



## Board of Directors - Notice of Meeting

April 16, 2026

Time: ~10:30 a.m.

SCRCA Administration Office/Remote\*  
205 Millpond Cres., Strathroy

**NOTE:** The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Authority Meeting will take place immediately before the regular SCRCA Board Meeting. Please remain on Zoom (if applicable)

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### Tentative Agenda

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|-----|---|-------------|
| 1.  | Land Acknowledgement                                    |             |
| 2.  | Chair's Remarks   |             |
| 3.  | Adoption of Agenda                                      |             |
| 4.  | Declaration of Pecuniary Interests                      |             |
| 5.  | Minutes   |             |
|     | 5.1 Minutes of the February 26, 2026 Board Meeting      | Pg. 5-13    |
| 6.  | Presentation on Bill 97, <i>Plan to Protect Ontario</i> |             |
| 7.  | Reports   |             |
|     | 7.1 General Manager's Report                            | Pg. 14-15   |
|     | 7.2 Conservation Ontario Report (none)                  |             |
|     | 7.3 Risk Management Program Update                      | Pg. 16-17   |
|     | 7.4 Campbell House Demolition Update                    | Pg. 18-20   |
|     | 7.5 Coldstream CA Master Plan                           | Pg. 21-101  |
|     | 7.6 Vehicle purchase and Disposal of Assets             | Pg. 102-103 |
| 8.  | Consent Items   |             |
|     | 8.1 Acceptance of Information Items                     |             |
|     | (a) Business Arising                                    | Pg. 104     |
|     | (b) Current Watershed Conditions                        | Pg. 105-107 |
|     | (c) Regulations Activity Summary                        | Pg. 108-110 |
|     | (d) Planning Activity Summary                           | Pg. 111-113 |
|     | (e) Revenue and Expenditures                            | Pg. 114     |
|     | (f) Disbursements                                       | Pg. 115     |
|     | (g) General Levy  | Pg. 116     |
|     | (h) St. Clair River AOC                                 | Pg. 117-118 |
|     | (i) Communications Update                               | Pg. 119-122 |
|     | (j) Education Update                                    | Pg. 123-124 |
| 9.  | Director Correspondence                                 |             |
|     | 9.1 Correspondence from the Township of Huron-Kinloss   | Pg. 125-128 |
| 10. | In Camera   |             |
|     | (none)  |             |
| 11. | New Business  |             |
| 12. | Adjournment   |             |

*\*Please be advised that electronic participation is dependent upon the use of compatible equipment and consistent internet connection, which is outside of the control of SCRCA staff members. Meeting locations and available technology may hinder full participation of those joining remotely; therefore, it is strongly recommended that you*

*attend meetings in person, where possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate those who cannot.*

**April 16, 2026**

**Disclaimer:** Board members, staff, guests and members of the public are advised that the SCRCA Special Meeting and Authority Board meetings are being video/audio recorded, and will be live streamed and posted to the Authority's Youtube channel along with the official written minutes. As such, comments and opinions expressed may be published and any comments expressed by individual Board members, guests and the general public are their own, and do not represent the opinions or comments of the Full Authority and/or the SCRCA Board of Directors. The recorded video of the Full Authority meeting is not considered the official record of that meeting. The official record of the Authority meeting shall consist solely of the Minutes approved by the Board of Directors.

### **Board of Directors Proposed Resolutions**

*(Roll call)*

1. **Land Acknowledgment**

2. **Chair's Remarks**

3. **Pecuniary Interests**

It is 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.

4. **Adoption of Agenda**

4.1 **Moved by:** **Seconded by:**  
That the Board of Directors adopts the agenda for the meeting as presented.

5. **Minutes**

5.1 **Moved by:** **Seconded by:**  
That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held February 26, 2026, be approved as distributed.

6. **Delegation/Presentations**

6.1 **Moved by:** **Seconded by:**  
That the Board of Directors acknowledges the presentation from General Manager, Ken Phillips on Bill 97, *Plan to Protect Ontario Act*.

7. **Reports**



## 12. Adjournment

12.1

**Moved by:**

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by:**



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: February 26, 2026      Time: 10:00 a.m.  
 Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 583  
 22 Durham Street, Newbury N0L 1Z0

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**Directors Present:** Al Broad, Pat Brown, Terry Burrell, Greg Grimes, Sue Cates, Frank Kennes, Adam Kilner, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Don McCabe (arrived at 10:10 a.m.), Don McCallum, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues, Ian Veen, Jerry Westgate, Brian White

**Directors Remote:** Aaron Hall (joined at 10:30 a.m.), Rhonda Jubenville (joined at 10:10 a.m.)

**Directors Regrets:** John Brennan, Frank Kennes, Lorie Scott

**Staff Present:** Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Jacqueline Cannon-Wilvert; Steve Clark; Risk Management Official/Inspector; Melissa Deisley, Director of Planning and Regulations; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant and Board Coordinator; Kate Jamieson, Payroll/Accounting Clerk; Melissa Levi, Conservation Education Coordinator; Chunning Li, Director of Corporate Services; Kelsey Oatman, Planning & Regulations Clerk; Craig Paterson, Manager of Biology; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; David Oczkowski, Forest Conservation Technician; Ken Phillips, General Manager; Jeff Sharp, Manager of Conservation Services; Kelli Smith, Lands Technician; Myra Spiller, Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician; Ian Van Arkel; Jeff Vlasman, Regulations Coordinator; Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas.

**Guests:** Mayor Gary Atkinson, Town of Plympton-Wyoming; Reeve Diane Brewer, Village of Newbury; Tim Byrne, Essex Region Conservation Authority; Todd Casier, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority; Ralph Coe, St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation; Jason Cole, County of Lambton; Blaise Chevalier, Municipality of Chatham-Kent; Marlene Dorrestyn, Blake Ellis, The Independent; Mayor Dave Ferguson, Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston; Gerrit Kremers, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority; Derrick LeClair, Conservation award recipient; Warden Kevin Marriott, County of Lambton; Brian McDougall, Don and Anne McGugan, Ray Mile, MNP Chartered Professional Accountants; Mark Peacock, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority; Dominique Rumball, Conservation award recipient; Dusty Underhill, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority; Elizabeth VanHooren, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority.

### 1. Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgment was read by Vice-Chair Kristen Rodrigues, which recognized the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority watershed as part of the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, who have a

sacred responsibility to preserve the land and water of southwestern Ontario. Also acknowledged are the Treaties that allow the SCRCA to work alongside the First Nation Communities of Kettle and Stony Point, Aamjiwnaang and Bkejwanong to ensure we share the responsibility of preserving the land and water.

## **2. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Greg Grimes, who on behalf of the directors and staff of the Conservation Authority, welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and went on to highlight some of the Conservation Authority's achievements this past year.

### **2025 Highlights:**

- Planning and Regulations issued over 200 permits, supporting responsible development while protecting people, property, and natural features from natural hazards
- Conservation Services planted over 50,000 trees across the watershed, increasing forest cover, enhancing wildlife habitat, and strengthening ecosystem resilience.
- Water Resources issued 19 flood forecasting and warning bulletins, providing municipalities with timely, science-based information during potential flooding events, and continued proactive efforts to protect infrastructure, safeguard local economies, and keep residents safe.
- Education staff connected with over 12,500 students through Conservation Education programs, fostering awareness of watershed health and environmental responsibility to build long-term stewardship and informed decision-making.
- 2025 marked the first full year of implementation of the Sydenham Phosphorus Reduction Initiative, funded by Canada Water Agency. Staff worked with agricultural producers to implement stewardship projects, installed targeted monitoring sites to better understand phosphorus movement, engaged students in learning about balancing environmental protection with viable farming operations and advanced measurable improvements to local water quality and addressed phosphorus as a leading cause of harmful algal blooms.
- SCRCA staff continued delivering core watershed-based services amid the Government of Ontario's proposal to consolidate Conservation Authorities and continued to advocate for maintaining effective, locally based, watershed-driven conservation, focused on long-term stability.
- Staff, Board members, municipal partners, Indigenous communities, landowners, volunteers, donors and funding agencies are thanked for their commitment to a healthy, resilient, and sustainable natural environment for the St. Clair Region – now and for future generations.

**3. Introduction of Guests**

The Chair thanked our Board of Directors and staff for their hard work and dedication to the Authority and acknowledged the partners, whose support and collaborations help realize our vision of a healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair Region.

Special guests were introduced and the following collaborators and partners in attendance were recognized:

- Council members and staff from several of our member municipalities
- Lambton County
- Catfish Creek Conservation Authority
- Essex Region Conservation Authority
- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
- St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation

His Worship Lambton County Warden and Mayor of the Township of Enniskillen, Kevin Marriott brought greetings and expressed appreciation of the collaborative efforts of the SCRCA on various initiatives and projects. Her Worship, Diane Brewer, Reeve of the Village of Newbury also gave greetings and welcomed everyone to Newbury, highlighting the importance of maintaining the voice of small, rural communities.

**4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

The Chair 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.

**5. Approval of the Agenda**

**BD-25-01**

**Burrell – Cates**

**“That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

**6. Minutes**

**6.1 Board of Directors December 11, 2025 Minutes**

**BD-26-02**

**Brown – White**

**“That the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, held December 11, 2025, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Executive Committee February 12, 2026 Minutes

**BD-26-03**

**Miller – Burrell**

**“That the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held February 12, 2026, be approved as distributed.”**

**CARRIED**

### 7. Chair and Conservation Ontario Report (none)

### 8. Audited Financial Statements

**BD-26-04**

**MacKinnon – Loosley**

**“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and report from the Authority’s auditors, MNP Chartered Professional Accountants LLP, and further approves the 2025 Audited Financial Statements.”**

**CARRIED**

### 9. Conservation Awards

Vice Chair Kristen Rodrigues presented the following Conservation Awards:

#### **Dominique Rumball**

Dominique Rumball, a PhD student at the University of Toronto specializing in freshwater ecosystems. Her research focuses on improving the recovery of aquatic species at risk and addressing important knowledge gaps in restoration ecology. Since 2021, Dominique has been a valued collaborator with the SCRCA, supporting our Aquatic Species at Risk monitoring programs. She has played an integral role in the coastal wetland restoration project for the endangered Spotted Gar at the Keith McLean Conservation Lands near Rondeau Bay, a property owned by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation. Her scientific knowledge, strong work ethic, and genuine commitment to conservation have made her an invaluable partner. Dominique’s impact extends beyond her research. Education is another area where she excels. She enthusiastically shares her research and passion with community members, often right along the wetland shoreline! Dominique is also the author of a children’s book, “Finding a Forever Home: The Adventures of Giigoonh the Spotted Gar” which introduces young readers to the importance of protecting freshwater habitats and species at risk. Dominique donates \$1.00 from every book sold back to the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation to support species at risk programming. Dominique is not only an emerging leader in the scientific community but a committed steward of Ontario’s natural heritage.

## **Derrick Leclair**

Derrick Leclair is a Certified Crop Advisor, and a driving force behind the success of the Sydenham Phosphorus Reduction Initiative in the south portion of our watershed. Through his soil sampling business, R&K Farms, Derrick has become an invaluable partner in advancing soil health and responsible nutrient management across our region. Through his strong relationships with local landowners, he has connected farmers to our stewardship programs, particularly the Sydenham Phosphorus Reduction Initiative, also known as SPRI, with which the majority of participants in our 4R Nutrient Management and Alternative Phosphorus programs were referred directly through Derrick's efforts. Because of his support, nearly 2,500 acres of agricultural land in our watershed have adopted improved nutrient management practices and enabled the SPRI program to distribute close to \$50,000 in funding to landowners. Derrick's dedication, leadership, and commitment to soil conservation strengthens not only individual farms, but our entire watershed. We are grateful for his partnership and proud to recognize his contributions.

### **BD-26-05**

#### **Cates - White**

**“That the Board of Directors congratulates the 2026 Conservation Award winners and thanks them for their contributions to conservation.”**

## **10. Service Awards**

**The following service awards were presented:**

### **Five Years of Service**

- Myra Spiller, Conservation Education/Community Partnership Technician
- Jeff Vlasman, Regulations Coordinator

### **Ten Years of Service**

- Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas

### **Fifteen Years of Service**

- Maryanne Nieuwenhuizen, Assistant Superintendent at A.W. Campbell Conservation Area

### **Twenty Years of Service**

- Steve Miller, Director representing the Township of St. Clair

**BD-26-06****Burrell – Veen**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the service awards presented to the directors and staff and further that they be thanked for their years of dedicated service.”**

**CARRIED****11. Code of Conduct****BD-26-07****Kilner – Cates**

**“That the Board of Directors acknowledges and complies with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority’s Code of Conduct and Administrative By-laws, updated in 2024.”**

**CARRIED****12. Election of Officers****BD-26-08****White – McCallum**

**“That Ken Phillips be appointed chair for the election of the 2026 Chair and Vice Chair.”**

**CARRIED****BD-26-09****White Loosley**

**“That Tim Payne and Chunning Li be appointed scrutineers in the event of an election.”**

**CARRIED****12.1 Position of Chair**

The positions of Chair and Vice Chair were declared vacant and nominations were called for the office of Chairperson for 2026.

Adam Kilner nominated Greg Grimes for the position of Chair.

Greg Grimes confirmed his willingness to stand for the position of Chair.

Greg Grimes was declared Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2026, by acclamation, and addressed the Board of Directors.

**BD-26-10****Loosley – Kilner**

**“That the nominations for the position of Chair be closed.”**

**CARRIED**

## **12.2 Position of Vice Chair**

Steve Miller nominated Pat Brown for the position of Vice Chair.

Sue Cates nominated Kristen Rodrigues for the position of Vice Chair.

Both Pat Brown and Kristen Rodrigues confirmed their willingness to stand for the position of Vice Chair.

Pat Brown was declared Vice Chair of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for 2026, by majority vote, and addressed the Board of Directors.

**BD-26-11**

**Broad – Loosley**

**“That nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed.”**

**CARRIED**

## **13. Committees**

**BD-26-12**

**Burrell – Cates**

**“That the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority adopts the 2026 Nominating Committee's Report, as amended, fulfilling the SCRCA committee needs in 2026.”**

**CARRIED**

**BD-26-13**

**Kilner – Westgate**

**“That the 2026 Executive Committee for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be: Greg Grimes, Chair; Pat Brown, Vice-Chair; Al Broad, Frank Kennes, Don McCabe, Rhonda Jubenville, Terry Burrell, Kristen Rodrigues, and Steve Miller**

**CARRIED**

## **14. Authorization to Borrow**

**BD-26-14**

**Burrell – Cates**

**“That the Authority Chair or the Vice-Chair and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer or Director of Corporate Services be authorized to borrow from the Libro Credit Union, Strathroy for the general operations and capital program of the Authority, a sum not to exceed \$1,800,000 to be repaid from grants received from**

the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed to the member municipalities and general revenue.”

**CARRIED**

## **15. Appointments to Conservation Ontario Council**

**BD-26-15**

**Kilner – Veen**

“That the Authority's 2026 representative to Conservation Ontario will be the Authority Chair, the Vice-Chair will be the first alternate and the General Manager be the second alternate.”

**CARRIED**

## **16. Presentation**

**BD-26-16**

**Miller – Cates**

“That the Board of Directors receive for information the presentation provided by Dominique Rumball titled Collaboration in Conservation: Fighting to Preserve a Living Fossil, the Spotted Gar.”

**CARRIED**

## **17. Reports**

### **17.1 General Manager’s Report**

A brief verbal report was provided by General Manager, Ken Phillips. Regarding the Government Ontario proposal to consolidate Conservation Authorities, there are no new updates or developments to share at the time of the meeting.

**BD-26-17**

**White – Veen**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated February 26, 2026.”

**CARRIED**

### **17.2 Projected Future Conservation Area Reserves**

**BD-26-18**

**Cates – Kilner**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated January 21, 2026, on

the projected recovery of the Conservation Area Reserve, following the proposed installation of a new septic/sewer system at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area.”  
**CARRIED**

**18. Consent Agenda**

**BD-26-19**

**Burrell – MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors approves the consent agenda and endorses the recommendations accompanying Items 18.1 a - 18.1 j.”

**CARRIED**

**19. Correspondence (none)**

**20. In-Camera (none)**

**21. New Business (none)**

**22. Adjournment**

**BD-26-20**

**Kilner – Veen**

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

**CARRIED**

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**Greg Grimes**  
**Chair**



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**Ken Phillips**  
**General Manager**

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item 7.1**  
**Report Date:** April 7, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Ken Phillips

**Subject:** General Managers Report

## Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receive for information the General Manager's report dated April 7, 2026.

## Operations

The General Manager attended virtual meetings on March 9, 16 and 23 hosted by Conservation Ontario. The prime focus of the meetings was the announcements by the Ontario Government regarding changes to conservation authority boundaries and the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act). Changes to the CA Act were included in Bill 97, *Plan to Protect Ontario* (Budget Measures) 2026 under Schedule 3. The changes formalize the creation of 9 regional conservation authorities and the structure of the new administrative and governance framework. There will be a fuller presentation at the Board of Directors meeting with more in-depth review of the changes. Of particular note is the need to have a budget passed for 2027 by the existing Board. As a result, SCRCA staff will bring a draft budget to the Board at the June 25 meeting with the intent of getting it approved in September.

The General Manager met with the senior administrators of the Essex, Lower Thames and Upper Thames Conservation Authorities to discuss the Western Lake Erie Region Conservation Authority (WLERCA) on March 25 and April 1. Discussion centered around meeting with upper tier municipalities, forming program groups to assist in the transition and the 2027 budget process for each CA.

## Community Outreach

On March 21, the General Manager, presented to the Southwest Woodlot Owners Association at their annual general meeting. The presentation centered on the coming changes to the CA Act and the new regional areas. The group asked a number of questions and raised concerns over the potential for the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to seize lands for development from the SCRCA and neighbouring CAs. The province has assured that it has no intention to take over property.

The General Manager will be making a similar presentation to the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce at their April 14 lunch event.

### **Federal/Provincial/Municipal Meetings**

On March 18, the General Manager met with Lambton County staff to discuss the upcoming role of the County in providing the budget and Board members for WLERCA. The meeting focused on current shared services, budget processes and the proposed board composition. Further discussions will take place once more information about the transition is provided by the province.



# Staff Report

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item** 7.3  
**Report Date:** March 19, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Greg Wilcox

**Subject:** Risk Management Update

## Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report on SCRCA's Risk Management Program, dated March 19, 2026.

## Background:

In April of 2022, SCRCA implemented a Risk Management and Land Classification Guideline. As part of the Risk Management Program, a staff committee meets annually to review the program. On March 19, 2026, the committee met to review the program for 2025. Staff reviewed risk assessments, inspection and work order trends, incident and injury reports, and work completed in 2025.

## Program Updates:

### 2025 Property Inspections and Work Orders:

Using the Citywide Maintenance Manager program, staff completed 168 property inspections. Fifty work orders were completed that were mitigating issues identified during inspection. An additional eighty-nine work orders were completed that were not directly connected to an inspection. Common work orders were for issues related to signage, boardwalks, tree removal, playgrounds, roads/parking lots, trail grading, benches, and facility repairs.

### Creation of Conservation Area Superintendent Working Group:

A working group, consisting of the Manager of Conservation Areas and the Superintendent of each of SCRCA's campgrounds was formed to review campground issues. The group met twice in 2025, discussing topics such as permitted campground equipment, handling of roof/deck compliance, lifeguard orientation, and a request to access the CA following a trespass notice. The intent is to have Superintendents bring issues/questions to the group for feedback and the group can decide rather than one individual. Additionally, this format will improve consistencies between Conservation Areas.

### Completion of Campground Emergency Response Plans:

SCRCA was approached by the Warwick Fire Chief to make available emergency contact information, property hazards, a property map, and gate keys for Warwick CA. Staff have provided this information and took this project further, creating a public version of this information with guidelines for emergency response. Following the completion of this document, similar documents were created for A.W. Campbell and L.C. Henderson

conservation areas. This spring, the emergency response plans will be emailed to seasonal campers. Copies will be laminated and posted in the gatehouse/office at each park for overnight campers.

**Template Letters:**

Previously staff created letters as required for both camping evictions and trespass notices. For consistency, legal counsel has created templates for both eviction and trespass notices.

**Safety Information for Visitors on Website:**

As recommended by Marsh Advisory (insurer), SCRCA has created a page on our website for visitor safety. Safety tips include general safety, winter tips, taking kids into natural areas, stinging and biting bugs, poisonous plants, and wildlife encounters.

**Seasonal Camping Roof and Deck Changes:**

An update was provided on the roof and deck changes that were to be completed by October 2025. All seasonal campers met the minimum requirements provided by SCRCA.

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item** 7.4  
**Report Date:** March 20, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Greg Wilcox

**Subject:** Campbell House Removal Update

## Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges this report dated March 20, 2026.

## Background:

At a meeting of Brooke-Alvinston Council on December 21, 2023, the following resolution was passed permitting the demolition of the Campbell House located at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area.

### **RESOLUTION-2023-005**

*Councillor Craig Sanders made a motion that this report be received and filed for information on the events leading to the discussion on the Campbell House; and that with careful consideration of all areas, the Council of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston approve the issuance of a demolition permit for the A.W. Campbell House located at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area (8477 Shiloh Line); and that Council requests that the SCRCA work closely with the County of Lambton Cultural Services Division to preserve the architectural elements remaining in the house and the preservation of the Campbell family legacy at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area. Councillor Jenny Redick seconded the motion.*

*Carried*

In January 2024, staff from Lambton County's Cultural Services Division went through the house and removed all materials to be transferred to the Lambton County Archives. They also reviewed architectural components to determine if they could be repurposed and used in restoration of other historic buildings in their possession. Unfortunately, no components were identified that could be salvaged.

In April 2024, Lambton County's Building Services department advised SCRCA of the documents required to support a demolition permit application. Of note, SCRCA required cultural heritage studies relevant to the proposed demolition. In February of 2025, Zelinka Priamo Ltd. was hired to complete the Heritage Impact Assessment.

In December of 2025, SCRCA's complete application for demolition was submitted to Lambton County's Building Services department. A permit was issued in late December.

## Campbell House Demolition:

SCRCA closed the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area between January 14 and 19<sup>th</sup> 2026 during the demolition and clean up of the Campbell House. The property was closed during demolition for public safety as heavy equipment was operating on site. Demolition was completed during this timeframe. Final grading of the work site was delayed due to snow accumulation. Final grading was completed in March when site conditions were favourable.



Above: Photos of the Campbell House site during restoration

## Next Steps:

Following demolition, staff are working on completing the following:

- Design, production, and installation of an interpretive sign (draft images below)
- Development of a webpage dedicated to Archie Campbell (and family) and the acquisition of the Conservation Area including:
  - Written history of the property (drafted by Kathryn Shailer, “Friends of Campbell”)
  - Interior virtual tour
  - Photo gallery
  - Relevant documents
  - Interactive timeline

**THE HISTORIC**  
**Archibald W. Campbell House**

**HISTORY**

The Archibald (Archie) W. Campbell House, which formerly stood at this location, was built in 1867 by Neil W. Campbell and his wife Isabella. Their son, Archie W. Campbell, was born here in 1888, the youngest of 12 children to grow up in the house.

The house was a simple wood-frame building with board and batten siding and a cedar-shake shingled roof. It rested on footings with a small cold cellar under the kitchen. The house was constructed using balloon framing, which was common for rural homes of the period.

Mr. Campbell was an ardent conservationist. When he died in 1965, he left the 308-acre Campbell farm and house to the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority (now the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority), for development as a conservation park for the benefit of future generations.

The house featured a one-and-a-half storey main building with a dining room, parlour, and four bedrooms, alongside a single-storey kitchen attached to the southeast wall. Shown here are the original floor plans: the first floor (left) and the second floor (right).

For many years, the SCRCA operated the A. W. Campbell House as a museum, showcasing the typical farmhouse layout of its era. The museum permanently closed in 2001.

Above: Interpretive Sign content

A draft image of an interpretive sign. The sign features a large black and white photograph of a group of people standing in front of the Campbell House. Below the photo is the sign's content, which includes the title "THE HISTORIC Archibald W. Campbell House", a "HISTORY" section, a floor plan, and a QR code. To the left of the sign is a silhouette of a standing person, and to the right is a silhouette of a person in a wheelchair, used to indicate the sign's height and accessibility.

Above: Draft image of interpretive sign with historic image

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item 7.5**  
**Report Date:** March 25, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Kelli Smith, Greg Wilcox

**Subject:** Coldstream Conservation Area Master Plan

## Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report on the Coldstream Conservation Area Master Plan and further approves the final draft of the plan including feedback from the indigenous, stakeholder and public consultation process.

## Background:

Staff have finalized the Master Plan for the Coldstream Conservation Area to include indigenous, stakeholder and public input. The public consultation process took place via an online survey which was active for a period of 48 days. Comments were also received via e-mail of which one e-mail response was received. This consultation was advertised through social media, the authority website, and in local newspapers: 105.7 MyFM news.

The following groups were contacted for feedback during the consultation process: Local Indigenous Communities and the Municipality of Middlesex Center.

A total of 36 responses were received by Indigenous Community, Municipal Partner, and the General Public.

The consultation survey was a valuable method to obtain opinions and feedback on specific questions of the SCRCA, including what the preferred option for the existing concession/washroom building is. The preferred concept, as identified by 65% of respondents, is to renovate the building to consist of a small washroom area and open space. 41% of respondents prefer the open space area to be used for a Day Camp or Satellite Classroom where a close 31% prefer the use to be for community space. At the time of renovation, the building will be designed to meet accessibility standards.

## Strategic Objectives(s):

### Goal 3.9 Management of Authority Owned Lands

Through the completion and implementation of Property Management Plans, the Authority continues to manage its lands to balance revenue production with effective management of woodlands, wetlands, and biodiversity.



## **Coldstream Conservation Area Master Plan**



Last Management Plan: November 1975

Date Updated: January 2026

## Executive Summary

The Coldstream Conservation Area was acquired in 1967 through 1971 by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority as 10 separate parcels. Prior to purchase, much of the property was utilized for extraction of gravel with the final acquisition having active extraction up until termination of the lease in 1975. Since its inception the Coldstream Conservation Area has been developed and utilized as a multi-use recreation area providing a wide range of recreational opportunities for the people living in and around the watershed.

Development activities over the years included the creation of a 60-site campground with 28 serviced sites, a combination washroom/concession building, picnic pavilion, a dam and reservoir for recreational activities, a boathouse, maintenance shed, a trailer dumping station, gatehouses, footbridges, nature trails with boardwalks and picnic facilities. Today, camping is no longer offered but the property remains a popular destination for day-use activities like hiking and picnicking.

The purpose of this plan is to guide the current and future uses, management, operation, and development of this property while meeting the goals and objectives of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

In December 2025, the SCRCA put forth the draft Coldstream Conservation Area Master plan for indigenous, stakeholder, and public comment. Community consultation for the Coldstream Conservation Area took place in the form of an online survey which was active for a period of 48 days. This consultation was advertised through social media, the authority website, and in local news: 105.7 myFM news. A total of 36 responses were received by Indigenous Community, Municipal partners, and the general public.

As part of the future development of the property the SCRCA proposed concepts for the future of the washroom/concession building that were included in the draft plan available for public comment. The preferred option for the existing washroom/concession building, saw 65% of respondents say the building should be renovated to consist of a small washroom area and open space. 41% of respondents prefer the open space area to be used for a Day Camp or Satellite Classroom where a close 31% prefer the use to be for community space.

The consultation survey was a valuable method to obtain feedback on specific issues discussed in the draft plan. This plan is intended to provide direction for the management of the Coldstream Conservation Area and contains recommendations to be implemented in the next 10-20 years. Updates may be completed during this time on an as needed basis.

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## Goals and Objectives

This master plan will serve to direct staff in forecasting the necessary upgrades and maintenance for the site. It will prioritize the protection, management and enhancement of habitats on the site and benefit wildlife within the watershed. This plan will also encourage public safety, environmental education, passive recreation, and a healthy environment within our watershed for the next 10-20 years. The plan will align with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's (SCRCA) core values.

### Vision

- A healthy and sustainable natural environment in the St. Clair Region.

### Mission

- to provide leadership through coordination of watershed planning, implementation of resource management programs and promotion of conservation awareness, in cooperation with others.

This plan supports the following goals and objectives as outlined in SCRCA's strategic plan.

#### **Goal 1. Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn from, and respect our natural environment**

*Through the lands we manage and own, as well as the educational programs we deliver, the SCRCA provides opportunities for our citizens to understand and appreciate the value of their natural environment as well as the social and economic benefits of protecting that environment.*

##### **Objective**

- *Ensure the conservation lands remain valuable assets to the community and can withstand the pressures of growth and climate change*

#### **Goal 2. Protect, manage and restore our woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat.**

*Because what we do on land is reflected in our water and ecosystems, the SCRCA develops programs that protect our land resources and promotes watershed stewardship practices that lead to healthy, sustainable communities and industries.*

##### **Objective**

- *Manage Authority owned lands through a balance of revenue production and effective management of woodlands, wetlands and biodiversity*

## Purpose of the Plan

The Coldstream Conservation Area Master Plan has been prepared as a reference document to guide the current and future uses, management, operation, and development of this property while meeting the goals and objectives of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. These goals and objectives are related to the SCRCA Conservation Areas Land Strategy. This master plan provides broad context direction for day-to-day operation and includes existing management practices and recommendations for the property and relies on the input of stakeholders and the public.

## Existing Conditions

### General Description

The Coldstream Conservation Area is a popular conservation area used by the residents of Poplar Hill/Coldstream as well as the surrounding areas. The Coldstream Conservation Area consists of 117 acres (47.33 hectares) occupying part Lot 8 Concession 8 and part Lots 6 through 9, Concession 9 in the Municipality of Middlesex Centre (formerly Lobo Township), Middlesex County. The Sydenham River winds through the property and is impounded at the Coldstream Dam. The property is bisected by Coldstream Road and contains hiking trails on each side of the property.

The property contains remnant concrete from a mill that operated from approximately 1840 to 1940. The mill was originally powered by water and used as a sawmill to supply lumber to the Marsh Furniture Factory. Associated with the Marsh Mill was the Marsh General Store which sits adjacent to Mill Road and eventually referred to as the Marsh Store. The Marsh store was severed from the Coldstream Conservation Area and sold in 1994. Much of the land surrounding the Coldstream Conservation Area is in agriculture and residential development.

### Location Details

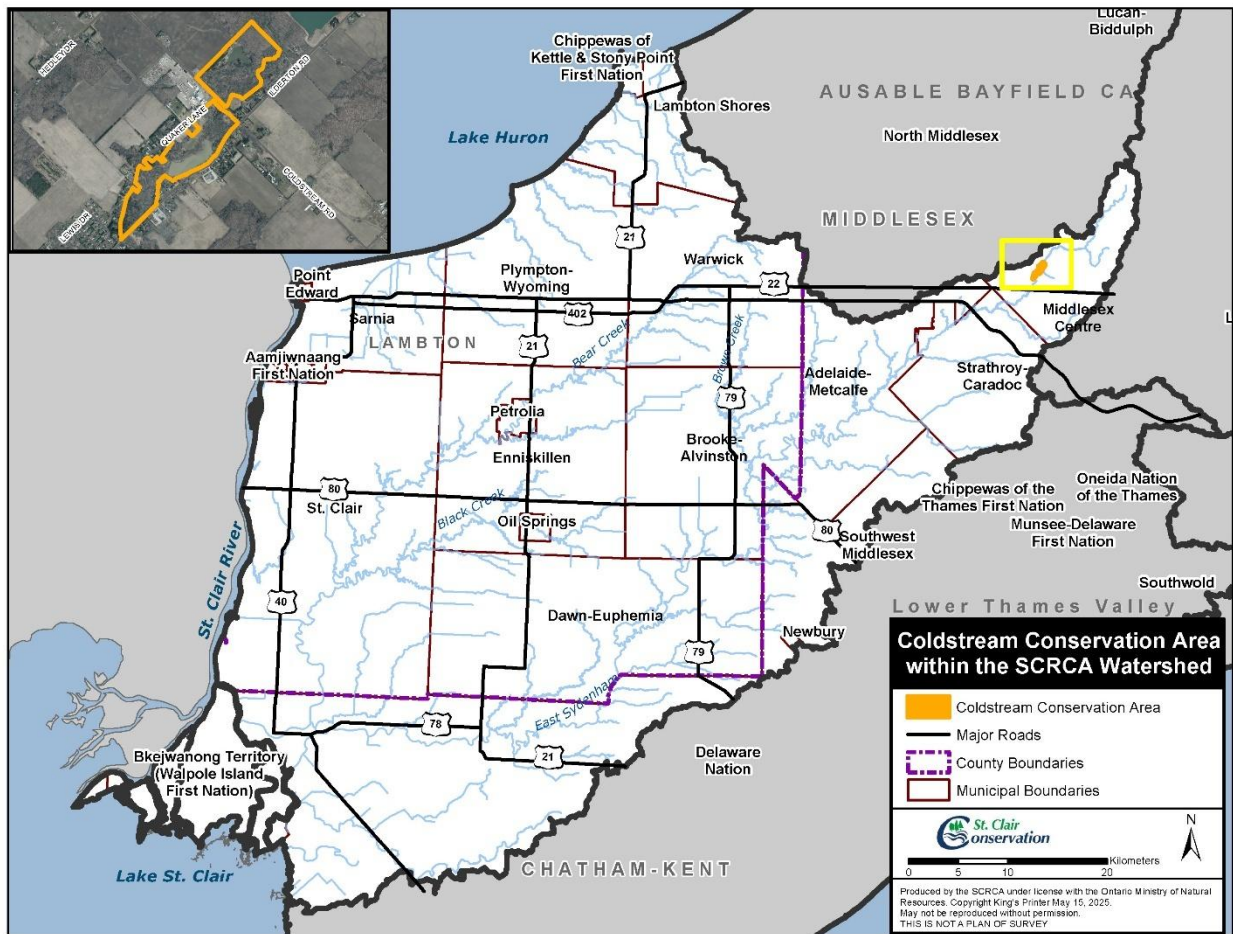


Figure 1 Regional Context Map

The Coldstream Conservation Area is situated in the Sydenham Headwaters subwatershed roughly 11 km downstream of its source at Ilderton. The property is located on Quaker Lane in the hamlet of Coldstream, Ontario. It is situated approximately 13 km northeast of Strathroy and 25 km west of London.

<b>Area</b>	117 acres (47.33 ha)
<b>Address</b>	327 Quaker Lane, Lobo ON (main parking lot)
<b>Lot and Concession</b>	Lot 6-9, Con 8-9 Municipality of Middlesex Centre (Lobo)
<b>Municipality/Town/City</b>	Municipality of Middlesex Centre
<b>County/Region</b>	Middlesex
<b>Watershed</b>	St. Clair Region
<b>Ecodistrict</b>	7e-6
<b>Latitude</b>	43.0188460000000000, -81.4990870000000000
<b>Longitude</b>	43.0255630000000000, -81.4932990000000000
<b>Zoning of the Property</b>	Open Space

Table 1 Location Details

## Site Acquisition and History

The Coldstream Conservation Area was acquired in 1967-1971 as 10 separate parcels. Prior to purchase, much of the property was utilized for extraction of gravel with the final property, Lot 9 Concession 9 on the northeast side of Coldstream Road having active extraction up until termination of the lease in 1975. Since its inception the Coldstream Conservation Area has been developed and utilized as a multi-use recreation area providing a wide range of recreational opportunities for the people living in and around the watershed.

Capital development on the property over the first ten years consisted of developing a road system and parking lots, a 60-site campground with 28 serviced sites, a dam and 16 acre lake complete with a 500 foot long beach, a combination washroom/concession building, a picnic pavilion, a boathouse, a maintenance shed, a dumping station, a gatehouse, footbridges, outhouses, a nature trail with boardwalk, installation of sport fields, landscaping and tree planting. Camping was active from 1972 and into the 1980's. By the mid 80's due to security concerns camping was reduced to group/scout camping only and slowly phased out. Outhouses were installed to accommodate campers and visitors of the park during the peak popularity of the campground. These were pit and vault systems that were emptied out on a regular basis and the waste trucked to the dumping station for treatment. Since the decline in camping at the park and the alternative use of portable washrooms, the outhouses have gone into disrepair and require removal. These outhouse systems have the potential to cause environmental risk from leaching, and their close proximity to the river could pose a significant risk to the water quality and health of humans and wildlife.

In addition to camping and recreation the property was also a location for outdoor education, one program in particular, Christmas at the Marsh Store, was very popular and was the only program offered for several years. Education programming ran until the early 90's when the Marsh Store was severed and sold.

In 1970, the Coldstream Dam and reservoir were constructed for recreational purposes including swimming, boating and fishing. The dam structure is approximately 3.35m high and consists of a 45m long retaining wall of vertical sheet piles made of heavy gauge ARCH-Type individual sheets locked together at joint during installation. Large armor stone was placed on the downstream side of the dam ranging in size from 16-24 inches in diameter and placed on a slope of 3:1 horizontal to vertical. An earthen berm approximately 40m long is located at the southern end of the sheet pile dam. The dam does not contain any spillways or stop logs so there is no way to adjust the water levels in the reservoir. The dam is equipped with a bottom draw valve or a low flow bypass valve; however, the condition of the valve is believed to be non-operable. Recreational use of the reservoir declined in the early 80's after bacteriological counts conducted by the Middlesex County Health Unit led to an extended closure of the Coldstream beach to swimmers. Sedimentation over time in the reservoir has also resulted in shallower water preventing other recreational activities like boating.

In 1994, the Coldstream Conservation Area was leased to the municipality and managed by a local community group called the Enviro Friends of Coldstream. During their management the Enviro Friends of Coldstream were instrumental in spear heading

fundraising efforts for the Conservation Area and with countless volunteer hours completed projects such as implementing a new soccer field and installing a system of boardwalks. This lease agreement continued until 2022 at which point the lease agreement with the municipality was dissolved and the SCRCA resumed management of the property.

### Partnership Agreements

The Enviro-Friends of Coldstream was a grassroots environmental community group who volunteered from 1994 – 2022 to operate and maintain the Coldstream Conservation Area. The community group hosted many fundraising events to support updates and improvements to the park. The final project of the group was the installation of the Bruce Alan 'Al' Bycraft Memorial Bridge. This bridge provides improved accessibility to the property and would not have been possible without the support of the Enviro-Friends of Coldstream and the Poplar Hill Lions who donated funds to make the project a reality.

### Conservation Authority Programs/Services

Due to changes under section 21.1(1) and (2) to the *Conservation Authorities Act* R.S.O., c.27 as amended, and prescribed through Ontario Regulation 686/21 Mandatory Programs and Services, the SCRCA is required to categorize all programs of the authority into three categories (Category 1, 2 and 3). The dams located on the property fall within Category 2. Category 2 programs and services are those that a conservation authority provides at the request of a Municipality. The funding is provided by the benefiting Municipality.

The Coldstream Conservation Area also falls under the Category 2 program under Ontario Regulation 686/21 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for Mandatory Programs and Services.

# Environmental Features

## Ecological Designations

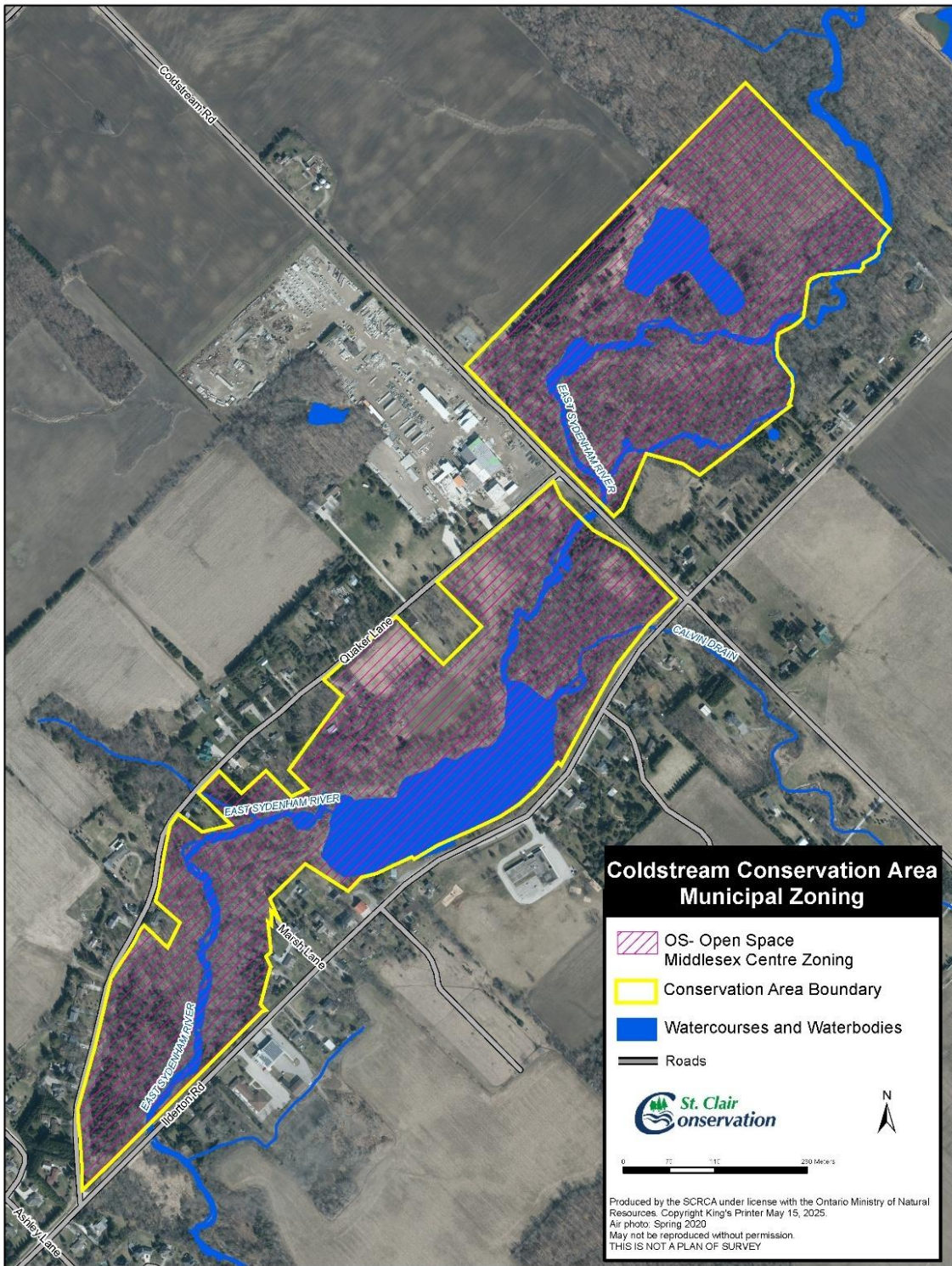


Figure 2 Zoning Designations Map

The Coldstream Conservation Area is part of the following environmental designations:

- Provincially Significant Wetland – Sydenham River Wetland Complex
- Significant meadow
- Thicket
- Mixed woodland
- Wetland swamp
- Valley land

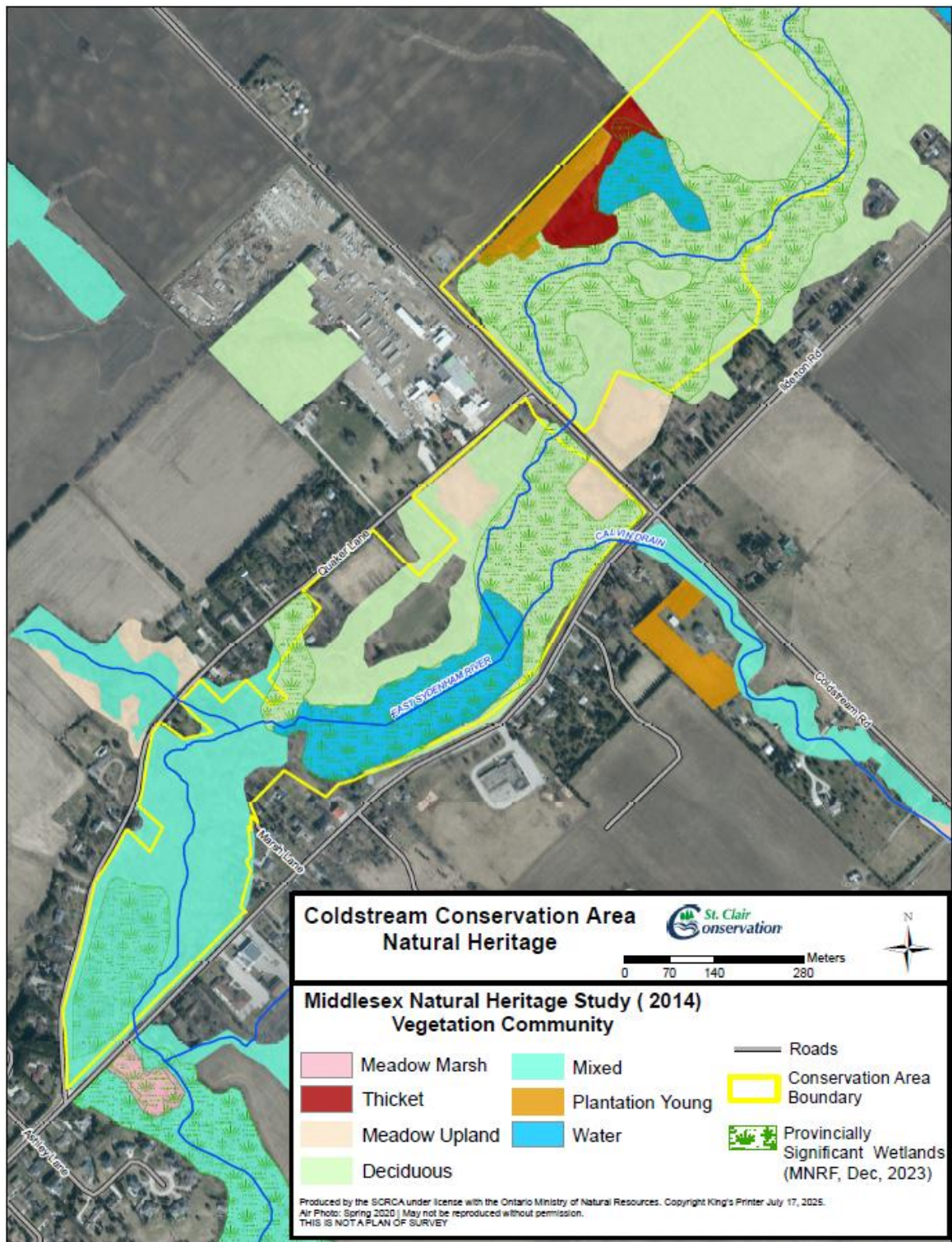


Figure 3 Natural Heritage Designations Map

Portions of the property are part of the Conservation Land tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). The Sydenham River, which meanders through the Coldstream Conservation Area, is the only major watershed that lies completely in the Canadian Carolinian Life Zone and

supports an incredible amount of biodiversity. At least 80 species of fish and 34 species of freshwater mussels are found in the Sydenham, making it one of the most species-rich watersheds in all of Canada. More than 20 species of fish, mussels, and reptiles that live in and around the Sydenham River are listed nationally or provincially as Species at Risk and include species of global conservation concern.

Coldstream Conservation Area is also situated within a portion of the Sydenham River Wetland complex, a Provincially Significant wetland consisting of deciduous swamp and a small Cedar Swamp. The cedar swamp is dominated by White cedar and Yellow birch which is a very rare habitat feature in southwestern Ontario.

Natural Hazards and Hydrology

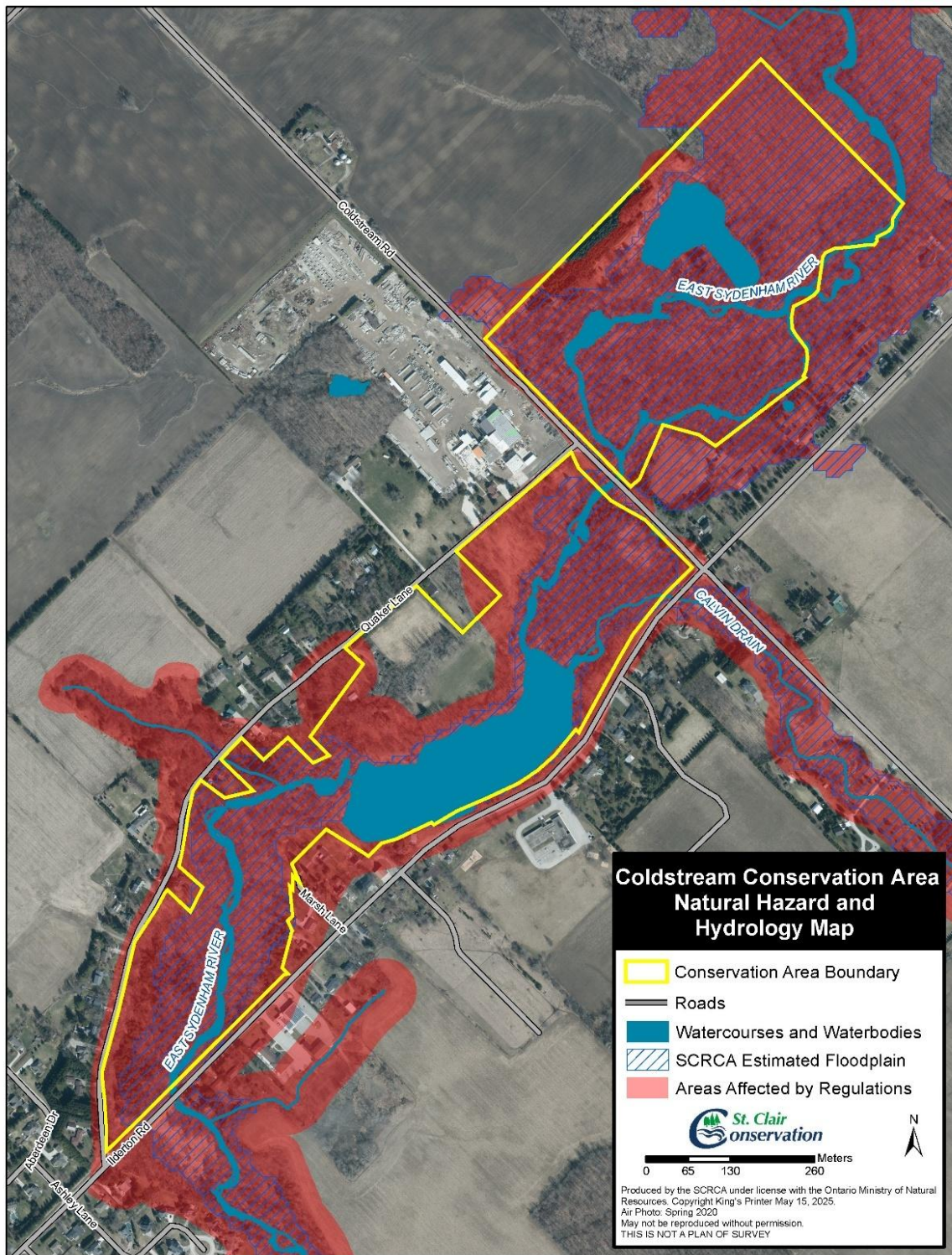


Figure 4 Natural Hazards and Hydrology Map

The Coldstream Conservation area is traversed by the headwaters of the Sydenham River draining an upstream watershed of roughly 63 square kilometers. Headwaters refer to the

furthest upstream point of a watershed and are made up of small fast-moving watercourses and wetlands. The headwaters of any river system are important for the health of the system as they aid in the control of flooding, provide clean water and support aquatic life.

The Coldstream Dam is one of only two impoundments on the East Sydenham River. Dams can negatively impact river hydrology and ecosystems by creating barriers to fish passage, impeding mussel distribution, altering thermal regimes, altering sediment transport, and degrading water quality (temperature, oxygen levels, algal growth, and bacteria levels). Local concerns have been raised about the water quality in the reservoir, specifically the algal blooms that occur.

Approximately 98% of the property is regulated by the SCRCA for floodplain, wetland and meander belt due to the presence of the river, valley and low-lying areas. Much of the property has been identified as part of the Sydenham River Wetland Complex (SC8) a Provincially Significant Wetland evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests.

### ELC Inventory

The Ecological Land Classification system (ELC) is a hierarchical system that identifies and describes areas of land with similar physical features. The purpose of the ELC is to help classify land, through mapping, into ecological units for planning and resource management.

Ecological Land Classification (ELC) surveys were completed on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The property is located in:

Ecozone	Mixedwood Plains
Ecoregion	Lake Erie-Lake Ontario
Eco District	7E-6, London

The following 12 types of vegetation communities were identified on the 47.33 hectare property including four forests, three swamps, one thicket, open water, one meadow, plantations, and communities with cultural influence consisting of parkland. Locations are displayed on the map and further described in the following table.

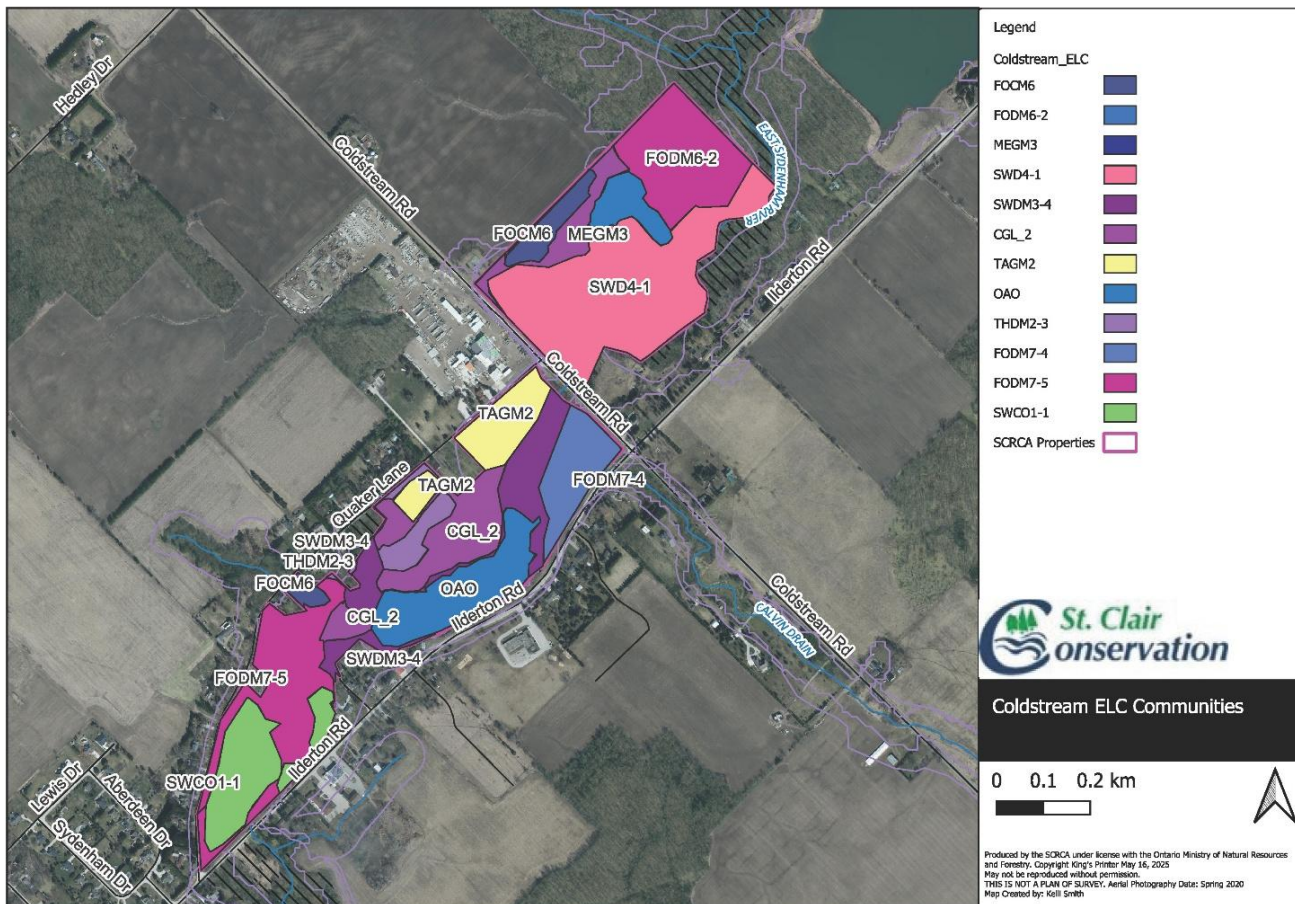


Figure 5 ELC Vegetation Communities Map

### Vegetation Community Sizes

Vegetation Community	ELC Code	Vegetation	Environment	S-Rank	Size (ha)
<b>Naturalized Conifer Plantation</b>	FOCM6	Not given	Not given	--	1.49
<b>Dry-Fresh Graminoid Meadow</b>	MEGM3	Not given	Not given	--	3.75
<b>Fresh-Moist Sugar Maple-Black Maple Deciduous Forest</b>	FODM6-2	Sugar Maple with Green Ash, Black Ash Red Maple, White Elm, Yellow Birch, Basswood and Beech associates; dominant	Moist yet well drained sites; often along floodplains	S3?	4.97

		species varies			
<b>Willow Mineral Deciduous Swamp</b>	SWD4-1	Black willow, reddish willow, peach-leaved willow with White Elm, Green Ash, Manitoba Maple, Trembling Aspen		S5	11.10
<b>Manitoba Maple Mineral Deciduous Swamp Type</b>	SWDM3-4	Not given	Not given	S5	2.22
<b>Fresh-Moist Black Walnut Lowland Deciduous Forest</b>	FODM7-4	White Elm, willows, Black Walnut, Black Maple, Basswood, Green ash and Black Ash dominate separately or in variable mixtures	Typically associated with riparian zones and terraces; stream and river banks and floodplains	S2, S3	2.59
<b>Medium Mineral Mixed Plantation</b>	TAGM2	Not given	Loamy substrates	--	2.65
<b>Chokecherry Deciduous Shrub Thicket</b>	THDM2-3	Not given	Not given	--	1.2
<b>Fresh-Moist Black Maple Lowland Deciduous Forest</b>	FODM7-5	White Elm, willows, Black Walnut, Black Maple, Basswood, Green ash and Black Ash	Typically associated with riparian zones and terraces; stream and river banks and floodplains	S3?	10.15

		dominate separately or in variable mixtures			
<b>White Cedar Organic Coniferous Swamp</b>	SWC01-1	Almost entirely dominated by White Cedar	Organic substrates – Of, Om, Oh (OIP 1985)	S5	2.65

Table 2 Vegetation Communities Description and Size

Two of the vegetation communities contain provincially significant ecosites. The Fresh-Moist Black Walnut Lowland Deciduous Forest Type (FODM7-4) has an S-rank of S2, S3 which is Rare to Uncommon in Ontario with an estimated less than 100 occurrences and an estimated areal extent of less than 1,000 ha. It is considered to have a very small range in the province (less than 3%). The Fresh-moist Sugar maple-Black maple deciduous forest type (FODM6-2) has an S-rank of S3?, meaning this type of community is ranked as Rare to Uncommon but not enough numeric data is known. It is estimated there are less than 100 occurrences in the province of this community and an estimated areal extent of less than 25,000ha and is considered to have a very small range (less than 3%).

Reference: *Natural heritage resources of Ontario: S-ranks for communities in site regions 6 and 7* <https://www.ontario.ca/document/significant-wildlife-habitat-technical-guide/appendix-j-natural-heritage-resources-ontario-s-ranks-communities-site-regions-6-and-7#section-7>

The Fresh Moist Sugar Maple – Black Maple Forest Type is also home to one of the most diverse spring ephemeral habitats in the London area, with species such as White Trout Lily, Bloodroot, Moonseed, and Trillium blooming after the first hint of warm weather in the spring. Spring ephemerals are vital to pollinators and often provide bees, beetles, and other pollinators with their first source of nectar during the spring season.

### Species – Flora and Fauna

The following table provides a list of species that were witnessed incidentally during the 2024 site visits. Supplemental surveys and research have been conducted on the property by other organizations and academic institutions resulting in additional species records (see Appendix C). SCRCA staff has identified two provincially rare flora species on the property, one of which is a species at risk. The habitat for these species should be protected and supported and is further described in the final management recommendations section.

## Flora

Floral Inventory							
Scientific Name	Common Name	CW	GRank	COSEWIC	Nrank	SARO	SRank
<i>Rubus x neglectus</i> ( <i>Rubus idaeus</i> ssp. <i>strigosus</i> X <i>Rubus</i> <i>occidentalis</i> )	Black, Red, and Hybrid Raspberry)		GNA		NU		SNA
<i>Salix x sepulcralis</i>	( <i>Salix alba</i> X <i>Salix</i> <i>babylonica</i> )	-3	GNA		NNA		SNA
<i>Viola x malteana</i>	( <i>Viola labradorica</i> X <i>Viola rostrata</i> )		GNA		NNR		SNA
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Basswood	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	3	G5		N5		S4
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm	-3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive	3	GNR		NNA		SE3
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Bitter Wintercress	0	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	0	G5		N5		S5
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust	3	G5		NNA		SE5
<i>Acer nigrum</i>	Black Maple	3	G5		NNR		S4?
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	3	G5		N4		S4?
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Ranunculus hispidus</i>	Bristly Buttercup	0	G5		NNR		S3
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry	0	G5		N5		S5
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Canada Wild-ginger	5	G5		N5		S5
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry	3	G5		NNR		S5
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Common Burdock	3	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion	3	G5		N5		SE5

<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Common Hornwort	-5	G5		N5		S5
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Common Red Raspberry	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common Sow-thistle	3	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Common Timothy	3	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Common Winterberry	-3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jennie	-3	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock	0	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket	3	G4G5		NNA		SE5
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood	0	G5		N5		S5
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Eastern White Cedar	-3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English Plantain	3	G5		NNA		SE5
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	European Honeysuckle		GNR		NNA		SEH
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch	5	G5		NNA		SE2
<i>Floerkea proserpinacoides</i>	False Mermaidweed	0	G5	NAR	N4		S4
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Garden Bird's-foot Trefoil	3	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Lonicera dioica var. glaucescens</i>	Glaucous-leaved Honeysuckle	3	G5T5		N5		SU
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	0	G5		N5		S5
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	0	G5		N5		S5
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	-3	G5		N5		S4
<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	Green Dragon	-3	G5	SC	N3	SC	S3
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	3	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	3	G5		N4		S5
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit	-3	G5		N5		S5

<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	Large False Solomon's Seal	3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Lesser Duckweed	-5	G5		N5	S5?
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Manitoba Maple	0	G5		N5	S5
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	May-apple	3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Meadow Cow Parsnip	5	GNR		NNA	SE1
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose	3	GNR		NNA	SE5
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	5	G5		NNA	SE3
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle	5	GNR		NNA	SE5
<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>	Prickly Gooseberry	3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> <i>ssp. Pubens</i>	Red Elderberry	3	G5T5		N5	S5
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	Red Trillium	3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	-3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	-3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape	0	G5		N5	S5
<i>Euonymus obovatus</i>	Running Strawberry Bush	3	G5		N5	S4
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	-3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Skunk Cabbage	-5	G5		N5	S5
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Spotted Jewelweed	-3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Hypericum punctatum</i>	Spotted St. John's-wort	0	G5		N5	S5
<i>Geum vernum</i>	Spring Avens	3	G5		N4	S4
<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal	0	G5		N5	S5
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	-3	G5		N4	S4
<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>	Tall Meadow-rue	-3	G5		NNR	S5
<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i>	Thicket Creeper	3	G5		N5	S5
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	5	GNR		NNA	SE5

<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	3	G5		N4		S4
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	Twingleaf	3	G5		N4		S4
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash	3	G5		N5		S4
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	5	G5		NNA		SE5
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	White Trillium	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	White Trout-lily	3	G5		N4		S4
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	5	GNR		NNA		SE5
<i>Rubus idaeus ssp. strigosus</i>	Wild Red Raspberry	3	G5T5		N5		S5
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry	3	G5		N5		S5
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch	0	G5		N5		S5

Table 3 Flora Species Observed

## Fauna

The following table lists the fauna species observed during the 2024 field surveys. SCRCA staff did not identify or observe any species at risk during the survey. Though some special concern species like Snapping Turtle have been observed on the property on multiple occasions.

Fauna Species Inventory				
Scientific Species Name	Common Species Name	Srank	COSEWIC	SARA Status
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose	S5	0	0
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard Duck	S5	0	0
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	S4	0	0
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Beaver	S5	0	0
<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	American Toad	S5	0	0
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Eastern Gray Squirrel	S5	0	0
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow	S5	0	0
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Northern Cardinal	S5	0	0
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Black-capped Chickadee	S5	0	0
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird	S5	0	0
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	American Goldfinch	S5	0	0
<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Gray Catbird	S5B, S3N	0	0
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin	S5	0	0
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow	S5	0	0
<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Blue Jay	S5	0	0
<i>Tamias striatus</i>	Eastern Chipmunk	S5	0	0
<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	White-breasted Nuthatch	S5	0	0
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole	S4B	0	0

Dryobates villosus	Hairy Woodpecker	S5	0	0
Myiarchus crinitus	Great Crested Flycatcher	S5B	0	0
Lithobates sylvaticus	Wood Frog	S5	0	0
Aix sponsa	Wood Duck	S5B, S3N	0	0
Dryocopus pileatus	Pileated Woodpecker	S5	0	0
Molothrus ater	Brown-headed Cowbird	S5	0	0
Spinus pinus	Pine Siskin	S5	0	0
Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker	S5	0	0
Quiscalus quiscula	Common Grackle	S5	0	0
Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer	S4B	0	0
Setophaga coronata	Yellow-Rumped Warbler	S5B, S4N	0	0
Vireo gilvus	Warbling Vireo	S5B	0	0
Pheucticus ludovicianus	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	S5B	0	0

Table 4 Fauna Species Observed

## Forest Management

SCRCA staff completed a forest inventory in 2006, and mapping was updated in 2012. This inventory looked at the forested areas, woodlands, and plantations throughout the property and identified management actions and noted damage caused by insects, disease and pests. The 2012 forest inventory is included in Appendix B. Although there is currently no active harvesting planned, woodland management in the form of tree removal may occur due to risk management or habitat improvements. Updated forest inventories, forest health monitoring and climate change may suggest a more active management role of the woodlands.

It is also noted that as the effects of a changing climate become more prevalent, the growth and health of the forests will be affected. One anticipated change is the lack of available moisture as temperatures increase. This will put certain native woody species outside of their current and historic growth zones. To mitigate these impacts, the SCRCA will ensure species diversity is maintained or increased in the forest communities and encourage or introduce drought tolerant species or those with the greatest climatic range for planting or reforestation projects to ensure the sustainability of these forests.

## Site Use

### Current Land Uses

The Coldstream Conservation Area provides passive recreation with over 4 kilometers of nature trails. The following table identifies the permitted uses on the property.

Activity	Permitted & Unpermitted Site Uses		Notes:
	Permitted (Yes/No)	Occurring (Yes/No)	

			(e.g. Conditions, Parties Involved, Start/End Date)
<b>Passive Recreation</b>			
Dog Walking	Yes	Yes	Dogs must be on a leash and under control of the owner at all times.
Fishing	Yes	Yes	Must follow provincial regulations and guidelines.
Foraging (Food Gathering)	No	No	Where requested collaboration with Indigenous communities is encouraged.
Motorboat Use	No	No	Not permitted on the reservoir.
Off Road Vehicle Use	No	Yes	Damage has occurred on the property, damaging trails and the river bed.
Horseback Riding	No	No	
Hunting	No	No	
Mountain Biking	Yes	Yes	Bikes are permitted on marked trails but should remain aware of other users and travel at modest speeds.
Hiking	Yes	Yes	Permitted only on marked trails
Paddling	Yes	Yes	Canoes and kayaks, no motors

Snowmobiling	No	No	
Observing/Photographing Nature	Yes	Yes	
Swimming	No	No	Reservoir is unsafe for swimming due to high bacteria levels.
Recreational Drone Use	No	No	Permission may be available by permit.
<b>Active Recreation</b>			
Soccer	Yes	No	Old soccer field present at park but not actively used, was previously used for minor soccer program but no longer meets their needs. Soccer fields are not level and would require investment to make them functional again. Field is not currently offered to rent due to poor condition.
Snow Shoeing	Yes	No	
Playgrounds	Yes	Yes	

Table 5 Permitted and Unpermitted Site Uses

**\*\*Some unpermitted activities may be assessed on a case by case basis and special permission can be granted in certain circumstances.**

## Land and Resource Management Activities

The SCRCA may conduct a variety of activities to improve the land and natural resources of the property or to generate revenue. Examples of these activities are described below.

**Fish Stocking** – fish stocking has occurred on the property in the past when funding for such activities was available. Although there is no current fish stocking occurring it is an activity that may be done where the SCRCA feels the activity will improve the natural ecosystem function and/or improve recreational opportunities.

**Forestry (reforestation, harvesting)** - these activities are not active on a yearly basis but could be completed when recommended through the Forest Management Plan.

**Planting (native species, other)** - this activity occurs minimally throughout the property and generally consists of infill planting in low numbers through the SCRCA memorial tree program or other donations/grants.

**Invasive Species Management** – ongoing activity, use of manual and/or chemical control when needed. The scope of project varies depending on funding.

**Herbicide Application** – in general herbicide is not used on the property for aesthetic purposes, limited spot spraying for poison ivy or for invasive species control may be completed where necessary.

**Prescribed Fire** – although prescribed fire is used as a management activity on some properties particularly in prairie or pollinator habitat the use of prescribed fire may not be an appropriate control method for this property.

## Adjacent Land Use

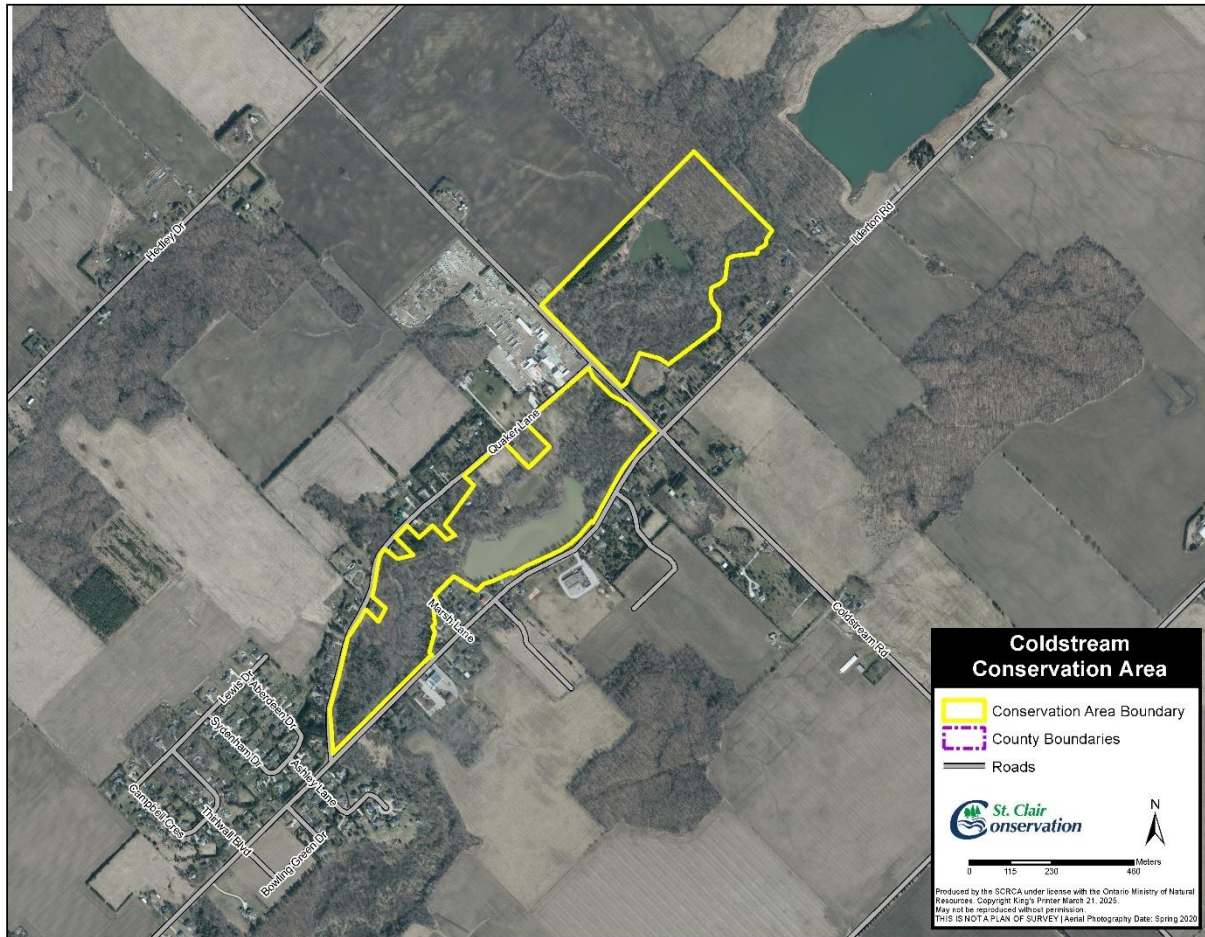


Figure 6 Adjacent land use surrounding Coldstream CA

The Coldstream Conservation Area is surrounded predominantly by agricultural land. Single family residential homes are also present within the hamlet of Coldstream and industrial infrastructure in the form of a concrete factory (Coldstream Concrete) lies adjacent to the conservation area on the northwest corner of the Quaker Lane/Coldstream Road junction. Significant woodlands and natural areas also exist in the surrounding lands.

The boundaries indicated on this map are approximate and not to survey grade.

Development and Infrastructure  
Buildings and Structures

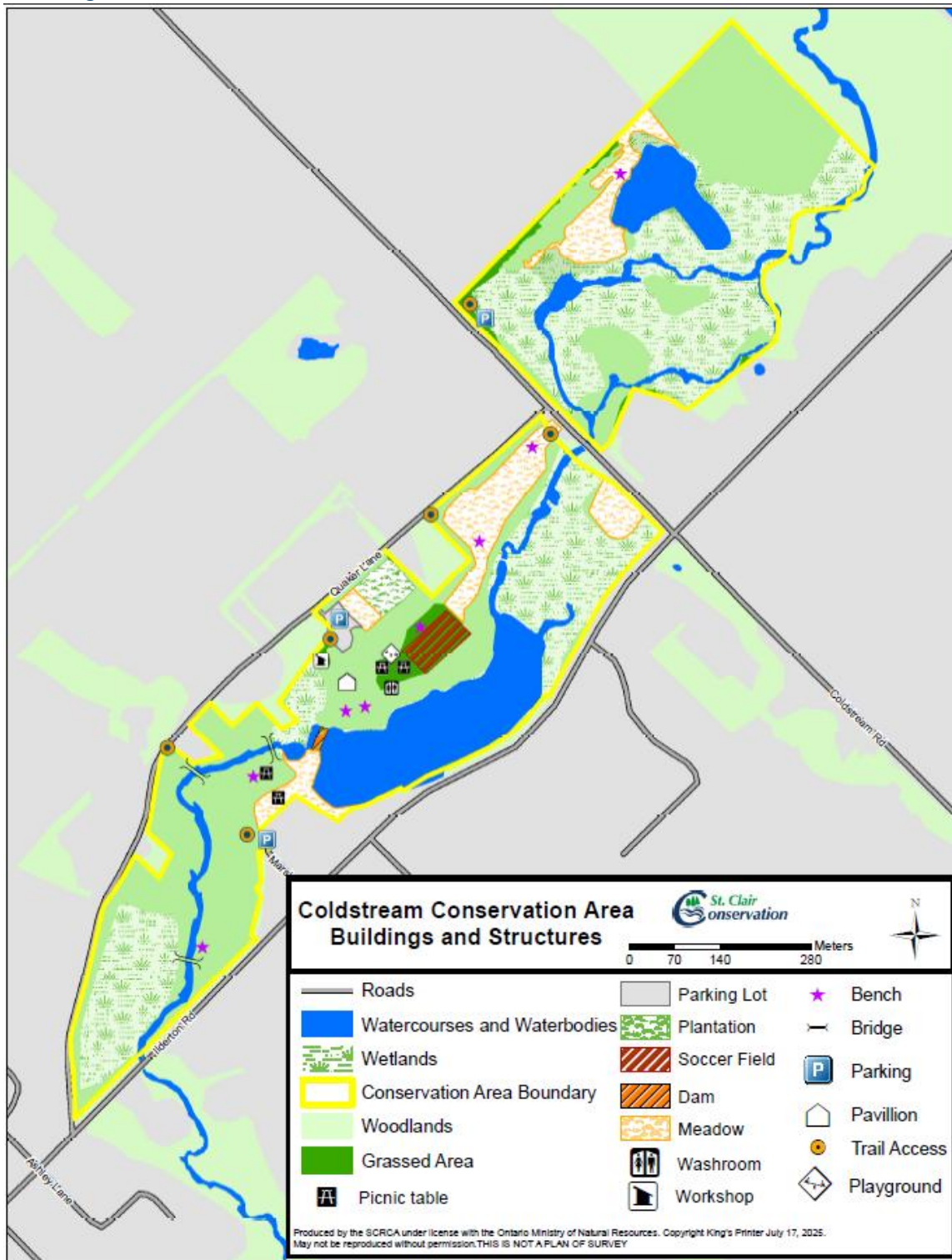


Figure 7 Buildings and Structures

Description	Comments
Five sided pavilion - 38' diameter Pavilion in day-use area, wood structure with shingled roof and steel posts.	Recent roof replacement in 2019. Picnic tables provided in pavilion. One hydro receptable located in pavilion, fed from concession building. No longer rented to groups as of 2024 due to challenges with some renters. Some minor maintenance required.
Concession building and washroom – 22' x 40' block wall building with shingled roof, wood siding and brick	When constructed, this was a combined concession building and washroom/shower facility. It was used by swimmers, day-use visitors, and campers. The washrooms remained in operation following beach and campground closures until 2019. Municipal staff noted plumbing deficiencies when under their management, washroom facility closed since 2019. No longer a demand for concession area. Washrooms facilities are much larger than required for current needs. Significant renovation is needed to rehabilitate this building; immediate requirements include new roof, soffit and fascia, post replacement on covered entrance to washroom, concrete sill repair, and full interior renovation. This building uses well water with a septic system.
Workshop - 28'x40' steel sided steel roof over wood pole barn construction,	Steel siding/roofing replaced in 2023 New overhead door 2023
Outhouse (Privies) (3) - Pit and vault style washroom, no plumbing, 2 include concrete vault, 1 unknown	No longer in use In state of disrepair Should be properly decommissioned when funding is available

Table 6 Description of Buildings and Structures

Trails and Roads

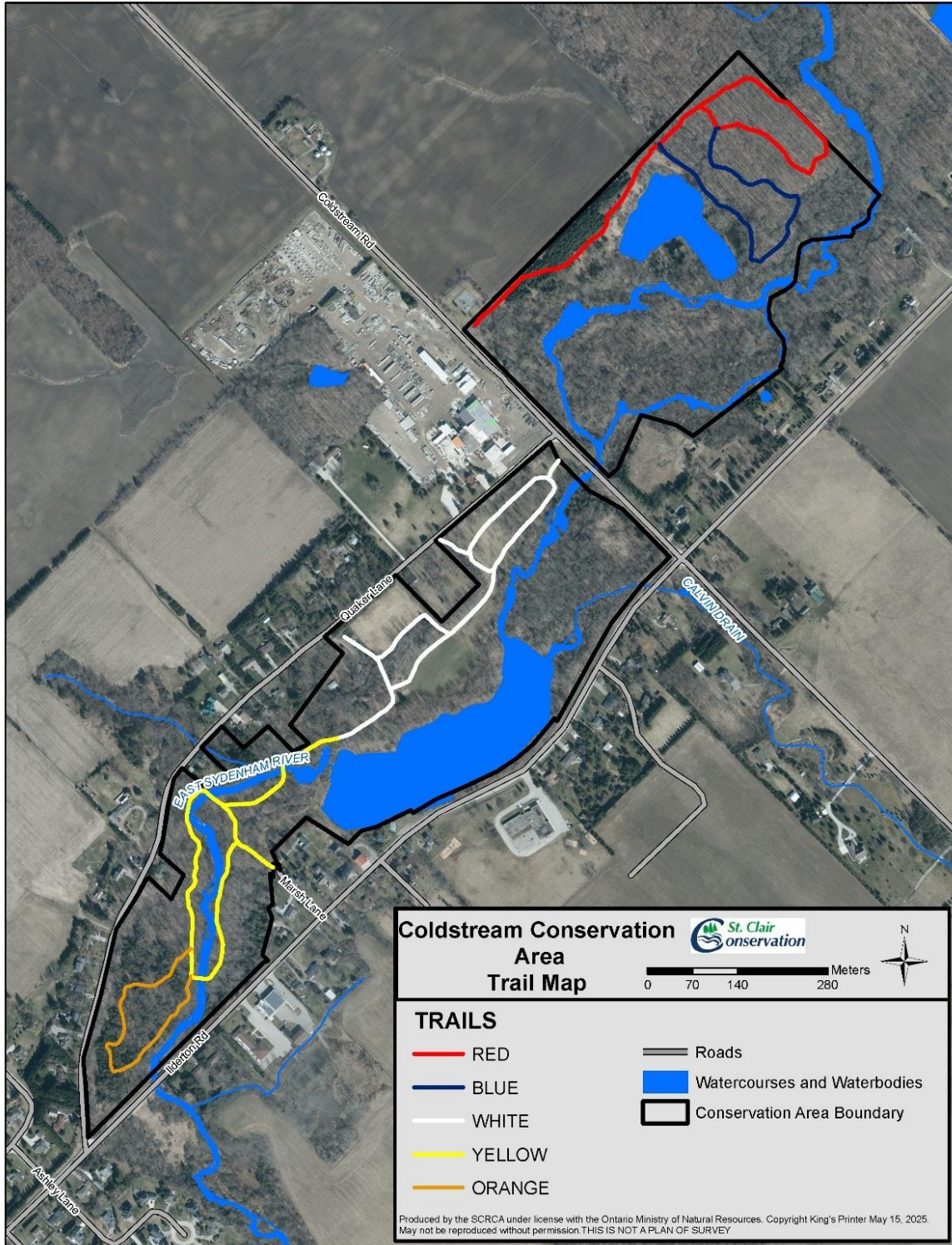


Figure 8 Trails Map

Description	Comments
Orange Trail – 0.5km trail made up of natural surfacing and boardwalks. Traverses through a cedar swamp	Approximately 1,300 feet of boardwalk through a provincially significant cedar swamp wetland. Boardwalk was replaced in 2021/2022
Yellow Trail – 1.0km trail made up of a combination of natural surfacing and 2m wide compacted stone dust, connects areas on either side of the river by three bridge crossings	Trail prone to flooding immediately downstream of dam Trail washouts experienced during flooding on both sides of steel memorial bridge, small boardwalks experience damage during significant flood events
Wooden Deck Pedestrian Bridge – two steel parallel Vierendeel trusses with vertical cross bracing and gusseted cross beams supported by piles 55’ span, 50’ of which is free span, trusses overlaid with 2x10 wood plank decking. Handrails on both sides of decking consisting of wood supported by steel posts from the trusses.	Modifications completed based on recommendations provided in Paragon Engineering Ltd’s report (1995) Narrow bridge creates challenges for multiple users Entry to bridge has numerous large roots protruding from the ground, trip hazard and challenge for strollers Occasionally large logs jam up under the bridge in flooding events Railings don’t have vertical balusters
Old Cement Deck Road Bridge	Often used for photography (engagement, family, wedding etc.) Concerns with aging structure Cracks evident in concrete abutments Some evidence of damaged steel components Original road crossing pre acquisition Now pedestrian use only
Steel Memorial Bridge - 17m span, 2m wide metal bridge on concrete abutments. Constructed of “weathering” steel finish to provide a natural looking, maintenance free finish	Installed in 2022/2023 Funds were donated by the Enviro-Friends of Coldstream and the Poplar Hill Lions In memory of Bruce Alan ‘Al’ Bycraft, a longtime member of the Enviro-Friends of Coldstream
White Trail – 1.1km long trail, 2m wide compacted stone dust trail provides access to the playground and pavilion, contains rest benches and picnic tables,	Stone dust surface installed in fall 2023
Blue Trail – 0.6km trail, made up of natural surfacing, traverses a sugar maple woodlot and boasts many spring ephemerals	Narrow footpath provides views to the pond. Additional mountain bike trails and ramps created in the past, signage posted to prevent further damage.

Red Trail – 1.0km trail made up of natural surfacing, mature maple forest, many spring wildflowers.	ATV damage has been a concern in the past, trail went under rehabilitation efforts in 2022
Quaker Lane Parking lot - Gravel parking with cedar posts delineating parking area	Parking lot reconfigured in 2024 Larger capacity, well used and considered the main parking area for the park Portable washrooms located seasonally in this area Cedar trees limbed up and thinned in 2024 to improve visibility into the parking lot and reduce unwanted behaviour
Marsh Lane Parking Lot - Small gravel parking lot located at the end of Marsh Lane	Low usage Gate providing staff maintenance access.
Coldstream Road Parking Lot	Gravel parking lot re-constructed in 2022 with concrete barriers Generally sufficient space for current uses (parks 6-8 vehicles)

Table 7 Description of Trails and Roads

### Fences, Power Lines, Pipelines and Easements

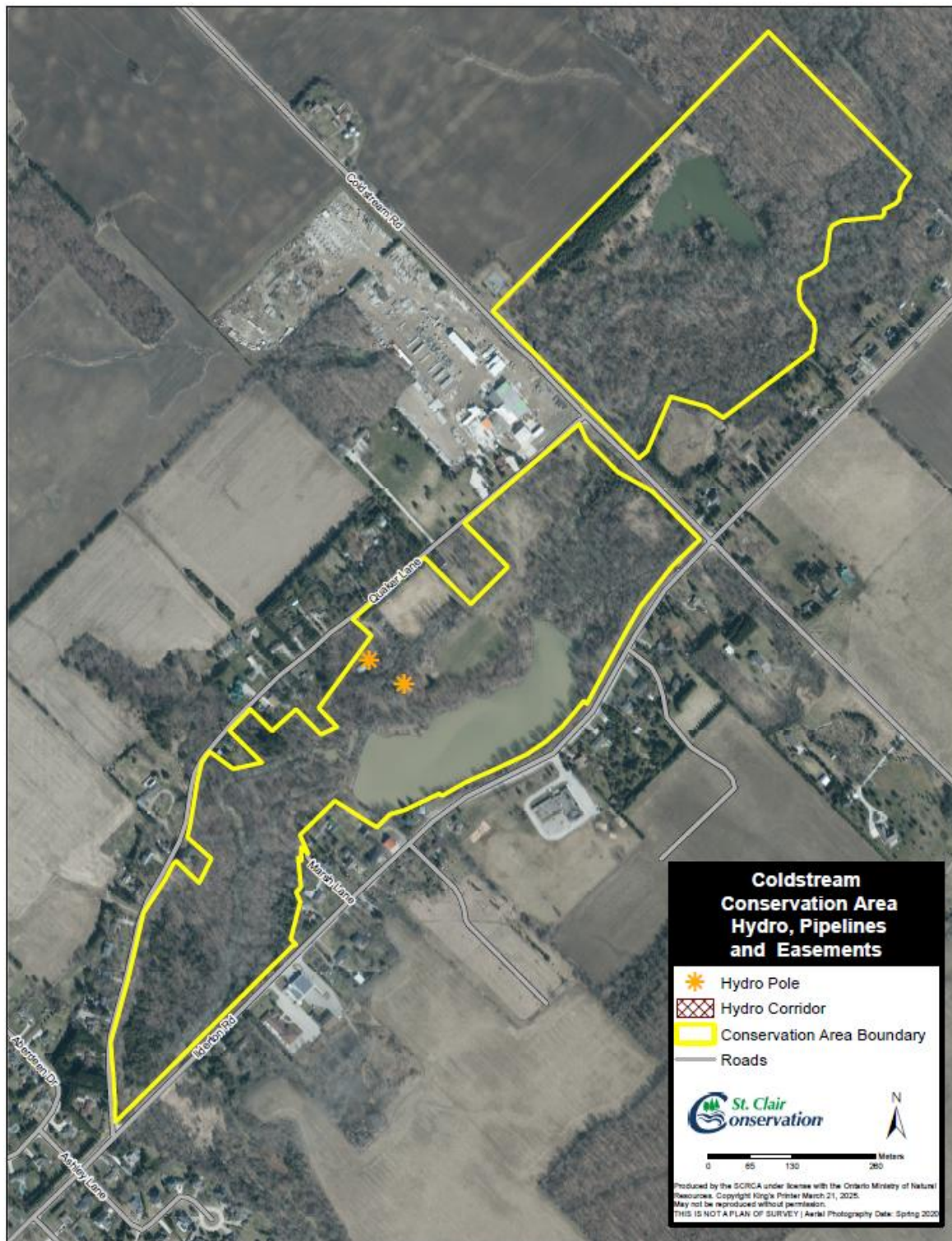


Figure 9 Hydro, Pipeline and Easements Map

Description	Comments
Powerlines	<p>Two hydro poles on site, one near workshop, second between workshop and concession/washroom building</p> <p>Overhead wires extend to concession building</p> <p>An underground line runs from concession/washroom building to the pavilion</p>

Table 8 Description of Power Lines, Pipelines or Easements

### Recreational Infrastructure (see Figure 7)

Description	Comments
Soccer field	<p>Previously two soccer fields existed. One adjacent to the main parking lot has been retired and planted to trees and pollinator habitat. The second field (adjacent to the playground) is in poor condition and is not level, the field is no longer being rented due to condition and demand. It is available for casual use by visitors.</p>
Playground with swing set	<p>The playground is in good condition, designed for children age 18 months to 12 years installed in 2002, woodchip base.</p>

Table 9 Description of Recreational Infrastructure

### Dam and Reservoir

The 11-acre (4.45 hectare) reservoir is a prominent feature of the property, the original purpose of the reservoir was to support recreational opportunities like swimming, boating and fishing, making it a popular attraction for campers and visitors alike. The White Trail loop meanders along the northern side of the reservoir providing viewing opportunities to visitors. The reservoir is fed by the East Sydenham River, and a smaller watercourse called the Calvin Drain. Since the installation of the dam and creation of the reservoir the depth of sedimentation has increased in the reservoir. Additionally, the water quality has declined, resulting in negative impacts to recreational activities and wildlife habitat.

Dams in general can negatively impact river ecosystems by creating barriers to fish passage, impeding mussel distribution, altering thermal regimes, altering sediment transport, and degrading water quality (temperature, oxygen levels, algal growth, and bacteria levels). Local concerns have been raised about the water quality in the reservoir, specifically the algal blooms and high bacteria counts leading to the closure of

the reservoir for swimming. Dams are a source of liability and safety concerns to visitors, additionally, the costs to replace these features are significant. Due to these environmental impacts, liability, and safety concerns, the SCRCA has investigated the feasibility of removal of this structure.

A feasibility study conducted by GSS Engineering Consultants was prepared in 2023 to provide options and recommendations to remove the dam structure. Options identified range from a full removal of the dam, gradual or partial removal of the dam and construction of a by-pass channel around the reservoir to leave the dam in place. Based on these identified options, preliminary concept drawings were created to show how the park will look if the dam is removed and the area restored, these are outlined below. With support from the Municipality of Middlesex Centre the SCRCA will further pursue the option of decommissioning this dam and seek public consultation. Further studies will focus on two options including phased removal and partial removal of the dam. This will be a separate public consultation process from this Master Plan.



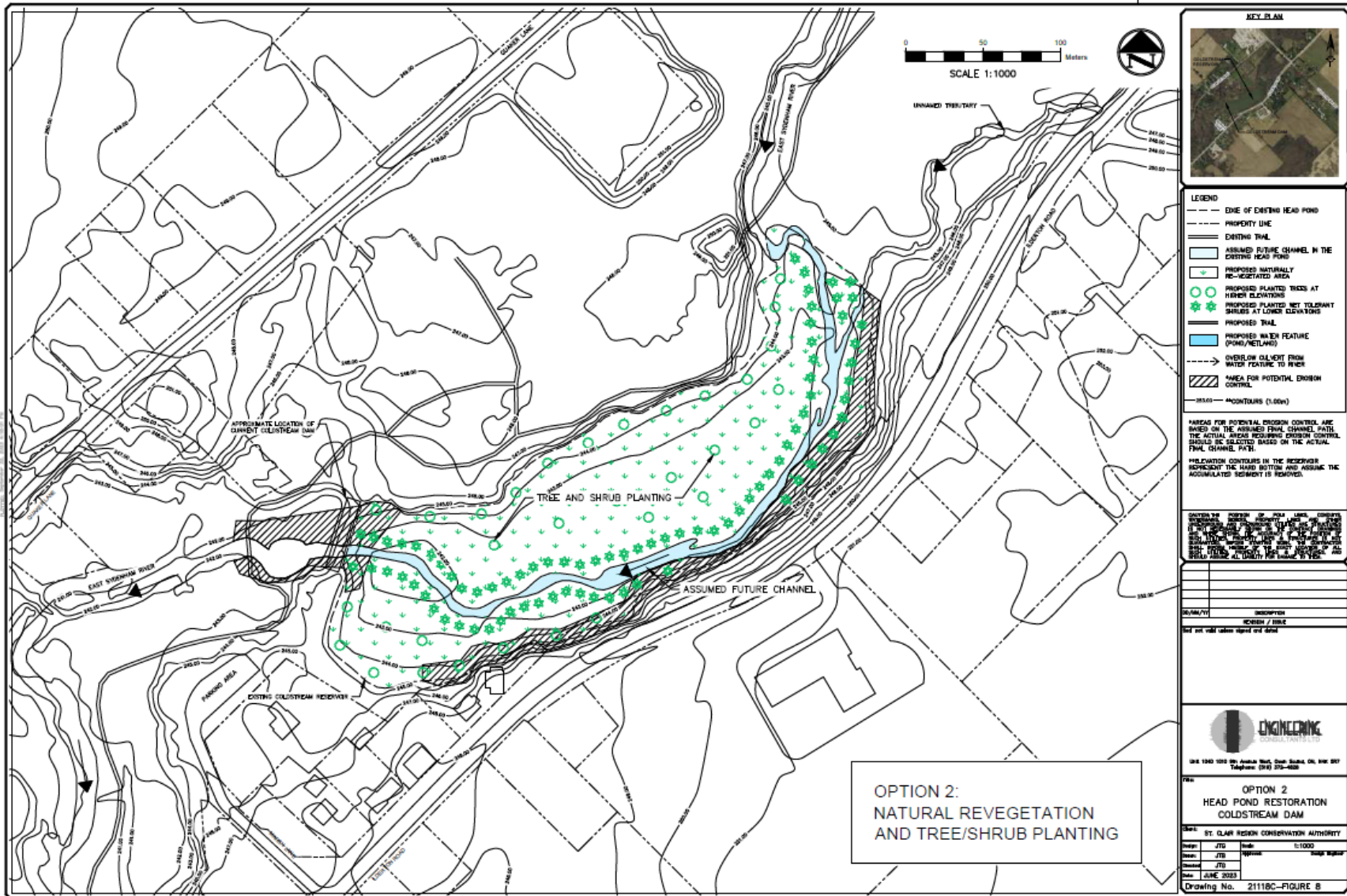


Figure 11 Restoration Concept 2: Natural Revegetation and Tree/Shrub Planting

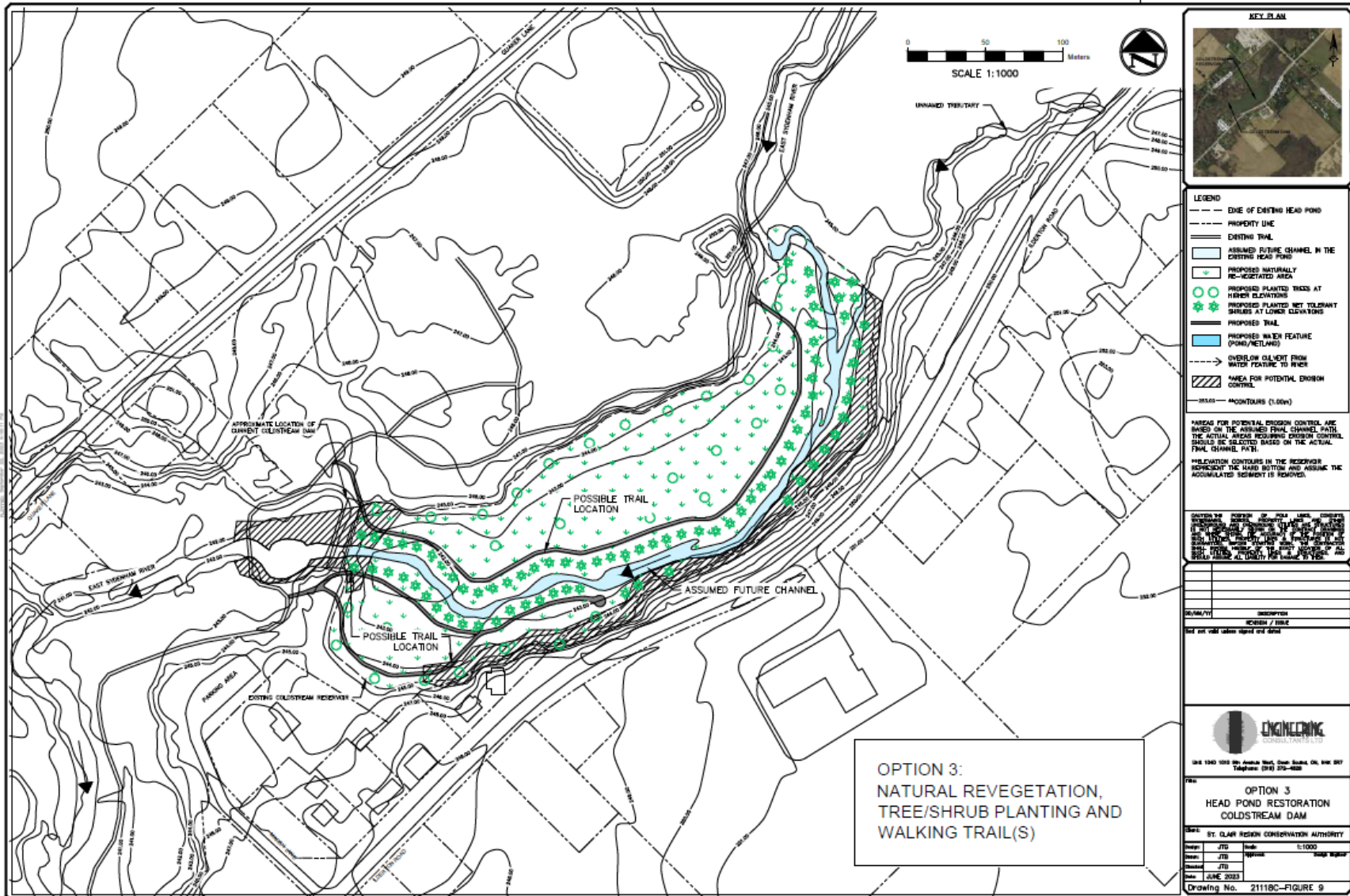


Figure 12 Restoration Concept 3: Natural Revegetation, Tree/Shrub Planting and Walking Trail(s)

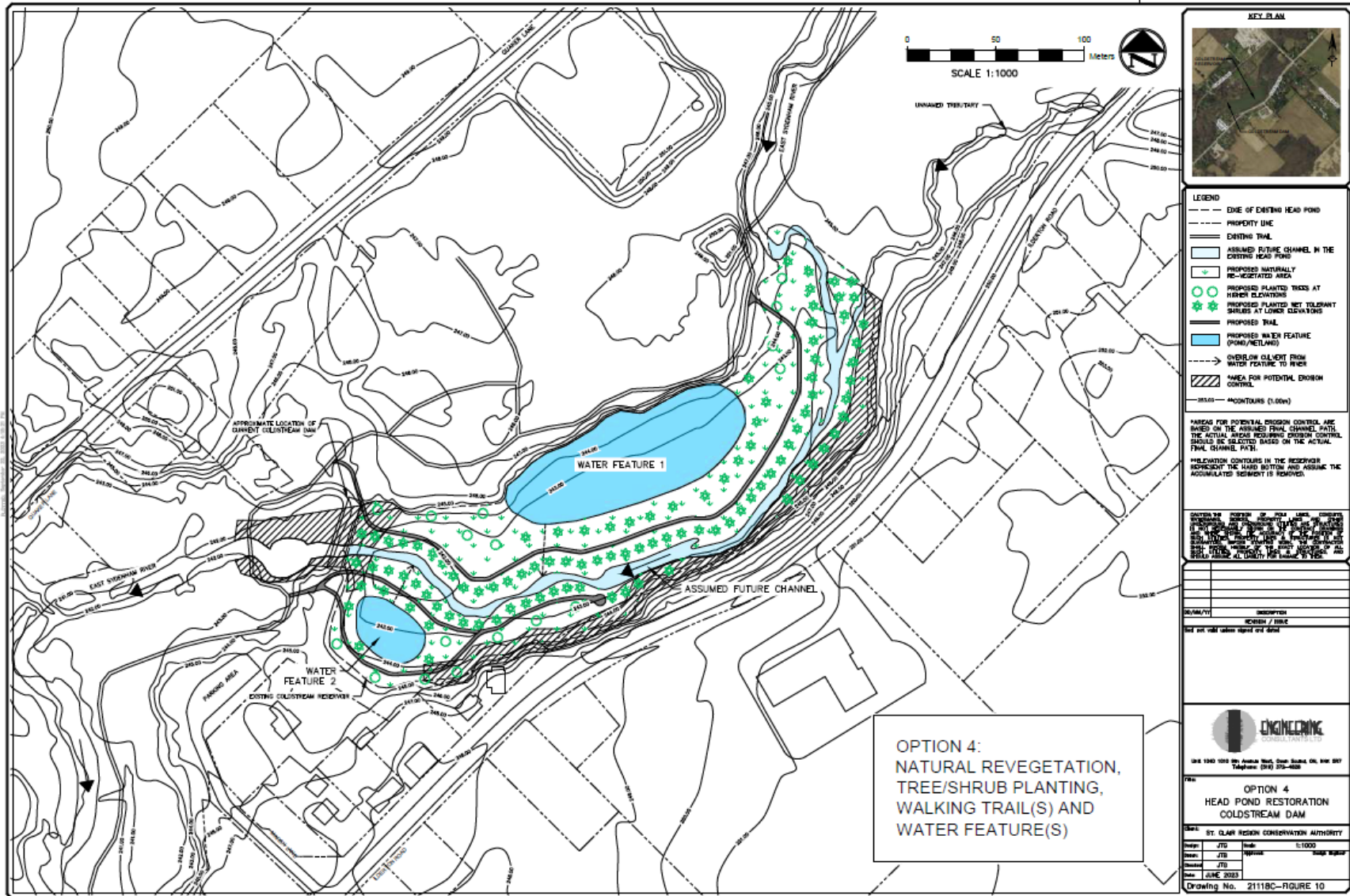


Figure 13 Restoration Concept 4: Natural Revegetation Tree/Shrub Planting. Walking Trail(s) and Water Feature(s)

## Educational Opportunities

Minimal education programming exists at the Coldstream Conservation Area. Staff provide an aquatic identification course to high school students once a year. Requests for programming at this property by local schools were more frequent prior to 2020.

This property has the potential for educational use and site-specific educational programs. The pavilion provides a sheltered outdoor space for small groups, and the concession/washroom building could be repurposed for educational programs or a satellite classroom.

### Day-Camp Opportunity

The Coldstream Conservation Area has the potential to provide a suitable location for summer day camps if desired by the community and with success in sourcing funds for building restoration. The existing infrastructure on the property including playground, pavilion, hiking trails, open field/soccer fields, picnicking areas and natural features would provide lots of opportunity for kids to play, learn and explore. Based on a survey of camps hosted by local Municipalities and neighboring Conservation Authorities, there is a high demand for summer day camps in the area. Assessing both the information gathered from the surveys and existing infrastructure staff have come up with the following for consideration.

A weekly program with an environment/outdoor education focus could run for up to 9 weeks in the summer. This will require additional summer staff to run the program estimated at three staff per group. Group sizes of approximately 20 kids would be considered with a maximum up to two groups. The cost of such a program is anticipated to range from \$250-\$300/week per child with the option of extended hour fees, this is comparable to other day camps in the area.

The Coldstream Conservation Area is missing a suitable building that would provide shelter for kids during inclement weather and on rainy days. The existing Washroom/Concession building could be renovated and/or expanded to provide this feature. Excluding infrastructure costs, it is anticipated that a summer day camp program of this nature would be financially self-sufficient.

## Final Management Recommendations

Final Management Recommendations are listed below. To achieve these goals, funding will be secured through various funding sources including grants and donations.

Action	Recommendation	Cost
<b>Signage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove outdated wooden signage</li> </ul>	\$1,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install caution signage around dam</li> </ul>	\$250
<b>Trails</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recommend upgrading trail in locations prone to wash out</li> </ul>	\$3,500-\$5,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut away exposed roots from trail in targeted areas (e.g. at bridge entrances)</li> </ul>	Staff Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor for unauthorized uses, improve deterrence and increase enforcement if required of off-road vehicles*</li> </ul>	Increased Staff Time See further detail below
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orange trail boardwalk should be extended at each end to span wet areas</li> </ul>	\$12,000 - \$17,000
<b>Forest Management/Natural Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thin volunteer poplars from plantation in old soccer field</li> </ul>	Staff Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only native species or those acceptable to the area, including drought tolerant species, will be planted for forestry or wildlife habitat on the property</li> </ul>	Unknown
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect natural and sensitive features by controlling/restricting usage</li> </ul>	Unknown
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of hazard trees as per the SCRCA Hazard Tree Policy</li> </ul>	Unknown
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any trees cut, or debris falling naturally, will be removed from trails, parking lots, or other managed areas as necessary, with an appropriate amount of material left onsite to decompose naturally</li> </ul>	Unknown
<b>Recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete basic soccer field improvements (fill holes and level field for casual use, no rentals)</li> </ul>	\$4,000-\$10,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground 24 years old at time of this report, will likely need replaced within 10-20yrs</li> </ul>	\$50,000 and up for replacement
<b>Dam and Reservoir</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to investigate the feasibility of removal of the dam</li> </ul>	See dam decommissioning study (2023)

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove three pit and vault outhouses on the property which are in close proximity to the Sydenham</li> </ul>	\$10,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concrete repairs around pavilion perimeter</li> </ul>	\$5,000 - \$7,500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to identified cracks in the concrete abutments and some evidence of damaged steel components, hire a structural engineer to review the condition of the old concrete road bridge and provide recommendations</li> </ul>	\$5,000-\$10,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install railings on three concrete abutments to old concrete road bridge</li> </ul>	\$8,000-\$10,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install parking lot lighting to deter unwanted activities and improve visibility during low light hours</li> </ul>	\$5,000-\$10,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three options have been proposed in the section below. The preferred option identified through public consultation is renovating and restore the bathroom in the existing building and ensure accessibility. See details below.</li> </ul>	See pricing for options in section below.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The remnant water wheel concrete structure poses a risk to the public if people were to climb on it, recommend removal*</li> </ul>	\$5,000-\$8,000 see further detail below
<b>Invasive Species</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate areas of buckthorn and remove</li> </ul>	Ongoing and grant dependent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify phragmites patches and control using manual and chemical options</li> </ul>	

Table 10 Final Management Recommendations

\*\* Budget costs are in 2025 dollars, projects and budgets are to be reviewed prior to implementation.

\*\*\* Major capital items dependent on fundraising/grant

### *Additional details for select recommendations\**

#### Off-road vehicle Damage

The northern woodlot located on the northeast side of Coldstream Road has experienced off-road vehicle damage for many years. To deter this unwanted activity and damage, the SCRCA improved the parking lot at Coldstream Road to encourage hikers to use this restored trail loop. Additionally, signage was installed, and large concrete blocks were placed at various locations to prevent use by off-road vehicles. In 2022, SCRCA undertook a major repair of the trails to remediate the ruts and damage. These efforts to deter the unwanted use have led to a significant improvement, however, the property is still experiencing unauthorized use and damage by off-road vehicles. The SCRCA should continue to implement deterrents and increase enforcement if required.

#### Remnant Water Wheel Structure

There is an old concrete structure located on the north side of the Marsh Lane parking lot. This is the remnant of a water wheel that was propelled by a control gate on the dam. When the SCRCA acquired the properties making up the Coldstream Conservation Area the water wheel was in poor condition and not functioning. In the 1980's, the SCRCA constructed the existing water wheel with limited success. With increasing liability surrounding the structure it was fenced off and abandoned. Part of the concrete from the water wheel is still present on the property but has in recent years been fenced off to prevent people from being on or near it. As the structure no longer has a purpose it is recommended that the SCRCA remove the structure to eliminate the risk to visitors.

#### Washroom/Concession building

The original intent of the washroom/concession building was to act as a central hub for the property consisting of a concession booth, changing area for the beach and soccer fields, and a washroom facility including showers for campers. The washroom portion of the building is larger than what is required for the current demand of the property. A significant investment is needed to restore the building, and a new use should be identified to justify the restoration. If an alternative use cannot be identified the SCRCA should consider removal and/or replacement of the building with a smaller washroom building.

Alternative uses for the building could consist of a satellite classroom for the SCRCA education program, a location for community outreach events or a location to host summer day-camps. The sections below provide additional information and options identified by staff.

## Alternative Uses

### Option 1: Building Removal, Site Restoration, and Continued Use of Portable Washrooms

Permanent removal of the building is the cheapest option for both capital cost and long-term maintenance/operating expenses. Currently, none of SCRCA's other day-use properties have washroom buildings (only campgrounds). For several years, Coldstream has been operating with portable washrooms (seasonally) in the Quaker Lane parking lot.



### Option 2: Building Removal and Replacement with Small Washroom Building

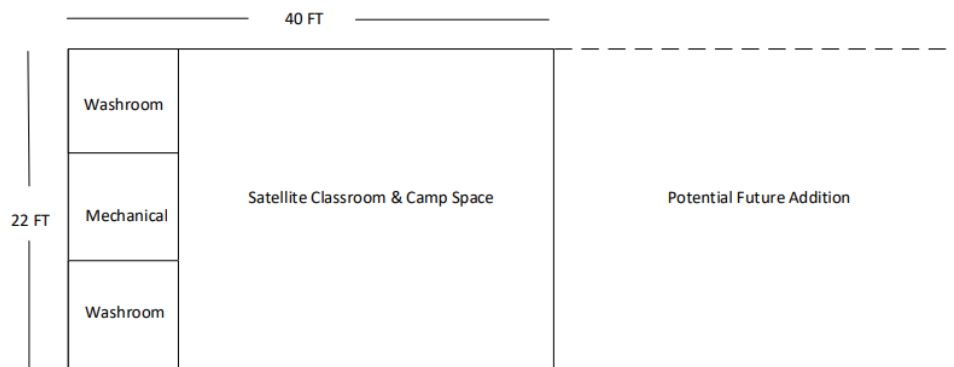
The existing washrooms are larger than required for current property use. When constructed, the washrooms serviced the campground, soccer fields, and functioned as a change facility for the beach. The existing washrooms have multiple stalls and shower facilities. The building does not meet accessibility standards. If it is desirable to have a permanent washroom building but there is no future need for the remainder of the building, an option would be to replace the building with a smaller facility. The picture below shows a 2-stall washroom with mechanical room. A building such as the one shown can be ordered as a prefabricated unit that gets delivered and set in place.



**Option 3: Renovate Building to Accommodate Smaller Washroom Facilities and a Satellite Classroom/Camp Space**

The existing building could be salvaged and renovated to meet future needs. The building would need to be fully renovated, and the washroom size reduced. The remainder of the building would need to be repurposed in some way. One option would be to use the remaining space for a satellite classroom for the education program. SCRCA’s education facility at Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area is too far from this area of the watershed to be practical to serve local schools. A satellite classroom would allow for programming in this area of the watershed.

Additionally, this classroom space could provide other opportunities and benefits to the community. It could be used for a summer day camp program or as a meeting space for a local community group. If demand for space is high (day camp), there would be space for a future addition.



**Cost Comparison:**

	Capital Cost Estimate	Annual Operating Expense (Not including programs)
Option 1	\$10,000	\$3000
Option 2	\$345,000 - \$370,000	\$7,500 - \$10,000
Option 3	\$225,000 - \$275,000	\$8,500 - \$12,000

\*Annual Operating costs need to be supported by the Municipality of Middlesex Centre

\*Capital costs would need to be obtained through grant, donation, or municipal support

**Pros and Cons:**

	Pros	Cons

Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowest capital and operating cost</li> <li>• Provides washrooms seasonally</li> <li>• Can easily add washrooms during busiest times</li> <li>• Lowest demand on SCRCA staff (washrooms supplied and maintained by 3<sup>rd</sup> party)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most visitors prefer a permanent washroom facility</li> <li>• Loss of existing infrastructure</li> <li>• Portable washrooms are less accessible</li> <li>• Portable washrooms located in parking lot are less central on the property</li> </ul>
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New washroom facility would be accessible</li> <li>• New facility would be a low maintenance construction</li> <li>• Would provide better visitor experience than portable washrooms</li> <li>• Prefab unit simplifies construction/installation process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expensive for two washroom stalls</li> <li>• SCRCA will need to have staff clean once or twice per week or hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party cleaning service</li> </ul>
Option 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses existing structure</li> <li>• Would provide better visitor experience than portable washrooms</li> <li>• Less expensive than options 2</li> <li>• Satellite classroom/camp space provides additional benefits to community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The older structure needs extensive renovation</li> <li>• Must spend some money on the roof asap to prevent deterioration of the building</li> <li>• Limited storage space for satellite classroom</li> </ul>

Through public consultation the SCRCA asked what option for the existing washroom/concession building most appeals to the respondents. Survey results showed that 65 % of responses favored option 3, where 18% were in favor of removing the building and constructing a smaller washroom building, 6% preferred removing the building and continuing with portable washrooms and 12% had no preference. **Based on the feedback from the public consultation the preferred option was option 3, to renovate the building, and create a smaller washroom facility and new satellite classroom/camp space.** At the time of renovation the building will be designed to meet accessibility standards.

This option requires additional operating budget. As the Municipality of Middlesex Center funds the operation of this property it is necessary that the SCRCA acquire support of the Municipality.

## Community Consultation for the Coldstream Conservation Area

Community consultation for the Coldstream Conservation Area took place in the form of an online survey which was active for a period of 48 days. This consultation was advertised through social media, the authority website, and in local news: 105.7 myFM news.

The following groups were contacted for feedback during the consultation process: Local Indigenous Communities and the Municipality of Middlesex Center.

A total of 36 responses were received by Indigenous Community, Municipal partner, and the general public.

The consultation survey was a valuable method to obtain opinions and feedback on specific issues the SCRCA is considering as well as the overall draft plan. The following summary outlines some of the key themes noted in the results of the survey (refer to appendix D and E for individual comments).

Hiking and Nature Enjoyment are the dominant uses of the Coldstream Conservation Area making up over 70% of responses. Respondents often made note of the beauty of the park and made requests to extend the boardwalk and provide opportunities for improved site lines/observation points by the water. Some responses also requested the incorporation of interpretive signage for species or habitats that highlight the unique features of the property.

91% of respondents feel the current playground meets the needs of visitors, however, it is noted that this equipment is 24 years old at the time of this report and may have a limited lifespan remaining. Updates have been made to the recommendations table to address this concern.

Regarding what option is most preferred for the existing washroom/concession building, 65% of respondents say the building should be renovated to consist of a small washroom area and open space. 41% of respondents prefer the open space area to be used for a Day Camp or Satellite Classroom where a close 31% prefer the use to be for community space. More detail on the preferred outcome has been addressed in the section above.




Another question presented in the consultation was to determine how important the aesthetic of the aging concrete bridge is to the community, as this aging infrastructure may require replacement in the future. Overall, 35% of respondents were neutral showing no preference on maintaining the current aesthetic, however, a close 32% feel it is extremely important to maintain the current aesthetic.



## Appendices

### Appendix A: Photos of the Site

#### Buildings and Infrastructure

<p>Pavilion #1 – located in the day-use area</p>	
<p>Concession Building and Washroom – located in the day use area between soccer field and reservoir</p>	
<p>Workshop – located west of the Quaker Lane parking lot</p>	

Outhouses (Privies) (3) – The first is located off the trail from the Quaker Lane parking lot between the soccer field and the new plantation – this privy was constructed by the Enviro Friends of Coldstream during their management of the property.







The other two outhouses (privies) are located on the eastern end of the property towards Coldstream Road, these are located in the old campground area.



Cement structure – remnant water wheel foundation located north of Marsh Lane parking lot



Trails and Roads

<p>Orange Trail – 0.5km trail made up of natural surfacing and boardwalks. Traverses through a cedar swamp</p>	
<p>Yellow Trail – 1.0km trail made up of a combination of natural surfacing and 2m wide compacted stone and dust, connects areas on either side of the river by three bridge crossings</p>	
<p>Wooden pedestrian bridge – located on yellow trail connecting trail from Marsh Lane to the cedar swamp</p>	
<p>Cement road bridge located downstream of dam off Quaker Lane Road access</p>	

Steel memorial bridge located immediately downstream of the dam



White Trail – 1.1km long trail, 2m wide compacted stone and dust trail meanders through day use area and old campground



Blue Trail – 0.6km trail, made up of natural surfacing, traverses a sugar maple woodlot on the eastern side of the property access off Coldstream Road



Red Trail – 1.0km trail made up of natural surfacing, mature maple forest off Coldstream Road



Quaker Lane Parking lot - Gravel parking with cedar posts delineating parking area



Marsh Lane Parking Lot - Small gravel parking lot located at end of Marsh Lane



<p>Coldstream Road Parking Lot across from Coldstream Concrete</p>	
<p>Recreation</p>	
<p>Soccer field – located in day use area</p>	
<p>Playground and swing set – located in day-use area across from concession/washroom building and soccer field</p>	

## Appendix B: Coldstream Conservation Area Forest Inventory 2012

### Coldstream Forest Management

Concession 9 Lobo, Part Lot 6, Part Lot 7 & RP 33R5596 Part 1, &  
Concession 8 Lobo, Part Lot 8, Concession 9 Lobo, Part Lots 7, 8, &  
Concession 9 Lobo, Part Lot 9 Plan MRD 122 Part 1 to 2  
Municipality of Middlesex Centre, Middlesex County

#### Property Description

Total Forested Area: 42.2ha

CLTIP Area: 19.6ha

Reservoir CLTIP Area: 4.3ha

This property is divided into east and west parts by Coldstream Rd. The east part is 18.2ha while the west part is 20ha. The west part is also bound by Ilderton Rd to the south and Quaker Line to the North. There are several residential properties that have been severed from the original lots on both Ilderton Rd and Quaker Line which has led to an irregularly shaped boundary. The east part is part of a much larger wooded area but is not fenced and the property boundaries are unclear. The East Sydenham River runs through the property and is dammed to form a small lake in the west part of the property. It is joined just upstream of the dam by the Calvin Drain and is joined downstream of the dam by another unnamed municipal drain. The eastern portion is rolling while the western portion has some steep side slopes but is generally flat to gently undulating flood plain.

#### Past Activities

Gravel was once extracted from both the east and west parts of the property. Much of this area has reforested naturally, but there are some areas of plantations as well. The authority acquired the property in the late 1960s. It replaced the old dam along the East Sydenham River and created two beaches along with a picnic area, campground, sports fields and washroom facilities. The beaches were closed in the mid-1980s and some of this area has been allowed to naturalize. A network of walking trails has been created in the west part of the property. Unauthorized ATV trails have been created in the east portion of the property and several neighbours have created trails that link their properties to the conservation area. Friends of Coldstream currently manage the property on the Authority's behalf.

Tree planting was undertaken on the property in various blocks beginning in the early 1970s. The most recent planting took place in the early 1990s and was infill planting for plantations dating from the mid-1980s. Three permanent sample plots were established in 1985 in the east part of the property. These plots were measured periodically until 2003. Timber was harvested from the area in 1995 using good forest management practices. A Significant portion of the property has been classified as Provincially Significant Wetland and registered in the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program

(CLTIP). This will restrict the types of forest management practices and uses that are allowed on this property in the future.

### Objectives and Strategies

The primary objectives for this property are for environmental protection and recreation. A large portion of the property is considered a provincially significant wetland and Green Dragon, a species of special concern, has been found on the property. Several butternuts, another species-at-risk, have also been found growing throughout the property. Maintaining this property as a conservation area is very important to the local area. There is very little forest cover in the area, and wind erosion and water contamination are problems in the area. A block of forest this size has great environmental value especially as it acts a riparian buffer. Secondary objectives for this property include providing wildlife habitat and nature appreciation. The production of forest products and return on investment are not objectives for this property, although they may result from time to time as a result of trying to achieve the primary and secondary objectives.

These objectives will be implemented through a six compartment plan. Each compartment will be managed according to the forest cover and the recreational opportunity it provides to the public. The majority of the management activities within the conservation area will be carried out by the Friends of Coldstream.

### Compartment 1: Tolerant Hardwood

Area: 6.2ha

CLTIP Area: 1.5ha

This compartment was not part of the gravel extraction operation. It is gently rolling and moderately well drained. Three permanent sample plots were established in 1985 and measured in 1985, 1990, 1995, and 2003. Timber was marked and harvested in 1995 using good forest practices. A network of trails has been created and maintained in the area by ATV users. Trail use is extensive, and soil has become rutted in some areas and compacted and impermeable in others. The Sydenham River flows through the compartment.

### Species Composition:

Species	%
Sugar Maple	50
White Ash	15
Bur Oak	15
Basswood	5
White Oak	5
Red Oak	5
Other Species*	5

\* Black cherry, white elm, beech, ironwood, bitternut hickory and butternut

In previous inventories, bitternut hickory made up 10% of the species composition. Hickory bark beetle has killed many of the bitternut hickories in this area and now they are far less abundant and relegated to other species status. A butternut had previously been found in the area, but it had a severe infestation of butternut canker and was not expected to survive much longer. It was not found in the most recent field surveys.

### Regeneration and Understory:

There is regeneration of sugar maple, white ash, basswood and white elm. Manitoba maple, elderberry, raspberry and choke cherry can also be found in more open areas.

### Basal Area:

Basal area varied from 12m<sup>2</sup>/ha to 28m<sup>2</sup>/ha with an average of 16m<sup>2</sup>/ha.

	Polewood		Saw timber						Total			
	Pole 10-24cm		Small 26-36cm		Medium 38-48cm		Large 50-60cm		X-Large 62+cm		ALL 10+ cm	
	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS
B.A.	2.4	0.8	6.0	1.6	3.2	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	12.8	3.2
TOTAL	3.2		7.6		4.0		0.8		0.4		16.0	

### Diseases and Insects:

Emerald ash borer was found in the white ash. Hickory bark beetle was found in the bitternut hickory. Nectria canker was found on the maples, and black knot fungus was found on choke cherry. Butternut blight was noted on the butternut.

### Quality:

The compartment is in good to fair condition. The ash trees in this compartment are in serious decline from the emerald ash borer and hickory bark beetle has decimated the bitternut hickory. This partially accounts for the low basal area in the compartment. However, the maples and oaks are relatively disease free and growing well.

### Wildlife:

No wildlife was observed.

### Objectives:

The objectives for this compartment are to retain forest cover and promote forest health and biodiversity.

### Recommendations:

- The existing trails through the compartment should become formal authorized trails with permitted uses.
- Deter ATV use in the area by blocking trail entrances and posting signs. The trails run through provincially significant wetland areas and ATV use is an incompatible use under the CLTIP agreement
- If the permanent sample plots are still desired, the markings should be refreshed, and the plots should be re-measured
- An attempt should be made to find the butternut in the area and evaluate its health.

- The basal area is not high enough to recommend any harvesting at this time
- The property boundaries should be located and marked
- Inspect the trails and remove hazard trees annually

## Compartment 2: Former Gravel Pit

Area: 12.8ha

CLTIP Area: 7.4ha

This area was formerly used to extract gravel. It has rolling topography and some areas of pits and mounds where the gravel was extracted and the spoils dumped. The largest of these gravel pits has filled with water and is now a pond. It empties to the East Sydenham River which flows through the compartment. It has largely reforested naturally, although the authority planted a small portion of the area in the mid-1980s with infill planting as recently as the mid-1990s. A network of trails has been created and maintained in the area by ATV users. Trail use is extensive, and soil has become rutted in some areas and compacted and impermeable in others. A bridge has been constructed over the Sydenham, but neighbours complain that it continually washes out. This bridge was not constructed by Authority staff and constitutes a hazard. Much of this area has been designated provincially significant wetland and is protected under the CLTIP agreement.

### Species Composition:

Species	%
Black Locust	25
Willow	15
Eastern Cottonwood	15
Sugar Maple	10
Hawthorn	10
White Ash	5
Black Walnut	5
Basswood	5
Black Cherry	5
Other Species*	5

\* silver maple, Manitoba maple, green ash, bur oak, Norway spruce, white pine and butternut

This area formerly contained as much as 40% white ash. Emerald ash borer has decimated the ash component of this compartment. Many large gaps have been created, and these areas have largely been colonized by shrub species such as dogwood. Two butternuts have been recorded in this compartment. Neither was found during the most recent survey. Both were reported to have butternut canker and to be in serious decline.

### Regeneration and Understory:

Regeneration of willow, eastern cottonwood, green ash, Manitoba maple, black cherry and sugar maple were found. Choke cherry, red osier dogwood, honeysuckle, nannyberry, grapevine and raspberry make up the rest of the understory. In places, advanced regeneration of sugar maple can be found. In areas where pockets of ash have died the regeneration is mainly Manitoba maple with a high density of shrubs such as red osier dogwood and raspberry.

### Basal Area:

Basal area varied greatly from 2m<sup>2</sup>/ha to 38m<sup>2</sup>/ha and averaged 19.6m<sup>2</sup>/ha. In areas where the ash had formerly been dense, basal area was now very low. In the black locust and maple areas, the basal area was quite high.

	Pole wood		Saw timber								Total	
	Pole 10-24cm		Small 26-36cm		Medium 38-48cm		Large 50-60cm		X-Large 62+cm		ALL 10+ cm	
	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS
B.A.	3.6	0.0	4.8	0.8	4.8	1.2	1.2	2.0	0.4	0.8	14.8	4.8
TOTAL	3.6		5.6		6.0		3.2		1.2		19.6	

### Disease and Insects:

Black knot fungus was found on choke cherry. Emerald ash borer has dramatically reduced the ash component in this compartment.

### Quality:

The species composition varies considerably throughout the compartment and so does the quality. In areas formerly dominated by ash, the quality is very poor with basal areas of as little as 2m<sup>2</sup>/ha and dominated by shrubs and less desirable species of regeneration such as Manitoba maple. In other areas where black locust or sugar maple is the major component, the quality is good to very good. The areas of spruce plantation are growing well and have reached crown closure. The trees are beginning to self-prune. The white pine in these plantations is not fairing as well and many appear chlorotic.

### Wildlife:

Previous surveys had found signs of beaver in the compartment, but none were found during this survey. No other wildlife signs were noted.

### Objectives:

The objectives for this compartment are to retain forest cover and promote forest health and biodiversity.

### Recommendations:

- The existing trails through the compartment should become formal authorized trails with permitted uses.
- Deter ATV use by blocking trail entrances and posting signs. The trails run through provincially significant wetland areas and ATV use is an incompatible use under the CLTIP agreement

- An attempt should be made to find the butternuts in the area and evaluate their health.
- The basal area is not high enough to recommend any harvesting at this time
- The property boundaries should be located and marked
- Inspect the trails and remove hazard trees annually
- The spruce plantations should be thinned to release crop trees and promote species diversity
- Monitor regeneration in the large gaps. Replanting in combination with vegetation management may be desirable to speed reforestation
- Permanently remove the washed-out bridge from the compartment

### Compartment 3: Forest Southeast of Campground

Area: 5.0ha

CLTIP Area: 1.5ha

Most of this area was day use area or parking for the day use area from the time that the dam was constructed until the beaches closed in the mid-1980s. The East Sydenham River flows through the compartment and the lake formed by the dam forms the southwest limit of the compartment. The Calvin Drain also flows through the compartment and joins the Sydenham at the lake. The compartment is low and flat and floods often. Drainage is poor in many spots. The area is wooded, and a small area of cedar was planted in the early 1980s. The parking lot area is still open but is slowly being reclaimed by forest. A bridge over the Sydenham joins this compartment to compartment 4 and the main recreational areas of the Conservation Area. From the foot of the bridge a number of informal trails strike off in different directions and meander through the compartment. The old out-houses for the beach are still standing but are no longer in use or in good condition.

#### Species Composition:

Species	%
White and Green Ash	45
Bur Oak	20
Black Walnut	15
Sugar Maple	5
White Elm	5
Other Species*	5

\* Manitoba maple, black ash, eastern cottonwood, willow, hawthorn, silver maple, black cherry, red elm, cedar, Siberian elm and butternut.

Two butternuts were previously noted in this compartment south of the Calvin Drain. They were not observed during the most recent survey. One is reported to be in fair condition, but the other was in serious decline due to butternut canker.

#### Regeneration and Understory:

Regeneration is mainly Manitoba maple with smaller elements of hawthorn, white ash, and white elm. Dogwood, nannyberry, high bush cranberry, and raspberry make up the rest of the understory. Purging buckthorn was found in the old parking lot area.

### Basal Area:

Basal area ranged from 18m<sup>2</sup>/ha to 22m<sup>2</sup>/ha and averaged 21m<sup>2</sup>/ha.

	Polewood		Saw timber						Total			
	Pole 10-24cm		Small 26-36cm		Medium 38-48cm		Large 50-60cm		X-Large 62+cm		ALL 10+ cm	
	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS
B.A.	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	0.5	3.0	0.0	2.5	8.5	12.5
TOTAL	3.0		6.0		6.0		3.5		2.5		21.0	

### Disease and Insects:

Butternut canker was found on the butternut, and emerald ash borer has moved into this compartment but the infestation has not progressed as far as in Compartment 2. Black knot on choke cherry was noted in previous inventories.

### Quality:

The quality of the compartment is quite poor. More than half of the basal area is UGS trees, mostly ash which are in decline from the emerald ash borer. With Manitoba maple, hawthorn and white ash being the dominant regeneration, it could be some time before this area returns to a high quality forest.

### Wildlife:

Deer trails can be observed through the area. No other wildlife observations were made.

### Objectives:

The objectives for this compartment are to continue to allow the area to reforest and to promote forest health and biodiversity. As well the recreational values of this compartment can be enhanced.

### Recommendations:

- Trails in the area should be properly established and maintained to discourage the use of informal trails and to provide a linkage between the well-established trails in the east and west parts of the property.
- If this is not done, then the bridge to this compartment from Compartment 4 should be decommissioned and removed. The area should then be left to naturalize
- Monitor the purging buckthorn and control as required
- Monitor the emerald ash borer infestation. Planting and vegetation control may be required to speed reforestation.
- The butternuts in the compartment should be found and their health assessed.

### Compartment 4: Day Use and Campground

Area: 4.6ha

This area was a former gravel pit. It has soccer pitches, a pavilion, playground, washrooms and campsites. The area is mowed on a regular basis. The majority of the trees in this area were planted. While there are trees in this compartment, it cannot be considered forested and is managed primarily for recreation.

#### Species Composition:

Silver maple, eastern cottonwood, black cherry, Scots pine, black locust, white and green ash, trembling aspen, white spruce, Norway spruce, sugar maple, white pine, basswood, bur oak, sycamore, red oak, white cedar, and European willow can all be found in this compartment

#### Diseases and Insects:

No diseases or insects were noted in this survey. It is reasonable to assume that emerald ash borer has attacked the ash in this compartment. Previous surveys noted Nectria canker on basswoods.

#### Objectives:

The objective for this compartment is to continue to provide an area for recreational purposes

#### Recommendations:

- Turf maintenance should be continued
- Hazard trees should be identified and removed annually
- Landscape trees should be pruned by an arborist every 5 to 10 years. Trees should be pruned to improve branch structure, culturally control insects and disease, and large dead branches should be removed.
- Trees that die should be removed and another should be replanted. In the case of ash, a different species should be selected for replanting.

#### Compartment 5: River Valley Forest

Area: 11.5ha

CLTIP area: 2.8 ha

This area is comprised of some treed parkland with mowed grass, and a few areas of planted trees, but much of the area has always been forested and has regenerated naturally. The East Sydenham River flows over the dam and through this compartment. It is joined from the north by an unnamed drain. There is a well-used trail system that runs through the compartment. The area is flat to gently undulating flood plain with steep side slopes. Emerald ash borer has killed a number of large ash trees along the trail network. The property boundary in this compartment is very irregular and in a number of spots the boundaries are unclear.

#### Species Composition:

<b>Species</b>	<b>%</b>
Sugar Maple	35
White Ash	30

Black Cherry	10
Basswood	10
Eastern Cottonwood	5
Bitternut Hickory	5
Other Species*	5

\* bur oak, red oak, black locust, chinquapin oak, ironwood, Norway spruce, black walnut, and butternut.

The Norway spruce is in a plantation. Three butternuts have been found growing in this compartment, and are listed in the Woodland Species-at-Risk Inventory. They are described as having minor to moderate damage from butternut canker. They were not found during this inventory.

### Regeneration and Understory:

Choke cherry is the dominant understory component. White ash, black walnut, sugar maple and bitternut hickory regeneration is also common. Dogwood, nannyberry, grapevine, and raspberry are also present. In the areas of treed parkland there is mowed turf grass between the trees so there is no regeneration or woody shrubs.

### Basal Area:

Basal area ranged from 12m<sup>2</sup>/ha to 40m<sup>2</sup>/ha and averaged 20.3m<sup>2</sup>/ha.

	Polewood		Saw timber								Total	
	Pole 10-24cm		Small 26-36cm		Medium 38-48cm		Large 50-60cm		X-Large 62+cm		ALL 10+ cm	
	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS
B.A.	1.7	0.9	3.7	1.4	6.0	2.6	1.1	1.4	0.9	0.6	13.4	6.9
TOTAL	2.6		5.1		8.6		2.6		1.4		20.3	

### Disease and Insects:

Black knot was found on the choke cherry and Nectria canker was found on the maples. Bitternut canker was reported on the butternut. Emerald ash borer is attacking the ash in this compartment. Hickory bark beetle was noted in past inventories.

### Quality:

The stand is in fair condition. In some areas the death of the ash trees has left large openings that have become dominated by shrubs. However the other species in the compartment are mostly disease free and are growing well.

### Wildlife:

No wildlife observations were made.

### Objectives:

The objectives for this compartment are to maintain the recreational value of the compartment while retaining forest cover and promoting forest health.

### Recommendations:

- Turf and trail maintenance should be continued

- Hazard trees should be identified and removed annually. Dying ash trees along the trail network should be removed before they become too hazardous to remove
- Landscape trees should be pruned by an arborist every 5 to 10 years. Trees should be pruned to improve branch structure, culturally control insects and disease, and large dead branches should be removed.
- Landscape trees that die should be removed and another should be replanted
- The butternut trees should be located and their health evaluated
- The property boundaries should be identified to ensure there are no encroachments

### Compartment 6: Cedar and Birch Lowlands

Area: 2.1ha

CLTIP Area: 2.1ha

This area is provincially significant wetland and is contained within compartment 5. The drainage is very poor. Many of the cedars have exposed roots or stilt roots. It is unknown whether this appearance is due to soil erosion or germination on nurse logs which have since decayed. This in conjunction with a high water table which does not allow for deep rooting depth have left these trees poorly rooted and many have uprooted as a result. A boardwalk trail runs through the compartment.

#### Species Composition:

Species	%
Yellow Birch	45
Eastern White Cedar	25
Black Ash	20
Silver Maple	5
Other Species*	5

\* Bur oak, green ash

The perimeter of the compartment has dense groves of eastern white cedar. The interior is mainly yellow birch and black ash.

#### Regeneration and Understory:

Regeneration is mainly ash and eastern white cedar. Sugar maple was also found, although it is unlikely that these trees will thrive because the site conditions are not suited to this species. Choke cherry was also found.

#### Basal Area:

Basal area ranged from 26m<sup>2</sup>/ha to 28m<sup>2</sup>/ha and averaged 27m<sup>2</sup>/ha.

	Polewood		Saw timber								Total	
	Pole 10-24cm		Small 26-36cm		Medium 38-48cm		Large 50-60cm		X-Large 62+cm		ALL 10+ cm	
	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS	AGS	UGS
B.A.	6.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	18.0	9.0
TOTAL	8.0		8.0		5.0		4.0		2.0		27.0	

### Diseases and Insects:

Tinder conk was found on the yellow birch. Black knot was found on the choke cherry. The ash trees have been attacked by the emerald ash beetle and most are in decline.

### Quality:

The quality of this stand is fair. The ash trees in this compartment are in decline due to the emerald ash borer, yet the basal area of the compartment, even considering only the AGS trees is good and the yellow birch and eastern white cedar are growing well for the most part.

### Objectives:

The objectives for this compartment are to maintain the recreational value of the compartment while retaining forest cover and promoting forest health.

### Recommendations:

- Inspect the boardwalk annually and repair as required
- Identify and remove hazardous trees annually

### Property Level Recommendations:

- Locate and identify property boundaries
- Locate and assess the health of previously identified butternut trees
- The existing trails through the east part of the property should become formal authorized trails with permitted uses and a linkage to the well-used trails in compartment 5 should be created through compartment 3
- Landscape trees should be maintained by an arborist at prescribed intervals
- Grass maintenance should be continued
- Hazard trees should be identified and removed annually
- Trail maintenance should be performed as required

## Appendix C: Species List

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>
Alternate-leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
American hog-peanut	<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i>
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
American Toad	<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Avens	<i>Geum canadense</i>
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>
Bird's-foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Bitter wintercress	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Bittersweet nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i>
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>
Black snakeroot	<i>Actaea racemosa</i>
Black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
Blacknose Dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>
Blackside Darter	<i>Percina maculata</i>
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>
Blue cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Bluntnose Minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>
Bottlebrush grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>
Bristly buttercup	<i>Ranunculus hispidus</i>
Bristly greenbriar	<i>Smilax tamnoides</i>
Broad-leaved sedge	<i>Carex platyphylla</i>
Brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Bulblet bladder fern	<i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i>
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>

Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Buttercup species	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Canada st. john's-wort	<i>Hypericum canadense</i>
Canada waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum canadense</i>
Canada wild-ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> var. <i>virginiana</i>
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla inclinata</i>
Clearweed	<i>Pilea pumila</i>
Coltsfoot	<i>Petasites frigidus</i>
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>
Common Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Common Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Common greenbriar	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>
Common Hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>
Common Shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>
Common sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
Common timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i> ssp. <i>pratense</i>
Common water-parsnip	<i>Sium suave</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Acronicta lepusculina</i>
Cow parsnip	<i>Heracleum maximum</i>
Cream violet	<i>Viola striata</i>
Creek Chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>
Creeping yellow loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Cut-leaved toothwort	<i>Cardamine concatenata</i>
Dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Dogwood	<i>cornus</i> sp.
Downy yellow violet	<i>Viola pubescens</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>
Dutchman's breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>
Early meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>
Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Eastern Spring beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>
Enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea canadensis</i>
English Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
European Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Evergreen wood fern	<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>
False mermaidweed	<i>Floerkea proserpinacoides</i>

False nettle	<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>
False solomon's seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>
Fringed yellow loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Giant solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> var. <i>commutatum</i>
Golden alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i> var. <i>caesia</i>
Goldfish	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
Grasses	gramminoid sp.
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>
Greenside Darter	<i>Etheostoma blennioides</i>
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>
Harbinger-of-spring	<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>
Harlequin Blue flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus chrysoarpa</i> var. <i>subrotundifolia</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Honewort	<i>Cryptotaenia canadensis</i>
Hooked buttercup	<i>Ranunculus recurvatus</i> var. <i>recurvatus</i>
Hornyhead chub	<i>Nocomis biguttatus</i>
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> var. <i>japonica</i>
Joe pye weed	<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> var. <i>bruneri</i>
Johnny Darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>
Kidney-leaved buttercup	<i>Ranunculus abortivus</i>
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Least Darter	<i>Etheostoma microperca</i>
Lily-of-the-valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
Liverworts	<i>cephaloziella</i>
Longear Sunfish	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>
Lopseed	<i>Phryma leptostachya</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Manitoba Maple	<i>Acer negundo</i> var. <i>texanum</i>

Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha natans</i>
Mayapple	<i>Papaipema rutila</i>
Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>
Moneywort	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>
Moonseed	<i>Menispermum canadense</i>
Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
North American Red Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i> ssp. <i>strigosus</i>
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Northern Hog Sucker	<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i>
Northern Redbelly Dace	<i>Chrosomus eos</i>
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>
Ostrich fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>
Pale jewelweed	<i>Impatiens pallida</i>
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
Pine siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>
Plantain-leaved sedge	<i>Carex plantaginea</i>
Poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> var. <i>radicans</i>
Poplar	<i>Populus</i> sp.
Prickly gooseberry	<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Red Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Red baneberry	<i>Actaea rubra</i> ssp. <i>rubra</i>
Red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Red Trillium	<i>Trillium erectum</i>
Redfin Shiner	<i>Lythrurus umbratilis</i>
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Reed canary grass	<i>Xylomoia chagnoni</i>
Ribes	<i>Ribes</i> sp.
Riverbank Grape	<i>Vitis riparia</i>
Rock Bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Running strawberry	<i>Euonymus obovatus</i>
Sensitive fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>
Sharp-lobed hepatica	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>

Silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Skunk cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>
Small Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>
Small white aster	<i>Symphotrichum racemosum</i>
Smartweed	<i>Persicaria sagittata</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Spinulose wood fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>
Spotted cranesbill	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>
Spotted jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Spring avens	<i>Geum vernum</i>
Spring beauty	<i>Claytonia caroliniana</i>
Squirrel-corn	<i>Dicentra canadensis</i>
Star-flowered false solomon's seal	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>dioica</i>
Stonecat	<i>Noturus flavus</i>
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> ssp. <i>incarnata</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Tall meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>
Thimbleweed	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Tulip tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Twinleaf	<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>
Two-leaved toothwort	<i>Cardamine diphylla</i>
Violet	<i>Viola</i> sp.
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>
Virginia smartweed	<i>Persicaria virginiana</i>
Virginia waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i> var. <i>virginianum</i>
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
Water hemlock	<i>Cicuta maculata</i>
Water-horehound	<i>Lycopus americanus</i>
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
White baneberry	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>
White cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
White Crappie	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>
White Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>
White Sucker	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>
White trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>
White trout-lily	<i>Erythronium albidum</i>

White turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>
White vervain	<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
Wild blue phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Wild chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>
Wild columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>
Wild cucumber	<i>Echinocystis lobata</i>
Wild garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>
Wild leek	<i>Allium tricoccum</i> var. <i>burdickii</i>
Wild licorice	<i>Galium lanceolatum</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> ssp. <i>glauca</i>
Willow sp.	<i>Salix</i> sp.
Willowherb	<i>Epilobium arcticum</i>
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i> var. <i>quinquefolia</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Wood frog	<i>Lithobates sylvaticus</i>
Wood nettle	<i>Laportea canadensis</i>
Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>
Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
Yellow trout-lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>
Zigzag goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>

## Appendix D

Community Consultation for the Vision of the Coldstream Conservation Area.

Community consultation for Coldstream Conservation Area took place in the form of an online survey for 48 days. The event was advertised by local media print and radio, social media, and on the Authority website.

The following Stakeholders were contacted for feedback during the consultation process; Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Municipality of Middlesex Centre, . . . 34 members of the community participated in the consultation survey.





**COMMENT PERIOD OPEN ON DRAFT MASTER PLAN FOR**

***Coldstream  
Conservation Area***

The SCRCA is seeking the public's comment on the draft master plan for Coldstream Conservation Area.  
 Comments are open until  
 January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

 ***“working together for a healthy environment”***



COMMENT PERIOD OPEN ON DRAFT MASTER PLAN FOR

# ***Coldstream Conservation Area***

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) is seeking public comment on a draft Master Plan for Coldstream Conservation Area, located in the municipality of Middlesex Centre. Guided by strategic actions identified in the Authority's 2023 – 2028 strategic plan, the goal of the Master Plan is to create an updated vision and a clear set of objectives that will inform decision-making related to the management of Coldstream Conservation Area.

As the population within the St. Clair Region grows, pressure on natural spaces for recreational, mental health, and passive use will increase exponentially. The draft Master Plan identifies opportunities that will ensure the management of the Coldstream Conservation Area continues to be economically and environmentally sustainable while enhancing visitor experience.

**TO VIEW THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN, SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT:**



**[WWW.SCRCA.ON.CA/COMMENT-COLDSTREAM-  
CONSERVATION-AREA-MASTER-PLAN/](http://WWW.SCRCA.ON.CA/COMMENT-COLDSTREAM-CONSERVATION-AREA-MASTER-PLAN/)**

The SCRCA is seeking input on the draft plan from local residents, municipal partners, day-use visitors, and stakeholders.

Public comments will be received until January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

Comments can be submitted via survey at the link above or by email  
[comments@scrca.on.ca](mailto:comments@scrca.on.ca)

***“working together for a healthy  
environment”***

## Appendix E

### Public Comments/Feedback from Public Open House


17. Please provide any additional comments or feedback regarding the Coldstream Conservation Area Master Plan in the space below.

1	anonymous	If possible extend the boardwalk to cover the very muddy parts when the ground is wet?
2	anonymous	You're so fortunate to have such a wonderful natural facility in our neighbourhood that I'm hopeful is around for any generations to come.
3	anonymous	Would love to see an off leash dog park where the old soccer fields are.
4	anonymous	Keep it simple clean and low cost
5	anonymous	Repeat, remove the dams.
6	anonymous	I emphatically do not want to have lighting in the parking lot.
7	anonymous	Washroom on marsh lane please 😊
8	anonymous	It is a nice are, keep it that way.
9	anonymous	This is a beautiful area that needs with buildings that require renovation and maintenance.
10	anonymous	Remove old concrete mill site. Replace with historic plague. Fix / replace concrete spillway in hard wood trail.
11	anonymous	In my visits there, while we are in our 50's and no children, I see lots of families with small children. Whether they are fishing or using the playground it is just a really nice place where you can let the children have a little more freedom. We can sit and not feel crowded by the families, and everyone can respect each others space.


12	anonymous	I think Coldstream is amazing. It's beautiful. In a cute town and near enough to London/on the way to Lake Huron to gain a lot of attention. I think it could do with a little rejuvenation. Not creating a campground or a huge recreational facility. But I would pay a (fair) parking cost or seasonal pass to help generate funds, and if you were to offer just a little something else. You have the old soccer fields and campground space. It would be neat to do something with it.
13	anonymous	We moved to Poplar Hill 3 years ago and really enjoy the conservation area :)
14	anonymous	Perhaps providing more educational programming to both youth and adults alike
15	anonymous	If you overdevelop this area, it will draw in crowds from London and will lose the quaint character that it currently holds
16	anonymous	I think there may be a typo or missing info on page 16: "Ecological Land Classification (ELC) surveys were completed on May of, 2024." I've also wondered if anyone has considered renting out the pavilion etc for events like weddings or family reunions? It might help to fund some of the upkeep costs.
17	anonymous	Keep up the great work!

### Responses Overview Closed


Responses

**34** 

Average Time

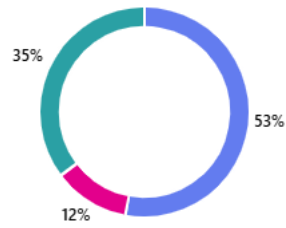
**05:37** 

Duration

**48** Days 

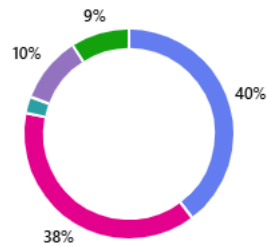
1. Are you a frequent visitor of the Coldstream Conservation Area?

- <5 visits/year 18
- 5-15 visits/year 4
- >15 visits/year 12



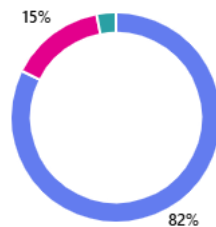
2. Which recreation opportunities at the Coldstream Conservation Area best describes your use of the property? (select all that apply)

- Hiking 31
- Nature Enjoyment 30
- Paddling or fishing 2
- Recreational Facilities (playground, pavilion etc.) 8
- Picnicking 7

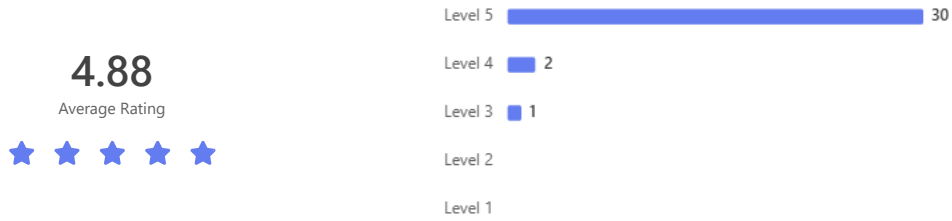


3. How far from Coldstream Conservation Area are you located?

- <15km 28
- 15-50km 5
- >50km 1



4. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important are natural areas to you? (1 not important at all to 5 very important)



5. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the natural areas at Coldstream Conservation Area?

16 Responses

Latest Responses

"It's beautiful"

"It is a beautiful property with a lot of natural diversity. I hope it continues to be u... "

"Keep it simple and quaint. We are locals and love coming here because it's usuall... "

...

5 respondents (31%) answered boardwalk for this question.



6. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important are recreational facilities at the Coldstream Conservation Area?



7. Does the current playground meet you needs?

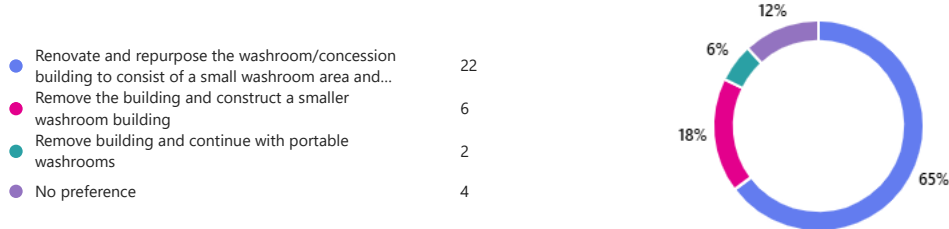


8. If the current playground does not meet your needs, how could it be improved (i.e. upgrades, accessibility, size)

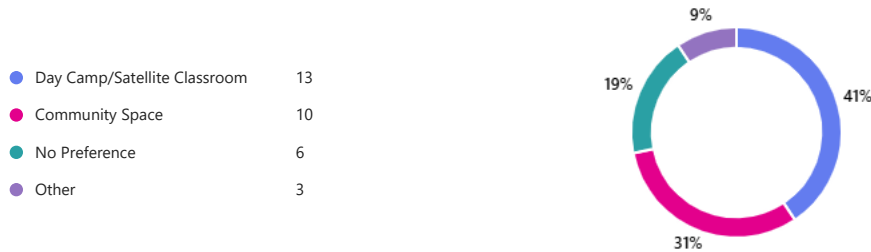
3  
Responses

Latest Responses  
...

9. The SCRCA will investigate whether or not to complete upgrades to the existing washroom/concession building or remove the building and either construct a smaller washroom building or continue with portable washrooms. Which option appeals most to you?



10. If the building is renovated with a smaller washroom area (first option in Question 9), what is your preference for the use of the remaining area?



11. If the old concrete bridge requires repair in the future, how important is it to you to maintain the current aesthetic?



12. Have you seen amenities at other Conservation Areas that may be beneficial to have at the Coldstream Conservation Area?

11  
Responses

Latest Responses

"one or more emergency alarm stations; species identification signage; trail map si..."

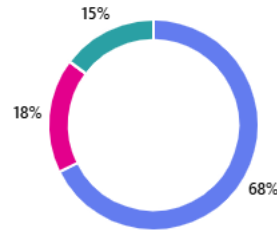
...

3 respondents (27%) answered trails for this question.



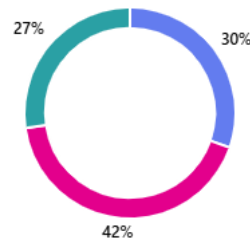
13. Do you support the concept of a day camp at this Coldstream Conservation Area?

Yes	23
No	6
No Preference	5



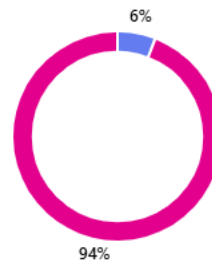
14. Would your family participate in summer day camp programming if offered at Coldstream Conservation Area?

Yes	10
No	14
Maybe	9



15. Have you experienced any accessibility barriers when using the facilities at the Coldstream Conservation Area?

Yes	2
No	32



16. If yes, please describe these barriers?

2  
Responses

Latest Responses  
...

17. Please provide any additional comments or feedback regarding the Coldstream Conservation Area Master Plan in the space below.

17  
Responses

Latest Responses  
"Keep up the great work!"  
"I think there may be a typo or missing info on page 16: "Ecological Land Classifica..."  
"If you overdevelop this area, it will draw in crowds from London and will lose the ... "  
...

3 respondents (18%) answered area for this question.





## Staff Report

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item 7.6**  
**Report Date:** April 7, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Ken Phillips

**Subject:** Vehicle Purchase and Disposal of Assets

### Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors approve the ordering of three new trucks to be delivered in 2026 and transfer of up to a maximum of \$200,000 from the Equipment Reserve to accommodate the purchase.

And further that the Board of Directors approve the disposal of the 2013 Chevrolet Silverado (Fleet Vehicle #1), 2014 Chevrolet Silverado (Fleet Vehicle #14) and a 2018 Lenovo ST550 Server (computer hardware) and that these assets be put at auction via the GovDeals website.

### Background:

The SCRCA has been in the process of modernizing its fleet since 2023. Due to uncertainty with regard to changes being made to conservation authorities, no new vehicles were originally put into the 2026 budget. However, since that time, two trucks have fallen into a state where serviceability has come into question. The 2013 Chevrolet Silverado will not pass a vehicle safety and is therefore unable to tow loads (its primary function). The 2014 Chevrolet Silverado has rusting issues that are too expensive to warrant repair. A third truck, 2012 Chevrolet Sierra was approved for disposal in 2025 but was not replaced at that time. The intent was to replace the Sierra when multiple vehicles were being purchased.

As a result, staff are seeking approval to dispose of two older vehicles in the fleet, the 2013 Chevrolet Silverado (Fleet Vehicle #1) and the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado (Fleet Vehicle #14) and purchase 3 new vehicles for delivery in 2026 at a cost not to exceed \$200,000 (including taxes). The funds would be transferred from the equipment reserve. The two vehicles will be disposed of using the GovDeals auction website and proceeds will be placed into the equipment reserve.

Additionally, the 2018 Lenovo ST550 Server has reached its end life and was replaced in late 2025. The changeover has been completed and the new server is in place. The server will also be auctioned off and sold on the GovDeals website.

### Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 1.3 Asset Management

**Financial Impact:**

Funds acquired via the sale of the two vehicles and the server will be put into the Equipment Reserve to partially replenish the funds used to purchase the new 2026 vehicles. The Equipment Reserve is currently at \$735,077.



## Staff Report

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item 8.1 (a)**  
**Report Date:** April 1, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Ashley Fletcher, Board Coordinator

**Subject:** Business Arising

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### **Regarding BD-24-62**

#### **Report to be provided at a future meeting**

Directors request that a report be provided exploring the options and costs associated with providing an electric vehicle (EV) charging station within campground parking lots. It is also suggested that campground rules and regulations be proactively updated to prohibit EV charging on camp sites.

### **Regarding BD-25-74**

#### **Refer to Item 17.2**

#### **Report to be provided at a future meeting**

Director's request a report to the board with expected timelines for the replenishment of land reserves and further that future budgets consider and reflect the potential failure of septic systems at all 3 campgrounds.

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item 8.1 (b)**  
**Report Date:** March 25, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Andrew McIntyre  
 Interim Coordinator, Flood Forecasting and Warning  
**Subject:** Current Watershed Conditions

## Report Highlights:

- Streamflows are well above drought / low water indicator thresholds; the release of the snowpack occurred in the second half of February and contributed to flows.
- SCRCA remains in Level 1 Low Water status; 3-month and 18-month precipitation totals remain below drought / low water indicator thresholds across most stations; 1-month totals are showing signs of improvement.
- March precipitation to date has been higher than normal.
- Water levels of the surrounding Great Lakes continue to drop, with Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie near their respective long-term averages.

## Precipitation and Streamflow Trends

- As of the last Snow Survey conducted on March 16, 2026, no measurable snow remained. The snowpack deteriorated with a prolonged period of warm weather and rain in the last half of February.
- Up until then, all snow surveys this season had seen measurable snow (surveys started Nov. 15 and occur every 2 weeks until May 15).

**Table 1: Precipitation and streamflow as a percentage of indicators for Low Water status purposes. Source: MNR, SCRCA, 2026.**

	Precipitation			Streamflow		
	March % of Normal Monthly Precip.	3-Month % of Normal Precip. (Jan. – Mar.)	Change from (Nov. - Jan.) to (Jan. - Mar.) 3-Month Periods	% of Drought Indicator (LSMF), February	% of Drought Indicator (LSMF), March	Change from February to March
<b>Strathroy</b>	<b>129%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>426%</b>	<b>956%</b>	<b>+530%</b>
<b>Alvinston</b>	100%	<b>50%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>684%</b>	<b>994%</b>	<b>+310%</b>
<b>Dresden</b>	<b>150%</b>	75%	<b>-4%</b>			
<b>Florence</b>	<b>173%</b>	67%	<b>-12%</b>	<b>1010%</b>	<b>1518%</b>	<b>+508%</b>
<b>Sarnia</b>	<b>133%</b>	72%	<b>-9%</b>			
<b>Petrolia</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>+2%</b>	<b>1799%</b>	<b>2854%</b>	<b>+1055%</b>
<b>Brigden</b>	<b>121%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>+10%</b>	<b>1636%</b>	<b>2808%</b>	<b>+1172%</b>
<b>Wallaceburg</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>-3%</b>			

- Table 1 (above) shows that while 3-month precipitation totals remain below normal, 1-month totals are showing signs of improvement.
- All stations but Petrolia received 100% or more of normal precipitation in March (up to March 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- Low Water Level 1 status threshold is less than 80% of normal precipitation for a 3-month or 18-month period.
  - Only 1/8 stations are currently above the 3-month threshold (80% of normal).
  - 4/8 stations are below the Level 2 threshold (60% of normal). This will continue to be monitored and may could require consideration of upgrading to Low Water Level 2 status if conditions become worse.
- All monitored stations are reporting well above the 70% low-water threshold (70% of the lowest average summer month flow (LSMF)), indicating improved flow conditions. (Moving into spring months this threshold shifts to 100%.)
- Streamflows continue to trend upward and are not currently a concern from a Low Water Response perspective.

## Lake Level Trends

**Table 2: Surrounding lakes water level comparison. Source: ECCC, 2026.**

February 2026	Lake Huron	Lake St. Clair	Lake Erie
Mean for month (preliminary data)	<b>176.01</b>	<b>174.69</b>	<b>173.87</b>
Mean for month last Year	176.12	174.68	174.07
Current compared	<b>-0.11</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>-0.20</b>
Mean for month, last 10 years	176.63	175.25	174.45
Current compared to last 10 years	<b>-0.62</b>	<b>-0.56</b>	<b>-0.58</b>
Mean for month, all time	176.31	174.82	174.03
Current compared	<b>-0.30</b>	<b>-0.13</b>	<b>-0.16</b>
<b>Statistics for Period of Record</b>			
Maximum monthly mean / year	177.25	175.80	174.90
	2020	1986	2020
Current compared	<b>-1.24</b>	<b>-1.11</b>	<b>-1.03</b>
Minimum monthly mean / year	175.59	173.89	173.18
	1964	1926	1936
Current compared	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.69</b>
<b>Next Month Estimate</b>			
Probable mean for next month	176.04	174.81	173.98

- Monthly water levels for Lake Huron and Lake Erie continue to decline compared to last year. Lake St. Clair is very close to last year's level.
- Despite these declines, lake levels remain near their long-term monthly averages. February 2026 levels compared to February long-term averages:

- Lake Huron is 30 cm below;
- Lake St. Clair is 13 cm below; and
- Lake Erie is 16 cm below.

### **Forecast and Flood / Drought Threat**

Current precipitation trends still indicate drier-than-normal conditions, despite relatively consistent snow accumulation observed this winter. The watershed remains in a Level 1 Low Water status and is trending towards a return to normal conditions.

Water levels across the region remain low to normal and near baseflow conditions. No snowpack remains. Any flooding this spring is expected to be driven solely by precipitation. Some models are showing a significant amount of rain possible next week (beginning March 30<sup>th</sup>) that could elevate water levels if the higher end of the range is received. Long range precipitation forecasts have low accuracy. Other than this, at the time of this report no conditions exist that significantly increase flood risk.



## Staff Report

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item** 8.1 (c)  
**Report Date:** March 24, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Melissa Deisley, Jeff Vlasman, Meagan Weber,  
 Merrick Van Der Vaart  
**Subject:** Regulations Activity Summary

A summary of staff activity related to the Conservation Authority's *Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits Regulation* (Ontario Regulation 41/24) is presented below. This report covers the period from February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026

### Regulations Permits Issued

Application #	Location	Municipality	Proposal	Submitted	Issued	Days
R#2026-0043	29061 Dawn Mills Rd (closest address)	Chatham-Kent	new gas main	Feb-20	Feb-24	4
R#2025-0654	3890 Oil Springs Ln (Closest Address)	Enniskillen	Black Creek Bridge Replacement	Dec-08	Feb-18	72
R#2025-0660	360 Tank St, Petrolia	Petrolia	build storage shed	Jan-16	Feb-05	20
R#2024-0563	7869 Hillsboro Rd, Plympton-Wyoming	Plympton-Wyoming	build attached garage and covered porches	Feb-06	Feb-27	21
R#2025-0468	4434 Fisher Ln, Camlachie	Plympton-Wyoming	repair private bridge	Dec-22	Feb-13	53
R#2026-0012	Highland Glen CA (5046 Lakeshore Rd)	Plympton-Wyoming	2026 dredging inquiry	Jan-30	Feb-19	20
R#2026-0027	north of 7432 Hillsboro Rd	Plympton-Wyoming	repair Hyland Creek bridge (BR 1556)	Jan-19	Feb-19	31
R#2026-0050	Glendon Dr to Falconbridge Dr.	Southwest Middlesex	SCR - Maintenance & Temp. Access	Feb-11	Feb-17	6
R#2025-0650	285 Albert St (closest address)	St. Clair	integrity dig	Jan-13	Feb-03	21
R#2026-0015	1388 Sheply Rd (closest address)	St. Clair	integrity dig	Jan-08	Feb-03	26
<b>Total Permits Issued: 10</b>		<b>Average Number of Days to Issue for this Period: 27.4</b>				

## Regulations Inquiries

<b>FileReference</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Location</b>
R#2025-0244	Brooke-Alvinston	6423 Petrolia Ln, Alvinston
R#2026-0081	Brooke-Alvinston	3019 Ebenezer Rd, Alvinston
R#2025-0447	Chatham-Kent	110 Water St, Wallaceburg
R#2025-0621	Chatham-Kent	82 Book St, Wallaceburg
R#2025-0632	Chatham-Kent	110 Water St, Wallaceburg
R#2025-0637	Chatham-Kent	26041 Centre Sideroad, Chatham
R#2026-0044	Chatham-Kent	470 Brown St, Dresden
R#2026-0056	Chatham-Kent	199 Camden St, Dresden
R#2026-0064	Chatham-Kent	9576 Bush Ln, Chatham
R#2026-0073	Chatham-Kent	103 Duke St, Wallaceburg
R#2026-0076	Chatham-Kent	7369 Angler Ln, Dover
R#2026-0077	Chatham-Kent	580 Robinson St, Dresden
R#2026-0080	Chatham-Kent	470 Brown St, Dresden
R#2026-0084	Chatham-Kent	20 Henson St (Rolling Acres Sub)
R#2026-0085	Chatham-Kent	43 + 39 DeMall Dr (Rolling Acres Sub)
R#2026-0007	Dawn-Euphemia	north of 1184 Dobbryn Rd, Inwood
R#2026-0082	Dawn-Euphemia	30476 Florence Rd, Thamesville
R#2026-0086	Dawn-Euphemia	1978 Pantry School Rd, Oil Springs
R#2026-0091	Dawn-Euphemia	Bentpath Line & Dawn Valley Rd
R#2022-0277	Enniskillen	4416 South Plank Rd, Oil Springs
R#2023-0023	Enniskillen	5498 Rokeby Line
R#2026-0048	Enniskillen	3903 Plowing Match Rd, Petrolia
R#2018-393	Lambton Shores	9672 Ruth Place
R#2024-0329	Lambton Shores	6312 William Street
R#2026-0002	Lambton Shores	6298 William St, Lambton Shores
R#2026-0066	Lambton Shores	6294 Spruce St, Lambton Shores
R#2026-0087	Lambton Shores	22 MacHenry St, Forest
R#2026-0075	Oil Springs	Enniskillen
R#2022-0601	Plympton-Wyoming	6150 Camlachie Road, Camlachie
R#2024-0412	Plympton-Wyoming	4914 Ann St, Hillsboro

R#2025-0259	Plympton-Wyoming	4878 Forsyth Trail, Camlachie
R#2025-0667	Plympton-Wyoming	4477 Fisher Ln, Camlachie
R#2026-0004	Plympton-Wyoming	SCRCA Watershed
R#2026-0028	Plympton-Wyoming	3944 Egremont Rd, Camlachie
R#2026-0030	Plympton-Wyoming	3107 Michigan Ln, Plympton
R#2026-0032	Plympton-Wyoming	3606 Queen St, Plympton
R#2026-0041	Plympton-Wyoming	4265 Bluepoint Dr, Plympton
R#2026-0052	Plympton-Wyoming	3150 Douglas St, Plympton
R#2026-0068	Plympton-Wyoming	Lambton Lane & Sunset Dr
R#2024-0740	Sarnia	2054 Lakeshore Rd, Sarnia
R#2025-0028	Sarnia	2994 Lakeview Ave, Sarnia
R#2025-0338	Sarnia	1569 Wellington St (closest address)
R#2025-0598	Sarnia	6462 Waterworks Rd, Bright's Grove
R#2025-0653	Sarnia	1688 Michigan Line
R#2026-0042	Sarnia	1610 Lena Crt, Sarnia
R#2026-0045	Sarnia	Canatara Park, Sarnia
R#2026-0067	Sarnia	2006 Olive Ave, Bright's Grove
R#2026-0078	Sarnia	1432 Vidal St South, Sarnia
R#2026-0094	Sarnia	2098 Huron Shores Dr, Sarnia
R#2026-0095	Sarnia	2096 Huron Shores Dr, Sarnia
R#2026-0051	Southwest Middlesex	3280 Buttonwood Dr, Middlesex
R#2026-0031	St. Clair	2494 Coutright Ln, Brigden
R#2026-0047	St. Clair	1528 Bickford Ln, Sombra
R#2026-0058	St. Clair	2302 McCallum Ln, Wilkesport
R#2026-0060	St. Clair	1843 Brigden Road, Sombra
R#2026-0061	St. Clair	North Sydenham west of Kimball Rd, Sombra
R#2026-0062	St. Clair	114 French Line, Port Lambton
R#2026-0063	St. Clair	3865 St. Clair Pkwy, Sombra
R#2026-0065	St. Clair	4780 Old River Rd, Port Lambton
R#2026-0074	St. Clair	2302 McCallum Ln, Wilkesport
R#2026-0083	St. Clair	132 Church St, Corunna
R#2026-0089	St. Clair	1120 Holt Ln, Wallaceburg
R#2021-0421	Strathroy-Caradoc	6631 Century Drive
R#2026-0059	Warwick	8358 Confederation Ln, Watford
<b>Total Regulations Inquiries: 64</b>		



## Staff Report

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item 8.1 (d)**  
**Report Date:** March 24, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Melissa Deisley, Alex Jackman, Shelby Campbell,  
 Kelsey Oatman  
**Subject:** Planning Activity Summary

A summary of staff activity related to Municipal Plan Input and Review is presented below. This report covers the period from February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026

### Municipal Plan Input and Review

File Reference	Location	Municipality	Municipal File
PL#2026-0018	6535 James Street	Brooke-Alvinston	
PL#2023-0070	lot east of 7325 North River Line	Chatham-Kent	
PL#2025-0056	1934 Dufferin Ave	Chatham-Kent	
PL#2026-0014	7271 Otter Line	Chatham-Kent	
PL#2026-0016	7302 & 7340 Mallard Line	Chatham-Kent	B-84/25; B-85/25
PL#2026-0017	29947 Robinson Road	Chatham-Kent	B-03/26
PL#2026-0021	30476 Florence Road	Chatham-Kent	
PL#2026-0023	204 Irish School Road	Dawn-Euphemia	ZA002-26 B003-26
PL#2025-0115	4640 Petrolia Line	Enniskillen	OPA No. 7 ZBA No. 53 of 2025
PL#2026-0010	10651 Gold Creek Dr (corner near Egremont)	Middlesex Centre	ZBA-02-2026
PL#2018-100	4051 Discovery Line	Petrolia	38T-21007
PL#2018-019	First Avenue & Garden Crescent	Petrolia	
PL#2022-0009	4472 North Street	Petrolia	B-01-2026
PL#2024-0092	258 Eureka Street	Petrolia	
PL#2020-0086	3096 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	22 of 2024, 36 of 2025 38T-24001
PL#2025-0015	4933 Edith Lane	Plympton-Wyoming	B-03/25
PL#2025-0052	Sante Drive	Plympton-Wyoming	ZBA 22 of 2026 B-15/25 - B-20/25

PL#2025-0114	5094 Lakeshore Road	Plympton-Wyoming	
PL#2025-0122	3435 Spruce Street	Plympton-Wyoming	A-18/25
PL#2026-0015	4477 Fisher Line	Plympton-Wyoming	A-02/2026
PL#2019-115	1600 Venetian Blvd	Point Edward	Z-01-2025 38T-25003
PL#2019-088	6491 Waterworks Road	Sarnia	
PL#2024-0098	485 Harbour Road	Sarnia	OPA 13 ZBA 2-2025; ZBLA No. 2-2025-85 of 2002
PL#2025-0032	6215 Telfer Road	Sarnia	B02/2026
PL#2026-0008	2054 Lakeshore Road	Sarnia	A05/2026
PL#2026-0019	1575 Plank Road	Sarnia	
PL#2026-0020	211 Gladwish Drive (1228 Churchill Line/Hwy 40)	Sarnia	
PL#2026-0022	21 Ube Drive	Sarnia	
PL#2022-0058	1532 Kerr Line	St. Clair	ZBA 9 of 2023; ZBA 9 of 2026 B-12-2022; B- 18-2025
PL#2021-0054	N of Napperton Drive, Pt Lot 19, Con 4	Strathroy-Caradoc	OPA1-2023 ZBA3- 2022; ZBA2-2026 39T- SC2302 A3-2026
PL#2021-0122	131 and 135 Caradoc St N	Strathroy-Caradoc	
PL#2024-0075	7013 Walkers Drive	Strathroy-Caradoc	OPA5-2025 ZBA25- 2025
PL#2024-0093	571 Metcalfe Street E	Strathroy-Caradoc	
PL#2020-0033	8177 Zion Line	Warwick	52 23-2020 SP-02-25
PL#2026-0012	8290 Zion Line	Warwick	
PL#2026-0013	6556 Confederation Line & Kingscourt Rd	Warwick	B-09-25 A-09-25
<b>Total Plan Review Items: 36</b>			

## Environmental Assessments

File Reference	Location	Municipality
EA#2025-0007	1886 St Clair Pkwy, Courtright	St. Clair

**Total Environmental Assessments: 1**

## Legal Inquiries

<b>File Reference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Municipality</b>
LL#2026-0002	199 Camden Street	Chatham-Kent
LL#2026-0004	2973 St. Clair Pkwy	St. Clair
LL#2026-0005	127 Zimmerman Avenue	Strathroy-Caradoc
<b>Total Legal Inquiries: 3</b>		

Item 8.1 (e)

Prepared By: Chunning Li  
 March 25, 2026  
 DRAFT

ST CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
 Statement of Revenue and Expenditure  
 As at Feb. 28, 2026

2

	Actual To Date			Annual Budget Prorated		Variance from Budget	
	Revenue	Expenditures	Surplus(Deficit)	Revenue	Expenditures	Revenue	Expenditures
Flood Control & Erosion Control	\$557,483	\$49,592	\$507,891	\$70,408	\$70,408	\$487,075	(\$20,816)
Capital Projects/WECI	\$1,371,974	\$8,344	\$1,363,630	\$0	\$0	\$1,371,974	\$8,344
Conservation Area's Capital Development	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,667	\$23,667	(\$23,667)	(\$23,667)
IT Capital	\$4,332	\$0	\$4,332	\$3,332	\$4,332	\$1,000	(\$4,332)
Equipment	\$16,154	\$0	\$16,154	\$13,455	\$15,237	\$2,698	(\$15,237)
Planning & Regulations	\$746,329	\$122,821	\$623,508	\$166,516	\$166,516	\$579,813	(\$43,695)
Technical Studies/Healthy Watersheds	\$911,334	\$335,944	\$575,390	\$491,073	\$491,073	\$420,261	(\$155,129)
Recreation	\$257,197	\$75,722	\$181,475	\$337,891	\$337,891	(\$80,694)	(\$262,169)
Property Management	\$23,484	\$47,525	(\$24,041)	\$46,780	\$46,780	(\$23,296)	\$745
Education	\$61,944	\$41,023	\$20,921	\$26,068	\$26,068	\$35,876	\$14,955
Communication	\$143,062	\$21,037	\$122,025	\$23,344	\$23,344	\$119,718	(\$2,307)
Source Water Protection	\$149,897	\$17,399	\$132,498	\$42,264	\$42,264	\$107,633	(\$24,865)
Conservation Services	\$287,654	\$81,453	\$206,201	\$66,016	\$66,016	\$221,638	\$15,437
Administration/AOC Management	\$1,101,051	\$124,687	\$976,363	\$194,979	\$192,197	\$906,072	(\$67,509)
	<b>\$5,631,893</b>	<b>\$925,547</b>	<b>\$4,706,346</b>	<b>\$1,505,792</b>	<b>\$1,505,792</b>	<b>\$4,126,101</b>	<b>(\$580,245)</b>

Notes:

1. General and special levies have been invoiced and are recorded in the actual revenue reported above. See General Levy Report for amounts outstanding.
2. The significant variances from budget to actual is reflective of the nature/timing and uniqueness of the particular projects. The variances will reduce and disappear as the year progresses.
3. Budget for the year is divided by 12 and multiplied by the number of months in the reporting period, this does not reflect the seasonality of the nature/ timing of projects



Item 8.1 (f)  
Kate Jamieson  
February 28, 2026

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Cheques issued January-February 2026				
CHQ. #	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
124941	2026-01-07	Bob Burnley	Livestock fencing	\$ 15,000.00
124942	2026-01-07	Conservation Ontario	2026 levy installment #1	\$ 15,850.00
124950	2026-01-07	Woodfield	SPRI van upgrades	\$ 8,351.36
124952	2026-01-14	Peter Braet	SPRI Phosphorus equipment purchase/modification	\$ 40,000.00
124953	2026-01-14	Camis Inc.	2025 transaction fees - campground management software	\$ 10,094.87
124963	2026-01-14	Infinity Network Solutions	Think System, Lenovo Xclarity Pro Premium, & monthly charges	\$ 14,666.16
124980	2026-01-22	Crump Enterprises Ltd.	Turtle next expansion	\$ 6,339.30
124986	2026-01-22	Somerville Nurseries Inc.	2026 seedlings deposit	\$ 30,000.00
124995	2026-01-28	Matt McRae	SPRI Phosphorus BMP & 4R nutrient management BMP	\$ 7,325.00
125003	2026-02-05	Avensys Solutions	Flowlink software user licenses	\$ 7,260.25
125007	2026-02-05	Hoskin Scientific Ltd.	Compact constant flow bubbler & pH module	\$ 28,744.94
125010	2026-02-05	KT Excavating	Campbell House removal	\$ 5,650.00
125011	2026-02-05	Levitt Electric	Rokeby Line water monitoring station electrical work	\$ 18,659.38
125022	2026-02-17	Casey McGee	SPRI reduced tillage equipment purchase/modification	\$ 20,000.00
125034	2026-02-25	Compass Group Canada	Soil health conference venue & catering	\$ 9,083.63
125044	2026-02-25	Shoreplan Engineering Ltd.	Seager Park shoreline revitalization	\$ 9,266.00
<b>TOTAL CHEQUE DISBURSEMENTS -</b>				<b>\$ 246,290.89</b>

Internet banking payments January-February 2026				
TRANS #	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
11070	2026-01-31	Libro Credit Union - Visa	Employee expenses	\$ 8,311.23
11072	2026-01-31	OMERS	Employee pension plan	\$ 63,134.82
11073	2026-01-31	Ontario Minister of Finance	Employer Health Tax	\$ 6,562.74
11076	2026-01-31	Receiver General	Payroll source deductions	\$ 101,056.02
11078	2026-01-31	RWAM Insurance Administrators Inc.	Employee group benefits	\$ 21,960.83
11091	2026-02-28	MNP LLP	Year-end audit invoice #2	\$ 13,644.75
11098	2026-02-28	OMERS	Employee pension plan	\$ 42,693.46
11102	2026-02-28	Receiver General	Payroll source deductions	\$ 68,370.36
11104	2026-02-28	RWAM Insurance Administrators Inc.	Employee group benefits	\$ 21,526.71
11107	2026-02-28	Township of St Clair	Property taxes	\$ 21,939.59
11108	2026-02-28	Township of Warwick	Property taxes	\$ 5,404.00
11111	2026-02-28	Libro Credit Union - Visa	Employee expenses	\$ 6,953.53
<b>TOTAL INTERNET BANKING DISBURSEMENTS -</b>				<b>\$ 381,558.04</b>

**Major Visa purchases:**

CPA Ontario - Cash Flow & Business Strategy bundle	\$ 753.71
4Imprint pens	\$ 593.42
ToltHawk Sensors subscription & exchange fee	\$ 1,134.90
Vehicle registration	\$ 506.00
Vehicle registration	\$ 506.00
Vehicle registration	\$ 506.00
Home Depot - chainsaw for Wawanosh trail maintenance	\$ 772.83
Heatline - HeatTrace	\$ 867.13
Bluehost - WordPress hosting renewal & exchange fee	\$ 619.00
Ontario Professional Foresters - annual conference	\$ 545.00
AED4Life - replacement pads for AED	\$ 642.97
Fanshawe College - winter tuition	\$ 706.31
Best Safety Training - JHSC training	\$ 508.50

**PAYROLL RUNS**

Payroll No. 1	\$ 75,489.55
Payroll No. 2	\$ 76,772.69
Payroll No. 3	\$ 80,061.58
Payroll No. 4	\$ 76,118.58
Payroll No. 5	\$ 76,388.28
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL RUNS -</b>	<b>\$ 384,830.68</b>



Item 8.1 (g)  
 Kate Jamieson  
 February 28, 2026

## 2026 GENERAL LEVY REPORT

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MUNICIPALITY	GROSS LEVY	PAID TO DATE	OUTSTANDING
Adelaide Metcalfe Tp	\$ 33,525.55	\$ -	\$ 33,525.55
Brooke-Alvinston Tp	\$ 29,827.46	\$ -	\$ 29,827.46
Chatham-Kent Mn	\$ 227,572.98	\$ -	\$ 227,572.98
Dawn-Euphemia Tp	\$ 45,134.37	\$ -	\$ 45,134.37
Enniskillen Tp	\$ 32,846.48	\$ -	\$ 32,846.48
Lambton Shores Mn	\$ 89,566.13	\$ 89,566.13	\$ -
Middlesex Centre Mn	\$ 42,018.54	\$ 42,018.54	\$ -
Newbury V	\$ 2,743.18	\$ -	\$ 2,743.18
Oil Springs V	\$ 3,610.69	\$ -	\$ 3,610.69
Petrolia Tp	\$ 45,168.89	\$ -	\$ 45,168.89
Plympton Wyoming Tp	\$ 100,665.38	\$ -	\$ 100,665.38
Point Edward V	\$ 35,925.98	\$ -	\$ 35,925.98
Sarnia	\$ 636,481.26	\$ -	\$ 636,481.26
Southwest Middlesex Mn	\$ 20,176.39	\$ -	\$ 20,176.39
St Clair Tp	\$ 200,338.53	\$ -	\$ 200,338.53
Strathroy-Caradoc Tp	\$ 158,987.43	\$ -	\$ 158,987.43
Warwick Tp	\$ 39,149.75	\$ -	\$ 39,149.75
TOTAL	\$ 1,743,738.99	\$ 131,584.67	\$ 1,612,154.32



**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026  
**Report Date:** March 25, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Kelly Johnson

**Item 8.1 (h)**

**Subject:** St. Clair River Area of Concern Update

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**Recommendation:**

That this report be received as information.

**Background:**

**Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations – BUI #3**

On January 14, 2026, the recommendation to redesignate BUI #3 from Requires Further Assessment to 'Not Impaired' was officially approved by the COA AOC Annex Leads. Notification of the redesignation status has been sent to the BPAC and CRIC. A media release will go out in the coming month to notify the community that this BUI is officially redesignated to 'Not Impaired'.

**Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat – BUI #14**

The status assessment report was presented to the Four Agency Managers Working Group at their fall 2025 meeting with the 60-day comment period ending on January 9, 2026. Recommended edits are currently being considered before the report moves on to the COA Executive for approval.

**Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption – BUI #1**

Through funding provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the SCRCA entered into an agreement with the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER) at the University of Windsor to complete a tiered framework that will be applied to the fish consumption portion of this BUI. The draft report was received in July 2025. GLIER presented the report to the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC) at their November 27 meeting. Report edits suggested by members of the CRIC are currently being considered.

## Recent and Scheduled Meetings

### Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC)

- November 27, 2024
- November 27, 2025

### Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

- January 8, 2026
- January 20, 2026
- February 17, 2026
- March 10, 2026

### Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

- February 13, 2025
- May 15, 2025.
- August 6, 2025
- April 30, 2026 (upcoming)

## Outreach and Engagement

### Newsletter

Friends of the St. Clair River and the RAP Office continue to partner on the production of St. Clair River News, a free monthly e-newsletter: [February 2026 Newsletter](#) and [March 2026 Newsletter](#).

### Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 3 – Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes.

### Financial Impact:

Funding for the RAP Coordinator position is provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

Funding was secured from MECP for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years under their Great Lakes Program. SCRCA was recently approved for further funding from MECP for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. Funding was secured from ECCC for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years under the federal Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative Program.

The RAP Coordinator holds monthly meetings with ECCC and MECP to provide regular updates on the status of the RAP work and prepares project status reports and financial update reports in accordance with the timelines in the respective funding agreements.

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026  
**Report Date:** March 25, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Donna Blue and Emily Febrey

**Item 8.1 (i)**

**Subject:** Communications Update

## Recommendation:

That this report be received as information.

## 2026 Maple Syrup Festival:

Between 500 and 600 people visited the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area for the 2026 Maple Syrup Festival on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Held in partnership with the Brooke-Alvinston Firefighters Association annual pancake breakfast, visitors were treated to demonstrations of historical maple syrup production, wagon rides, maple taffy, and hot chocolate.

The 2026 festival once again featured local vendors and environmental groups along with a shuttle to and from the Conservation Area. The event was generously sponsored by Bluewater Power, the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation, and the Optimist Club of Alvinston Districts.



SCRCA Conservation Educator, Myra Spiller demonstrates how a tree is tapped to collect sap.



Staff treated visitors to maple taffy throughout the day.



The Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation was one of the new vendors who participated in the 2026 edition of the Maple Syrup Festival.



Between 500 and 600 people attended the festival and provided positive feedback on all the attractions and activities offered throughout the day.

**Media and Social Media Analytics:**

In order to continually improve upon our activities related to local media outlets and social media, communications staff will be reviewing analytics to help assess our communications efforts.

The following statistics cover the timeframe from January 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026:

**Media Relations:**

Activity	2026 (January - February)	2025 (January - February)
Media Releases	3	0
News Article Mentions	92	105

## Social Media

### Facebook:

Activity	Total	2026 (January – February)	2025 (January – February)
Post Reach*	--	111,874	21,966
Page Visits	--	1,958	1,532
New Likes/Followers	3,014	34	41
Posts	--	38	30

\***Post Reach** – The number of people who saw any content from your Page or about your Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from people who interact with your Page, etc.

### X (Formerly Twitter)

Activity	Total	2026 (January – February)	2025 (January – February)
Posts	--	39	29
RePosts	--	14	19
New Followers	940	5	0
Engagements*	--	155	212

\* **Engagements** = clicks, retweets, replies, follows, and likes

### Instagram

Activity	2026 (January – February)	2025 (January – February)
Total Followers	1,308	1,173
Views	8,718	10,403
Reach	2,793	2,101
Engagements*	187	451

\* **Engagements** = The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on your content

**Strategic Objectives(s):**

**Goal 4** – Provide recreation and education opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn from our natural environment.

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2026 **Item 8.1 (j)**  
**Report Date:** March 25, 2026  
**Submitted by:** Melissa Levi  
 Myra Spiller  
 Mark Northcott  
**Subject:** Conservation Education Report – April Education Program  
 Summary

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### **Recommendation:**

That this report be received as information.

### **Background:**

#### **Spring Outdoor Education Program:**

**Maple Syrup Program:** Unfortunately, due to last minute electrical work, Maple Syrup field trips were unable to be held at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area. Approximately 280 students were scheduled to participate. Some classes were able to shift to schoolyard programming.

**Field Trips:** The SCRCA Education team is currently booking Spring Field Trips. To date, approximately 2,250 students are expected to visit from 32 different watershed schools. There are still spaces left; teachers to continue to inquire about bookings daily.

**Nature in your Neighbourhood:** St. Clair Conservation is now booking Spring Schoolyard programs. So far, approximately 250 students from four watershed schools are registered to participate this Spring. There are still spaces left, and it is anticipated more schools will register for May-June 2026.

#### **Sponsored Education Program Updates:**

**Plains Midstream Canada – Spring Water Awareness Schoolyard Program:** Due to a change in management, Plains Midstream Canada (PMC) was not able to offer sponsorship of the Spring Water Awareness Program this calendar year. Two schools registered for the program prior to notification from PMC. These schools will participate thanks to support from the St. Clair Conservation Foundation. Approximately 200 students will participate in activities that will teach them to stay safe in the springtime by keeping away from the edge of the water.

#### **Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative Fund Update:**

**Future Farmers Program:** The Education Staff is currently delivering the 5-day Future Farmers program for the 2026 winter semester (January–May). The program consists of three days of in-class instruction, a farm field trip, and a culminating field trip day. This semester a

total of seven classes from 3 different schools (totalling approximately 290 students) will participate. This brings the grand total for the 2025-2026 school year to nearly 500 participants.

### **Specialist High Skilled Major (SHSM) Agricultural and Environmental Student**

**Conference:** The 2026 conference will take place at The Lambton Kent Memorial Arena in Dresden, Ontario, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Approximately 150 students from Specialist High Skills Major programs, focusing on agriculture and the environment, are expected attend. Students will have the opportunity to participate in five engaging sessions covering topics such as agricultural equipment demonstrations (including sprayers, drones, etc.), agricultural land stewardship, and water monitoring and testing. The nine sessions will be led by; SCRCA staff, industry leaders, and subject matter experts, with a focus on educating students about the challenges of phosphorus pollution and how agriculture can play a role in addressing this critical issue.

### **First Nations Program Engagement:**

**\*New\* Education Partnership with University of Windsor Indigenous Education Course:** SCRCA staff have been invited to guest-lecture in a Biology-Indigenous Studies course at the University of Windsor. To date, SCRCA staff have delivered three in-person lectures to approximately 150 students at the Windsor campus.

**Land-Based Education Project at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation:** Education staff continue to partner in the development of the school's Land-Based Education Program. Programming will run weekly until June 2026. Education Staff have secured funding to continue this valuable partnership until March 2027.

**Land-Based Education Project at Aamjiwnaang First Nation:** Friends of the St. Clair River have generously sponsored this program that consists of monthly bushwalks in the forest behind the school at Aamjiwnaang Kinomaage Gamig. This program will continue until June.

### **Committee Involvement:**

**Rekindle the Sparks Planning Committee:** Education Staff continue to lead this committee. Planning for the 2026 conference is well underway.

**Arbour Week Committee:** The Education Team continues to be a part of the Arbor Week Committee.

**The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss**

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February 25, 2026

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Minister Todd McCarthy  
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

Sent via email: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)Re: Copy of Resolution No.2026/02/02-31

The following resolution was passed at the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 meeting of Council. Note that the map is being adjusted to refine the borders of the LHRCA to deviate from the actual watershed boundaries to follow the demarcation lines of the municipalities where only a small portion of a municipality is encompassed by the watershed boundary. Thus reducing the number of Conservation Authorities a boundary area municipality would need to be a member of.

**Moved by:** Ed McGugan**Seconded by:** Scott Gibson

Resolution:

WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposed new boundaries for the consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into regional conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss submitted comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting #025-1257 focused primarily on the need for consultation, maintaining watershed specific decision making, preserving the unique role of Conservation Authorities in Rural Ontario, and boundaries which are appropriately sized, and accurately reflect communities of interest with similar watershed features;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss recognizes the broader role that rural conservation authorities play in supporting tourism, outdoor recreation, agriculture and

rural quality of life, in addition to the flood control and development planning functions which are the primary focus in more urban areas;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss met with the Honourable Minister Todd McCarthy at the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Associations (ROMA) Conference, to discuss revising proposed CA boundaries from the Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority to better reflect existing working relationships, watershed characteristics, and current programs; and ensuring rural and agricultural representation is formally included in Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency governance;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss proposed a revised boundary approach that:

- a) Builds on existing partnerships and shared programs
- b) Aligns with similar watershed and geographic features, and
- c) Preserves effective, locally responsive service delivery;

AND WHEREAS the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and the rural areas within the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority have established working relationships through such programs as the Healthy Lake Huron Initiative;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Huron-Kinloss is proposing a Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA) which would more accurately reflect communities of interest and natural geographic features in an appropriately sized authority, which includes the above noted conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS the proposed LRCA would cover twelve (12) distinct areas noted on Appendix A, which could represent a voting area within the LHRCA board;

AND WHEREAS it is advisable to maintain existing conservation authority headquarters where possible as regional offices, but consolidate some administrative tasks into a centrally located head office;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Township of Huron- Kinloss recommend that the municipalities and conservation authorities within the area proposed support a Lake

Huron Regional Conservation Authority, with a board of twelve (12) members representing twelve (12) unique areas within the proposed authority, and a centralized head office, with satellite regional offices to support local work;

AND FURTHER THAT that Staff be directed to circulate to the municipalities and conservation authorities within the proposed new region (attached as appendix a) communications regarding the possible structure and format of a new Lake Huron Region Conservation Authority;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff propose to the impacted municipalities and conservation authorities that an initial meeting be conducted to discuss the viability and details of the proposal.

### **Carried**

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact the Township of Huron-Kinloss Clerk to arrange a meeting with council representatives.

Sincerely,



Jennifer White  
Clerk

Cc: Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula [acroce@northernbruce.ca](mailto:acroce@northernbruce.ca) , Town of South Bruce Peninsula [angie.cathrae@southburcepeninsula.ca](mailto:angie.cathrae@southburcepeninsula.ca) , Town of Saugeen Shores [morgan.mcculloch@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:morgan.mcculloch@saugeenshores.ca) , Municipality of Brockton [fhamilton@brockton.ca](mailto:fhamilton@brockton.ca) , Municipality of Arran-Elderslie [cfraser@arran-elderslie.ca](mailto:cfraser@arran-elderslie.ca) , Municipality of Kincardine [jlawrie@kincardine.ca](mailto:jlawrie@kincardine.ca) , Municipality of South Bruce [vkennedy@southbruce.ca](mailto:vkennedy@southbruce.ca) , Township of Howick [clerk@howick.ca](mailto:clerk@howick.ca) , Township of North Huron [info@northhuron.ca](mailto:info@northhuron.ca) , Municipality of Morris Turnberry [thallam@morristorynberry.ca](mailto:thallam@morristorynberry.ca) , Township Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Township [clerk@acwtownship.ca](mailto:clerk@acwtownship.ca) , Town of Goderich

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