



New Campsite Reservation System Launched!

Conservation Areas (CA) staff launched a new reservation website on February 1. The site features a new and improved system for reserving campsites at Fanshawe, Pittock, and Wildwood CAs.

The new Camis 5 reservation system will be the reservation platform for the parks for the next decade plus. Customers will enjoy a more user friendly reservation and gift card system, that they can use to register egift cards to their account and view previous visits for site information.

New, interactive reporting capabilities replace the old, static system. Advanced reporting features will aid the accounting team tremendously. The system will also provide more detailed information regarding visitation numbers, which will help with our target of reaching one million customers a season.

Where the old system was only capable of one update per year, the new program can be updated several times in a season, as required. More features and capabilities can also be added to the program each year.

Contact: [Karen Sockett](#), Conservation Area Clerk, Wildwood CA



A back country campsite at Pittock CA.

Congratulations to Michael Funk!

Agricultural Soil and Water Quality Technician Mike Funk successfully defended his Masters thesis in front of a panel of academics at the University of Waterloo in January. Mike's thesis is entitled "Evaluation of Controlled Tile Drainage on Limiting Edge of Field Phosphorus Losses in a Clay Soil in a Cold Agricultural Region." Mike carried out the field work for the MSc degree at a site in the upper Medway Creek watershed.

The thesis results will help move the academic yardstick forward in finding ways to assist

farmers in reducing phosphorus to watercourses and utilize the nutrient for better crop yields. Mike is now set to present his work to interested groups and organizations. Well done, Mike!

Contact: [Mike Funk](#), Agricultural Soil and Water Quality Technician

Demonstration Farm Presentation

On January 26, Conservation Services Specialist Craig Merkley gave a [presentation on the UTRCA's Thorndale Demonstration Farm](#) at the [3rd Biannual St Clair Conservation Soil Health Conference](#). Organized by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, the conference offers talks by local farmers, researchers, and agronomists on tips, tools, and knowledge for building soil health that can be incorporated into farming systems.



Craig spoke about the new demonstration farm, and the implementation and evolution of agricultural best management practices in the Thames River watershed.

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

On the Board Agenda

The UTRCA Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on February 17, 2022. The following items are on the draft agenda:

- Review and Approval of the Factual Certificate
- 2022 Draft Budget
- 2022 Capital Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects
- Inventory of Programs and Services
- Section 28 Annual Service Delivery Report
- Conservation Authorities Act Update
- Service Awards
- Presentation of the 2022 Inspiration Award

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