

**Meeting Notes**  
**Sifton Bog Master Plan Update**  
**Oakridge Secondary School, February 16, 2011**  
**Community Input**

**Presentations**

Conservation Master Plan Background & Wildlife Consultant Report - Bonnie Bergsma, Ecologist Planner, City of London [See Presentation](#)

Please also visit the Natural Resource Solutions Inc. Reports -  
[Sifton Bog White-Tailed Deer Management Study](#)  
[City of London City-Wide White-tailed Deer Management Strategy](#)

Vegetation Status Report - Bill DeYoung, Bradwill Ecological Consulting [See Presentation](#)

Environmentally Significant Area Team Report - Jason Belfry, ESA Operations Assistant  
UTRCA & Looking ahead to 2011 - Jeff Bruin, Parks Project Co-ordinator, City of London  
[See Presentation](#)

**Community Input (questions, comments, ideas)**

***Invasive Species***

- When Buckthorn is removed, will it be monitored & will other plants be added in?

Answer - Mixed forest communities will be targeted first as they are less sensitive. The large seed-bearing trees will be targeted first, and smaller plants in following years. Manual removal methods will be used. Replanting will be determined depending upon the size of the vacuum that is created. Selective planting will be done where needed. The biomass of the buckthorn may be chipped and put on the paths so as not to remove the biomass from the site.

***Budget***

- Will the Mayor's new budget influence the Sifton Bog budget of \$100.00?

Answer- So far, no cuts are proposed for 2011. There is no certainty for 2012 but there is good support for projects and there is lots to do. Currently, there is capital project funding for a few ESAs each year.

***Interpretation***

- Where is the exact location of the new kiosk on old Hyde Park Road?

Answer - This will be a foot traffic access point. Exact location has not been decided - considering across from Valetta.

***Trees***

- Please clarify the hazard tree policy.

Answer - Currently working with the City of London legal department to determine if some areas can be signed as "use at own risk" instead of managing hazard trees on all marked trails.

- Are there any plans to re-forest the southeast area of Sifton Bog where the Hickory trees have died?

Answer - This is not a high priority action at this time. The area will likely heal on its own in time.

### ***Property Ownership***

- What is happening with the privately-owned lands on the east side of Sifton Bog and is it developable?

Answer - No this area is not developable as it is zoned Open Space 5. The City of London is in consultation with the owner for potential transfer of this property to the City.

- Don't want people driving down Old Hyde Park Road

Answer - Eventually it will be closed in the future.

### ***Water***

- With the new development on the east side of Sifton Bog, where does the stormwater drain?

Answer - The stormwater ponds filter some sediments and then the water is transferred to the lag zone (swamp at the bottom of the slope). Only selected/cleaner water goes to the bog; other roadway runoff goes away from the bog to a stormwater facility at the front of the property. The older subdivisions to the south are not really starving the bog of water according to studies as the bog is mainly fed by precipitation landing directly on it. The domed shape of the peat bog helps to protect it from incoming runoff as well.

- Has a water-monitoring committee been formed yet?

Answer – Not yet but a committee is needed to follow up and get information on hydrology. Continuous monitoring is very important. Linda Nicks, UTRCA Hydrogeologist, continues to sample the wells but needs clarification on who to report to. The ESA Management Committee needs to move this item forward.

### ***Coyotes***

- People are concerned about coyotes. What has been the influx of coyotes?

Answer – The City of London staff met with MNR on this issue. Ben Hindmarsh is a coyote expert from MNR. There is a coyote protocol in place within London that includes tracking all coyote related calls by the City & police. This information then goes to MNR so they can track it and determine if there is an elevation of calls or if there is need for intervention. MNR is seeing a growing number of incidences of coyotes in the urban environment (mostly sightings and pet disappearances). Landowners can help by keeping their properties free of food sources (compost, tree fruit, garbage, and pets). Scaring coyotes off is the most effective control.