowner- only when CA requesting a consent (creation of new lot)



# CA Compliance

CO Ask/Commentary	Standing Committee Amendment
Retain stop (work) orders	<b>Concern Addressed:</b> Stop orders clause was retained; <b>however</b> still to be enacted and sets conditions around its use and appeal can be to the Minister or prescribed body
Amend warrantless entry to allow for inspections of permits	<b>Concern Not Addressed:</b> entry without warrant is only for enforcement; there's no provision for inspection
Amend warrantless entry to allow non-officers to attend sites	<b>Concern Not Addressed:</b> entry without warrant only allows officers to attend sites; cannot bring experts onto site



## S. 28 (Permitting) Additions

- Permission for development – zoning order
  - Mandatory permits, zoning orders
  - Conditions cannot conflict with zoning order
  - Applicant can appeal any conditions
  - Requires the CA (and possibly a municipality) to enter into an agreement with the developer to compensate for ecological impacts and any other impacts that may result from development of the project

**NOTE: these clauses come into effect immediately**



## S. 28 (Permitting) Additions

New Minister's regulation making ability related to MZOs

- Exempts lands or development projects from this new section in two ways:
  - i) from having to enter into agreements; and/or,
  - ii) From going through MZO process and instead obtain permit through regular approach



## S.28 (Offences) Additions

- Adds new offences for Section 28 permits:
  - contravening conditions of a mandatory permit (MZO)

NOTE: the above clause comes into effect immediately

- Reinstates offence of contravening a stop order; for future S. 28 offences

## Attachment 2: A List of Public and Municipal Support for Conservation Authorities

The following member municipalities passed resolutions in support of the UTRCA, and objecting to elements of Bill 229:

- [City of London](#)
- [Lucan-Biddulph](#)
- [Middlesex Centre](#)
- [Thames Centre](#)
- [Norwich](#)
- [Ingersoll](#)
- [Zorra](#)

The list below was copied from Conservation Ontario's web site. It is included here in its entirety as this is the most vocal and broad public support for Conservation Authorities ever mobilized around a single issue. In addition to this list the province received thousands of direct letters and emails supporting Conservation Authorities from organizations and private citizens. The scope of this response is even more impressive given there was no formal public input process offered by the province.

### Coverage and Response to the Conservation Authorities Act

The request to remove the proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* has received overwhelming support from organizations and citizens throughout Ontario. Below are the links to all the articles and letters of support.

#### Conservation Ontario/Conservation Authorities Links

- [Conservation Ontario Media Releases](#)
- [Conservation Ontario - Watershed Views Blog](#)
  
- [Media Release - Sault Ste. Marie Region CA](#)
- [Media Release - Toronto & Region CA](#)
- [Media Release - Grey Sauble CA](#)
- [Media Release - Hamilton CA](#)
- [Media Release - Cataraqui Region CA](#)
- [Media Release - Niagara Peninsula CA](#)
- [Media Release - Nottawasaga Valley CA](#)
- [Media Release - Ausable Bayfield CA](#)
- [Media Release - Grand River CA](#)
- [Media Release - Hamilton CA](#)
- [Media Release - Rideau Valley CA](#)
- [Media Release - Mississippi Valley CA](#)
- [Media Release - Conservation Halton](#)
- [Media Release - Ganaraska Conservation](#)
- [Media Release - Lower Thames Conservation](#)
- [Media Release - Lower Trent Conservation](#)
- [Media Release - Quinte Conservation](#)
- [Media Release - Saugeen Conservation](#)
- [Media Release - Credit Valley Conservation - 1, 2](#)
- [Media Release - Lake Simcoe Region CA - 1, 2, 3](#)
  
- [Letter - Cataraqui Region CA](#)
- [Letter - Otonabee Region CA](#)
- [Letter - Hamilton CA](#)

- [Letter](#) - Grey Sauble CA
- [Letter](#) - Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
- [Letter](#) - Quinte Conservation
- [Letter](#) - Lower Trent Conservation
- [Letter 1, 2](#) - Ganaraska Region CA
- [Letter 1, 2](#) - Lake Simcoe Region CA
- [Letter 1, 2](#) - Nottawasaga Valley CA
- [Letter 1, 2](#) - Kettle Creek CA
- [Letter from the CAO](#) Central Lake Ontario CA
  
- [‘We’re Standing Firm on Our Request for Full Repeal’](#) (Lower Thames Region CA)
- [Province approves Bill 229, including Schedule 6](#) (Ausable Bayfield CA)
- [Changes Fall Short Of Addressing Conservation Authorities’ Concerns](#) (Otonabee Conservation)
- [Changes Fall Short Of Addressing Conservation Authorities’ Concerns](#) (Lower Thames Valley CA)
- [Changes Fall Short Of Addressing Conservation Authorities’ Concerns](#) (Niagara Penindula CA)
- [Changes Fall Short of Addressing Conservation Authorities’ Concerns \(media release, December 5, 2020\)](#) (Upper Thames Region CA)
- [Changes to Conservation Authorities Act Creating Concerns](#) (Maitland CA)
- [Pressure Grows to Remove Schedule 6 from Provincial Budget Bill 229](#) (Mississippi Valley CA)
- [Conservation Matters](#) (Credit Valley Conservation)
- [How conservation authorities help create the perfect home](#) (Nottawasaga Valley CA)
- [Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning Act Will Affect You and Your Environment](#) (Ganaraska Region CA)
- [Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning Act Will Affect You and Your Environment](#) (Ganaraska Forest Centre)
- [Conservation Authority Says There's a Better Way - LSRCA Board still calling on the Province to remove Schedule 6 of Bill 229](#) (Lake Simcoe Region CA)

#### **Municipal Resolutions - Examples**

- [Ontario’s Big City Mayors](#)
- [City of London](#)
- [City of Toronto](#)
- [City of Quinte West](#)
- [City of Thunder Bay](#)
- [City of Hamilton](#)
- [City of Sault Ste. Marie](#)
- [City of Greater Sudbury](#)
- [City of Guelph 1, 2](#)
- [Town of Blue Mountains](#)
- [Town of Saugeen Shores](#)
- [Town of Mono](#)
- [Town of Shelburne](#)
- [Town of Innisfil](#)
- [Town of Collingwood](#)
- [Town of Greater Napanee](#)
- [Township of North Dumfries](#)
- [Township of Cavan Monaghan](#)
- [Township of Cramahe](#)
- [Township of North Frontenac](#)
- [Township of Central Frontenac](#)
- [Township of South Frontenac](#)
- [Township of South Stormont](#)
- [Township of Essa](#)
- [Township of Southwold](#)
- [Township of Georgian Bluffs](#)

- [Township of Puslinch](#)
- [King Township](#)
- [King Township](#)
- [Tay Valley Township](#)
- [Municipality of Leamington](#)
- [Municipality of Thames Centre](#)
- [Municipality of Shuniah](#)
- [Municipality of West Elgin](#)
- [Municipality of Central Elgin](#)
- [Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge](#)
- [Municipality of Grey Highlands](#)
- [Municipality of Dutton Dunwich](#)
- [Municipality of Middlesex Centre](#)
- [Region of Waterloo](#)
- [Region of Peel](#)
- [Regional Municipality of Halton](#)

#### **Municipalities/Municipal Councillors**

- [AMO Submission - Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act \(Budget Measures\), 2020 | AMO Statement](#)
- [Media Release - Council Outcomes November 25, 2020: Mississauga Tourism Budget and Business Plan, Central Library Renaming & COVID-19 Response \(Mississauga\)](#)
- [Media Release - Highlights from Lanark County Council Meeting held November 25, 2020 \(Lanark County\)](#)
- [Letter - Re: Schedule 6 of Bill 229 and Conservation Authorities \(Township Of Melancthon\)](#)
- [Letter - Re: Schedule 6 of Bill 229 - Open Letter to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon \(Town of Mono\)](#)
- [Letter - Schedule 6 of Bill 229 — Open Letter to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP \(Mono\)](#)
- [Letter - Re: Bill 229 and Proposed Changes to CA Act \(City of Ottawa\)](#)
- [Letter - Re: Provincial Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act, 2020 \(Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury\)](#)
- [Letter - Judith Monteith-Farrell-MPP \(Thunder Bay-Atikokan\)](#)
- [Summary - MPP Sandy Shaw Emergency Environment Town Hall](#)
- [TOA advocates for removal of Schedule 6 from Bill 229 \(Ajax\)](#)
- [Ford Moving To Gut Conservation Authorities' Ability To Protect Communities from Severe Flooding - Mike Schreiner \(Niagara At Large\)](#)
- [More Flooding Ahead with powerless Conservation Authorities \(Debbie Schaefer, Ward 5 Councillor, King City\)](#)
- [Briefing On Proposed Changes To The Conservation Authorities Act Contained In Bill 229, Protect, Support And Recover From Covid-19 Act \(Budget Measures\), 2020 \(Ottawa\)](#)
- [Bill 229 will curtail mandate of conservation authorities \(Creemore Echo\)](#)
- [Small Urban GTHA Mayors Forms to Discuss, Respond to Issues Affecting their Communities — COVID-19, Broadband & the Greenbelt \(Marianne Meed – Burlington Mayor\)](#)

#### **Partners/NGOs/Citizen Organizations Links**

- [Bill 229: A Watershed Moment for Conservation Authorities \(Christian Farmers of Ontario\)](#)
- [Province Puts Industrial Logging Interests Before Wildlife, Again \(Ontario Nature\)](#)
- [YouTube - Thank you for standing up for Ontario's Conservation Authorities \(Environmental Defence\)](#)
- [YouTube - Riverside Rant - Tell your MPP hands off Ontario's conservation authorities \(Wilderness Committee\)](#)
- [The Ontario Government Betrays the People of Ontario in Favour of Bad Developers with the Passage of Schedule 6 \(Environmental Defence\)](#)
- [Doug Ford's Controversial Bill 229 Endangers Our Environment And Our Communities \(WWF\)](#)
- [Proposed Changes to Conservation Authority Act Continue to Raise Concern \(Essex County Field Naturalists' Club\)](#)
- [Media Release - The Ontario Government Betrays the People of Ontario in Favour of Bad Developers with the Passage of Schedule 6 \(Environmental Defence\)](#)
- [Media Release - Another Twist Of the Knife for Conservation Authorities from the Ontario](#)

Government (Environmental Defence/Ontario Nature)

- Media Release - OFA believes conservation authorities hve vital role in working to protect our land and water resources
- AMO Submission - Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020 | AMO Statement
- **Ontario Nature - Support Page**
- Ontario Nature - Nearly 100 groups tell the Ontario government it is unacceptable to use MZOs to override wetlands protections
- Retain the Current Mandate of the Province's 36 Conservation Authorities - **Send An Email** (Ontario Nature)
- Environmental Defence - Expect bigger floods and more toxic soil if Ontario's Conservation Authorities are gutted
- **Environmental Defence - www.yourstoprotect.ca**
- Conservation Authorities Need Your Help - **Call Your MPP** (Environmental Defence)
- How to respond to form letters sent by Ontario MPPs regarding the province's attack on Conservation Authorities (Environmental Defence)
- Full page support ad in the Toronto Star C/O Environmental Defence - Stop The Attack On Our Future (Nov 28) | **Print Version**
- **Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) - Support Page**
- CELA Webinar (>1,200 participants on November 17, 2020). Presenters: Anne Bell, Director of Conservation and Education, Ontario Nature, Tim Gray, Executive Director, Environmental Defence, Anastasia Lintner, Special Projects Counsel, Healthy Great Lakes program, CELA and Deborah Martin-Downs, Chief Administrative Office, Credit Valley Conservation
- Speaking Notes, Bill 229 (CELA)
- Change.org Petition - Stop the destruction of Conservation Authorities In Ontario
- Letter - Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association
- Letter - Greenbelt Council
- Letter - Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
- Letter - Great Lakes Waterfront Trail
- Letter - Halton Environmental Network
- Letter - North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce
- Letter - South Lake Simcoe Naturalists
- Statement - Ontario Urban Forest Council
- Reject Schedules 6 and 8 of Bill 229 to Protect Conservation Authorities and Species at Risk (Ontario Rivers Alliance)
- Urgent Action Needed! Re Proposed Legislative Changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act (Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association)
- Resident Says: Remove Bill 229's Schedule 6! (Just Sayin' Caledon)
- Protest against Bill 229 outside MPP Todd Smith's office (Green Quinte)
- Silencing our Rivers: Ontario's Diminishing Watershed Planning (People Plan Community)
- Wait, this again? Bill 229 threatens to undermine conservation in the province (Toronto Field Naturalists)
- Hands off conservation authorities (Wilderness Committee)
- Ontario is limiting Conservation Authorities' power. What does this mean for our river? (Ottawa Riverkeeper)
- MIRANET Opposes Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act (Mississauga Residents' Associations Network)
- Conservation Authorities Reimagined: Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act Through Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020 (Aird Berlis)
- Halton leaders fight back against conservation authority changes from province (Great Lakes Commissioner – repost from Hamilton Spectator)
- Bill 229 and Implications for Regional Conservation Authorities (Rural Ontario Institute)
- Conservation authorities need your help: call your MPP (Wilderness Committee)
- Changes to Conservation Authorities Act Triggers Red Flags (Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan)
- Provincial Changes to Conservation Authorities Act Will Significantly Compromise Role of Protecting Ontario's Environment (My Niagara Online Community Platform)
- For Our Kids
- Association of Dundas Churches



## Media Links

- [LETTER: Province admonished over 'neutering' of conservation authorities](#) (Orillia Matters)
- [LETTER: Province admonished over 'neutering' of conservation authorities](#) (Midland Today)
- [Reader Opposed to Proposed Conservation Authority Changes](#) (Meaford Independent)
- [Dec. 11: Follow the rules or no health care for you, don't gut conservation authorities and other letters to the editor](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [LETTER: Conservationists call legislative changes 'troubling' and 'short-sighted'](#) (Midland Today)
- ['People could lose their lives': Conservation authorities fear the possible effects of a new law by Doug Ford's government that limits their powers](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Passing of Bill 229 concerning for local conservation authority](#) (Newmarket Today)
- [Christmas comes early for the deep-pocketed friends of Premier Doug Ford](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [Rally being held protesting conservation act changes in Blyth](#) (Blackburn News)
- [Ford's attack on GRCA may invite repeat of history](#) (Waterloo Record)
- [Environment suffering cuts with attention focused on virus](#) (Chronicle Journal)
- [Passing of Bill 229 concerning for area conservation authority](#) (Orillia Matters)
- ['Egregious': Conservation Halton says new Ontario rules prevent conservation authorities from protecting environment](#) (Inside Halton)
- [Despite Blow from Ford Government, Niagara's Conservation Authority Determined to Soldier On](#) (Niagara at Large)
- [MLA president steps down from Ontario Greenbelt Council](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Changes to Conservation Authorities Act 'fall very short' of addressing concerns, NVCA says](#) (Orillia Matters)
- [Sweeping Changes to Conservation Authorities](#) (Turtle Island News)
- [Bill 229: A Watershed Moment for Conservation Authorities](#) (Christian Farmers)
- [Passing of Bill 229 concerning for area conservation authority](#) (Bradford Today)
- [Changes to Conservation Authorities Act 'fall very short' of addressing concerns, NVCA says](#) (Midland Today)
- [Welland opposed to provincial changes made to conservation authorities](#) (Welland Tribune)
- [Changes to Conservation Act officially pass](#) (Blackburn News)
- [LETTER: Conservationists call legislative changes 'troubling' and 'short-sighted'](#) (Barrie Today)
- [LETTER: Conservationists call legislative changes 'troubling' and 'short-sighted'](#) (Orillia Matters)
- [Controversial legislation passes, but West Perth has concerns](#) (Mitchelle Advocate)
- [Councillor calls on residents to voice their opposition to Bill 229](#) (Innisfil Today)
- [Letter To The Editor: Conservation Authority](#) (Port Perry Standard)
- [Good work at risk](#) (Bay Observer)
- [Province unveils new wetlands conservation program](#) (Shoreline Today)
- [Landowner's association laud changes to conservation authorities](#) (CTV London)
- [Letter: Province admonished over 'neutering' of conservation authorities](#) (Barrie Today)
- [Passing of Bill 229 concerning for local conservation authority](#) (Barrie Today)
- [NPCA concerned about changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Niagara This Week)
- [OFA supports conservation authorities' watershed perspective](#) (Wellington Advertiser)
- [Conservation authority disappointed with provincial bill](#) (Owen Sound Sun Times)
- [Conservation authority disappointed with provincial bill](#) (Brantford Expositor)
- [Concerns raised over changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Haldimand Press)
- [GRCA seeks clarity on Bill 229's impact](#) (Waterloo Record)
- [Pickering councillors oppose proposed bill that will limit conservation authority's power](#) (DurhamRegion.com)
- [Protest in support of Ontario's Conservation Authorities being held in Milton](#) (Milton Now)
- [Orangeville Council passes resolution supporting conservation authorities](#) (Orangeville Citizen)
- [GRCA's response to Schedule 6 of Bill 229](#) (Exchange Magazine)
- [Doug Ford takes an axe to greenbelt protections](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [Township news](#) (The Cosmos)
- [Drew Monkman: Green space is under assault](#) (Peterborough Examiner)
- [PCs ram through budget, sending environmental protection back to the days of Mike Harris](#)
- [Former federal cabinet minister leaves Ontario role over proposed environment laws](#) (Ontario Construction News)
- [Bill limiting conservation authority power passes](#) (Toronto Business Journal)

- [Letter: Reader concerned about province's 'wrecking-ball approach' to conservation authorities](#) (Barrie Today)
- [December 10: Planning approval rate undermines conservation authorities argument, plus other Niagara letters to the editor](#) (St. Catharines Standard)
- [Support our Greenbelt](#) (Inside Halton)
- [December 10: Planning approval rate undermines conservation authorities argument, plus other Niagara letters to the editor](#) (Welland Tribune)
- [Where feathers lie](#) (Ted Barris)
- [Conservation Authorities Act changes "disappointing"](#) (Brantford Expositor)
- [GRCA says revisions to Bill 229 don't address all of its concerns](#) (Kitchener Today)
- [Everything you need to know about the Ford government's changes to conservation and planning](#) (Globe and Mail)
- [Province of Ontario to exercise power over Conservation Authorities](#) (Frontenac News)
- [Keeping conservation authorities focused on their core mandate](#) (Lake Superior News)
- ['Stop attack on conservation authorities': West](#) (Ontario Farmer)
- [Controversial Conservation Act changes passed into law](#) (Ontario Farmer)
- [OFA believes conservation authorities have vital role in working to protect our land and water resources](#) (Farms.com)
- [Local Municipalities Respond To Changes To Conservation Authority Act](#) (North Grenville Times)
- [Op-ed: Is Doug Ford's plan simply to kill the Greenbelt?](#) (Niagara Now)
- [St. Clair conservation authority says bill undermines protection of watersheds](#) (Blackburn Radio)
- [West: 'Stop attack on conservation authorities'](#) (Sudbury Star)
- ['A matter of principle:' Niagara MPPs, NPCA respond to Greenbelt Council resignations](#) (Thorold News)
- [Mayors stand with Conservation Halton in response to recently passed government bill](#) (In Halton)
- [Ford gov't 'should be ashamed' after passing bill to cut Conservation Authority power say NDP](#) (Bay Today)
- [Municipalities alarmed by Schedule 6 of provincial budget](#) (Saugeen Times)
- [SCRCA joins others critical of amendments in Ontario budget bill](#) (Chatham This Week)
- [Up North with Jonathan Pinto](#) (CBC Thunder Bay)
- [Council board members resign over Bill 229](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Minister's zoning orders wrong tactic for significant wetlands, says Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition](#) (Simcoe.com)
- [Niagara Falls Won't Join Call For Support From The NPCA](#) (Newstalk 610)
- [Letter: Local group 'alarmed' at province's flurry of MZOs](#) (Orillia Matters)
- [Dec. 9: The price of paving paradise, Ford changes threatening our environment and other letters to the editor](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [Bill 229 permanently exempts logging from Ontario's Endangered Species Act](#) (Wilderness Committee)
- [Christmas came early this year for the friends of Doug Ford](#) (Walkerton News)
- [What To Know About MZOs, Doug Ford's Development Tool That Environmentalists Hate](#) (Huffington Post)
- [Conservation Authorities Act changes "disappointing"](#) (Owen Sound Sun Times)
- [Conservation Authorities Act changes "disappointing"](#) (Stratford Beacon Herald)
- [Conservation Authorities Act changes "disappointing"](#) (Sarnia Observer)
- [Conservation Authorities Act changes "disappointing"](#) (Strathroy Age Dispatch)
- [Conservation Authorities Act changes "disappointing"](#) (Sarnia This Week)
- [SCRCA joins others critical of amendments in Ontario budget bill](#) (Courier Press)
- [Op-ed: Is Doug Ford's plan simply to kill the Greenbelt?](#) (Niagara Now)
- [OFA believes conservation authorities have vital role in working to protect our land and water resources](#) (Farms.com)
- [GRCA says revisions to Bill 229 don't address all of its concerns](#) (Guelph Today)
- [Niagara Falls Won't Join Call For Support From The NPCA](#) (Newstalk 610)
- [Ontario government commits \\$30 million to wetland protection](#) (Kingston Whig Standard)
- [Ontario government commits \\$30 million to wetland protection](#) (Belleville Intelligencer)
- [Province creates new program to restore wetlands](#) (88.7 Napanee Today)
- [Bill limiting conservation authority power passes](#) (Waterloo Record)
- [Local Conservation Authorities Share Concerns Over Bill 229](#) (104.7 Heart FM)
- [Undermining conservation authorities harms Niagara's green spaces](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Conservation authorities' power still under threat](#) (North Bay Nugget)

- [Undermining conservation authorities harms Niagara's green spaces](#) (Welland Tribune)
- [Changing rules governing conservation authorities could endanger Ontarians](#) (Toronto.com)
- ['Stop attack on conservation authorities': West](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [Vaughan rejects bill stripping powers of conservation authorities](#) (YorkRegion.com)
- [Loss of environmental protections puts Ontario's greenbelt at risk](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [Halton Mayors, Chair Condemn Changes To Conservation Authority Act](#) (Bay Observer)
- [Government Passes Budget Bill, Including Controversial Changes To Conservation Authorities](#) (QP Briefing)
- [The bill restricting the power of conservation authorities passes](#) (Ex Bulletin)
- [Why Waterloo's Kevin Eby resigned from the Ontario Greenbelt Council](#) (CBC)
- [Doug Ford's 'high-level bombing' of conservation prompts David Crombie and others to resign from Greenbelt Council](#) (Trnto.com)
- [LORINC: Crombie's resignation from Greenbelt Council reminds us to look upstream](#) (Spacing.ca)
- [Doug Ford reverts to anti-environment self](#) (Rabble)
- [Ford/Oosterhoff Government Passes Bill to Gut Conservation Authorities](#) (Niagara At Large)
- [With a little help for his friends](#) (Canadian Dimension)
- [Greenbelt storm more proof that on climate change, it's the same old Doug Ford](#) (Now Toronto)
- ['A matter of principle:' Niagara MPPs, NPCA respond to Greenbelt Council resignations](#) (Niagara This Week)
- [Bill 229 passes at Queen's Park, including controversial changes to conservation authorities](#) (Kitchener Today)
- [Province strips away power of local conservation authorities](#) (Sudbury.com)
- [Council Backs Conservation Authorities' Fight Against Province](#) (Barrie Today)
- [Conservation Authorities And Bill 229](#) (Ontario Farmland Trust)
- [Premier Ford under fire over mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Province investing \\$30-million into wetland restoration projects](#) (Durham Radio News)
- [Premier Ford under fire over mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (City News)
- [Premier Ford under fire over mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (National Post)
- [Premier Ford under fire over mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (National News Watch)
- [Premier Ford under fire over mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (680 News)
- [Premier Ford under fire over mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (Kitchener Today)
- [Doug Ford government defends conservation authority changes in wake of mass Greenbelt Council resignations](#) (Granthshala.com)
- [Conservation authority calls Ontario's \\$30M wetland fund 'a distraction'](#) (CBC)
- [ONTARIO: Province announces \\$30M of wetlands funding after conservation authority members quit](#) (Barrie Today)
- [ONTARIO: Province announces \\$30M of wetlands funding after conservation authority members quit](#) (Bay Today)
- [ONTARIO: Province announces \\$30M of wetlands funding after conservation authority members quit](#) (Thorold News)
- [Doug Ford government defends conservation authority changes in wake of mass Greenbelt Council resignations](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Premier Doug Ford under fire after mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (Global News)
- [OFA Supports Watershed Planning Of Conservation Authorities](#) (The Grower)
- [Ontario government under fire over weakening conservation authorities](#) (Globe and Mail)
- [Local Conservation Authorities Concerned](#) (CKXS)
- [Major Ontario Architects Group Joins Fight to Spare Conservation Authorities from Doug Ford's Axe](#) (Niagara At Large)
- [Doug Ford government defends conservation authority changes in wake of mass Greenbelt Council resignations](#) (St. Catharines Standard)
- [Seven Members Of Doug Ford's Greenbelt Council Resign Over Conservation Authority Changes](#) (Unpublished Ottawa)
- [Ford Government's Greenbelt Council Sees 7 Resignations Over the Weekend](#) (Toronto Storeys)
- ['It's a bit awkward': North Grenville requests province to withdraw, revise Bill 229 impacting conservation authorities](#) (Inside Ottawa Valley)
- [Mass Exodus Over Provincial Changes To The Conservation Authorities Act](#) (The Dock 92.3)
- [Mass resignations over Ontario government's changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Global News)
- [Ford government putting politics ahead of protecting conservation authorities](#) (Toronto Star)

- [‘It puts the public’s lives at risk’: Environmental leaders speak out over conservation changes](#) (CTV News)
- [‘It Puts The Public’s Lives At Risk’: Environmental Leaders Speak Out Over Conservation Changes](#) (AM 800)
- [Premier Doug Ford under fire after mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (91.5 The Beat)
- [Premier Doug Ford under fire after mass resignations at Ontario conservation authority](#) (Big 96.3)
- [Changes to Conservation Authorities Act 'fall very short' of addressing concerns, NVCA says](#) (Collingwood Today)
- [LETTER: Province's concessions don't go far enough, remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229](#) (Newmarket Today)
- [What's at stake for environmental protections if Ontario government passes budget bill](#) (Lindsay Advocate)
- [Upcoming provincial law will harm the environment](#) (Waterloo Record)
- [Seven members from Doug Ford’s Greenbelt Council Resigns Over Conservation Authorities Changes](#) (National Observer)
- [Local Conservation Authority wants government to remove controversial legislation for further discussion](#) (Bay Today)
- [Province reveals last minute changes to the Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Yahoo.com)
- [Greenbelt Council head resigns, calls on Queen’s Park to change bill affecting local conservation authorities](#) (Durham Radio News)
- [‘Raising the alarm for weeks now’: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority concerned about looming decision](#) (Simcoe.com)
- [Respected Senior Tory Resigns Greenbelt Commission Over Ford Attack On Conservation Authorities](#) (Bay Observer)
- [Half of Ontario's Greenbelt Council quits in wake of chair's protest resignation](#) (CP24)
- [Half of Ontario’s Greenbelt Council quits in wake of chair’s protest resignation](#) (Welland Tribune)
- [Not Worried? Then You’re Not Paying Attention.](#) (Just Sayin’ Caledon)
- [Changes to Conservation Authorities Act fall very short of addressing concerns](#) (Aware Simcoe)
- [Changes to Conservation Authorities Act 'fall very short' of addressing concerns, NVCA says](#) (Barrie Today)
- [Changes to Conservation Authorities Act 'fall very short' of addressing concerns, NVCA says](#) (Innisfil Today)
- [‘Raising the alarm for weeks now’: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority concerned about looming decision](#) (YorkRegion.com)
- [Ford Has A Growing Revolt On His Hands With Attempted Hit On Conservation Authorities](#) (Bay Observer)
- [Province Set To Double Down On Environmentally Damaging Legislation](#) (MyMississauga.com)
- [Don’t let Ford government endanger our watershed](#) (Waterloo Record)
- [The provincial government plans to pass legislation Monday, Dec. 7, that will gut the Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Lake Simcoe Living)
- [MIRANET submission to legislative committee regarding Schedule 6, Bill 229](#) (Miranet – Mississauga Resident’s Associations Network)
- [Former federal cabinet minister leaves Ontario role over proposed environment laws](#) (Peterborough Examiner)
- [David Crombie quits Greenbelt Council, says Ontario PCs plan to gut conservation authorities](#) (Ontario Farmer)
- [Updated – Crombie resigns over attacks on conservation authorities](#) (Aware Simcoe)
- [Province reveals last minute changes to the Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Waterloo Record)
- [Conservation authorities fear 'sweeping' changes in government bill](#) (CBC News)
- [So many benefits to caring for the environment](#) (Ganonoque Reporter)
- [TRCA asks Queen's Park for changes to impending legislation](#) (Toronto.com)
- [Conservation Conundrum](#) (Raise the Hammer)
- [Ontario Nature calls on province to remove proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (YorkRegion.com)
- [Minto calls for province to reconsider changes to conservation authorities](#) (Wellington Advertiser)
- [Kingston joins other cities in opposing planned conservation changes](#) (Kingston Whig Standard)
- [PCs introduce flood of amendments, double down on changes to conservation authorities](#) (QP Briefing)
- [Kingston joins other cities in opposing planned conservation changes](#) (Londoner)
- [Removing Section 6 budget amendment key to maintaining adequate flooding and natural hazards management: Conservation Ontario](#) (Parry Sound RadioWorkz)
- [‘People should be worried’: Province moves to hobble conservation agencies, hand power to developers](#) (The Pointer)
- [Province reveals last minute changes to the Conservation Authorities Act](#) (New Hamburg Independent)
- [Province reveals last minute changes to the Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Cambridge Times)

- [Another twist of the knife for Conservation Authorities](#) (Owen Sound Hub)
- [Proposed changes put 'environment at risk': Lake Simcoe conservation authority](#) (Simcoe.com)
- [Hey MPPs, listen up! We don't want you to limit the role of conservation authorities](#) (Aware Simcoe)
- [Another Twist Of the Knife for Conservation Authorities from the Ontario Government](#) (Niagara at Large)
- [Kingston joins other cities in opposing planned conservation changes](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [Kingston joins other cities in opposing planned conservation changes](#) (St. Thomas Times Journal)
- [Kingston joins other cities in opposing planned conservation changes](#) (Strathroy Age Dispatch)
- [Proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act are not sitting well in Guelph](#) (Global News)
- [New watershed approach a power grab by Premier Ford](#) (Toronto.com)
- [Environmental protection is in danger under Ford](#) (Waterloo Record)
- ['Filled with error and hazard': Why Hamilton is taking on Doug Ford's changes to conservation authorities](#) (TVO)
- [LTVCA slams proposed conservation authority changes](#) (Chatham Daily News)
- [Proposed changes to provincial legislation is causing some concern for local conservation authorities](#) (GoNorthumberland.ca)
- [Schreiner Demands the Government Pull Changes to Conservation Authorities](#) (Guelph Politico)
- [LTVCA slams proposed conservation authority changes](#) (Fort McMurray Today)
- [Council fights for wetlands protection](#) (The Highlander)
- [70 years of collaborative land use planning on the cusp of being compromised](#) (Lucknow Sentinel)
- [Proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act are not sitting well in Guelph](#) (Soo Today)
- [Province should back away from conservation authority changes](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [Proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act are not sitting well in Guelph](#) (Y108 News)
- [Proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act are not sitting well in Guelph](#) (Jump Radio)
- [Proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act are not sitting well in Guelph](#) (Boom 101.9)
- [Proposed bill threatening conservation authorities' role: CVC](#) (Yahoo)
- [LTVCA slams proposed conservation authority changes](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [Proposed changes to provincial legislation is causing some concern for local conservation authorities](#) (Class Rock 107)
- [Proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act are not sitting well in Guelph](#) (Big 101.1)
- ['Why switch it up and fix something that isn't broke?'](#) (Brantford Expositor)
- [LETTER: Conservation authority says provincial concessions 'don't go nearly far enough'](#) (Bradford Today)
- [LETTER: Conservation authority says provincial concessions 'don't go nearly far enough'](#) (Barrie Today)
- [LETTER: Conservation authority says provincial concessions 'don't go nearly far enough'](#) (Orillia Matters)
- [LETTER: Conservation authority says provincial concessions 'don't go nearly far enough'](#) (Innisfil Today)
- [Stop conservation authority changes](#) (Owen Sound Sun Times)
- [Stop conservation authority changes](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [Ford undermining environmental protections, says reader](#) (Lindsay Advocate)
- [Save our Greenbelt](#) (Hamilton News)
- [So many benefits to caring for the environment](#) (Airdrie Echo)
- [So many benefits to caring for the environment](#) (Sault Star)
- [Doug Ford government defends conservation authority changes in wake of mass Greenbelt Council resignations](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Ford government to strip some powers of environmental regulators](#) (Global News)
- [Opinion - Ford government putting politics ahead of protecting conservation authorities](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Full page support ad in the Toronto Star C/O Environmental Defence - Stop The Attack On Our Future \(Nov 28\) | Print Version](#)
- [LTVCA warns about provincial changes to Conservation Act](#) (Welland Tribune)
- [LTVCA warns about provincial changes to Conservation Act](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Travel Recovery Depends on Conservation Authorities, but They May Soon Be Gutted in Ontario](#) (Medium.com - Christopher Morello)
- [LTVCA warns about provincial changes to Conservation Act](#) (Chatham Voice)
- [Clipping the wings of the Conservation Authorities](#) (Oakville News)
- [LTVCA warns about provincial changes to Conservation Act](#) (Yahoo.com)
- [Conservation authorities push back against provincial legislation](#) (CTV London)
- [Ajax opposes cut in CA's autonomy](#) (Durham Post)
- [Guelph MPP calls on Premier Ford to stop proposed changes to conservation authorities](#) (Guelph Mercury)

- [Pressure grows to remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229](#) (North Grenville Times)
- [Proposed legislation has conservation authorities across Ontario sounding the alarm](#) (Global News)
- [Conservation authority seeks municipal support in Dutton Dunwich](#) (West Elgin Chronicle)
- [Conservation authority seeks municipal support in Dutton Dunwich](#) (Kingston This Week)
- [Kitchener joins the region in urging the province to consult before changing conservation authorities](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Kitchener joins the region in urging the province to consult before changing conservation authorities](#) (Waterloo Record)
- [Conservation authorities push back against provincial legislation](#) (iHeart Radio)
- [Kitchener joins the region in urging the province to consult before changing conservation authorities](#) (New Hamburg Independent)
- [Kingston council to consider opposition to planned conservation changes](#) (Daily Herald Tribune)
- [Kingston council to consider opposition to planned conservation changes](#) (Cornwall Standard-Freeholder)
- [Provincial changes to Conservation Authorities Act, a threat to environmental protection](#) (Kincardine Times)
- [Silencing Ontario's conservation authorities](#) (Our Windsor)
- [Letter: Ontario's conservation authorities under attack by Ford government](#) (Newmarket Today)
- [Ontario communities put at risk by changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (The Millstone)
- [Take it out](#) (Cochrane Times-Post)
- [Take it out](#) (St. Thomas Times-Journal)
- [Take it out](#) (Kingston Whig Standard)
- [Take it out](#) (Sherwood Park – Strathcona County News)
- [Take it out](#) (Brantford Expositor)
- [Take it out](#) (Stony Plain Reporter)
- [Look at the birdie](#) (Bancroft This Week)
- [Once again, the Ford government is putting developers ahead of Ontario's environment](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Maitland Conservation to push back against changes](#) (Midwestern Newspapers Corp.)
- [Opinion: How conservation authorities help create the perfect home](#) (AWARE Simcoe)
- [Bill 229 would partly overturn original purpose of conservation authorities, LTVCA general manager says](#) (Bradford The Expositor)
- [Provincial changes to Conservation Authorities Act, a threat to environmental protection](#) (Saugeen Times)
- [Maitland Conservation to push back against changes](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Fort Erie to join other Niagara municipalities opposing provincial changes to conservation authorities](#) (St. Catharines Standard)
- [Provincial changes to Conservation Authorities Act, a threat to environmental protection](#) (Walkerton News)
- [Provincial changes to Conservation Authorities Act, a threat to environmental protection](#) (Grey-Wellington Times)
- [Province being told to keep hands off conservation authorities](#) (Niagara This Week)
- ['We're not treated as a valued partner': CVC says provincial changes undermine conservation authorities](#) (Orangeville Banner)
- [Maitland Conservation to push back against changes](#) (MSN.com)
- [Conservation authorities ask citizens to fight new bill](#) (Sault Star)
- [Local leaders ask province to reverse course on changes to conservation authorities](#) (NewsTalk 610)
- [Local leaders ask province to reverse course on changes to conservation authorities](#) (CTV Kitchener)
- [Green Party Leader defends conservation authorities](#) (Kitchener Today)
- [LSRCA repeats call for province to scrap changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Newmarket Today)
- [LSRCA repeats call for province to scrap changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Bradford Today)
- [Proposed changes to conservation authorities put public at risk](#) (Qunite News)
- [Lower Trent Conservation Officials Worried by Government Changes](#) (Trent Hills Now)
- [Conservation authority protests contentious provincial bill](#) (North Bay Nugget)
- [Government's 'radical changes' bad for Lake Simcoe and province, critics say](#) (OrilliaMatters.com)
- [Collingwood council tells province to cancel changes to Conservation Authorities](#) (CollingwoodToday.ca)
- [Hamilton joins other municipalities in condemning provincial changes to how conservation authorities operate](#) (Hamilton News)
- [Pressure grows to remove Schedule 6 from Provincial Budget Bill 229](#) (Lanark Leeds & North Grenville Hometown News)

- [GRCA asking province to reconsider changes proposed in budget](#) (Wellington Advertiser)
- [The Schedule 6 Shell Game](#) (Just Sayin' Caledon)
- [GRCA, local supporters push back at plans to weaken conservation organizations](#) (Woolwich & Wellesley Township Observer)
- [Proposed government changes concern ERCA officials](#) (Granth Shala)
- [Is Ford's Ontario budget fighting COVID or killing conservation?](#) (Lawyer's Daily)
- [What Doug Ford Has Been Up To While You Worry About COVID-19](#) (Chatelaine Magazine)
- [Council approves 10 property sales to be examined by outside firm](#) (Napanee Beaver)
- [Bill 229 Op-Ed: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority](#) (92.1 South Simcoe Today)
- [Provincial budget bill concerns Grand River Conservation](#) (Blackburn News)
- [Opinion: How conservation authorities help create the perfect home](#) (Simcoe Aware)
- [Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning Act Will Affect You and Your Environment](#) (Today's Northumberland)
- [Authority of the People](#) (Owen Sound Hub)
- [Chandra Sharma](#) (YourTV Niagara)
- [GRCA's response to proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Exchange Magazine)
- [Our conservation authorities must be protected](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [How conservation authorities help create the perfect home](#) (Barrie Advance)
- [Consult before changing conservation authorities, region urges province](#) (Waterloo Chronicle)
- [Ontario's direction on conservation authorities will become 'political albatross': Hamilton councillor](#) (Guelph Mercury)
- [Consult before changing conservation authorities, region urges province](#) (Toronto Star)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (Woodstock Sentinel Review)
- [Wrong move to weaken conservation authorities](#) (Cochrane Times-Post)
- [Wrong move to weaken conservation authorities](#) (Today's Farmer)
- [Wrong move to weaken conservation authorities](#) (Timmins Daily Press)
- [Wrong move to weaken conservation authorities](#) (Brantford Expositor)
- [Wrong move to weaken conservation authorities](#) (St Thomas Times Journal)
- [Wrong move to weaken conservation authorities](#) (Courier Press)
- [Wrong move to weaken conservation authorities](#) (Owen Sound Sun Times)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (Nanton News)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (Sherwood Park Strathcona County News)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (Pincher Creek Echo)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (Vermilion Standard)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (Kingston This Week)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (West Elgin Chronicle)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (St. Thomas Times-Journal)
- [Sudbury letters: Conservation authorities in peril; Make a deal with Dalron; Where's Ottawa?; I'd like a cheque](#) (Belleville Intelligencer)
- [MPP Faisal Hassan opposing efforts to weaken conservation authorities](#)
- [Fighting Ford's attack on Conservation Authorities](#)
- [Emergency Town Hall with MPP Sandy Shaw](#)
- [MVCA, CLA clash on Bill 229, Schedule 6](#) (West Carleton Online)
- [Ontario's direction on conservation authorities will become 'political albatross': Hamilton councillor](#) (Flamborough Review)
- ['This is very disturbing': Proposed changes to conservation act concerns Lake Simcoe Region Conservation](#)

Authority (Simcoe.com)

- Government's 'radical changes' bad for Lake Simcoe and province, critics say (Orillia Matters)
- 'The developers are all in control': Doug Ford's government moves to limit the power of conservation authorities, sparking fears for the environment (YorkRegion.com)
- Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise (North Bay Nugget)
- RRCA pushes to be 'part of process' (The Glengarry News)
- ROW Council Info from November 25, 2020 (Exchange Magazine)
- Conservation Halton Concerned About Proposed Changes to Conservation Authorities Act (Water Canada)
- Experts Slam Ford Government's Proposed Changes To Conservation Laws (Huff Post)
- GRCA calls on province to reconsider proposed changes (Brantford Expositor)
- Consult before changing conservation authorities, region urges province (Waterloo Region Record)
- Province's Bill 229 limits ability to protect the environment, conservation authorities say (CBC Hamilton)
- Conservation authority says Ontario's COVID-19 budget bill would 'negate' its fundamental role (CBC)
- Province's Bill 229 limits ability to protect the environment, conservation authorities say (CBC)
- GRCA to hold special meeting to discuss province's proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act (CBC)
- Ontario Morning from CBC Radio (CBC)
- Sudbury watershed agency raises red flag over Conservation Authorities Act changes | Radio Interview (CBC)
- The developers are all in control': Doug Ford's government moves to limit the power of conservation authorities, sparking fears for the environment (Toronto Star)
- How the Ford government is upending the local planning process (Toronto Star)
- Watershed experts rip Ford government's proposed changes to conservation laws (Toronto Star)
- Conservation changes 'detrimental to Ontarians,' says Grey Sauble official (Toronto Star)
- Shame on Ford's treatment of conservation authorities (Toronto Star)
- Is this Durham wetland the place to take a stand against the Doug Ford government's blows against the environment? (Toronto Star)
- Doug Ford's provincial government putting environment at risk, says Greenbelt Council (Toronto Star) | Letter from Greenbelt Council
- Canada's parks are the ultimate essential service (The Globe and Mail)
- SCHREINER: When the basement floods, give the premier a call (Toronto Sun)
- Hassan Basit and Janet Sumner - Throwing Conservation Under the Omnibus? (The 905er)
- Seeing Red - Could the Stricter COVID Regulations Have Been Avoided with more Foresight? (The 905er)
- Hamilton Conservation Authority protests lost of powers, citizen members (Bay Observer)
- What's with the war on conservation authorities? (Bay Observer)
- Pushback On Changes To Conservation Authority Act (Bay Observer)
- Conservation authorities fight changes (Londoner)
- Watershed experts rip Ford government's proposed changes to conservation laws (Londoner)
- Conservation Ontario Recommends Removing Schedule 6 from Bill 229 (Water Canada)
- Approaching The Watershed (NRU Publishing Inc.)
- News coverage from the Niagara region
- Say NO to Schedule 6 attack on Conservation Authorities (Aware Simcoe)
- Ontario is gutting Conservation Authorities (Oakville News)
- Under cover of COVID, the Ford government is paving our wetlands (Hamilton Spectator)
- Conservation authorities raise concerns about provincial changes (The Observer)
- Conservation authorities fear loss of power (North Bay Nugget)
- 'In danger': Mayors in Oakville and Burlington along with Milton and Halton Hills say Ontario government trying to 'gut' conservation authorities (Inside Halton)
- Conservation authorities fear loss of power (Kingston Whig Standard)
- CVC 'concerned' over proposed changes to Conservation Authority Act (Orangeville Citizen)
- Province's 'radical changes' bad for Lake Simcoe and environment, critics say (Newmarket Today)
- Conservation authorities raise concerns about provincial changes (Owen Sound Sun Times)
- Local conservation authority stands to lose its decision-making powers on permits (Soo Today)
- Safety on film sets, conservation authorities under attack, restaurant rules don't add up and other letters to the editor (Hamilton Spectator)
- Proposed Changes By The Provincial Government Could Limit Powers Of Conservation Authorities (South Simcoe Today)



- [Ministry standing by conservation authority changes, despite mounting opposition](#) (St. Catharines Standard)
- [Conservation group says province could be putting parts of Mississauga at risk](#) (Insauga)
- [Ministry standing by conservation authority changes, despite mounting opposition](#) (Welland Tribune)
- [Watershed experts rip Ford government's proposed changes to conservation laws](#) (Woodstock Sentinel Review)
- [Proposed legislative changes could diminish conservation authorities' effectiveness, says NVCA](#) (Bradford Today)
- [Province unveils plans to restrict Conservation Authorities' role](#) (Bay Today)
- [Conservation changes 'detrimental to Ontarians,' says official](#) (Barrie Today)
- [Province to strip NPCA of citizen appointments](#) (Niagara Falls Review)
- [Province plans to restrict Conservation Authorities' role](#) (Kitchener Record)
- [Province to strip NPCA of citizen appointments](#) (St. Catharines Standard)
- [GRCA board calls special meeting to discuss proposed changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Kitchener Today)
- [Cataraqui Conservation joins opposition to Conservation Authorities Act changes](#) (Napanee Today)
- [Local conservation authorities worried about budget implications](#) (Wellington Advisor)
- [Conservation authorities call for halt to government's planned changes](#) (Simcoe Reformer)
- [Changes To The Conservation Authorities Act And Planning Act Present Potential Risks To People, Property And The Environment](#) (Mississauga Magazine)
- ['This is very disturbing': Proposed changes to conservation act concerns Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority](#) (Toronto.com)
- [The Ford government is putting environment and property at risk, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition says](#) (Lake Simcoe Living)
- [Government's 'radical changes' bad for Lake Simcoe and province, critics say](#) (Midland Today)
- [Watershed experts rip Ford government's proposed changes to conservation laws](#) (London Free Press)
- [Environmentalists express conservation authority concern ahead of new legislation](#) (QP Briefing)
- [Why Doug Ford is stumbling during the second wave](#) (Healthing.ca)
- [Conservation authorities at a crossroads](#) (Niagara Falls Review)
- [Conservation authorities face having powers peeled](#) (Kingston This Week)
- [Conservation authorities fight changes](#) (St. Thomas Times-Journal)
- [Changes to provincial legislation worry Hamilton area conservation authorities](#) (C-Fox)
- [Conservation authorities fight changes](#) (The Paris Star)
- [Conservation authorities face having powers peeled](#) (Edmonton Examiner)
- [Conservation authorities fight changes](#) (The Londoner)
- [Changes to provincial legislation worry Hamilton area conservation authorities](#) (Soo Today)
- [Conservation authorities fight changes](#) (Kingston This Week)
- [GRCA calls on province to reconsider proposed changes](#) (Strathroy Age Dispatch)
- [GRCA calls on province to reconsider proposed changes](#) (Gananoque Reporter)
- [GRCA calls on province to reconsider proposed changes](#) (Paris Star)
- [Adjustments to provincial laws fear Hamilton space conservation authorities – Hamilton](#) (Star Tribune Magazine)
- [City council briefs](#) (London Free Press)
- [GRCA calls on province to reconsider proposed changes](#) (Londoner)
- [Emergency board meeting held by GRCA](#) (Yahoo! Sports)
- [Modifications to provincial laws concern Hamilton space conservation authorities](#) (Apna Lyrics)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Brantford Expositor)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (The Sherwood Park, Strathcona County News)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Sarnia Observer)
- [Changes to provincial legislation worry Hamilton area conservation authorities](#) (Global News)
- [Conservation authorities at a crossroads](#) (St. Catharines Standard)
- [Conservation authorities face having powers peeled](#) (St. Thomas Times-Journal)
- [Update: GRCA'S response to proposed changes to conservation authorities act](#) (Regional News Forum)
- [Raise Your Voice to Save Our Conservation Authorities!](#) (Niagara at Large)
- [GRCA calls on province to reconsider proposed changes](#) (Brantford Expositor)
- [Grand River watershed needs more protecting](#) (Kitchener-Waterloo Record)

- [GRCA predicts 'problems down the road' with proposed provincial policy changes](#) (Kitchener Today)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Hanover Post)
- [GRCA calls on province to reconsider proposed changes](#) (Kingston This Week)
- [Conservation Authorities concerned provincial legislation could negatively impact Ontario watersheds](#) (Global News)
- [Oakville Matters - Conservation Authorities Act: Bill 229](#) (Oakville Matters)
- [Developer-friendly Ford government launches \(another\) environmental assault](#) (Mississauga.com)
- [Ontario budget helps fund land protection, then erodes conservation authorities' ability to protect land](#) (EcoLog)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Kingston Whig Standard)
- [Battle lines drawn over Conservation Authority Act changes](#) (Hamilton News)
- [Briefing on Planning and Development Charges Aspects of Bill 197 COVID19 Economic Recovery Act 2020](#) (OttWatch)
- [Don't give free rein to Ontario's developers](#) (Mackay Cartoons)
- [Video - Protecting Ontario From Flooding](#) (Green Party of Ontario)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Sarnia Observer)
- [Conservation authorities face having powers peeled](#) (Sault Star)
- [Thunder Bay calls on province to reverse conservation authority changes](#) (TB News Watch)
- [Conservation authorities fight changes](#) (Brockville Recorder and Times)
- [Collingwood council tells province to cancel changes to Conservation Authorities](#) (Collingwood Today)
- [Council to debate delaying 'draconian' changes to conservation authorities](#) (London Free Press)
- [Thunder Bay calls on province to reverse conservation authority changes](#) (TB News Watch)
- [Conservation authorities fight changes](#) (Brockville Recorder and Times)
- [Collingwood council tells province to cancel changes to Conservation Authorities](#) (Collingwood Today)
- [Council to debate delaying 'draconian' changes to conservation authorities](#) (London Free Press)
- [GSCA: Ontario Communities Put at Risk by Changes to Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Meaford Independent)
- [Conservation authorities face their biggest challenge](#) (Londoner)
- [Conservation authorities face their biggest challenge](#) (Strathroy Age Dispatch)
- [Bill 229 would partly overturn original purpose of conservation authorities: LTCVA](#) (Edmonton Examiner)
- [City council briefs: Conservation authorities, tree bylaw, staff lauded](#) (The Path of Ex)
- [Conservation authorities face their biggest challenge](#) (North Bay Nugget)
- [Provincial Conservatives playing risky game with our conservation authorities](#) (Water Region Record)
- [Canada: Conservation Authorities Re-imagined: Amendments To The Conservation Authorities Act Through Bill 229, Protect, Support And Recover From COVID-19 Act \(Budget Measures\), 2020](#) (Mondaq)
- [Burlington and provincial government at odds over proposed conservation authority changes](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [Bill 229 would partly overturn original purpose of conservation authorities: LTCVA](#) (Kingston Whig Standard)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (Clinton News Record)
- [Ontario's direction on conservation authorities will become 'political albatross': Hamilton councillor](#) (Hamilton Spectator)
- [Changes could take control of Conservation Authorities out of local hands](#) (Frontenac News)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (Hanover Post)
- [24: Hassan Basit and Janet Sumner – Throwing Conservation Under The Omnibus?](#) (The 905-er)
- [Conservation Authorities Re-imagined: Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act Through Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act \(Budget Measures\), 2020](#) (Lexology)
- [Niagara joins opposition to changes of rules governing conservation authorities](#) (Niagara This Week)
- [Niagara joins opposition to changes of rules governing conservation authorities](#) (St. Catharines Standard)
- [Council supports Quinte Conservation plea to repeal bill proposing changes to Conservation Authorities](#) (County Live)
- [Conservation Authorities: first line of defence in climate change](#) (Owen Sound Hub)
- [Conservation authorities fight changes](#) (Stratford Beacon Herald)
- [Prince Edward County supports QCA](#) (Quinte News)
- [Council briefs: Tree bylaw vote has councillor referencing Blackridge scandal](#) (CBC London)
- [Province's Bill 229 limits ability to protect the environment, conservation authorities say](#) (MNR Watch)

- ['Another attack on the Greenbelt by developers': Conservation authorities fight provincial changes](#) (Yorkregion.com)
- [Province puts its hands around the throats of the Conservation Authorities](#) (Burlington Gazette)
- [Proposed government changes concern ERCA officials](#) (Windsor Star)
- ['No time for rule of law'](#) (Wellington Advertiser)
- [DefundHPS protest continues, Canadians won't be first in line for COVID vaccine & Halton leaders fight back against Bill 229](#) (Bill Kelly Show)
- [Bill 229 would partly overturn original purpose of conservation authorities: LTCVA](#) (Woodstock Sentinel Review)
- [Bill 229 would partly overturn original purpose of conservation authorities: LTCVA](#) (Cold Lake Sun)
- [Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority proposes 1% levy hike](#) (Newmarket Today)
- [Paving over Ontario's wetlands paradise](#) (Sherwood Park)
- [The fight has just begun](#) (Hanna Herald)
- [The fight has just begun](#) (Cochrane Times Post)
- [The fight has just begun](#) (Owen Sound Sun Times)
- [The fight has just begun](#) (Cornwall Standard Freeholder)
- [The fight has just begun](#) (St Thomas Times Journal)
- [The fight has just begun](#) (Sudbury Star)
- [The fight has just begun](#) (Kingston This Week)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (Goderich Signal Star)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (St. Thomas Journal)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (Kingston Whig Standard)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (Lucknow Sentinel)
- [Conservation key](#) (Wellington Advertiser)
- [Open letter to Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound](#) (Owen Sound Hub)
- [Bill 229 would limit power of conservation authorities](#) (Owen Sound Sun Times)
- [Facebook – Mitzie Hunter](#)
- [Halton Mayors Oppose Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act](#) (Marianne Meed Ward – Burlington Mayor)
- [Conservation Matters | Episode 20](#) (Big Blue Marble – Podcast)
- [Hassaan Basit Conservation Halton discuss bill 229](#) (Your TV)
- [St. Clair Conservation Chimes in on Bill 229 Issue](#) (105.7 Strathroy)
- [Former NPCA CAO Weighs In On Proposed Changes To Conservation Act](#) (Newstalk 610)
- [NPCA CAO calls proposed changes 'an unprecedented environmental problem'](#) (News Talk 610 CKTB)
- [Bill 229 and recommendation to remove Schedule Six from bill](#) (News Talk 610 CKTB)
- [Lanark County Council receives report on changes coming to local Conservation Authorities](#) (Lake 88.1)
- [Conservation Ontario calling for the repeal of Conservation Authorities Act amendment: 'could delay appeals process by up to 200 days'](#) (Radio Workz Parry Sound)
- [Changes to provincial legislation worry Hamilton area conservation authorities](#) (Boom 101.9)
- [Changes to provincial legislation worry Hamilton area conservation authorities](#) (Y108)
- [Mono and Shelburne councils oppose provincial bill that reduces conservation authority powers](#) (101.5 myFM)

### **Attachment 3: Bill 229 Provincial Working Group: Membership and Tasks**

Email received from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Mr. Jeff Yurek, to all Conservation Authorities (January 11, 2021):

Good afternoon,

In order to create a practical forum to help our government implement recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and ensure conservation authorities and other stakeholder groups have a stronger voice at the table, I have invited 10 individuals to participate in a newly-formed conservation authorities working group.

The working group members, chaired by Hassaan Basit, President and CEO of Halton Region Conservation Authority, have been drawn from a variety of conservation authorities, Conservation Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, as well as the development and agriculture sectors. The full list of members include:

- Hassaan Basit, President and CEO, Halton Region Conservation Authority (Chair)
- Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario
- John McKenzie, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Chris Darling, Chief Administrative Officer, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
- Rob Baldwin, Chief Administrative Officer, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- Brian Tayler, Chief Administrative Officer, North Bay-Matawa Conservation Authority
- Samantha Lawson, Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority
- Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Scott McFadden, Mayor, Township of Cavan Monaghan

The following individuals will also assist the Working Group by providing further perspectives, including on the section 28 Minister's regulation:

- Jason Sheldon, Vice-President, Land Development, Remington Group
- Gary Gregoris, Senior Vice-President, Land Development, Mattamy Homes
- Josh Kardish, Vice-President, EQ Homes
- Michelle Sergi, Director Community Development, Region of Waterloo
- Leslie Rich, Policy and Planning Liaison, Conservation Ontario
- Barb Veale, Director, Planning and Watershed Management, Halton Region Conservation Authority
- Laurie Nelson, Director, Policy and Planning, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Mark Wales, Past President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Working Group's first task includes looking at the first phase of proposed regulations impacting conservation authorities and their participating municipalities, which will be available for public consultation later this month. The proposed regulations will include:

- details on the programs and services conservation authorities will implement, and how the programs and services may be funded such as:
    - o the mandatory programs and services to be delivered by conservation authorities;
    - o the proposed agreements that may be required with participating municipalities to fund non-mandatory programs and services with municipal dollars; and
    - o the transition period to establish those agreements;
  - how conservation authorities will regulate development and other activities to ensure public safety through natural hazard management,
  - the requirement for conservation authorities to establish community advisory boards; and
  - a Minister's regulation under section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act relating to conservation authority operation and management of lands owned by the authority.
- Our government is committed to ongoing collaboration as we work to improve how conservation authorities deliver core programs and services to their communities. Drawing on their extensive knowledge and experience, the working group members we've assembled will provide valuable perspectives to help us make better informed decisions.

We look forward to your feedback as part of our consultation process on the upcoming regulatory postings.

Sincerely,

Jeff Yurek  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

The first meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for January 20, 2021.

---

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Tracy Annett  
Chris Tasker  
**Date:** January 20, 2021  
**Agenda #:** 7.6  
**Subject:** Ontario Flood Strategy Report Summary  
**Filename:** ::ODMA\GRPWISE\UT\_  
MAIN.UTRCA\_PO.Admini-  
stration:3943.1

---

## BACKGROUND

The Board of Directors was provided a report in January 2020, outlining the report made by Mr. Doug McNeil, Special Advisor on Flooding to the Minister of Natural Resources.

Mr. McNeil stated that *“as Special Advisor on Flooding, I was appointed by the government to provide expert advice to the Minister, and to make Recommendations to the government on opportunities to improve the existing flood policy framework.”*

This external perspective was used to develop Ontario’s Flood Strategy. In March, 2020 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry released *Protecting people and property: Ontario’s flooding strategy. The following update is provided to the Board for information.*

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Flood strategy is to build upon Ontario’s a well-established approach to managing flood risk, which is based on the core components of emergency management:

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

The Strategy contains actions that are designed to address and build upon the recommendations identified by the Special advisor on Flooding. Five priorities were identified in the Flood Strategy, containing 8 primary actions:

1. Understand Flood Risks
  - i. Enhance Flood Mapping
  - ii. Increase Public Awareness
2. Strengthen Governance Of Flood Risks
  - iii. Clarify Roles And Responsibilities
  - iv. Promote Sound Land Use Planning Decisions
3. Enhance Flood Preparedness
  - v. Enhance Flood Forecast And Early Warning
4. Enhance Flood Response And Recovery
  - vi. Enhance Emergency Response
  - vii. Review Disaster Recovery Assistances
5. Invest In Flood Risk Reduction
  - viii. Secure Funding For Flood Risk Reduction

Conservation Ontario Council received the attached presentation to provide an overview of *Protecting People and Property: Ontario’s Flooding Strategy* and its development. In addition, the presentation provided an update on the implementation of activities within the Flooding Strategy and outline next steps.

The Flooding Strategy commits the province to establishing a Multi-Agency Flood Mapping Technical Team (FMTT). The purpose of the FMTT is to support a collaborative and strategic approach to flood mapping in Ontario. The team consists of staff from provincial and federal government agencies, municipalities, conservation authorities and academia. UTRCA staff, Mark Shifflett, Sr. Water Resources Engineer is a member of this Team.

The team is primarily responsible for coordinating the work required to fulfill the following commitments contained within the Flooding Strategy:

- a) Develop a Multi-Year Approach to Updating Flood Mapping
- b) Maintaining Flood-related Foundational Geospatial Data
- c) Establish a Provincial Elevation Mapping Program
- d) Update Provincial Standards for Flood Mapping

They will also provide input into the review and update of current flood mapping technical guides as outlined within Priority #2 of the Flooding Strategy. Other CA staff will likely have the opportunity to participate in working groups.

## **CONCLUSION**

Implementation timelines for each activity will vary from immediate / short term initiatives (1-2 years), medium- term initiatives (2-5 years) and long term initiatives (extending beyond 5 years).

The initiatives will be led by seven key ministries including:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
- Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks
- Solicitor General

The strategy makes frequent reference to CA's role including references to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and mandatory programs and services delivered by CA related to the risk of natural hazards. It includes reference to securing funding for flood risk reduction as well as continuing funding for core flood-related activities (section 39) and infrastructure repair (WECI) but no suggestion of return to the previous, more equitable 50/50 split between the province and municipalities.

Periodic updates are anticipated through implementation announcements and through engagement with Ontarians, including presentations at future Conservation Ontario Council meetings. Subsequent reports will be provided to the Board as updates are received.

### **PREPARED BY:**

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

### **RECOMMENDED BY:**

Ian Wilcox,  
General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

Chris Tasker, P.Eng, Manager  
Water and Information Management

### **Attachments:**

*Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy, Ministry of Natural Resources, Presentation to Conservation Ontario Council, December 14, 2020*

### **References:**

*Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy, Ministry of Natural Resources, March 6, 2020*

Link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/protecting-people-property-ontarios-flooding-strategy>

---

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** Ian Wilcox, General Manager  
**Date:** January 19, 2021  
**Subject:** 2021 Draft Budget: Municipal Feedback to Date

**Agenda #:** 7.7  
**Filename:** C:\Users\wilcoxi\Documents\Group Wise\124138-1.doc

---

The UTRCA 2021 Draft Budget was circulated to member municipalities for comment on November 26, 2020. No written feedback has yet been received. Staff have provided two council presentations (Thames Centre and St. Marys). A summary of feedback is below:

Thames Centre:

Questions and comments largely surrounded impacts from Bill 229 rather than the draft budget however there was strong support expressed for the programs and services offered by Conservation Authorities, as well as recognition of the value of the CA's cost-share model among member municipalities. In particular it was noted that paying as an individual municipality for access to equivalent staff expertise offered through CAs would be prohibitive.

St. Marys:

- Mayor Strathdee expressed disappointment that the Chair was not on the call.
- The Mayor challenged the general manager regarding the UTRCA's accountability to its member municipalities and rate payers based on past concerns he has expressed and the UTRCA's response.
- The general manager responded that the mechanism for accountability is through the Board of Directors and each member municipality's representative.
- The Mayor noted he had requested and is still requesting a singular representative to the Board of Directors (rather than shared).
- The Mayor referenced a Sept. 19, 2019 letter and his extreme disappointment that no response had been received and was clear he still expects a response.
- The Mayor noted he recently raised this matter of transparency and accountability with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- The Mayor asked if the UTRCA is considering his recommendation to engage a third party review regarding the necessity and funding fairness of the Environmental Targets Strategic Plan. The general manager replied that no third party review is planned but that, in all likelihood, the UTRCA's strategic plan will have to be reviewed in light of recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.
- A councillor mentioned the recently convened St. Marys Developers Roundtable including developer comments that the UTRCA was viewed as a barrier to development. The general manager noted UTRCA staff attended and appreciated hearing concerns directly, and that recent efforts to improve timelines have been implemented as part of a Conservation Authority wide initiative. Bills 108 and 229 also include regulatory changes, some of which are supported by CAs



(e.g., eliminating permits for minor works like decks). CA's are open to improvements that will enable staff to focus on high risk development proposals as a priority.

- A councillor asked about the future of Glengowan lands and whether or not the UTRCA was considering selling land as a means of generating needed revenue. The general manager noted the Authority is in the midst of an Official Plan Amendment with Perth County to allow severances for Glengowan lands.
- A comment was made that Springbank Dam is being decommissioned.
- A councilor asked about the recently announced Bill 229 Provincial Working Group, noting surprise that the membership was mostly CA staff. She questioned whether or not that group would be pushing for increased regulatory standards, the status quo, or some other outcome. The general Manager replied that all CAs are supportive of the standards that exist (e.g., 1:250 year flood standard) but that how regulations are implemented could be improved. CAs are not looking for an increase to those standards (i.e., tighter controls) but are not looking to weaken public safety protections either.
- A councillor commented that flows through the St. Marys Golf and Country Club seemed well managed in 2020 and offered his compliments for what appeared to be a change in practice.
- A councillor challenged the implementation time lines posed by Bill 229, that being the development of regulations and negotiation of municipal agreements, all in time for the 2022 budget year. The general manager agreed those timelines seem aggressive and perhaps unrealistic.

Prepared by:

Ian Wilcox,  
General Manager

---

**To:** UTRCA Board of Directors

**From:** Ian Wilcox, General Manager

**Date:** November 1, 2020  
January 18, 2021 - Revised

**Agenda #:** 8

**Subject:** UTRCA Elections Preparation

**Filename:** D:\Users\viglantim\Documents\GroupWise\3944-1.doc

---

**January 18, 2021 REVISION:** The following report was included as part of the November 2020 Board Agenda. It is again being included in this month's package as a reminder of the elected positions available and the process to follow, if interested. Elections will be held as part of the January 26th, 2021 meeting. Please note there was an omission in the November report; the position of Source Protection Striking Committee Member/ Committee Liaison should have been included in the list of available positions.

Also note these elections will be conducted electronically for the first time. Staff have prepared a system to enable confidential voting however the Board's patience may be required as staff prepare ballots and tabulate votes.

As required by the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Board of Directors conducts elections each year. Nominations for the following positions will be accepted verbally during the January 26, 2021 meeting:

- Board Chair (to be nominated and elected)
- Board Vice-Chair (to be nominated and elected)
- Five (5) positions on the Hearing Committee:
  - Past Chair (Appointed, if applicable. If there is no Past Chair, a 3<sup>rd</sup> "at large" member is to be nominated and elected)
  - Current Chair (appointed)
  - Current Vice- Chair (appointed)
  - Two (2) members elected at large (to be nominated and elected)
- Three (3) to five (5) positions on the Finance and Audit Committee:
  - Current Chair (appointed)
  - Two (2) to four (4) additional members elected at large (to be nominated and elected).
- Source Protection Striking Committee Member/ Committee Liaison

All Board members are eligible for any of the available positions. All appointments are for a one year term. Election procedures and position descriptions are outlined in the Administrative By-Laws, Appendix 3 and Section II.B.2 respectively.

Members interested in any of these available positions are encouraged to communicate with their fellow board members to secure a nomination and support prior to the January meeting. Past practice has included calls and/or emails to fellow directors in an effort to secure support. In the event of more than one candidate seeking an individual position, elections will be held according to Robert's Rules of Order. Those interested in positions should be prepared to speak to their nomination and qualifications during the January meeting.


To ensure staff are properly prepared for the elections could you please advise either Michelle Viglianti at [vigliantim@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:vigliantim@thamesriver.on.ca) or Ian Wilcox at [wilcoxi@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:wilcoxi@thamesriver.on.ca) if you are planning to put your name forward for any of the above listed positions.

Prepared by:  
Ian Wilcox,  
General Manager

Michelle Viglianti,  
Administrative Assistant

# Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy

Conservation Ontario Council Meeting  
December 14, 2020

Ontario 

## Outline

- Provide an overview of *Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy* and its development.
- Provide an update on the implementation of activities within the Flooding Strategy and outline next steps.



# Context: Spring 2019



'It just rips your heart out': Premier Ford offers support, hugs, cellphone number in flood zone



Muskoka Lakes latest Ontario town to declare emergency from flooding

April 28, 2019



Lake Ontario reaches flood level as officials issue warnings to shoreline residents

April 30, 2019



April 30, 2019



Toronto under 'shoreline hazard warning' as Lake Ontario water levels rise

May 01, 2019



Chatham-Kent issues state of emergency due to flooding

Feb 08, 2019

3 CO Council Meeting –Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy



## Background: Flood Mitigation Review

### Spring 2019:

- **May - June:** Online survey to solicit public feedback on opportunities for increasing Ontario's resiliency to flooding.
- **May:** Listening sessions with municipal leaders in Muskoka, Pembroke, and Ottawa.

### Summer 2019:

- **July:** Ontario appointed Mr. Doug McNeil as Special Advisor on Flooding.
  - Work included literature review, regional municipal engagement sessions in Ottawa, Pembroke, North Bay, Huntsville, Cambridge, Toronto and London; community site tours and targeted stakeholder meetings.

### Fall 2019:

- **November 1st:** MNRF issued press release, acknowledging receipt of Advisor's report (Oct. 31), committing to public release end of November.
- **November 28th:** Advisor's report released on Ontario.ca

### Winter 2020

- **March 9:** *Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy* released.

# Review Findings: Impacts of Flooding



**Housing:** Loss or damage to primary and secondary residences and belongings  
"flooding fire is the new fire"



**Housing Sales:** Agents concerned about liability; Major mortgage lenders may be unwilling to provide or renew mortgages in high-risk areas.



**Public Health:** Increased health care, medical leave, and insurance costs; threats of sewage plant failures and wide-scale evacuations.



**Taxation Levels:** Significant burden on municipal tax base; especially in low pop. Areas.



**Transportation:** Damage to roads and closures of major regional (Don Valley Parkway), and interprovincial transit corridors (Highway 17).



**Agricultural:** Lake Erie flooding threatens some of Canada's most important agricultural lands.



**Tourism and Recreation:** Infrastructure damage, lost operating days for municipal marinas, provincial parks, small and medium sized businesses.



**Seniors:** Can be disproportionately impacted due to limited financial resources, investments tied up in homes, and increased reliance on assistance from others.



**Waste Management:** Municipalities losing years off the life of municipal dumps after each flood event.

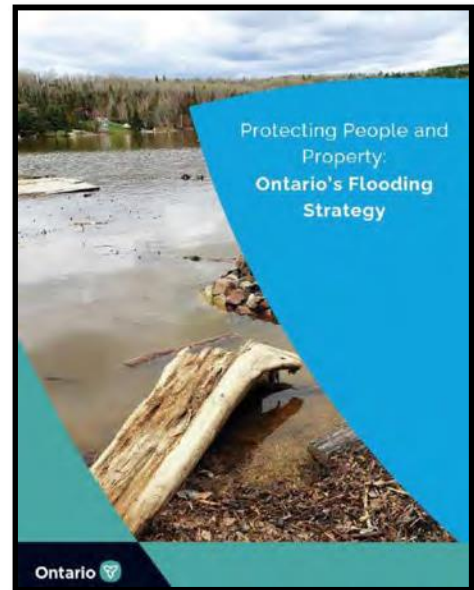
## Review Findings: Summary

- Flooding caused by natural events (snow, rain, melting, wind) **no signs of human error of neglect.**
- Record snowpacks, sudden temperature increases, and heavy rains led to devastating flooding across the province impacts were not isolated to any particular area.
- Measures taken by water managers everywhere were effective in reducing the magnitude of flooding and associated damages.
- Ontario has a robust policy framework that has gone a long way to reducing and mitigating flood risks – however there's always room for improvement.
- No magic fix or silver bullet solution but many areas where things can be improved.
- Flooding can't be stopped, and significant floods will happen again and may be more frequent or severe as a result of climate change.
- Every level of government, and every individual, has a role to play in improving Ontario's resiliency to flooding.

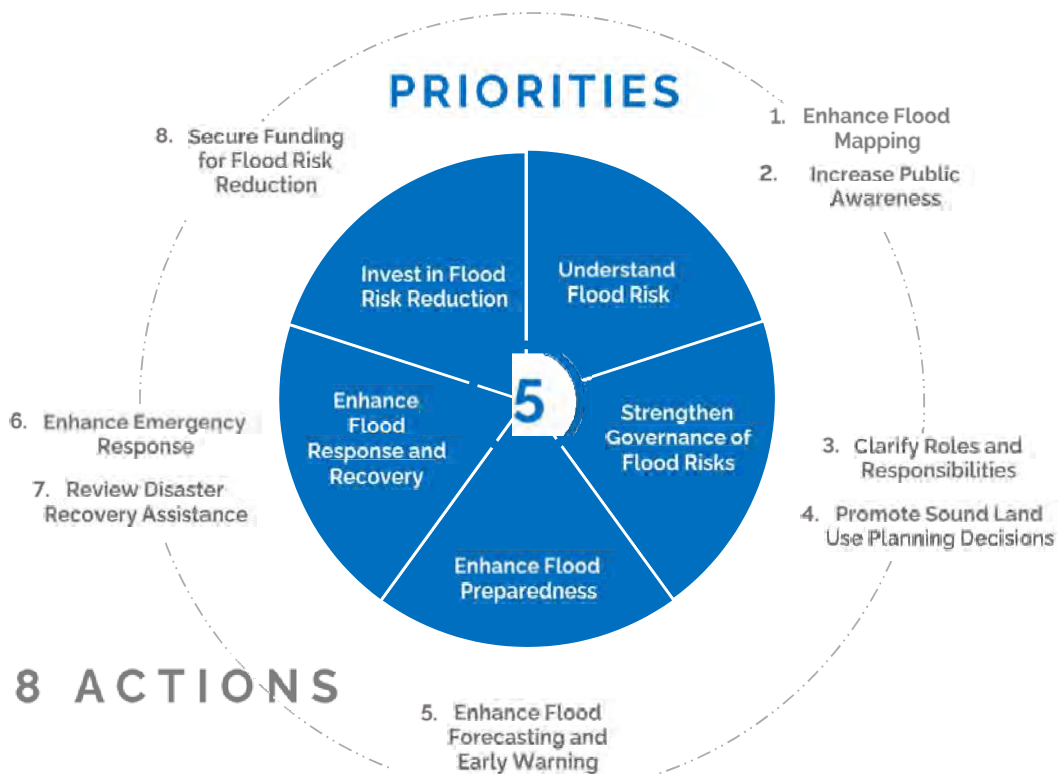


# Ontario's Flooding Strategy

- Released on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Responds to, and build's upon, Special Advisor's recommendations.
- Includes commitments from 10 provincial Ministries.
- Includes over 90 initiatives spread across the pillars of emergency management:
  - Prevention/Mitigation;
  - Preparedness; Response; and
  - Recovery.



# Ontario's Flooding Strategy



# Summary of Actions

## Priority #1: Understand Flood Risks

### Goal:

Increase municipal and government understanding of flood risk in Ontario.

### Outcome:

Ontarians, including municipal and provincial agencies, are aware of the flood risks, how these can be mitigated and how risk management decisions are made.

### ACTIONS

#### Enhance Flood Mapping

- ❖ Establish a Multi-Agency flood mapping technical team
- ❖ Develop a multi-year approach to update flood mapping
- ❖ Maintain flood related foundational geospatial data
- ❖ Establish a provincial elevation mapping program
- ❖ Update provincial standards for flood mapping

#### Increase Public Awareness and Education

- ❖ Increase access to flood-related information
- ❖ Increase transparency around water management decisions

9

# Summary of Actions

## Priority #2: Strengthen Governance of Flood Risks

### Goal:

All the agencies involved in flood management work together to minimize the risks of flooding.

### Outcome:

Consistent application of provincial policy, ensuring that local development is directed away from areas which present unacceptable risk.

### ACTIONS

#### Clarify Roles and Responsibilities

- ❖ Clarify roles and responsibilities in identifying natural hazards
- ❖ Clarify urban flooding roles and responsibilities

#### Promote Sound Land Use Planning Decisions

- ❖ Update the Provincial Policy Statement
- ❖ Update existing technical guidelines and review ideological approaches
- ❖ Maintain wetlands and pervious surfaces
- ❖ Enhance the resiliency of provincial infrastructure and other built form
- ❖ Update existing policy, legislative and regulatory requirements

10



# Summary of Actions

## Priority #3: Enhance Flood Preparedness

### Goal:

Ontarians have access to current and timely information in order to prepare for flood events.

### Outcome:

Increased preparedness for future flood events, by having access to up-to-date flood mapping.

### ACTION

#### Enhance Flood Forecasting and Warning

- ❖ Maintain flood forecasting and warning
- ❖ Enhance flood forecasting and warning
- ❖ Enhance science and research
- ❖ Enhance use of satellite imagery
- ❖ Maintain Ontario's Road Weather Information System

# Summary of Actions

## Priority #4: Enhance Response & Recovery

### Goal:

Emergency response and recovery programs are well coordinated and effective in supporting communities and Ontarians in their time of need.

### Outcome:

Ontarians receive the support they need to respond to and recover from flood emergencies.

### ACTIONS

#### Enhance Emergency Response

- ❖ Enhance emergency response activities

#### Review Disaster Recovery Assistance

- ❖ Review results of the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance Program pilot for enhancements
- ❖ Review the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians Program for potential improvements ('19)
- ❖ Support the development of federal flood insurance and relocation programs

# Summary of Actions

## Priority #5: Invest in Flood Risk Reduction

### Goal:

Ensure financial investments to reduce flood risk are strategic and collaborative.

### Outcome:

Flood protection and mitigation works and activities are well funded.

### ACTION

#### Secure Funding for Flood Risk Reduction

- ❖ Leverage existing funding programs

## Implementation Workplan

- Implementation timelines for each activity/initiative will vary between immediate, short term (1-2 years), medium-term (2-5 years) and long-term (beyond 5 years).
- Ministries are working together to coordinate their efforts in implementing the activities/initiatives within the Strategy. The Flooding Strategy includes actions led by seven key ministries:  
MNR/MMAH/MOI/MTO/OMAFRA/MECP/SolGEN
- Periodic updates and announcements regarding the implementation status of activities/initiatives within the Strategy will be made.
- We will continue to engage Ontarians, including Conservation Ontario and member authorities, throughout the implementation phase of the Strategy. We would also be happy to come back to future CO Council meetings to discuss/present about the implementation of specific actions in the Flooding Strategy.



Thank you.

Contact: Jennifer Keyes  
Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch  
Policy Division, MNRF  
[jennifer.keyes@Ontario.ca](mailto:jennifer.keyes@Ontario.ca)

# fyi

January 2021

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

Twitter @UTRCMarketing

Facebook @UpperThamesRiverConservationAuthority



## Spring Tree Planting Season will be Busy!

UTRCA forestry staff have seen tremendous interest in our [2021 tree planting programs](#). Between the many recent site calls carried out by staff, ongoing landowner interest, and the plantings carried over from 2020 due to the pandemic, we may have reached our limit of available nursery stock!

To encourage tree planting, our staff have worked hard to secure opportunities for watershed landowners to offset some of the cost associated with most tree planting projects. As a result, many private land and community projects receive cost-sharing through funding from our local Clean Water Program, Trees Ontario grants, Ontario Power Generation, or West Perth Healthy Forests.

The projects planned for this spring include watercourse buffers, windbreaks, and naturalizing highly erodible and sensitive lands. These efforts will all help us reach our target of



establishing 1000 ha of natural vegetative cover in the upper Thames River watershed by 2032.

In time, the trees that are planted this spring will enhance the environment and everyone's quality of life by increasing wildlife habitat, protecting streams, controlling soil erosion, and improving water quality. We're looking forward to the perfect spring planting conditions!

Contact: [John Enright](#), Forester

## Sharing Christmas with the Animals

Every year, Wildwood Community Education staff look forward to offering Christmas programming in late November and early December. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to offer the program as usual in 2020.

Many of our preschool and primary classes book a year in advance, often immediately following their last visit. While no one could have predicted a global pandemic and the program cancellation was unavoidable, everyone was disappointed.



*Story time in the Spruce Grove.*

Rebecca Bomasuit, Director of the Avon Cooperative Nursery School in Stratford, wrote in an email, “You know what I just thought of: I’m worried that it isn’t going to feel like Christmas without hearing Vanni’s story first! It’s such a perfect way to start the holiday season for not only the children, but for [staff] as well! We love your program!”

Rebecca’s email motivated us to pivot and we were able to offer our Christmas program in a family and pandemic friendly format. Using our new Nature School area, called the Spruce Grove, we offered pre-registered families a chance to help Santa share Christmas with the wildlife by feeding the birds, finding food and shelter for the animals, and sharing a story by the outdoor fire. The weather was perfect and the atmosphere was magical!

Over the Christmas break, Rebecca sent us another email to book dates for December 2021. She also wrote that, “We had a few families attend the program you ran and it had rave reviews!” COVID-19 may have just inspired a new tradition at Wildwood.

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

## Research Studies on UTRCA Lands

Every year, UTRCA staff are approached by researchers, usually from local universities or provincial/ federal agencies, seeking permission to conduct field work on our lands and/or to partner with us. Having public lands available for environmental research greatly aids students, scientists, and researchers with their work.

Researchers, in turn, share their findings with us.

Here are a few examples of the type of research we’ve partnered in or permitted on our properties recently:

- Terrestrial arthropod (insect) monitoring at Wildwood Conservation Area (CA) by the University of Guelph’s Centre of Biodiversity Genomics;
- Several tree disease studies at our large CAs in cooperation with UTRCA staff, including work on Emerald Ash Borer with the Canadian Forestry Service, Oak Wilt Disease, Asian Longhorn Beetle with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Beech Leaf Disease with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and Butternut Canker with the Forest Gene Conservation Association;
- Black Duck banding at Wildwood CA by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS);
- Black-legged Tick surveys at Embro CA by the University of Guelph and the Public Health Agency of Canada;
- DNA research on Western Chorus Frogs at a few of our properties by CWS;



*UTRCA is working with the FGCA to preserve the endangered native butternut. The species is threatened by butternut canker, a fungal disease.*

- Wood Poppy research at Fanshawe CA by WSP Environmental Consultants;
- Drinking water treatment research using powdered activated carbon to remove cyanotoxins from blue green algae at UTRCA reservoirs, by the University of Waterloo;
- Echo-sounding to provide bathymetry of Fanshawe Reservoir bottom by the University of Waterloo in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada;
- Bog Fern inventories at Ellice Swamp by MNRF.

The full project list is quite long and doesn't include research that we initiate. These research partnerships benefit us all in our understanding of the natural world.

Contact: [Cathy Quinlan](#), Terrestrial Biologist

### **GREEN Leaders Initiative Goes Virtual!**

In January 2021, Brad Hertner (Community Partnership Specialist) and Julie Read (acting Fanshawe Community Education Supervisor) launched a new, virtual version of the GREEN Leaders Initiative. The UTRCA has been bringing this exciting environmental education and civic engagement program to grade 7 and 8 students for more than five years.

The GREEN Leaders Initiative is an innovative community action and problem solving process, developed by Earth Force. More than 300,000 students from across North America have participated in the program. Our Community Education and Partnerships staff are able to offer this leadership opportunity to students in the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) thanks to generous funding provided by the TVDSB and Start.ca internet company.

For the 2020-2021 school year, 17 classes are participating in GREEN Leaders. The students will go through a six-step process that takes them from identifying local environmental issues through to implementing a sustainable solution in their community.

The program is place-based, inquiry-based, and gives students opportunities to engage with community partners from various fields such as government, not-for-profit, and

business. The GREEN Leaders Initiative has been intentionally designed to develop students' global competency skills and to encourage the development of youth voices in the community.

Due to the pandemic, this year's GREEN Leaders Initiative program has gone virtual. Julie and Brad are meeting students in virtual classroom visits on a biweekly basis, and designing curriculum-based lesson plans and activities for students to complete in between visits.

In June, all the participating classes will be brought together virtually for a GREEN Leaders Student Summit. Students will be able to share their community actions, communicate what they learned during the program, and celebrate their successes with their peers.

Contact: [Julie Read](#), Community Education Supervisor (Fanshawe) (acting)

### **Upper Medway Update**

December 2020 saw the end of one of the projects taking place in the Upper Medway subwatershed. The three year project, funded by the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, was part of the ongoing initiative to investigate the impact of cover crops on water quality.

This project was unique in that it focused on the adoption of a single best management practice (cover crops) within a defined area (the Upper Medway subwatershed). An important outcome has been the establishment of overwinter cover on 70% of the acreage in the fall of both 2019 and 2020. It is unusual to have such a high percentage of acreage with ground cover over the winter, in southwestern Ontario.



Building and maintaining long term projects is important to help us understand the impact of best management practices on water quality. Cover crop demonstrations in the Upper Medway will continue with funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Check out the UTRCA website for more [information on cover crops](#).

Contact: [Tatianna Lozier](#), Agricultural Soil & Water Technician

### **Sensory Nature Hike for CNIB Deafblind Community Services**

After a blustery weekend, the weather was calm on November 16 for London CNIB Deafblind Community Services participants and their intervenors, who came to Fanshawe CA to go for a walk and experience nature with Community Education staff.

We started off by feeding the birds at the entrance of the Tamarack Trail. We gave some tips on how to hold their hands out with seeds, and in no time we had chickadees and nuthatches flying in to snack on the sunflower seeds! We even caught a glimpse of a gorgeous Red-bellied Woodpecker.



We continued our stroll to the top of Fanshawe Dam, where we shared historical information about the dam, as well as some local natural history. Our third stop was a little further into the park. We gave each participant a bag of nature items for them to explore using their senses, focusing on smell and touch.

Before we knew it, our time had come to an end! The participants and their intervenors were

all very happy with the afternoon outing, and appreciative of their new nature knowledge.

Contact: [Kim Gilbert](#), Community Education Specialist (Fanshawe)

### **ReKindle the Sparks Workshop**

Since 1994, educators from conservation authority across Ontario have been gathering at ReKindle the Sparks workshops to share, learn, and connect. In recent years, a ReKindle the Sparks conference has been held every November under the umbrella of the Watershed Interpreters' Network.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Latornell Conference shifted to a series of webinars offered from September to December. UTRCA education staff attended several of the webinars, including:

- creating successful environmental education during a pandemic,
- including the next generation in climate change decisions,
- land-based education and reconciliation,
- the scoop on benthic invertebrates.

A Virtual Campfire provided a forum to share ideas and programs that have been adapted or created to maintain programming and meet needs in the face of COVID-19. Much of the content from the campfire was presented again at a Latornell webinar focusing on communicating through a pandemic. The webinar was offered in partnership with the Watershed Interpreters' Network and the Conservation Areas Workshop.

UTRCA staff shared a version of the River Safety program that can be delivered virtually to Grade 2 students across the watershed. Staff have used this program to bring important water safety messages into local schools for more than 20 years.

Wildwood Nature School was shared as an "Ode to COVID," which was meant to capture the struggles and successes of launching a new program during a global pandemic:

COVID, you gave us time, so much time, to research, develop, share and consult about our vision for Wildwood Nature School.

COVID, you inspired us to diversify our programming, meet current trends and

demands in our area, and be new and fresh, although we are exhausted after a busy but very successful fall session.

COVID, you challenged us to be innovative and adapt activities and routines to meet the ever changing health and safety guidelines and public expectations. Ever. Changing.

COVID, you gave us the opportunity to build our relationship with conservation area staff who helped us create the Wildwood Nature School area, take registrations, and put up with us as we openly discussed and laughed about things in the building we are all now spread across, in order to stay socially distanced. Outdoor Environmental Educators tend not to be quiet people by nature.

COVID, you brought us home! You reconnected us with our roots, our childhood connections to nature, and our sense of whimsy and wonder!

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

### Cribwall Construction

The UTRCA's Conservation Services team started building a set of 11 timber cribs this week at the Fanshawe CA workshop. The cribs will be part of a 60 metre section of shoreline erosion control work along the north shore of Lake Victoria in Stratford.

The project adds to another section completed three years ago. The cribbing will provide a number of benefits in addition to stopping bank erosion, including biodiversity, aquatic habitat, and improved accessibility for pedestrians and wheelchair users.

A unique feature built into the site design is a canoe/ kayak launch aimed at improving accessibility to the lake for recreational paddlers.

The project is funded by the Stratford Energy and Environment Committee and the City of



Stratford. Work should be completed this winter. The project was planned and designed by UTRCA staff in partnership with the City of Stratford. Contact: [Craig Merkley](#), Conservation Services Specialist

### On the Agenda

The next UTRCA Board of Directors meeting will be a virtual meeting on January 26, 2021.

- Section 28 Status Report
- Pittock Reservoir Incident/Ice Condition Messaging/River Safety Education
- Fanshawe Conservation Area Cottage Program
- CA Unit – additional dollars for Hydro Upgrade
- Conservation Authorities Act Update – Bill 229
- Ontario Flood Strategy Summary
- 2021 Draft Budget: Municipal Feedback to Date
- Annual Meeting Details
- 2020 Elections: Chair, Vice-Chair, Hearings Committee (3 positions), Finance & Audit Committee (2-4 positions), Source Protection Striking Committee/Committee Liaison (1 position)

Draft agendas, audio recordings, and approved minutes are posted at [www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca) on the "Board Agendas & Minutes" page.

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