

April 16, 2009

The Board of Directors Meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was held on the above date, at the Administration Office, in Strathroy, at the hour of 1:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Bilton, Diane Brewer, Tony Bruinink, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Elmer Douglas, Joe Faas, Norm Giffen, Peter Gilliland, Percival Heath, Carolyn Jamieson, Larry MacKenzie, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Jon McEachran, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Lonny Napper, John Phair

Absent: Kevin Marriott, Tom McGregor

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new directors, Carolyn Jamieson, who was unable to attend our Annual meeting due to weather and Peter Gilliland. Mr. Giffen requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within this agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest.

**BD-09-030**

**Bruinink - Burrell**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held February 19, 2009, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

The General Manager’s Report was presented:

- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation
  - Annual General Meeting on March 5, 2009. Highlights of the meeting include:
    - 2009---Celebrating 36 years supporting conservation in the St. Clair Region - Incorporated May 11, 1973
    - 2009 Board of Directors: (elected March 5, 2009)  
Duncan Skinner- President  
Lyn Goddard- Vice President  
Melvin Dale- Treasurer  
John Simmons, Ken Brooks, William Bilton, Shirley Warner, Ottavio Colosimo, Ted Butler, Rex Crawford, Lyn Goddard, Laura Margetts, Norm Giffen, John Mitchell.
  - Key programs:
    - Trees St Clair: Memorial Forest Program (4 funeral homes and individual program) 10,200 trees to date. Community Forestry Fund – school yards, municipal parks, public lands
    - Land Acquisition: Natural Areas Fund - to sustain non revenue producing natural areas. Acquiring 13 significant properties to date for the St. Clair Region (and area)
    - Conservation Education Fund: to sustain Conservation Education programs in the St Clair (supporting over 10,000 students annually), supplies, materials, staff support, conservation education capital (\$60,000 annually)
    - Scholarship Funds (Trust funds): A. W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship fund (2- \$1000 scholarships annually); Tony Stranak Scholarship Fund. (3 - \$200 scholarships annually).

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- Special Projects:
  - Bingo supporting conservation education, trails, tree planting, and outdoor recreation
  - Species at risk, research, education,
  - Partnership projects i.e. Enviro-Friends of Coldstream, Dresden Horticultural Society, Point Edward Waterfront
- Capital donations:
  - Outdoor Education Centre (refurbish 2007)
    - Visitor centre development for Conservation Area visitors (2008)
    - Cold storage for forestry (2008)
    - Workshop - A.W.Campbell Conservation Area (2009)
- 2008 Financial Highlights
  - Foundation Assets: as of December 31, 2008 (in brackets 2007 comparisons)
    - Capital Assets - Lands: \$2,595,476.00 (no change)
    - Restricted/Reserve Funds: \$861,869. (\$624,699.00)
    - General Fund: \$374,069 (\$400,812)
    - Revenue of: \$374,069. (\$159,923)
    - Expenditures/donations of: \$160,112. (\$84,348)
    - Net: \$ 210,167.00 (\$77,574)
  - 2008 Donations/Expenditures
    - \$ 131,493 to the Conservation Authority to support, Forestry, Outdoor Education and Conservation Area development.
    - \$9784 of Bingo funds spent to support the outdoor education and recreation programs and services of the Authority
    - \$18,835 donated for scholarships, general expenditures, transfer to other partners, i.e Dresden Horticultural Society, Enviro-Friends of Coldstream etc.
    - decrease in general funds of \$27,003
  - increase in restricted and reserve funds of \$237,170
  - the Foundation holds 13 properties with a market value at time of donation of \$2,595,476.00.
  - total assets of the Foundation- \$3,623,111.00
  - Scholarships: A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship This will provide 2- \$1000 scholarships to graduating secondary students. Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship will provide up to 3- \$200 scholarships. Eligible students can obtain information on line [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca).
  - 2009 Foundation budget was approved including their donation requirements to the Authority based on the Conservation Authority's 2009 budget.
  - 5 additional land donations under consideration/negotiation
  - \$65,000 in corporate donations to the Outdoor Education program
  - \$ 17,500 - Memorial forest programs continue with approximately \$20,000 in revenue
  - \$20,000- Land management (agricultural leases, oil and gas revenue to support the Authority programs)

- \$3000.00 - net income is used to support trail work, forestry, outdoor education etc. Net proceeds for 07 were approximately
- \$2000-\$3000 in special events such as the Canoe race
- \$3000 for Scholarship (5)
- many additional individual donations supporting various programs throughout the year.
- Capital Donations for 2009
  - \$35,000 towards the workshop at A.W. Campbell Conservation Area
  - \$14,275 for Species at Risk support.
- we will be pleased to provide details of any programs or initiatives at your request
- Audited statements are available at your request.

Note: Bates Trust (Stewardship) Fund: On April 3, 2009 we received an additional \$175,000.00 with the fund balance now at \$425,242.00

- 2009 Provincial Grant: 2009 Business Plan to MNR was submitted in December 2008. We anticipate similar grants as previous years from MNR for water management, operations etc. Approximately \$310,000.00. This amount has not changed since 1997. MNR has indicated they will transfer the fund in early May. Generally we do not see the transfer payments until late summer.
- Source Water Protection: report in section of the meeting. Funding for Thames Sydenham Source Protection program is being funded through transfer payments. The 2008/09 work plan has been submitted and remains competitive to meet the terms of the Clean Water Act.
- Conservation Ontario: the Annual General Meeting of Conservation Ontario will be held April 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. Elections will be held for Chair, Vice-Chairs and Board of Directors. Conservation Ontario has been instrumental in negotiating input to Source Protection Planning, requests for funding for infrastructure, partnerships with DFO, MNR grant funding for critical programs and facilities, new federal and provincial funding opportunities and Section 28 Generic Regulations.
- Staffing:
  - Conservation Areas/McKeough 12- Regular seasonal staff (varying terms and hours) (Superintendents, Maintenance Foremans, Security, Gatehouse) plus 25.
  - Experience Program (Provincial) 2 -7 weeks- beginning May. Park maintenance, dam inspections and clean up. \$4700.00 grant
  - Summer Job Service (Lambton College) supported \$2.00 per hour subsidy on 10 positions. (Lifeguards, park maintenance, visitor services- 3 regional C.A's) \$8000.00 grant) - approval received April 3, 2009
  - Tree Planting/Larvacide- 6 seasonal staff for tree planting/larvacide will be hired mid/late April to the end of August. (subject to approval of funding from Lambton Health Unit- West Nile application program)
  - Federal Job Creation Program has provided 7 positions for up to 52 weeks beginning in April. (Interviewing and accepting applications now) listed on website, newspapers. We have received approximately \$26,000 in additional grant funding to support the participants. Wage equivalent is \$109,000 grant.
  - Career Focus: Biological Technician - 21 weeks.. \$15,000 in salary funding. To begin late April, early may.

Note: These employment programs significantly reduce the cost of operating programs and services of the Authority. A list of all Authority regular, contract and seasonal staff is available

- Meetings/Special Events

April 2, Lambton Municipal Association meeting- Roger Galloway guest speaker- Camlachie  
 April 3, Source Water Protection Committee meeting - Admin office  
 April 9, Middlesex Municipal Association meeting- A Green Middlesex - Ailsa Craig  
 April 17, Breakfast meeting Maria Van Bommel, MPP and Bev Shipley MP- 7:30 am Fed/Prov budgets, local economy.. Chamber of Commerce sponsored - Caradoc Sands Golf Course  
 April 19, Sydenham Canoe Race – starts at Mossie Line, ends at Shetland C.A, Sunday  
 April 21, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sydenham River Clean Up, Strathroy - 200 students – 5 schools and community partners. (Rain date - April 30<sup>th</sup>)  
 April 23, Lambton County Rural Game Protective Association. - dinner  
 April 24, Management Committee re: Thames-Sydenham Source Water  
 April 25, Authority/Foundation display at the Chamber of Commerce Business Home and Leisure Show at Gemini Sportsplex.  
 April 27/28, Conservation Ontario, Annual General Meeting and Strategic Planning meetings Chair and GM, Toronto  
 May 1 Campgrounds open for the season – all services on.  
 May 13, Mayors Breakfast. Middlesex Community Living -Strathroy  
 May 24, Denning Bros. Memorial Forest Dedication, 2:00 pm - Strathroy  
 May 28, Sarnia - Lambton Environmental Association- Annual Review Meeting, Sarnia  
 June 7, Denning Funeral Directors Memorial Dedication – Forest - 2 pm, Arena/Community Centre.  
 June 11, Authority Board meeting -1:00 p.m.

**BD-09-031****Napper - Bilton****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report, dated April 6, 2009.”****CARRIED**

A number of updates and bulletins from Conservation Ontario were reviewed.

**BD-09-032****MacKinnon - MacKenzie****“The Board of Directors acknowledges the updates and bulletins from Conservation Ontario.”****CARRIED**

A Conservation Area Update was reviewed:

- Background:
  - the Conservation Authority owns 14 conservation areas in the watershed
  - of those 14 conservation areas, 6 are managed by the local municipality and 8 are operated by the Conservation Authority of these 8, 3 conservation areas are regional campgrounds which attract campers from primarily Southwestern Ontario our three regional campgrounds have over 500 campsites and 374 seasonal campers
  - total revenue at our three campgrounds was over \$ 800,000.00 up 21 percent, with net revenue in 2008 up 18 percent from 2007
  - our campgrounds are self sufficient and require no tax dollars to operate
  - profits obtained are used to offset capital improvements within these regional conservation areas

- Seasonal Camper Geographic Trends:  
A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:  
South Lambton & Kent County 25 %; West Middlesex 25 %; Alvinston, Inwood, Watford 23%,  
Central/Western Lambton County 12 %; Other 6%  
L.C. Henderson Conservation Area:  
Sarnia & Area 46 %; Petrolia 19%; South Lambton/Kent County 17 %; East Lambton 9 %, Essex  
6%; Other Ontario 2%; Michigan 1%  
Warwick Conservation Area:  
Sarnia & Area 42%; Watford, Forest, Wyoming, Alvinston 19%, London 9%, Petrolia, Oil Springs,  
Oil City 9%; West Middlesex 8%, South Lambton/Kent County 13%
- Henderson Conservation Area:
  - 19 existing unserviced campsites to be serviced with hydro, water, picnic tables and fire rings  
(if weather permits these sites will be available for the Victoria Day Weekend)
  - water service to be extended to the Lakeview picnic shelter and group camp area
  - 2 new portable washrooms have been purchased
  - campground roadways to be surfaced with gravel
- A.W. Campbell Conservation Area:
  - a 32 x 32 ft workshop to be constructed as a project of the St. Clair Region Conservation  
Foundation
  - main washroom building to be upgraded with aluminium facia and eave troughs
  - 5 overnight campsites to have hydro service relocated and positioned closer to the campsite
  - roadways to be surfaced with gravel
  - 2 sinks to be replaced in the main washroom building
  - 2 new portable washrooms have been purchased
- Warwick Conservation Area:
  - 4 new security lights to be installed on the main and pool washroom buildings
  - a new trailer dump station & septic system to be engineered and installed
  - sinks and counter tops to be upgraded in the pool washroom building
  - 2 new portable washrooms have been purchased
  - roadways to be surfaced with gravel
- Highland Glen Conservation Area:
  - Authority has received approval from MNR and DFO to dredge the harbour area and boat  
ramp so to provide a safe harbour and access to Lake Huron
  - staff have removed 3 large dead trees from the day use area and have completed a general  
spring cleanup of the conservation area
- Wawanosh Wetlands Conservation Area:
  - staff will continue to work with Ducks Unlimited to regulated water levels in the south pond,  
when water levels stabilize, the trail along the south shore with be re-established
  - staff have completed a general spring cleanup of the conservation area
  - the conservation area identification sign at the 402 highway will be upgraded this year
- Strathroy Conservation Area:
  - we continue to partnership with the municipality and the Strathroy Rotary Club to construct  
and extend trails within the community
  - a number of boardwalks have been re-established and repaired due to the extensive flooding  
which occurred in the conservation area and wetlands this year

- Clark Wright Conservation Area:
  - the property has been transferred to the adjacent landowner and all Authority equipment, etc. has been removed from the buildings

**BD-09-033****Miller - McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Areas Update, dated April 1, 2009, including capital development, 2009 staffing and grass cutting contracts.”**

**CARRIED**

A Staff Report on the monthly activity summary from the Watershed Services Department was discussed.

- Drinking Water Source Protection
  - Tier 1 Water Budget
  - BMP Cost Benefit Analysis / Caradoc Well Field Research Project
  - Groundwater Wells Under Direct Influence (GUDI) - research and intake zone delineation
- Flood Forecast & Warning
  - Flood forecasting, advisories and warnings, streamflow & precipitation data collection
  - Streamgauge maintenance
  - Flood monitoring
  - Graphic Flood Stage Mapping
  - Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network precipitation gauge maintenance and repair
  - February 2009 Flood Impact Survey - data collection
- Low Water Response
  - Preparing background information report for MNR Low Water Condition Reporting
  - Update monthly summaries
- Reforestation / Conservation Services
  - Site visits and plan development for 3 tree planting projects
  - Tray seeding at Lambton College with Middlesex Stewardship and Horticulture class - seeded 8 trays of oak and 2 tray of Black cherry
  - Planting plans for Evergreen application for around Strathroy
  - Ordered 470 trees and shrubs for spring planting
- Forestry
  - 4 Inventories of Conifer plantation and prescriptions for ABCA
  - 3 Private land inventories and 2 woodlot marks 87 acres
  - Marked and sold blowdown trees at the McPhail and Sinclair properties - approximately 62 trees
- Conservation Services Workshop
  - Constructed workbench and storage shelving
  - Organising and putting away equipment in the building
  - Minor finishing should be complete by end of April
- Waste Management Warwick Landfill
  - Preparation for fall planting as well as scheduling of further phases
  - Planted over 100 large stock trees and shrubs as well as bareroot seedlings
- Drain Maintenance Program
  - Cattails and Phragmites spraying for St. Clair Township 1.8 km
- McKeough Dam & Upstream Lands
  - McKeough Dam gate closure and opening operations

- Prescribed burn site preparations - Properties 6, 56 & 80
- Structural erosion control inspections - channel, upstream & managed properties
- Maintenance and repairs to equipment from flood event and winter season
- Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects
  - Guthrie Park Shore Restoration - Construction
  - Mooretown Waterfront Park Flank Protection - Construction
  - Applications for 2009-2010 projects
- Project Management
  - Mission Park Shore Restoration - Construction
- Species At Risk / Best Management Practices Projects
  - Woodlands SAR Inventory Phase II - Final Reporting
  - Sydenham River HSP - Project presentations, budget revisions, project planning and reporting (BM, SS, TP)
  - Rural Lambton Stewardship Network - meetings and project presentations
  - Site visits for BMP grant application preparation

**BD-09-034****Douglas - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the monthly activity summary from the Watershed Services Department for February and March 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on water levels, current and flood conditions was presented.

- Precipitation and Water Levels: precipitation comparisons between 2008 and 2009 for the months of February and March indicate little change in overall precipitation with 92mm (3.62 inches) and 79mm (3.11 inches) respectively for 2008 as compared to 77mm (3.03 inches) and 89mm (3.5 inches) respectively for 2009. The most notable change relates to the impact of significant rainfall events such as the period of February 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> when almost 70mm (2.75 inches) of rain fell over a 3 day period combining with existing snowpack. As a result no less than 5 flood advisories were issued together with activation on the McKeough Floodway in order to reduce the risk of significant flooding in downstream areas. Temperatures have moderated to seasonal levels over March the decreased incidence of heavy rainfall has been noted with the exception of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Snow pack was reduced to zero over this period further alleviating flood risk however all water courses continued to remain high between 75% and 100% of the channel capacity. Precipitation recorded at rain gauges indicated 113% of the long term average for both the North Branch and East Branch for both February and March.
- Streamflows: as noted earlier significant rain events coupled with snowmelt resulted in high volume flows throughout the watershed following the significant thaw in mid- February. Through careful monitoring of conditions including ice breaking operations and activation of the floodway, the potential impact of levels at Wallaceburg was greatly reduced but still significant due to ice and high flows resulting from rain and meltwater. Levels at Wallaceburg gauge peaked at 176.15 metres (577.92 feet) resulting in flood conditions which have since abated to normal seasonal conditions. Conditions throughout the remainder of the watershed remain high due to runoff from fields contributing to already full drains and adjacent watercourses although moderating temperatures throughout March has slowed this process to some degree.

- Weather Forecasts -
  - 1 – 5 days - clearing with seasonable temperatures
  - 5– 10 days - below average temperatures with changeable conditions including rain over extended periods
  - May - sunny and warmer with slightly increased rain. Cooler near the end of the month
  - Summer - cooler and drier with warmest temperatures in mid to late June and early July.
- Flood Threat: a decreasing flood threat is identified over the next month as the watershed drains and without snowpack conditions present, the watershed will gain some capacity to respond to rainfall events. However higher anticipated rainfalls during April may impact on current higher levels especially if rain is concentrated over short periods

**BD-09-035****McEachran - Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2009 on the current watershed conditions and Great Lakes water levels.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on the Healthy Watersheds programs was discussed:

- Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship Program (Environment Canada and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Species at Risk (SAR) applications pending)
  - Year 9 (2008-2009) applications were approved for \$260,625 (combined)
    - Projects approved for 2008-2009 include:
      - a Project Review Committee meeting approved 8 wetland construction or enhancement projects; 2 streambank stabilization and naturalization projects; 1 water well decommissioning; 12 riparian buffer plantings along watercourses; 2 septic system replacements
      - other projects included: 50,700 annual newsletters being distributed across the watershed this month, public service announcements broadcast on A-Channel, educational programming in the classroom and on-site, turtle nesting habitat enhancement, Landowner contact and followup programs as well as overall project administration
      - MNR SAR grant program final reports were submitted to MNR in February
      - Final reports are to be completed this month for Environment Canada funding - program audit to be completed later in early May
    - Year 10 (2009-2010) applications have been submitted to both Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for a combined grant of \$283,225
- St. Clair Area Of Concern Tree and Buffer Planting (Great Lakes Renewal Foundation)
  - funded at the conclusion of the Foundation’s business, \$37,000 in grant has been forwarded to assist in the planting and maintenance of tree and buffer projects in the St. Clair River Area of Concern
  - a portion of this grant was for the maintenance of existing plantings at Bowens Creek and Terra
  - the remaining funding has been allocated to projects on private and public lands in the AOC
  - a final report is required for the project in June

**BD-09-036**

**MacKenzie - Jamieson**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2009, on the Healthy Watersheds programs across the watershed.”**

**CARRIED**

A Staff Report on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects was presented.

- several projects will be wrapped up this spring with the final landscaping treatments adjacent projects being completed
- plans for LC Henderson Weir #2 are still being review as the recommended decommissioning of the structure would require significant changes to the operations of the Conservation Area - a final report is expected this summer
- weather conditions did not permit the Watercourse Obstruction Removals to take place this winter - opportunities will be investigated for works this summer - however projects are expected to be postponed until next winter
- applications for grants were made for the following projects under Round 1 funding for 2009-2010:
  - ARDA Dykes - Repair - Hazard Tree Removal Wren Line - Total \$19,000 - Grant Request \$9,500
  - Coldstream CA Dam - Sluiceway Control Structure Safety Railing - Total \$8,750 - Grant Request \$4,375
  - Seagar Park Erosion Control Project - Drain and Outlet Repairs - Total \$12,000 - Grant Request \$6,000
  - McKeough Dam - Highway 40 Drain Outfall Erosion Repair - Total \$32,000 - Grant Request \$16,000
  - McKeough Dam - Diversion Berm Erosion Repair - Total \$31,000 - Grant Request \$15,500
  - McKeough Dam - Watercourse Obstruction Removal (Black Creek) - Total \$12,000 - Grant Request \$6,000
  - Centennial Park Erosion Control Project - Safety Railing, Splash Pad & Drainage Improvements - Total \$31,000 - Grant Request \$15,500
  - Courtright Waterfront Park Erosion Control Project - Repair - Safety Repairs & Shoreline Improvement - Total \$80,000 - Grant Request \$40,000
  - Guthrie Park Erosion Control Project - Repair - Shore Protection Revitalization Phase II - Total \$900,000 - Grant Request \$450,000
  - Sarnia Erosion Control Project - Repair - Shore Protection Repair - Total \$90,000 - Grant Request \$45,000
  - LC Henderson Weir #2 - Repair - Dam Decommissioning - Total \$98,000 - Grant Request \$49,000
  - Cathcart Park Erosion Control Project - Erosion Protection Revitalization Study - Total \$64,000 - Grant Request \$32,000
  - All Dams - Dam Safety Review - Total \$23,000 - Grant Request \$11,500
- reviews of the submitted projects have been completed and a list of approved projects is expected later this month
- verbal confirmation has been received regarding the Guthrie Park Erosion Control Project - which has been approved with a total project value of \$425,000 - with continuing priority for Phased projects in the future
- 2005 - 2006 WECI Projects

- Weir #2 (LCH) - Decommissioning / Revitalization Plan - Phase II of the Plan is underway including a review of the environmental impacts and impacts on Conservation Area activities - investigating opportunities to partner with Ducks Unlimited
- 2006 - 2007 WECI Projects
  - Sarnia Seaway Centre Erosion Control Project - Flank Protection Phase I - works in progress
- 2007 - 2008 WECI Projects
  - Guthrie Park - Shore Protection Revitalization Phase I - works in progress
  - McKeough Dam - Watercourse Obstruction Removal - weather conditions were not satisfactory to undertake works this winter - minors works this fall - will target winter work and hope that conditions permit work
  - Mooretown Centennial Park - Flank Protection - project has been tendered - Tenders will close on December 10<sup>th</sup> -
  - Sarnia Seaway Centre Erosion Control Project - Flank Protection Phase II - works in progress
- 2008 - 2009 WECI Projects
  - ARDA Dyke - Erosion Repairs & Vegetation Removal - to be completed in fall as weather conditions did not permit works to be completed in spring
  - McKeough Dam - Drop Structure Crack Repair Phase II - to be completed in summer as temperatures must be above 5 degrees celsius for several days following surface treatment application

**BD-09-037****Miller - Douglas**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2009 on the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Projects across the watershed.”**

**CARRIED**

A Staff Report on the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project reviewed:

- construction of the new armour stone and rip rap revetment is all but complete
- the placement of stone at the toe of the revetment began behind the existing wall in December
- an inexperienced contractor worked through a cold and snowy winter and had the entire toe of the revetment in place by March 1<sup>st</sup>
- the existing, failing steel sheet pile wall was removed between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> and all in water works were completed on March 13<sup>th</sup> prior to the deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup>
- in the last 3 weeks the contractor has been placing the armour stones in the upper portion of the revetment and adjusting access stairs
- the contractor will now focus on reshaping the bank to achieve a suitable slope from the existing park area to the cap of the revetment
- the contract permitted the contractor 60 working days to undertake the work - the contractor has surpassed this number of working days and will be assessed liquidated damages in order to compensate for the additional costs of the project taking additional time to be completed
- the project is within the project budget

**BD-09-038****McEachran - Faas****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2009 on the Guthrie Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project.”****CARRIED**

A Staff Report on the Mission Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project was presented.

- construction began on the site on November 27<sup>th</sup>
- spiles from the footprint on the structure were removed
- armour stone and rip rap were placed to create a revetment both upstream and downstream of the law office building which overhangs the waterfront
- 2 viewing platforms were located within this phase of work - each had a new concrete cap poured to encase the cap of the existing retaining wall and then a safety railing was erected on the new concrete cap
- during construction, City of Sarnia staff requested a review of failing erosion protection measures around the foot of the ferry dock
- placement of additional rip rap was recommended and was undertaken as an extension of the existing work using the same values for rip rap
- all work on site was completed in early March
- 30 working days were provided for completion of the project under the contract - again an inexperienced contractor and a cold and snowy winter contributed to the project being completed in well over the provided working days - therefore liquidated damages will be charged against the project for additional cost incurred in completion of the project
- remaining works include the reconstruction of a portion of the parking lot north of the law office and minor landscaping along the back side of the protection

**BD-09-039****Bruzewicz - Miller****“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2009 on the Mission Park Shore Protection Revitalization Project.”****CARRIED**

A report on the new Provincial Regulations banning the pesticides for cosmetic purposes was discussed:

- “Ontario’s cosmetic pesticides ban takes effect April 22, 2009. The ban protects Ontario families and children from the unnecessary risks of cosmetic pesticides by only allowing the use of certain lower-risk pesticides for controlling weeds and pests in lawns and gardens. The ban prohibits the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes on lawns, gardens, parks and school yards, and includes many herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. Over 250 products will be banned for sale and more than 80 pesticide ingredients will be banned for cosmetic uses.”
- “There are exceptions for public health or safety reasons such as fighting West Nile Virus, killing stinging insects like wasps, or controlling poison ivy and other plants poisonous to the touch. Other exceptions include agriculture and forestry.” (taken from March 4, 2009 News Release from the Ministry of Environment)
- Lambton County Larvicide - as specifically noted above – this ban will not impact the application of larvicide to control mosquitos as part of a program to control West Nile Virus
- Reforestation / Tree Planting - the use of herbicides to assist in permitting tree establishment as well

- as the control of invasive species is exempt from this ban
- Drain Management - we are awaiting confirmation from the Ministry of Environment, however it appears that the maintenance of drains will fall under the agricultural exemptions for this ban and will therefore not have an impact on our current practices
  - Recreation Area Management
    - Recreation areas have been treated in the past with herbicides for cosmetic purposes
    - Parking lot, post and cable and trail maintenance treatments at McKeough Dam, McKeough Outlet, Nicholls Memorial Forest, Moore Wildlife Management Area, Perch Creek Habitat Management Area and Dow Wetlands will be modified to meet the requirements of this ban by changing control methods or the use of organic pesticides

**BD-09-040****Bilton - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 6, 2009 on the impact of the new Provincial Regulations banning the pesticides for cosmetic purposes.”**

**CARRIED**

Correspondence dated November 25, 2008 from the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, confirming Associate Membership to Tim Payne, was reviewed. The Board passed along their congratulations to Tim.

**BD-09-041****Burrell - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the correspondence dated November 25, 2008 from the Ontario Professional Foresters Association confirming Associate Membership to Tim Payne, Forest Management Technician.”**

**CARRIED**

Minutes of the February 28 and March 31, 2009 Regulations Committee meetings were reviewed.

**BD-09-042****MacKinnon - Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and concurs with the Regulations Committee Reports on *“Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses”* Regulations (Ontario Regulation 171/06), dated February 28, 2009 and March 31, 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

Planning Activity Summary Report for February and March 2009 was reviewed.

**BD-09-043****McMillan - Faas**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s monthly Planning Activity Summary Reports for February and March 2009.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on Endangered Species and operational impacts on Conservation Authority programs, services and lands was presented. Muriel Andreae, Biologist, presented a power point presentation explaining how the

new act will impact our programs.

- new provincial legislation for Endangered Species was enacted on June 30 2008
- for species protection it now prohibits killing, harming, harassing, capturing, taking, possessing, transporting, collecting, buying, selling, trading or leasing all species that the province lists as threatened, endangered or extirpated
- for habitat protection it prohibits damaging or destroying habitat of endangered or threatened species
- species that are listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern (collectively “Species at Risk” or SAR) occur on many of our properties and in many watershed woodlands
- this means that effective last June, there are trees, plants and animals on our properties and in our watershed which cannot be “harmed or harassed” without an MNR Permit or agreement
- for 42 species including the Drooping Trillium (Strathroy C.A.) and Spoon-leaved moss (Bowen’s Creek property), we cannot “damage” their habitat without a Permit
- for most of the listed species the legislation only affects the organism itself, right now
- on or before June 30 2013, the legislation will be in effect for the habitat of all 86 Endangered and Threatened SAR species
- two staff, Chris Durand and Muriel Andreae, will be able to access some of the MNR records and therefore assist in screening projects, but each department needs to anticipate some challenges. The legislation is new and wide-ranging, plus the species list may change several times a year
- our only experience so far is Ron Gould’s response for a potential roadside brushing project at the Bates Wetland. Ron indicated 6 SAR occur in the project site, and 2 more SAR nest nearby – his comments included “Work would have to be undertaken before April 15 or after October 31”
- What does this mean for our Conservation Areas?
  - effective last June, there are species of plants and animals on our properties which cannot be “harmed or harassed” without a permit including:
    - Kentucky Coffee-tree (Threatened species) planted at Campbell, Clark Wright, Henderson, McKeough, Nicholls Memorial Forest, Shetland, Strathroy CA, Strathroy Wetland and Wawanosh
    - American Chestnut (Endangered species) planted at Sinclair, Henderson and McKeough
    - Kentucky Coffee-tree occurring naturally at several McKeough Upstream properties (39/41, 84 and 87/92)
    - Dwarf Hackberry (Threatened) which is widespread at the Lambton County Heritage Forest
- staff can get copies of the SAR Property maps from the 2008 SAR Report written by Donald Craig and Chris Mills
- permits are necessary to remove or transplant these species, or to collect seed from them
- Butternut trees (Endangered species) with canker can be harvested, but permits are needed for working with healthy ones
- projects such as re-routing an existing trail, extending a boardwalk or bridge or creating new campsites on our properties should be “Screened” by MNR because these projects may affect other SAR including some birds (especially on the nest) and reptiles (either eggs or when hibernating)
- we will need to send the project description and a site map to Ron Gould [ron.gould@ontario.ca](mailto:ron.gould@ontario.ca) or Melody Cairns [melody.cairns@ontario.ca](mailto:melody.cairns@ontario.ca) at MNR; they will screen the site location, tell us whether we need a Permit or Agreement, and what conditions must be met
- What does this mean for our Tree planting program?
  - a Permit is now required in order to buy, transport, transplant or cut listed species, such as Blue ash and Kentucky Coffee-tree
  - once the habitat provisions apply, MNR indicated projects involving tree planting into existing

- vegetation should be Screened by MNR
  - e.g. a meadow may be Henslow's Sparrow habitat (Threatened species) and a roadside fencerow with a rock pile may be Eastern Foxsnake (Threatened) or Hog-nosed Snake (Threatened) habitat
  - if we plant into known habitat, we are liable for damages
- What about Tree-marking and Logging? Collecting tree seed?
  - Permits or Agreements are now necessary to log or to collect seed from listed species (like Shumard oak, Blue Ash, Kentucky Coffee-tree), except for Butternut with canker
  - once the habitat provisions apply, subject woodlots should be screened by MNR since many woodlots in our region provide habitat for SAR birds, reptiles and herbaceous plants – logging guidelines may be affected
- What does this mean for Stewardship projects?
  - once the habitat provisions apply, projects which will affect existing habitat should be Screened by MNR
  - e.g. creating a wetland in an old meadow may affect Henslow's Sparrow habitat (Threatened species)
- What does this mean for Drain and tree spraying and maintenance programs?
  - Aquatic SAR like Blackstripe Topminnow (Special Concern) occur in some of our drains so we continue to be liable if we damage aquatic SAR or their habitat
  - many snakes, frogs, toads and turtles use the water/land interface for basking or egg-laying. Many of them are now protected species including Eastern Foxsnake (Threatened) and Hog-nosed Snake (Threatened). They themselves and their eggs cannot be harmed, and within five years their habitats will be regulated.
- Other important information
  - habitat protection will be phased in over a 5-year period for some extirpated, endangered or threatened species. Protected habitat is either based on the general definition in the Act or prescribed through a Regulation. The 42 species listed in the previous provincial Endangered Species Act, had "general habitat protection" on June 2008.
  - habitat protection for other species will be phased in, starting with ten species which will have specific habitat regulation by June 30 2009 including Barn Owl, American Badger and Peregrine Falcon
  - MNR indicated that before June 30 2009 they will provide habitat mapping for these ten species to the affected landowners, municipalities and the conservation authorities.
- an additional 130 species will have either specific habitat regulation over the next four years or they will by default all have general habitat regulation by June 30, 2013
- the species protection applies effective June 30, 2008 for all endangered or threatened species with some exemptions related to species such as Butternut and American Ginseng
- MNR can add more species to the ESA list at any time, and even multiple times a year. The proponent of any project is responsible for finding out which species are listed for protection e.g. Eastern Flowering Dogwood was added to the list on February 20 2009
- habitat protection applies even if the trees are planted or the area is "naturalized" or a garden or park, so the legislation will apply to our planted Chestnuts and Kentucky Coffee-trees.
- MNR can issue Permits or write Agreements under Section 17, to allow something which would otherwise be prohibited under Section 9 or 10
- MNR is still investigating a "Safe Harbour" clause for stewardship activities, where a landowner can return lands to agricultural use even if stewardship activities create endangered species habitat

- MNR's stated goal is to use stewardship rather than enforcement to protect Species at Risk, but the penalties for violations are steep and apply to both the individual (possible fine of up to \$250,000) and the employer (possible fine of up to \$1,000,000 and imprisonment up to one year).
- stewardship programs available from Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association under Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP)
- for more information and the current list of species visit the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk website: [www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk)
- for the full Endangered Species Act and associated Regulations visit: [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

**BD-09-044****Jamieson - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 7, 2009 on Endangered Species and operational impacts on Conservation Authority programs, services and lands.”**

**CARRIED**

A Staff Report on the St. Clair River AOC Watershed Plan was explained.

- Background - the March 2008-March 2009 phase involved utilizing the federally/provincially approved COA (Canada Ontario Agreement) Framework to assess the contaminated sediment and identify potential effects on sediment-dwelling aquatic organisms, and the potential for biomagnifications in higher trophic levels. This work was carried out by a consultant (ENVIRON International). SCRCA participates on the Technical Team and receives funds for administering the project.
- Update: the report carried out by ENVIRON International is complete.  
Key points are:
  - an assessment of the risk from biomagnification was required upon review of other parameters. Risk from biomagnification occurring.
  - zones of sediment management were prioritized based on risk to fish for which significant risk from biomagnification was found. Map is included in the attached Executive Summary.
  - the most important zones for sediment management were immediately upstream and downstream of the scoured area.
  - Further sediment stability investigations within focused regions is needed to determine potential subsurface sediment risk. Some of the currently buried contaminated sediment is quite extensive.
- Recently completed and next steps:
  - Authority staff have submitted all budget/reporting requirements to Environment Canada for 2008-2009 funds. Submitted proposal for 2009-2010.
  - Communications subcommittee to be set up for 2009 and beyond.
  - 2009-2010 phase will include sediment stability investigations and evaluation of various sediment management options. The COA Framework ENVIRON study which identified the contaminants of greatest concern will be heavily relied upon. Proven sediment management options to be evaluated shall include, but not be restricted to: Monitored Natural Recovery; Enhanced Monitored Natural Recovery, In-situ Capping, and; Sediment Removal by Environmental Dredging or Excavation.

**BD-09-045**

**McEachran - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 1, 2009 on the St. Clair River AOC Sediment Study update.”**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on the Watershed plan was reviewed.

- in 2008-2009, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was provided funds to undertake a Watershed Plan for Area 1-A.. Completing a Watershed Plan was a recommended action to aid in addressing BUI’s (Beneficial Use Impairments). As you may be aware, restoring beneficial use impairments identified in the St. Clair RAP (Remedial Action Plan) will lead to delisting the AOC. The St. Clair Area 1-A has been divided into 11 subwatersheds.

**BD-09-046**

**Napper - Bilton**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the progress report dated April 1, 2009 on the St. Clair River AOC Watershed Plan.”**

**CARRIED**

A report on the Dresden Regulations Open House was discussed. The directors thanked Brian, Jeff, Ashlea and Joel for attending the Open House.

**BD-09-047**

**Faas - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated March 30, 2009 on the Dresden Regulations Open House.”**

**CARRIED**

Authority revenue and expenditures to March 31, 2009, were reviewed.

**BD-09-048**

**McMillan - Gilliland**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the revenue and expenditure report to March 31, 2009, as it relates to the budget.”**

**CARRIED**

January, February and March 2009 disbursements totaling \$1,399,634.68 were considered.

**BD-09-049**

**Douglas - Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors approves the January, February and March 2009 disbursements as presented in the amount of \$1,399,634.68.”**

**CARRIED**

A status report on general levy received to date was discussed. Approximately 59% of the general levy has been paid to date.

**BD-09-050**

**Faas - Bruinink**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the status report on the 2009 general levy receipts to date.”**

**CARRIED**

A Status Report on Honourarium/Per Diem and Travelling Allowances for directors for 2008 was discussed.

**BD-09-051**

**MacKenzie - Burrell**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Status Summary report on directors’ expenses from January 1 to December 31, 2008.”**

**CARRIED**

A Communications Progress Report was presented.

- Employment Programs
  - Career Focus - this is the first year the Conservation Authority has applied for funding from this new federal program. We were successful in obtaining a \$15,000 grant to hire a Biological Technician for 21 weeks.
  - Summer Job Service - approval was received for this provincial program for a \$2.00 per hour subsidy for 10 summer positions (total grant \$8,000).
  - Summer Experience Program - this is a provincial program. Two positions were approved for 2009 for 7 weeks (\$4,700 grant)
  - Job Creation Partnership - the Conservation Authority was successful in its application for 7 positions through the Job Creation Partnership Program provided by the Ontario Ministry of Skills, Development and Training. This program will provide \$109,000 in participant compensation and \$26,000 in support costs. The positions approved are:
    - 1 Education Assistant - 37 weeks
    - 2 Land Management Technicians - 34 weeks
    - 1 Conservation Technician - 51 weeks
    - 3 Park Management Technicians - 34 weeks
- Job Fairs - the Conservation Authority participated in Employer in Hall at Lambton College on March 19. On March 24, we participated in the Middlesex Job Fair held at the Gemini Centre in Strathroy. These events provided us with the opportunity to talk with students and seek employees for the above positions.
- Species at Risk Newsletter - the seventh annual Species at Risk Newsletter will be distributed to over 50,000 households in the St. Clair region. The newsletter highlighted many of the Authority species at risk programs that are made available thanks to funding from the federal and provincial governments. The newsletters are scheduled to be distributed in mid-April.
- Conservation Scholarships - notices have been distributed to all secondary schools in the region promoting our scholarship program. The program combines two scholarships - the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship and the A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship. This year there will be two \$1,000 scholarships and three \$200 scholarships available.
- Conservation Authorities Annual Bonspiel - the St. Clair Region and Upper Thames River Conservation Authorities hosted the annual provincial Conservation Authorities Bonspiel in

Ingersoll on March 28. Sixteen teams participated from all over Ontario including two teams from the St. Clair (we did not win but we had fun). \$1,200 was raised at the bonspiel and donated to SARI, a local therapeutic riding organization that provides handicapped children an opportunity to learn to ride horses.

**BD-09-052**

**Faas - MacKenzie**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Communications Report, dated April 3, 2009, including employment programs, Job Fair, Species at Risk Newsletter, Conservation Scholarships and provincial CA bonspiel.”**

**CARRIED**

A Conservation Education Report was reviewed.

- Maple Syrup Festival - beautiful weather attracted 1,800 people to the Sugar Bush on March 21 & 22 where the public learned about the historical methods of tapping trees, collecting sap and boiling it to make “Liquid Gold”. A busy Sugar Bush program was popular with area students during the month of March. 467 students attended the program which kept 3 staff busy throughout the month of March.
- In School Programs - during January and February, programs sponsored by the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association and the SCRCA continued to be very successful. All programs are tied closely to the school curriculum and are very popular with area teachers.
 

Go with the Flow:	792
River Bottom Critters:	1,431
Endangered Species	222
River Rap	<u>284</u>
Total	2,729
- The new River Rap program was a huge success! Thanks to the sponsorship of Friends of the St. Clair River, 11 classes were able to learn all about the beneficial use impairments to the St. Clair River and what Remedial Actions are being taken to delist the river as an area of concern. The highlight of the program is our new River RAP song that allows students to learn and explore new ways to express their concerns about our environment.
- Arbor Week Committee - the Sarnia Lambton Arbor Week Committee is continuing its conservation and tree planting projects in Lambton County in 2009. In the past, committee members have worked with community volunteers to plant trees at different sites in the county. During the spring of 2009, trees will be planted in Brights Grove at the Huron House Boys Home. The Boys Home provides a safe and structured residential environment for adolescent boys with complex needs. The boys will be participating in the planting as a part of their activities which will help to provide some ownership of the trees. The planting of 50 large stock, native trees will go towards the reduction of greenhouse gases and global warming, as well as providing shade for clients at the Boys Home.
- Forests for Life - Lambton College Horticultural students assisted forestry and education staff in planting 12 trays of Red Oak acorns and Black Cherry seed . 95% of the seeds have germinated and are growing well. They will continue to be grown at the College Greenhouse for 10 weeks until planted outside. The trees will later be sold to community members. “Forests for Life” is a greening initiative specifically for urban settings.

- Young Naturalist Club - the Senior Young Naturalists participated in Geocaching on February 14<sup>th</sup>. A beautiful winter's day provided the backdrop for this new learning experience. Students were taught to input co-ordinates into their GPS receivers. By using the "navigation page" they were led to pre-set locations, including the Species at Risk Sign. Information on the sign provides answers to a variety of questions on the corresponding work sheet. The Young Naturalists March 7<sup>th</sup> event was certainly a wet one but it didn't dampen the spirits as they generously cleaned the trails at Henderson Conservation Area of garbage and built habitat shelters out of fallen branches in the woods.
- Presentations - Friends of the St. Clair, BPAC and Ontario Nature members all had the chance to view the River Rap in the month of March. In addition, an Aquatic and Woody Species at Risk presentation was also delivered to Ontario Nature Members and Lambton Wildlife at their indoor meetings.
- Professional Development - the Education Technician completed a Level 1 Global Positioning System (GPS) Certification Course in London at Fanshawe Conservation Area held by Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Certification of GPS will allow staff to design a credit program for high school students. A new after school credit program is being initiated by the School Board and GPS certification of high school students qualifies for the program.
- Sydenham River Canoe Race - the Annual Sydenham River Canoe Race continues to attract both recreational and competitive racers to this Conservation Education fund raising event.

**BD-09-053****Miller - Burrell**

**"That the Board of Directors acknowledges the Conservation Education Report, dated April 1, 2009, including, maple syrup festival, in-school programs, harbour week committee, forests for life, young naturalists, professional development and the Sydenham River Canoe Race."**

**CARRIED**

A staff report on the annual project tour was considered.

- each year the Conservation Authority offers members of the board and our partner municipalities an opportunity to attend a project tour highlighting a number of our projects, programs and properties. These tours are designed to provide a more in-depth look at specific items and provide a better understanding by actually visiting the projects. Should the board wish to continue these tours in 2009, we are proposing two options:
  - Option 1 - Boat Tour - this tour would highlight the shoreline projects undertaken in the City of Sarnia and St. Clair Township and include presentations on BPAC, Friends of the St. Clair River and the St. Clair River Sediment Study. The 2-hour tour would be in the morning of June 11 followed by the regular SCRCA board meeting in the afternoon (location to be determined – possibly Sarnia City Hall). The boat tour would allow us to invite more people (last time we held a boat tour attendance was 145 people)  
 Cost:  
 Boat Charter (2 hours) - \$1,100  
 Food for 145 @ \$8.00 per person- \$1,160  
 Total \$2,260  
 Receive significant sponsorship to partly cover cost from ShorePlan Engineering, looking for additional sponsors (contractors and AOC funders)

- Option 2 - Bus Tour - this tour would also highlight the same projects but could include the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area and other in-land projects. Due to the availability of buses, the tour would be held on the morning of June 25. Maximum capacity for the bus is 55.  
Cost:  
Bus Charter (3 hours) - \$1,000  
Lunch for 50 @ \$8.00 per person - \$400  
Total \$1,400
- Last Year's Tour - north-eastern part of region (Strathroy, Coldstream CA, Warwick CA, A.W. Campbell CA)

**BD-09-054**

**Burrell - Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the April 2, 2009 report on the annual project tour and further recommends Option 1, the boat tour.”**

**CARRIED**

The meeting went In Camera to discuss personnel issues.

**BD-09-055**

**Douglas - Bilton**

**“That the Board of Directors go in camera at 2:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues with the General Manager remaining.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-056**

**MacKenzie - Miller**

**“That the Board of Directors rise and report at 2:23 p.m.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-057**

**Burrell - McMillan**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated April 7, 2009 on the Request for Proposals and Offer of Service for a Compensation Study and further award the contract to McDowell and Associates with funds to come from the 2009 operating budget or Administration Reserve, if required and further that the study be modified subject to negotiations with the consultant.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-058**

**Faas - Jamieson**

**“That the Board of Directors appoint the Executive Committee as Board representation in the development of the compensation study with the final report to be presented to the Board of Directors for their consideration.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-09-059**

**Bilton - MacKenzie**

**“That the meeting be adjourned.”**



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Norm Giffen  
Chairman

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Ralph Coe  
General Manager