



AGENDA
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:30 AM
Council Chambers, Wyoming

Page

1. Roll Call

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

3. Disclosures of Pecuniary of Interest

If any.

4. IN-CAMERA SESSION - 9:00 A.M.

Recommendation

That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to discuss the following:

- a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated November 1, 2023, and the Committee A.M. minutes dated November 15, 2023 pursuant to s. 239 (2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*;
- b) to receive a report, and provided instructions related thereto, regarding negotiations between Lambton Public Health and a third party regarding organizational matters, pursuant to s. 239(2)(k) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*;
- c) to receive a report, and provide instructions related thereto, on a proposed collective agreement between The Corporation of the County of Lambton and Unifor 302, pursuant to s. 239 (2) (d) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*; and

- d) to receive a report concerning information systems network security, pursuant to s. 239 (2) (a) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.

5. OPEN SESSION

Regular Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

6. Silent Reflection

7. Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session

If any.

8. Donor Recognition

- a) There will be a presentation from Warden Kevin Marriott on behalf of Lambton County Council and staff to thank those who have made very generous donations to several Lambton County programs and facilities over the past year. These donors include Noelle's Gift to Children, Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation, The Lodge Auxiliary, The Villa Auxiliary, The Manor Auxiliary, Ron Van Horne and Scott Ferguson, Don and Anne McGugan and The Famous 5 Sarnia Lambton Speaker Series. Links to the video presentations can be found on the Lambton County website at www.lambtononline.ca/donors.

9. DELEGATIONS

8 - 19

- a) Jenna Simpson, Kate Wagar, Shalen Hunter, Members of the Petrolia Childcare Advocacy Group would like to speak to County Council highlighting the child care crisis in Lambton County.

20 - 31

- b) Gail Obediah, Development Manager, Paula Benford, Development Coordinator and Logan Keen, Urban Planner Technician of the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation would like to speak to County Council regarding its housing project and all the wonderful amenities/services that will be provided on site as well as an update on some of the challenges/delays, next steps and anticipated timelines.

10. Presentations

32 - 46

- a) Susan Mills, Transit Coordinator, Huron Shores Area Transit will speak to Council on its transit system in Bluewater, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Lambton Shores, North Middlesex and South Huron.

47 - 78

- b) Stephen Turner, Manager, Lambton Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to speak to Council to provide details regarding Lambton EMS' proposed Master Plan 2024-2028.

11. Minutes of Council (Open Session)

79 - 86

- a) Reading and adoption of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated November 1, 2023.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

A) Correspondence to Receive and File Recommendation

87 - 89

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

- a) CC 11-08-23 An email from Sarah Carter, Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor, Municipality of North Perth dated October 26, 2023 advising that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 23rd, 2023 regarding a request for support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022 from Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP.

Moved By: Lee Anne Andriessen Seconded By: Sarah Blazek
THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth supports Consent Agenda Item 7.11 Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP – Request for Support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022.

AND THAT: Staff be directed to forward the resolution to other provincial entities and other Council counterparts across Ontario.

CARRIED.

90 - 91

- b) CC 11-09-23 An email from Sarah Carter, Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor, Municipality of North Perth dated October 26, 2023 advising that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 23rd, 2023 regarding Policy Update – Social and Economic Prosperity Review from the Association of Municipalities Ontario.

Moved By: Matt Duncan Seconded By: Allan Rothwell
THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth endorses the briefing from AMO calling for discussion on Social and Economic Prosperity and that North Perth is willing to participate.

AND THAT: The resolution be forwarded to the Premier of

Ontario, AMO, Perth-Wellington MP John Nater, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, and all Ontario municipalities.
CARRIED

- 92 - 93 c) CC 11-10-23 An email from Sarah Carter, Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor, Municipality of North Perth dated October 26, 2023 advising that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 16th, 2023 regarding "Catch and Release" Justice in Ontario.

Moved By: Sarah Blazek Seconded By: Matt Richardson
THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth endorses the resolution from the Town of Midland and circulates the resolution to relevant stakeholders.
CARRIED

- 94 - 96 d) CC 11-14-23 An email from Andrea Clegg, P.Eng. GHD Project Manager dated November 20, 2023 regarding the Notice of Online Public Information Centre: Highway 40 Widening Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment being held from Monday, November 27 to Sunday, December 10, 2023 and is available on the project website.

- 97 - 98 e) CC 11-15-23 An email dated November 16, 2023 from Kelly Beri, Senior Environmental Planner, on behalf of Waste Management Canada providing Notice of Public Information Session 2 for the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre Landfill Optimization Project that will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 and Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre, 5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

B) Correspondence from Member Municipalities

- 99 - 101 a) CC 11-11-23 An email dated October 26, 2023 from Erin Kwarciak, Clerk, Town of Plympton-Wyoming advising that at the regular Council Meeting held October 25th 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolution from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

Motion 10
Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues
Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren
That Council support item 'L' of correspondence from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for

an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.
Carried.

13. Board of Health (Lambton Public Health)

A) Correspondence to Receive and File

- 102 - 103 a) CC 11-12-23 A letter from Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Sudbury & Districts dated October 27, 2023, regarding public health strengthening and chronic disease prevention. The Sudbury & Districts Board of Health urges the Provincial Government to ensure all health system actors, including local Public Health, are supported to invest in coordinated action to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases, affecting so many Ontarians.
- 104 - 107 b) CC 11-13-23 A letter from Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Sudbury & Districts dated October 27, 2023, regarding a resolution made at its Board of Health meeting on October 29, 2023. The Sudbury & Districts Board of Health support the recommendations submitted by the Coalition for Healthy School Food to the Government of Canada as part of advance consultations for Budget 2024.

B) Information Reports

- 108 - 131 a) Information Report dated November 29, 2023 Regarding After Action Review of Lambton Public Health's COVID-19 Pandemic Response - Partner Engagement Reports.
- 132 - 148 b) Information Report dated November 29, 2023 Regarding Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project.
- 149 - 151 c) Information Report dated November 29, 2023 Regarding Health Protection - 2023 Third Quarter Activity Report.
- 152 - 154 d) Information Report dated November 29, 2023 Regarding Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Funding for 2023-24.

14. Information Reports

A) CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

- 155 - 157 a) Information Report dated November 29, 2023 Regarding Alternate Member Appointments - Policy C12.01.

B) FINANCE , FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION

- 158 - 161 a) Information Report dated November 29, 2023 Regarding Court

Services 3rd Quarter 2023 Statistics and Activity.

15. Committee Minutes

162 - 166

a) Committee A.M. minutes dated November 15, 2023.

167 - 169

b) Committee P.M. minutes dated November 15, 2023.

16. Items Tabled from Previous Meetings

170 - 196

a) Information Report dated November 29, 2023 Regarding Rural Transportation Follow-Up.

17. Notice of Motion

a) Councillor Bradley requested a Reconsideration of Council's June 7, 2023 decision on Councillor Boushy's following motion, which was defeated:

#13: Boushy/Dennis: That County Council support the following motion:

Given that our two-county council committees are half of council we should consider joining together with council and meet once a month as a whole county council, on a trial basis.

Joining as one county council will:

1. Save council time.
2. Save staff reports and staff time.

b) Councillor Case provided Notice of Motion for the November 29, 2023, Lambton Council Council meeting that Council consider meeting as a committee of the whole once per month rather than the current Committee A.M. and Committee P.M. structure.

18. Other Business

19. Notice of By-Laws

a) #31 of 2023 A By-Law to Authorize a Lease Agreement with The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation.

b) #32 of 2023 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including November 29, 2023.

20. First and Second Reading of By-Laws

a) #31 - #32 of 2023.

21. Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

a) #31 - #32 of 2023.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation

That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

23. O Canada!

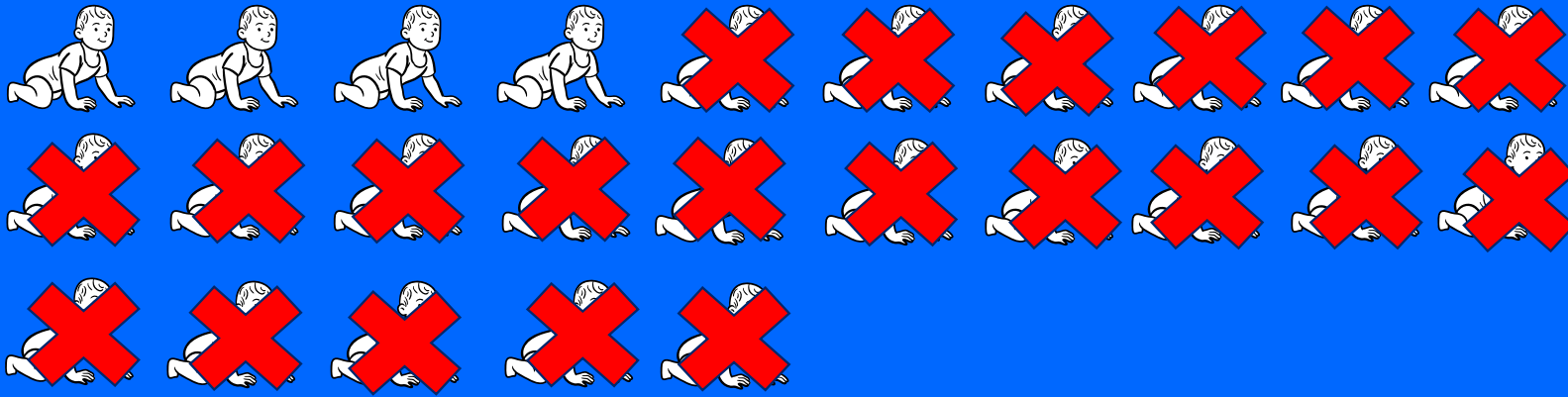
County of Lambton

A county with a childcare crisis

Current landscape in Lambton County

Lambton County families, from young parents to baby boomers, are facing unprecedented stress as a result of inadequate childcare services.

What a 16% access rate looks like



WAITLISTED

Meet Emma, age 2



Emma is one of the children in the previous slide that does not have access to childcare. Her mom is trained as a Registered Nurse, but currently is not employed because she and her husband moved to Lambton County and don't have family to help. Emma has been on the waitlist for licensed childcare since the day she was born. When Emma's parents were approved for their mortgage 5 years ago, Emma's mom was working. Emma's mom would like to work and the family is worried about increasing mortgage rates.

WAITLISTED

Meet Christopher, age 3



Both of Chris' parents are working. Thankfully, his grandparents are able to care for him 40 hours per week. But his grandfather is in poor health. The increasing appointments are making it less and less feasible for his grandparent's to fill in full-time. Chris' mom is thinking about cutting back to part-time hours. She is a huge asset at her job at the nursing home.

Why does this matter?

- hospital may close beds due to inadequate staffing
- nursing home residents may miss out on service provision due to inadequate staffing
- mental health impacts
- physical and psychological safety of children

WE ALL LOSE

Primary goal

Solve the crisis

Fulfill your role

Across Ontario, Service System Managers are responsible for planning, administering and operating licensed child care and early years programs, through direct service provision and/or thirdparty service agreements

How?

Capital.

Childcare centres cannot fill jobs for \$18/hr, therefore they are operating under capacity.

Fund licensed childcare in Lambton County

There isn't any way around it.

“

Studies show that for every dollar invested in early childhood education, the broader economy receives between \$1.50 and \$2.80 in return.

Government of Canada

”

Thank you

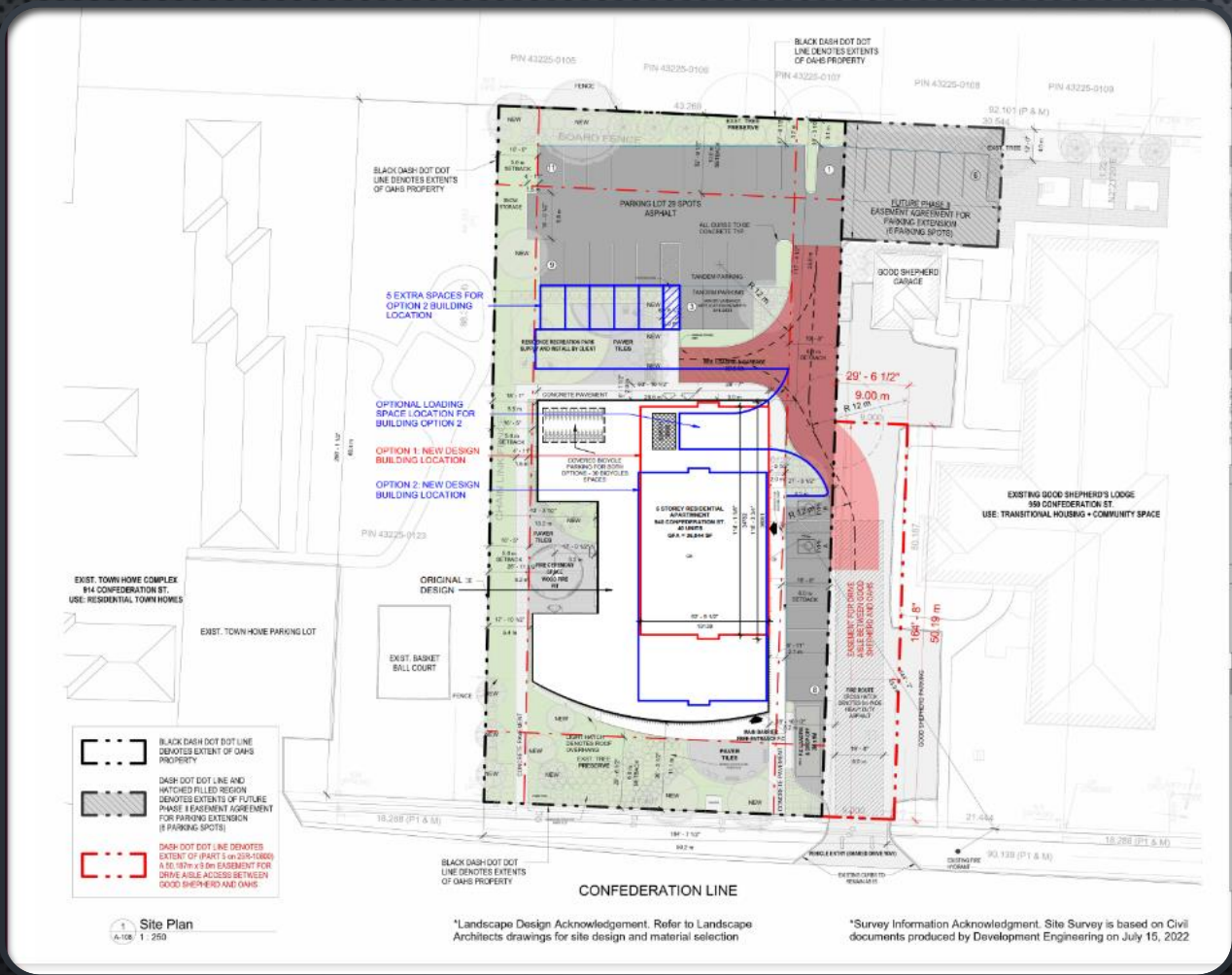
Petrolia Childcare Advocacy Group

SARNIA (DRAFT)

940 CONFEDERATION STREET

ORIGINAL RENDERING





SITE PLAN-

- 5 STORY BUILDING
- GFA 36,044 SF - BUILDING FOOTPRINT IS SHOWN IN BLUE
- ALLOWS FOR MORE GREEN SPACE
- ALLOWS FOR EXTERIOR COVERED BIKE STORAGE AREA
- INTERIOR SCOOTER STORAGE REMAINS

*Landscape Design Acknowledgement. Refer to Landscape Architects drawings for site design and material selection

*Survey Information Acknowledgment. Site Survey is based on Civil documents produced by Development Engineering on July 15, 2022

SARNIA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE ENTRANCE



OUTDOOR AREA



PROGRAM ROOM



SARNIA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE RECEPTION



AGENDA ITEM #6)

UNIT BREAKDOWN-40 RESIDENTIAL UNITS

16 one
bedroom units-
3 are barrier
free

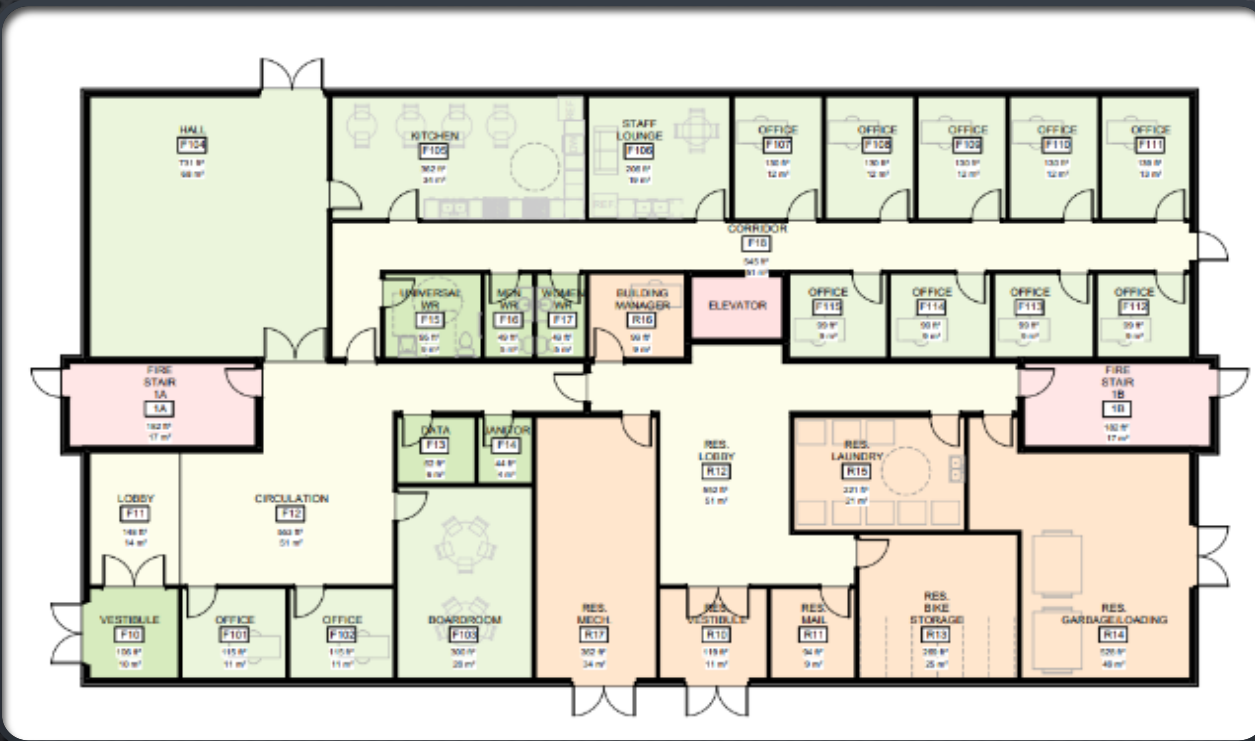
16 two
bedroom units-
3 are barrier
free

8 three
bedroom units-
2 are barrier
free

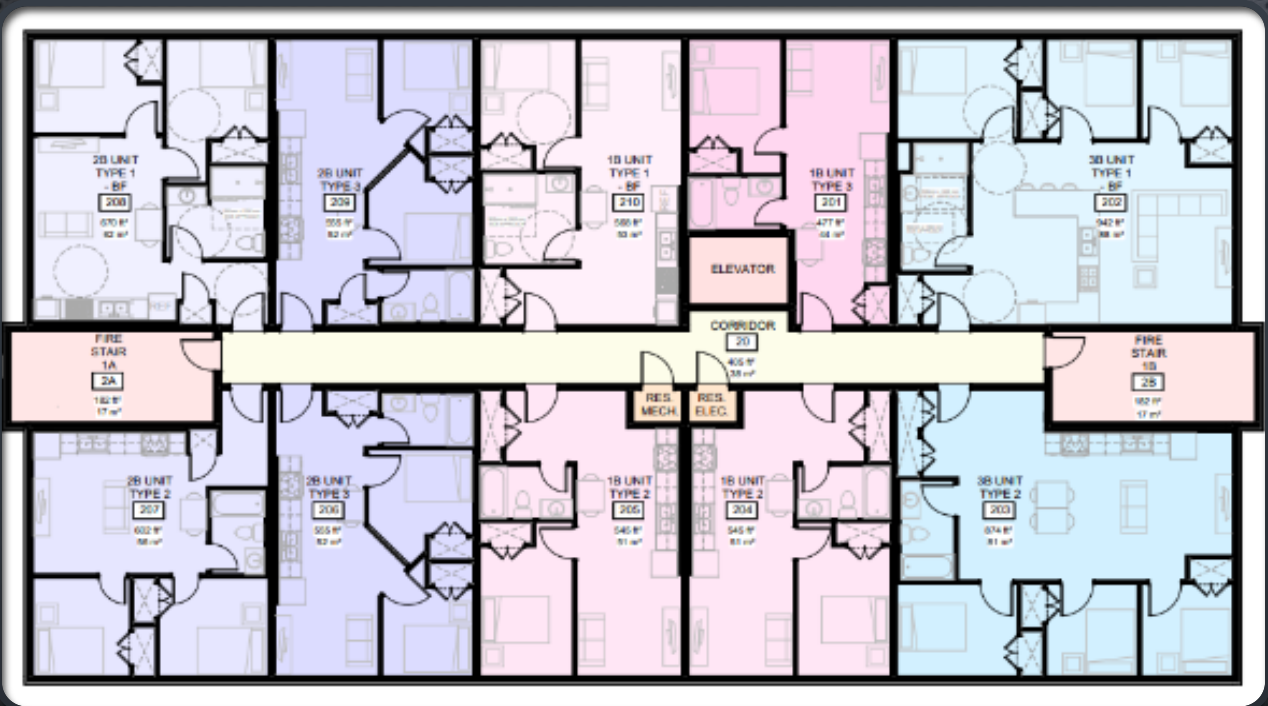
FLOOR PLAN- GROUND FLOOR

-GROUND FLOOR IS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE AND LOBBY/SERVICE AREA FOR RESIDENTIAL.
-FRIENDSHIP CENTRE AREA = 4535 SF

ORIGINAL DESIGN AREA = 6538 SF
(ON GROUND AND SECOND FLOOR)

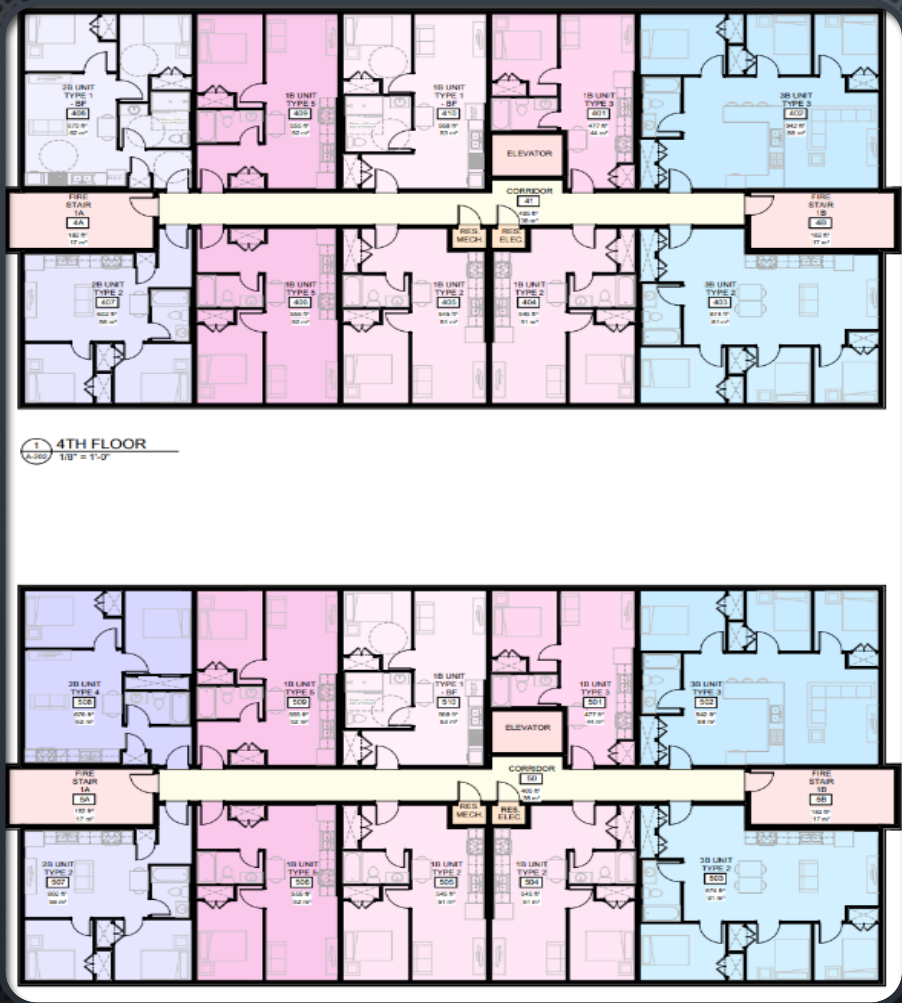


SECOND & THIRD FLOOR LAYOUT



AGENDA ITEM #6)

FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS



SUMMARY

- 5 Storey Building
- GFA = 36,044 sf (Original had 47,000 SF)
- 40 total residential units
 - 1 bed = 16 units (3 are barrier free)
 - *original design had 20 units
 - 2 bed = 16 units (3 are barrier free)
 - *original design had 10 units
 - 3 bed = 8 units (2 are barrier free)
 - Original design had 10 units
- 20% of the units are barrier free (8 units)
- All residential units are located on floors 2-5
 - Original design had two units on ground floor
- Ground floor is Friendship Centre and Lobby/Service area for residential.
- Friendship Centre area = 4535 sf (entirely on ground floor)
 - Original design area = 6538 sf (on ground and second floor)



Lambton County Council - 2023

Susan Mills, Transit Coordinator, Municipality of Lambton Shores



GENESIS OF A TRANSIT SYSTEM



SET YOURSELF FREE FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S SCHEDULES

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca

- **2018** – convergence of business and social agency perspective that public transit and affordable housing needed
- **2019** – Transit Committee formed; CT Program grant; Feasibility Study
- **2020** – Transit consultants & coordinator hired; service, routes & stops determined; system launch Dec. 14



COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



SET YOURSELF FREE FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S SCHEDULES

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca

- Mobility options for those without access to transportation
- Build/Enhance transportation capacity in areas where it is challenging due to low population size
- Create transportation networks that support local hubs and connect communities
- Improve service delivery through collaboration



HURON SHORES AREA TRANSIT



SET YOURSELF FREE FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S SCHEDULES

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca

BUDGET

- \$3,065,946 / 2018 – 2025

STAKEHOLDERS

- Lambton Shores
- Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
- South Huron
- Bluewater
- North Middlesex

MISSION

EQUITY OF ACCESS

Enable equal access to community life and assets for all residents and thereby also contribute to the economic development, sustainability, and vibrancy of our communities.



QUICK FACTS



- \$5 local + \$10 long-distance fares / Monthly Pass
- Children 12 + Under ride free with an adult.
- Support persons for those living with a disability ride free.
- 2 buses / 4 routes
- 22 towns / 52 bus stops
- Annually: 582,141 km driven, 7,313+ driver hours.
- Route 2 bus services Route 3 & Route 4.
- Bus Hub: Sobeys Plaza, Grand Bend. Passengers can transfer between routes.



ROUTES

1. **ROUTE 1:** Sarnia, Forest, Arkona, Thedford, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Port Franks, Grand Bend.
2. **ROUTE 2:** Grand Bend, Dashwood, Exeter, Huron Park, Centralia, Lucan, London.
3. **ROUTE 3:** Grand Bend, St. Joseph, Zurich, Hensall, Bayfield, Goderich.
4. **ROUTE 4:** Grand Bend, Parkhill, Ailsa Craig, Strathroy.





POST-PANDEMIC PROGRESS



SET YOURSELF FREE TO MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca

2021	2022	2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,553 passengers ○ Shutdowns & Stay-at-home orders ○ Fares reduced ○ Brochure revised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7,851 passengers ○ \$34k farebox revenues ○ Route changes ○ 3 new stops ○ Marketing ○ Brochure revised ○ Bus stop numbers ○ No Stranded Passenger Policy ○ \$1-million additional grant money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16k+ passengers ○ \$81k+ farebox revenue ○ Ad revenue ○ Employee shuttles ○ Summer Bus ○ Reinstatement of \$5 / \$10 fares ○ Brochure revised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agency Day Pass ○ Federal Rural Transit Grant App ○ CT-Program app ○ Policy development: advertising, video surveillance, customer courtesy ○ Security cameras

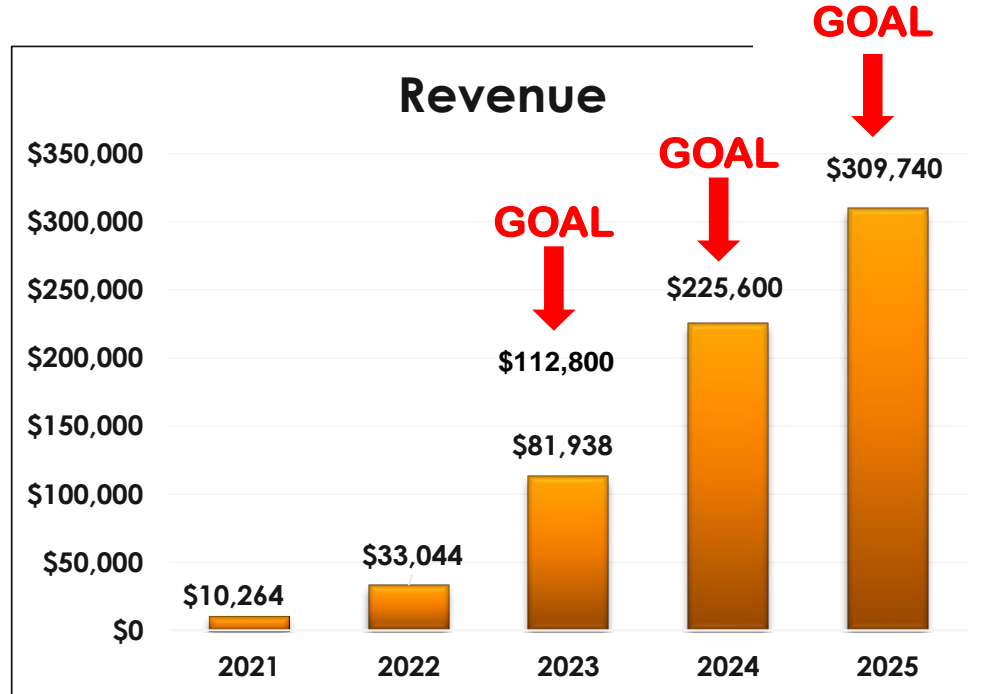
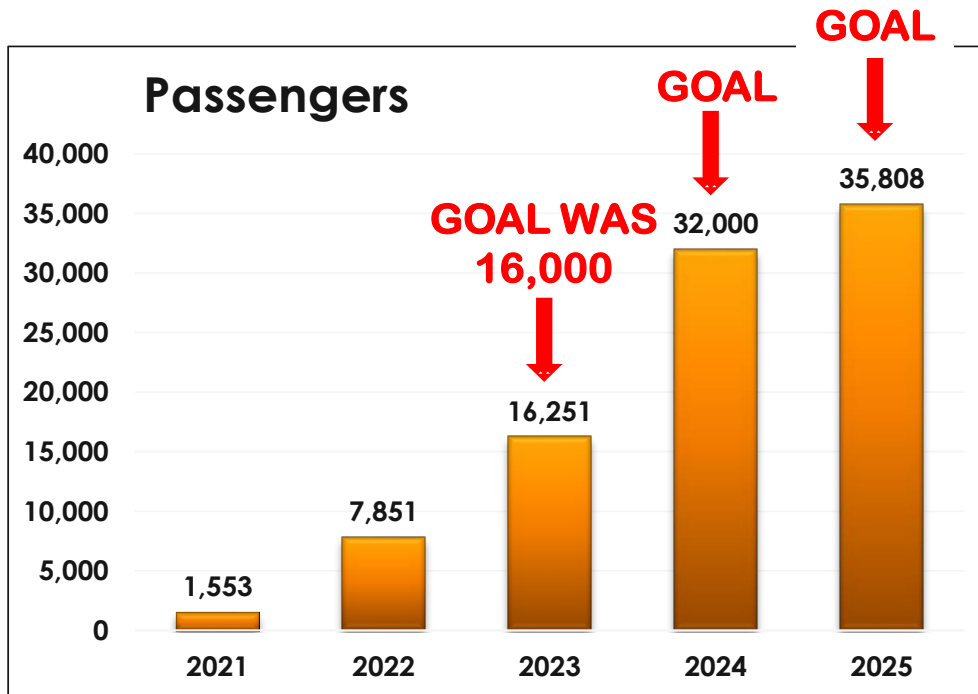


GROWTH ON TRACK



SET YOURSELF FREE TO TEXT, READ & RELAX

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca



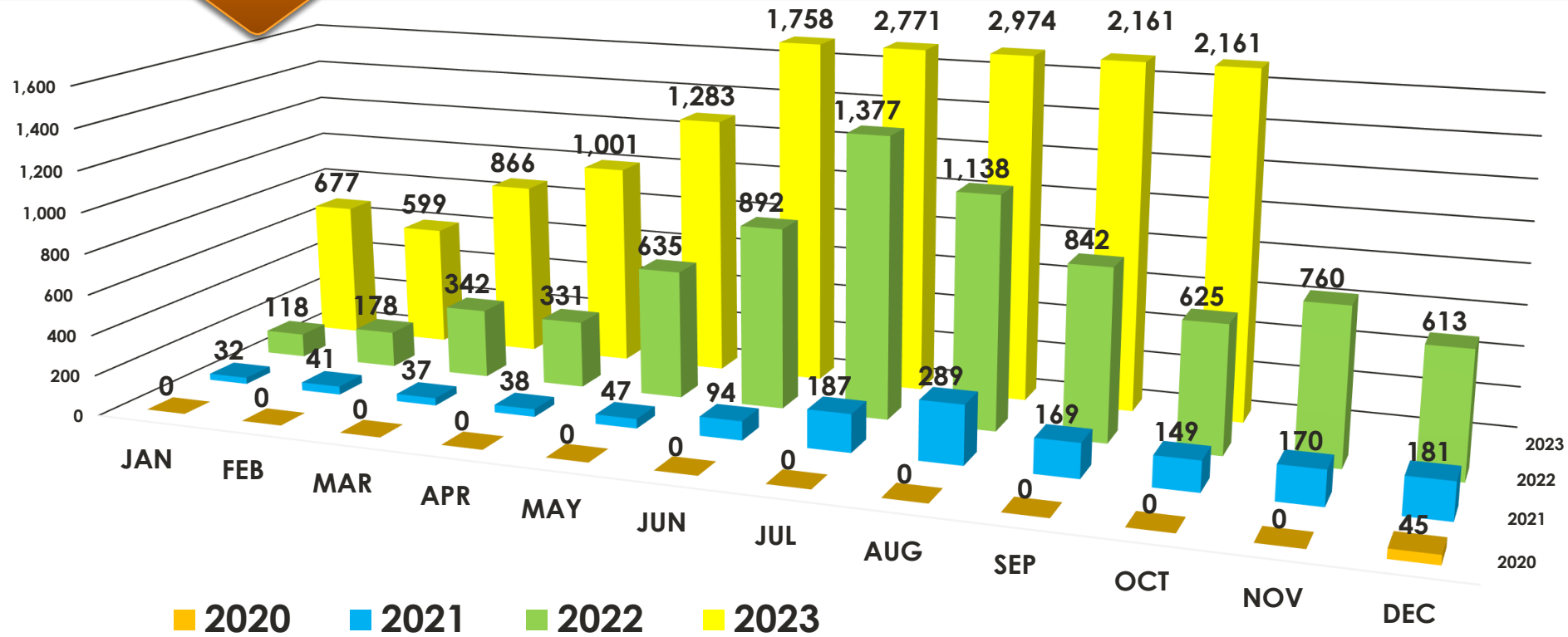


RIDERSHIP GROWTH: 946%



SET YOURSELF FREE TO BE ON YOUR WAY

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca





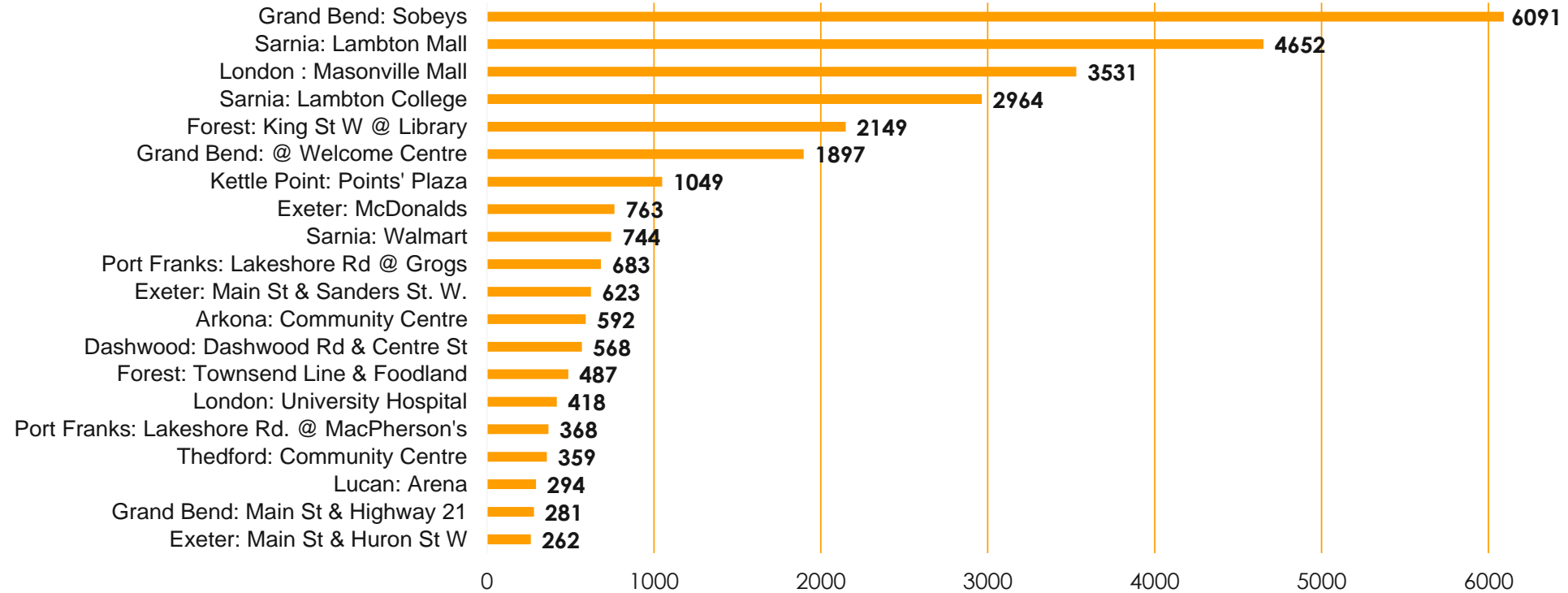
MOST USED BUS STOPS



SET YOURSELF FREE TO BE A GRANDMOTHER

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca

Most Used Bus Stops





GOALS



SET YOURSELF FREE TO GO YOUR OWN WAY

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2023

- ✓ Double ridership to 16,000 passenger trips/boardings.
- ✓ Reinstate original \$5 local & \$10 long-distance fares.
- ✓ Generate advertising revenue.
- ✓ Install transit shelters (2 of 8 used).
- ✓ Continue marketing using traditional, outdoor, web and digital media.

2024

- Double ridership to 32,000 passenger trips.
- Raise the Monthly Pass fare.
- Increase advertising revenue.
- Install shelters (11), solar lighting (19), benches (17), bike racks (21) (*grant dependent*).
- Make connections via “On-Demand” service (*grant dependent*).
- Continue marketing (*grant dependent*).



CHALLENGES ~ SOLUTIONS



SET YOURSELF FREE TO BE ON YOUR WAY

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca

CHALLENGES

- No communication with passengers.
- No marketing/advertising.
- Stranded passengers, Problem passengers.
- Need to increase ridership, but also experience over capacity situations.

SOLUTIONS

- Tactical Communications Plan
- Marketing Campaign
- 3rd Party Agreements, Policies, Security Cameras
- Summer Bus / Employee Shuttles / Bigger Bus
- Strategies to increase ridership and manage growth



TRENDS

- Passenger Reliance
- Ridership Growth
- Expanding Horizons



SET YOURSELF FREE FOR OPPORTUNITY

HuronShoresAreaTransit.ca



SUCCESS FACTORS



- Major Thoroughfares: Highway 21 and 4
- Being Passenger Centric: listen & make adjustments; “nothing written in stone”
- Tailoring the System to the Community
- Marketing: consistent message; persistent; multi-media



QUESTIONS



EMS Master Plan 2024 - 2028

Council Presentation

by Stephen Turner *MBA, MPA, ACP, CMM III*

Manager, EMS

November 29, 2023



History of Lambton Emergency Medical Services

■ Prior to 2000:

- Sarnia Ambulance was operated by Sarnia General Hospital
- Forest and Thedford Ambulance were operated by Gilpin Bros.
- Corunna and Brigden were operated by Steadman Bros.
- Petrolia was also operated privately (McCharles, Moore).
- Alvinston Ambulance had been purchased and relocated to Watford
- Grand Bend did not have a station and was serviced by Dashwood Ambulance

- ### ■ Lambton County assumed responsibility for EMS in the region as a result of provincial downloading in 2000. These services were merged and began to operate as Lambton EMS.



Background

- Last Strategic Plan was completed for the period 2015-2019.
- Last service enhancement was in 2022 with the addition of 12 hours of daytime coverage for Sarnia.
- Prior to that, the last service enhancement was in 2008 when county stations that were staffed on an 'on-call' basis were converted to 24 hour coverage.



Background

- While the service continues to meet its response time targets, they have been gradually slowing over the past 5 years.
- Concerns have been raised by the community and councillors regarding perceived slower response times in some areas of the county.
- Staff have been vocal about a perceived increase in workload, especially in Sarnia, as well as with Code 8 / standby assignments.



Master Plan Objectives

- Examine past performance
- Predict future demand
- Identify opportunities for improvement
 - Response times
 - Workload
 - Performance
 - Efficiency
 - Geographic coverage
 - Demand management
 - Staff wellness
 - Identity



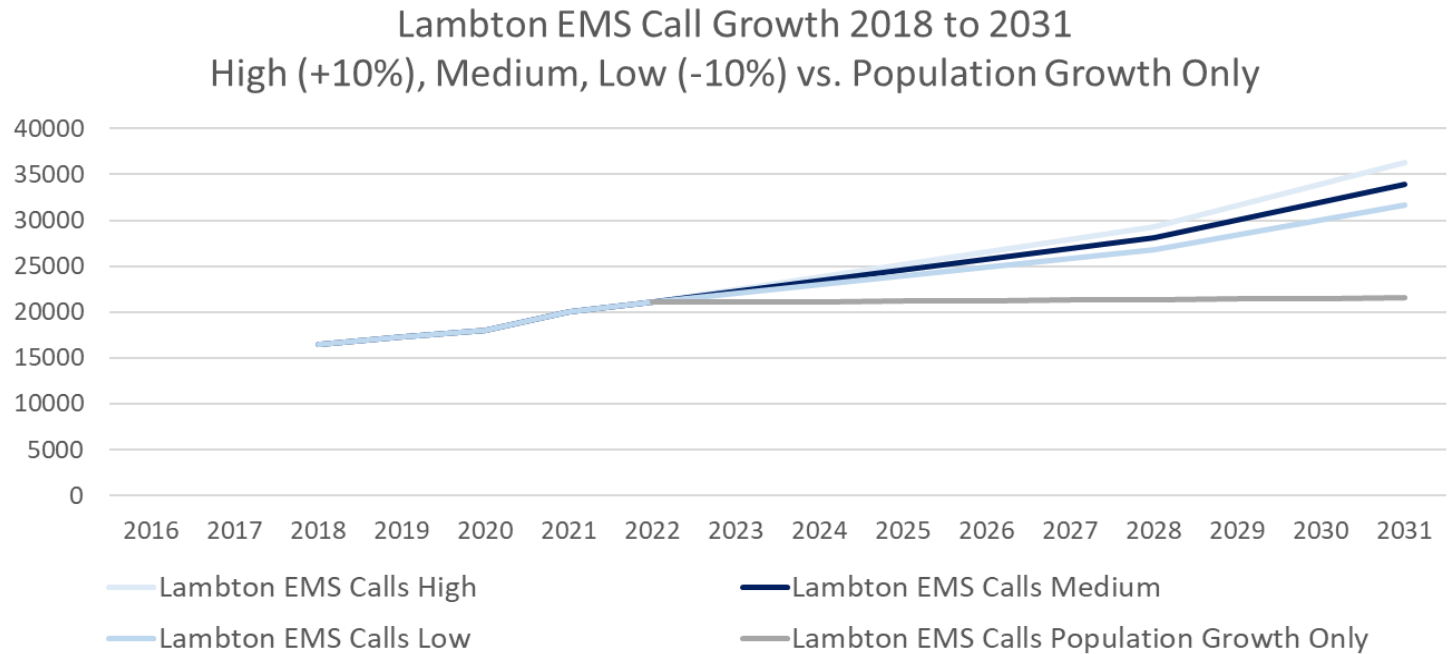
Master Plan Objectives

- Identify opportunities to improve use of existing resources
- Identify if any need to relocate existing resources
- Identify any additional resource needs for 5-year horizon



The Challenges Ahead – Call Volume

- Call volume increase is outpacing population increase by a substantial margin (24:1)



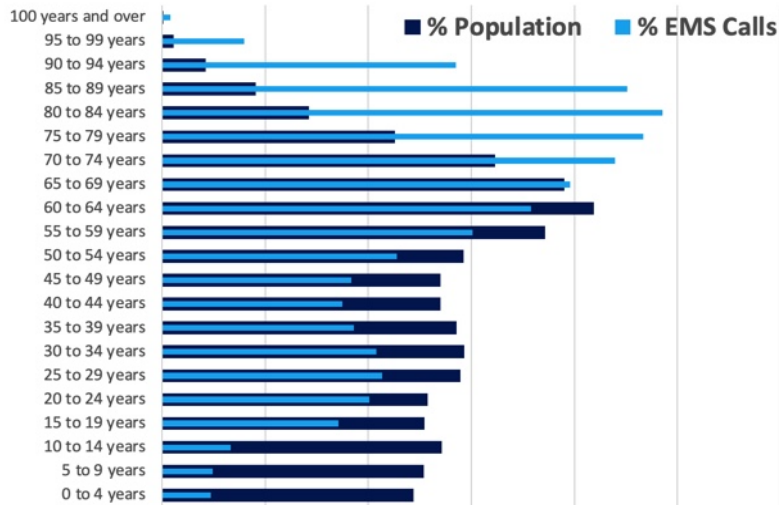


The Challenges Ahead – Aging Population

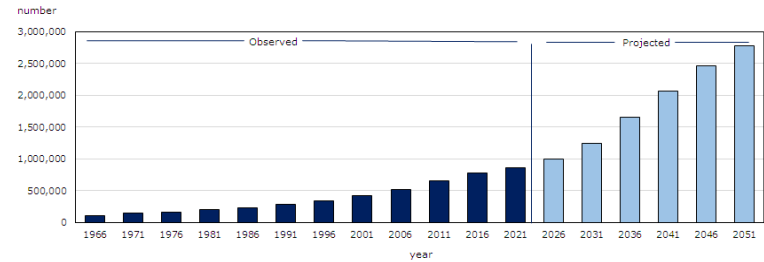
- Those over age 65 represent 25% of Lambton’s population but over 52% of the EMS calls to 911.
- The proportion of the population in this age group is expected to continue to grow, accelerating the rate of increase of 911 calls.



The Challenges Ahead – Aging Population



The number of people aged 85 and older continues to grow





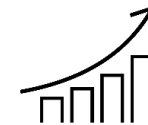
The Challenges Ahead – Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions



21,000 total calls in 2022



281 (1.4%) calls for people who were underhoused in 2021
580 (2.8%) calls for people who were underhoused in 2022



106% increase



789 calls (3.8%) for mental health concerns in 2022

11% of calls for people who were underhoused were for acute mental health concerns



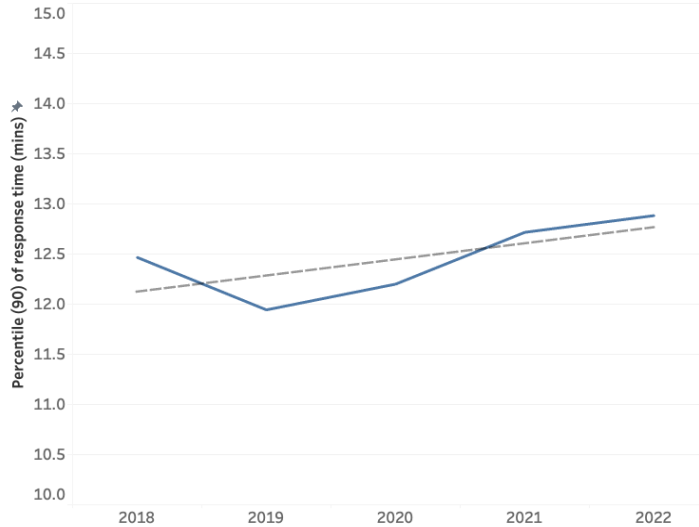
238 calls (1.1%) for suspected opioid overdoses in 2022

12% of calls for people who were underhoused were for a suspected opioid overdose

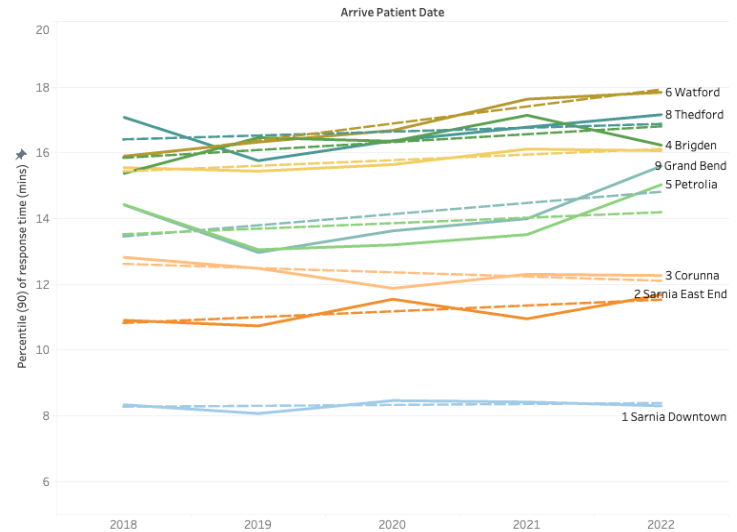


The Challenges Ahead – Slipping Response Times and Ability to Respond

90th Percentile Response Time by Year



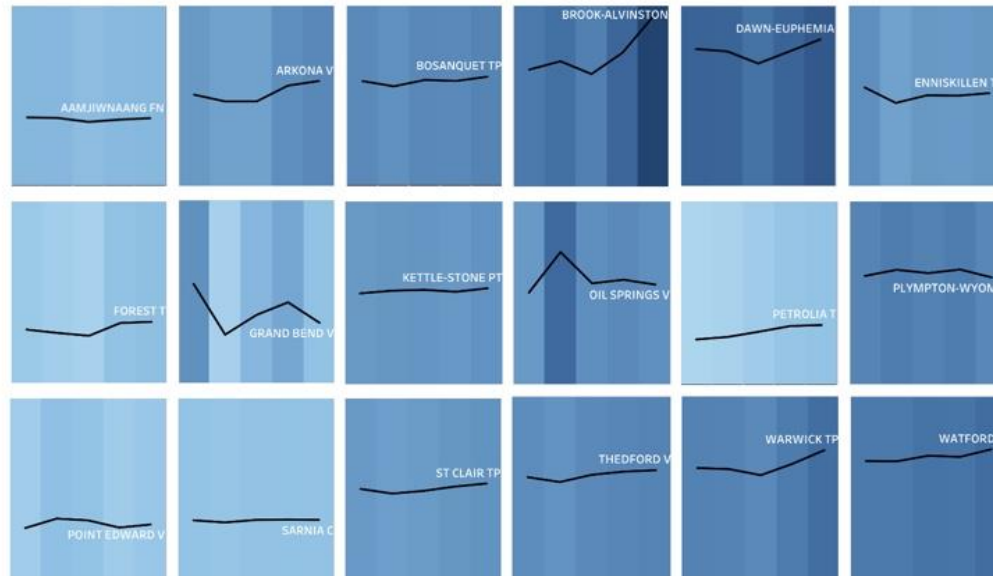
90th Percentile Response Time by Station





The Challenges Ahead – Slipping Response Times and Ability to Respond

Response Time Trend by Municipality 2018 - 2022



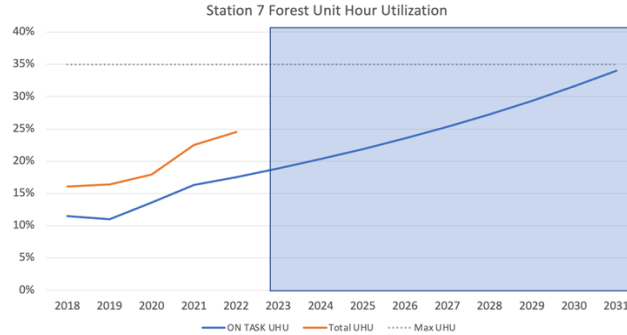
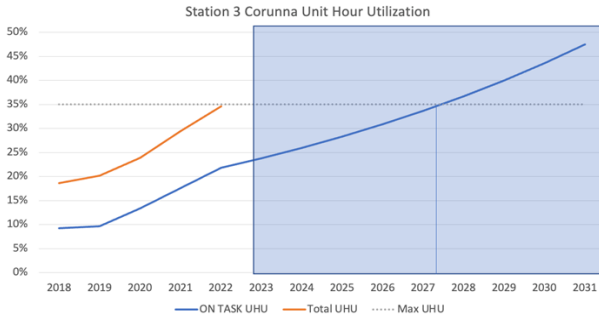
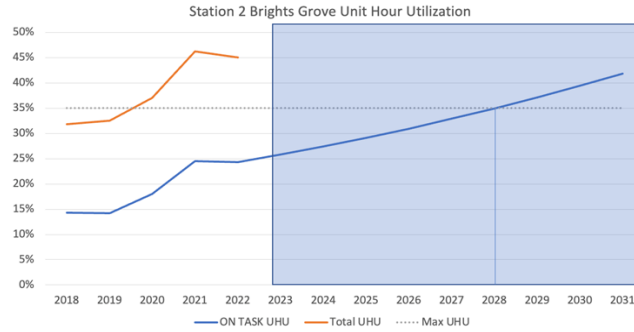
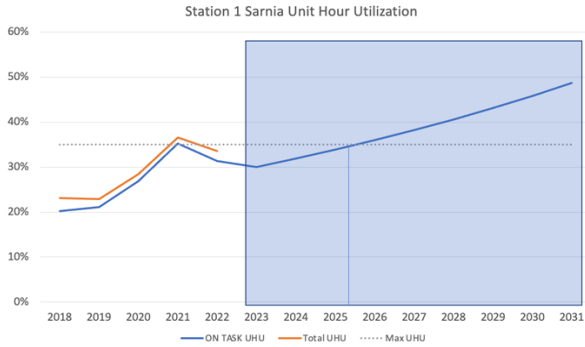
90th Percentile Response (min)

7.00

26.72



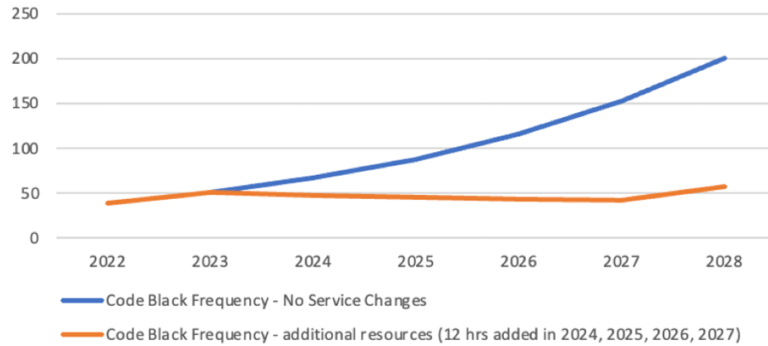
The Challenges Ahead – Slipping Response Times and Ability to Respond



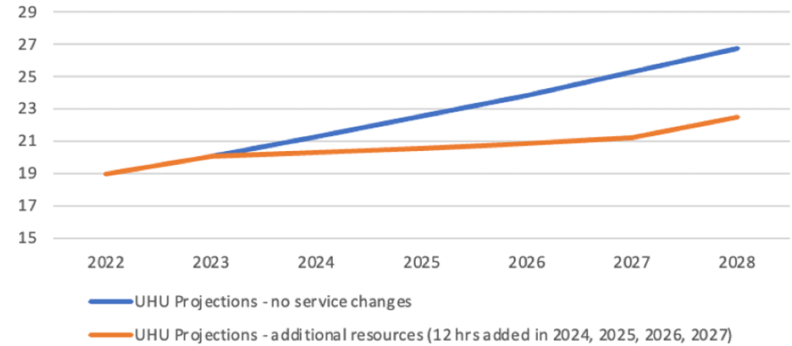


The Challenges Ahead – Slipping Response Times and Ability to Respond

Projected Code Black Occurrences



Projected Unit Hour Utilization

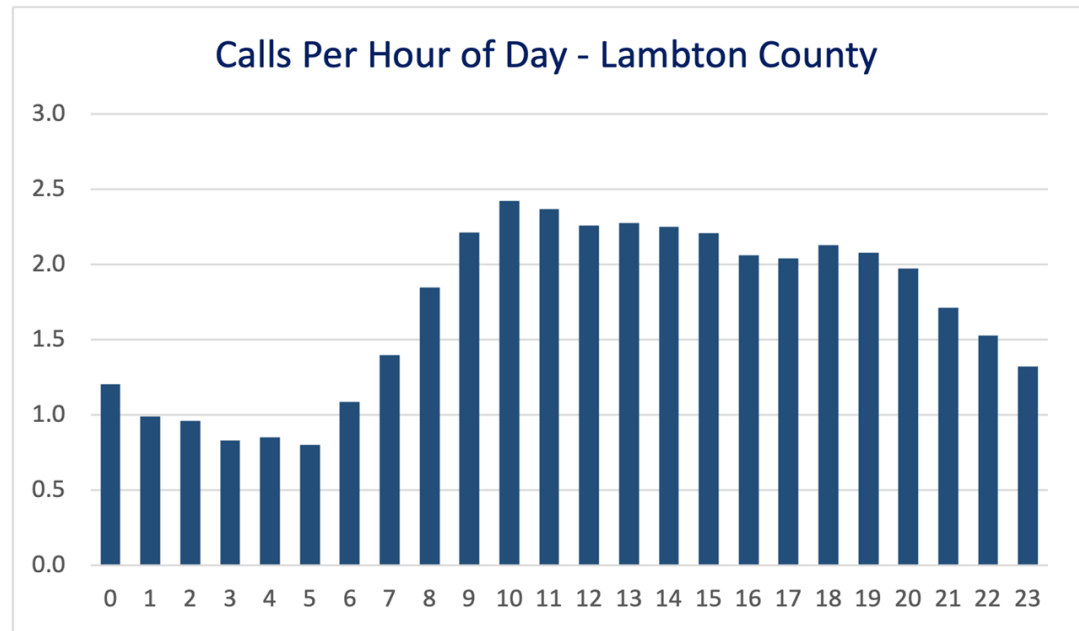




The Challenges Ahead – Need for Better Use of Existing Resources

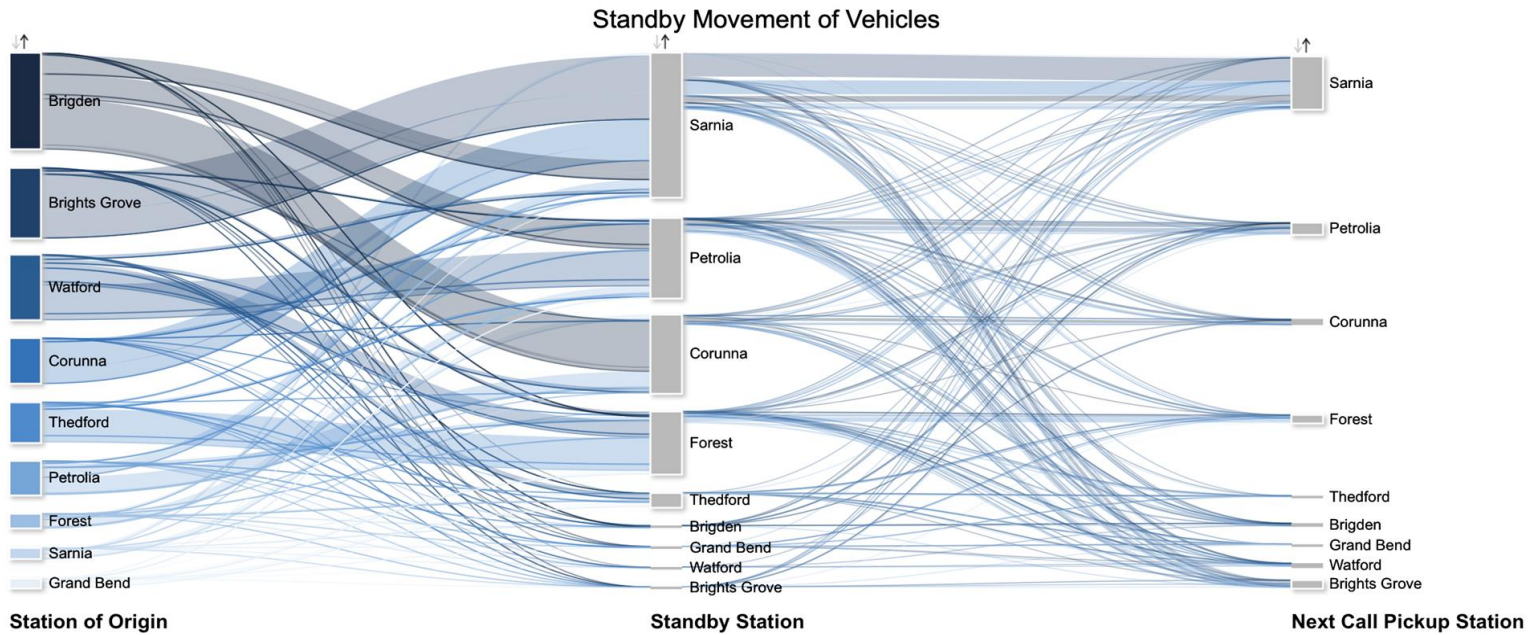
33% of calls occur between 9 pm and 9 am but 48% of service hours are provided during this time.

Reallocation of nighttime hours and adding service hours during peak periods can help better pair available resources to demand.



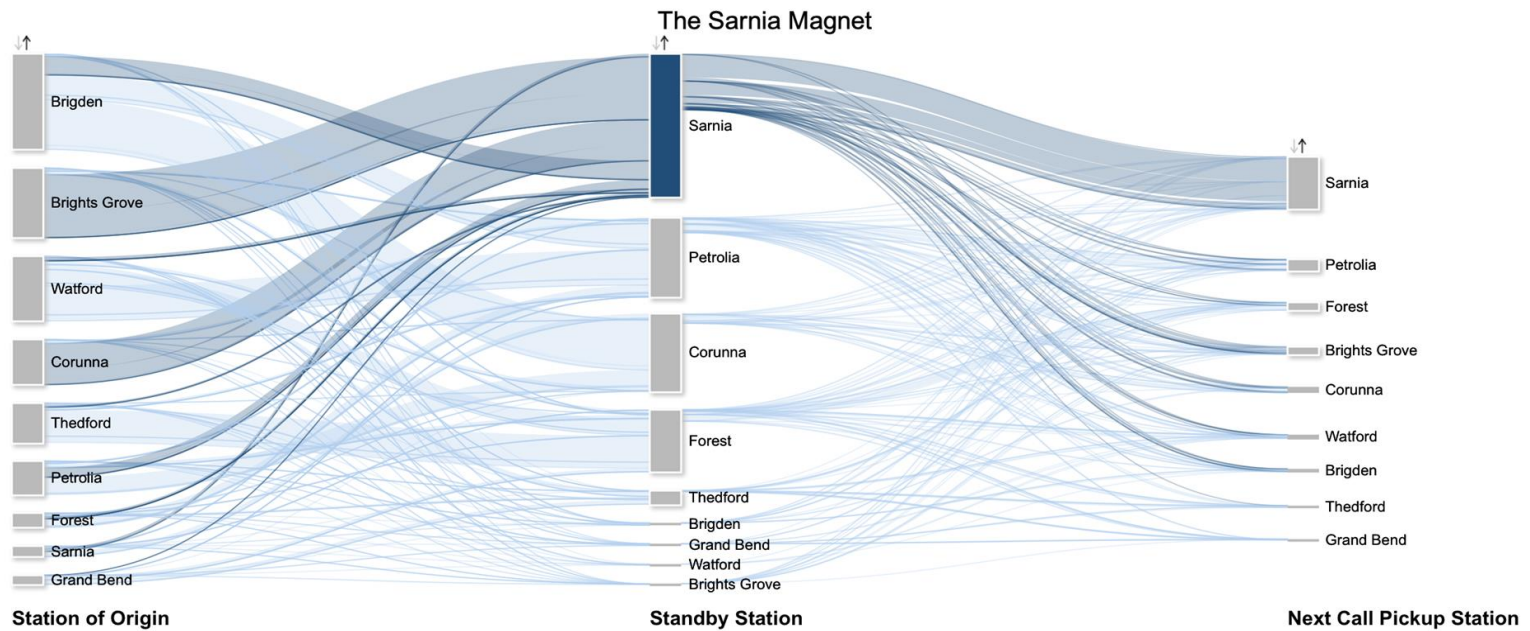


The Challenges Ahead – Need for Better Use of Existing Resources



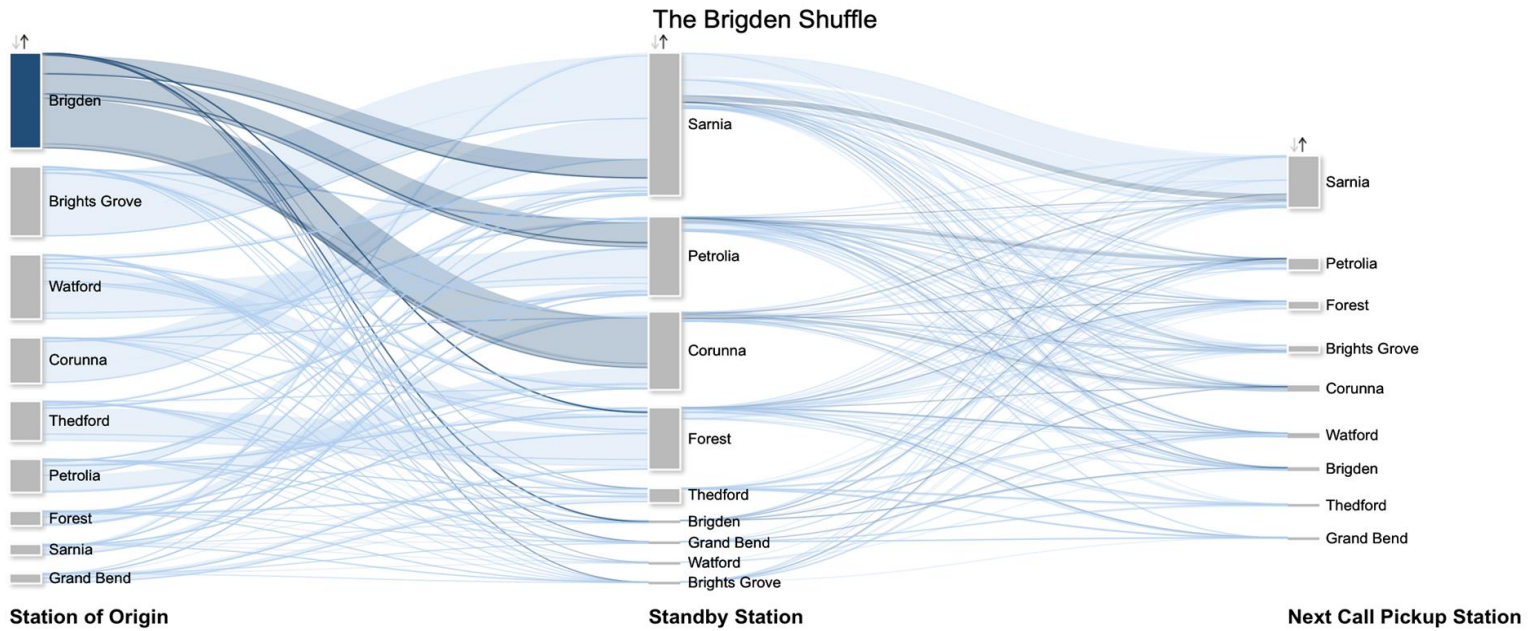


The Challenges Ahead – Need for Better Use of Existing Resources





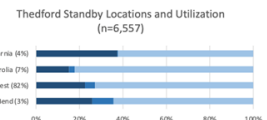
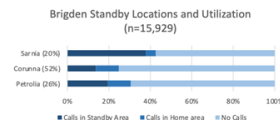
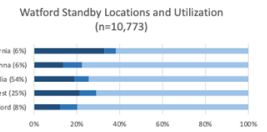
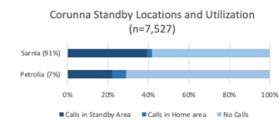
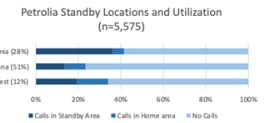
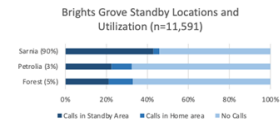
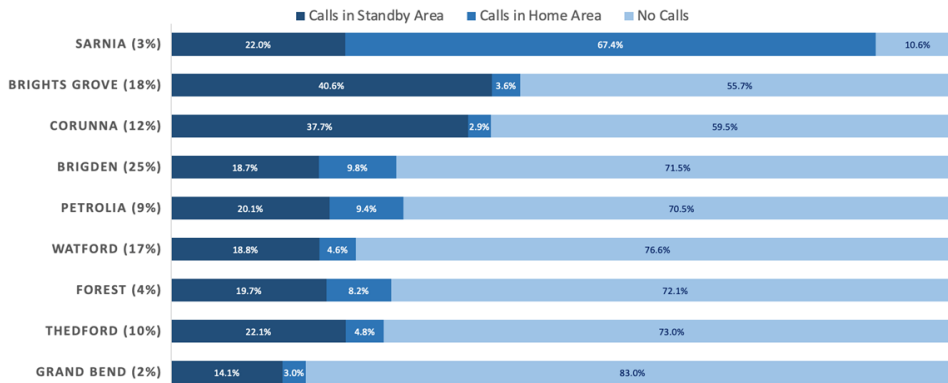
The Challenges Ahead – Need for Better Use of Existing Resources





The Challenges Ahead – Need for Better Use of Existing Resources

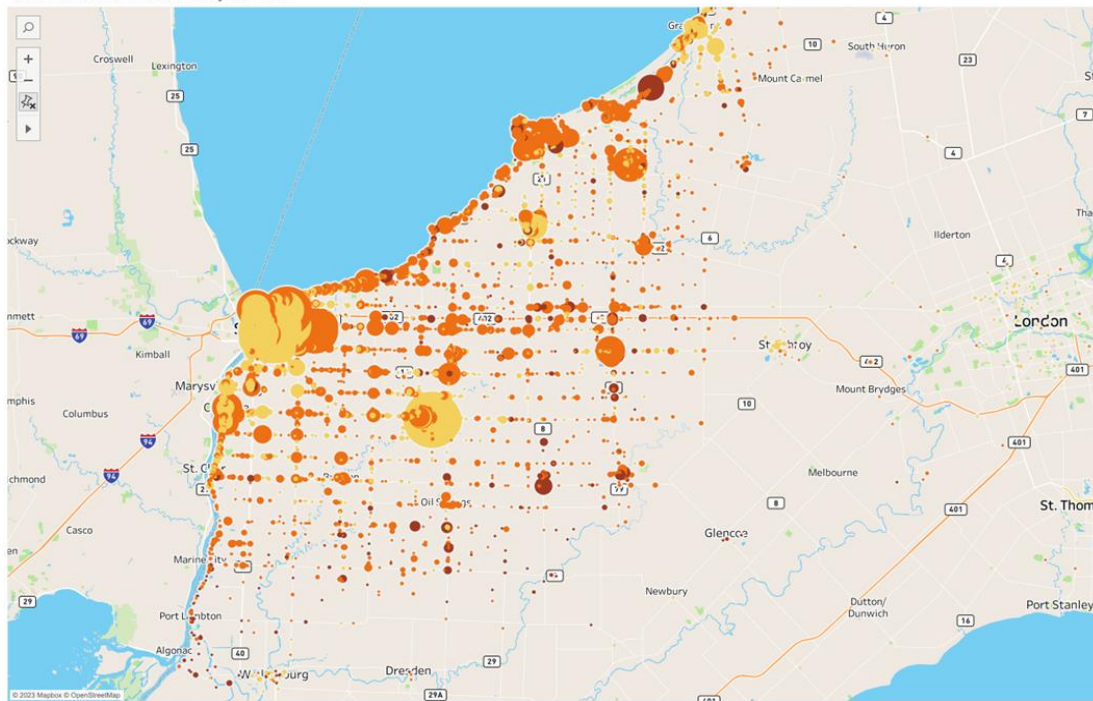
FREQUENCY AND LOCATION OF CALLS WHILE ON STANDBY
(BY STATION OF ORIGIN, N=63,698)





Areas of Focus

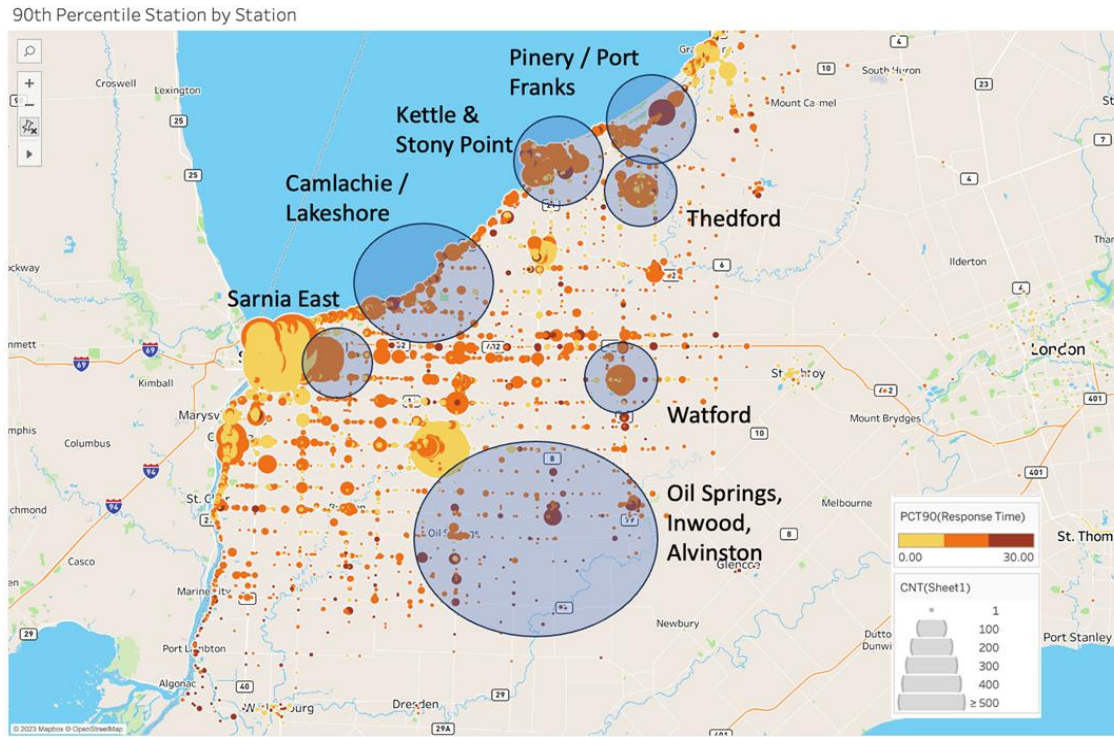
90th Percentile Station by Station



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Areas of Focus





Proposed Changes

- Add 36 hours of daily service over next 5 years
 - 3 ambulances operating during peak hours (12 hrs / day)
- Relocate Brights Grove, Grand Bend, Thedford Stations
- Construct new stations in Sarnia East (HQ), Camlachie, Pinery
- Reallocate Thedford service hours to 12 hrs additional daytime service in Forest and 12 hrs service where most required (TBD)



Proposed Changes



Current



Future - Options 1 & 2



Future - Option 3



Proposed Changes

■ Rationale

- Brights Grove to Sarnia East
 - Opportunity to provide better service coverage
 - Quick access to 402 and 40
 - Space to build headquarters
 - Co-location of operations, administration, training, logistics
 - Better use of Tiered Response Agreement



Proposed Changes

■ Rationale

- Camlachie
 - Growing service demand along lakeshore
 - Provides good backup coverage for Sarnia East and Forest
 - Midpoint access to 402
 - Fills in response gaps



Proposed Changes

■ Rationale

- Pinery
 - Grand Bend station provides very limited service to Lambton County (constrained geography)
 - Current location creates 25+ min response to Pinery
 - New location can serve Grand Bend and Pinery
 - Expands coverage arc to include Port Franks, Northville, Thedford
 - Provides opportunity to better utilize Thedford service hours



Proposed Changes

■ Rationale

- Thedford Relocation
 - Frequently assigned Code 8 in Forest
 - Very few nighttime calls (1 every 2 days)
 - Can be well serviced from Pinery and Forest
 - Better utilization of resource



Proposed Changes

Current Staffed Shifts (252 hours of service / day)

	Sarnia	Brights	Corunna	Brigden	Petrolia	Watford	Forest	Theford	Grand Bend	Total
24 hr	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
12 hr	1									1

Proposed Staffed Shifts

Option 1 - Theford night hours into 4th Sarnia day ambulance
(288 hours of service / day)

	Sarnia	Sarnia East	Corunna	Brigden	Petrolia	Watford	Forest	Camlachie	Grand Bend	Total
24 hr	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
12 hr	2	3					1			6

Option 2 - Theford night hours to convert Sarnia 12-hr ambulance into 24-hr ambulance
(288 hours of service / day)

	Sarnia	Sarnia East	Corunna	Brigden	Petrolia	Watford	Forest	Camlachie	Grand Bend	Total
24 hr	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
12 hr	2	1					1			4

Option 3 - Theford night hours into Inwood day ambulance
(288 hours of service / day)

	Sarnia	Sarnia East	Corunna	Brigden	Petrolia	Watford	Forest	Camlachie	Grand Bend	Inwood	Total
24 hr	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
12 hr	2	2					1			1	6



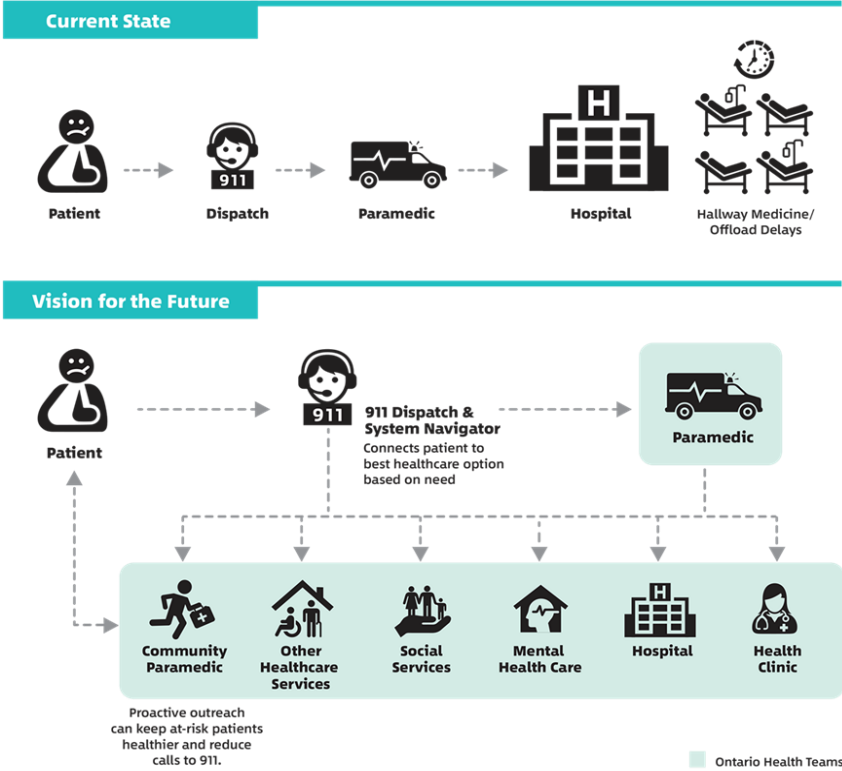
Proposed Timeline

Proposed timeline of service enhancements and station relocations

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Construction of Headquarters in Sarnia East	Begin construction of Camlachie Station	Begin construction of Pinery Station	Relocate Grand Bend station to Pinery	End state
Add 12 hours of additional service in Sarnia area (to start in Corunna until Headquarters is completed). (0800 hrs – 2000 hrs)	Move 0800-2000 from Corunna to Headquarters	Add additional 12 hours of service to Sarnia East	Relocate Thedford crew to Forest – to become 12 hr day crew (0900 hrs to 2100 hrs)	Evaluate impact of changes (response times, unit hour utilization, Code 8 assignments)
	Close Brights Grove and relocate to Headquarters until completion of Camlachie	Relocate 24 hr ambulance to Camlachie station from Headquarters	Reallocate hours from Thedford nights where needed (either Sarnia day, Sarnia night, Inwood day)	
	Add 12 hours of additional service to Sarnia Downtown (0900 hrs - 2100 hrs)	Relocate 24 hr ambulance to Headquarters from Sarnia Downtown.		



Looking Towards the Future





Looking Towards the Future

- Better integration of Community Paramedics with 911 response
 - Ability to treat-and-refer or treat-and-release lower acuity patients
 - Ability to schedule response where immediate response is not necessary
- Better integration with healthcare system
 - Improved options for treatment and follow-up
 - Connections with primary care
- Enhanced focus on Social Determinants of Health
- Better patient outcomes

Questions



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**MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

November 1, 2023

Lambton County Council was in session in Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 9:00 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called. All members present, with Councillor M. Bradley attending virtually. Also present was N. McEwan, Alternate Member to Councillor G. Atkinson, Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

Councillor Loosley's Thank You

Warden Marriott acknowledged Councillor Loosley's return from a leave of absence. Councillor Loosley thanked Warden Marriott, Mr. Thiffeault, CAO, County staff, County Councillors, Joel Field (alternate member to Councillor Loosley), local Municipal Councils, local corporations and businesses, and members of the public who sent Councillor Loosley flowers, plants, fruit baskets, get-well cards, and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

In-Camera

#1: Ferguson/Broad: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera:

- a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated October 4, 2023 pursuant to s. 239(2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to receive a report regarding the CAO's appointment and performance, pursuant to ss. 239(2)(b) and (d) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.
- c) to receive a report regarding labor relations and employee negotiations at Lambton Public Health, pursuant to ss. 239(2)(d) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) November 1, 2023 (page 2)

Time: 9:03 a.m.

Open Session

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session

The Clerk noted that County Council met in camera to:

- a) adopt the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) Minutes dated October 4, 2023;
- b) receive a report regarding the CAO's appointment and performance; and
- c) receive a report regarding labor relations and employee negotiations at Lambton Public Health.

Take Your Kids to Work Day – November 1, 2023

Today is take Your Kids to Work Day. This annual event provides students with a glimpse into the working world and for us, the many ways municipal staff provide caring, growing and innovative services to the residents of Lambton County.

This day involves students from Grade 9 spending the day in the workplace of a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host, where they experience and learn about the world of work.

We would like to welcome Will Deline, Emelia Hamill, Alyssa Bydeley, Cole vanKlinken, Lochlan Kennedy, Drew Mullen, Laylah Leveille, Aiden Coulson, Avery Titus, Emma Bogaert, Jaiden Bedard, and Megan Thomas who are with us in person and on-line.

Minutes of Council (Open Session)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated October 4, 2023, were presented.

#2: Broad/Ferguson: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated October 4, 2023, be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) November 1, 2023 (page 3)

Correspondence to Receive and File

CC 11-03-23 An email dated October 16, 2023 from Alana Torresan, Deputy Clerk, Township of The Archipelago regarding a resolution passed at its regular meeting of Council on October 13, 2023, with regards to cigarette producers' responsibility.

Moved By: Councillor Sheard

Seconded By: Councillor Macleod

WHEREAS cigarette manufacturers play a crucial role in the creation and distribution of cigarette products. Cigarettes, are responsible for significant environmental damage and contribute to waste and pollution; and

WHEREAS cigarette butts are the most common form of litter worldwide and pose a threat to aquatic life and ecosystems. As reported 26 July 2023 to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Pollution Probe's Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup identified cigarette butts one of the top five items of microplastics found in the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS cigarette filters are composed of non-biodegradable materials that can take several years to degrade, exacerbating the problem of waste accumulation; and

WHEREAS the concept of producer responsibility promotes the idea that the party that profits from the creation and sale of a product should also be responsible for managing the product's end-of-life environmental impact; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has successfully implemented producer responsibility programs for various industries, such as electronics, packaging, and batteries, resulting in significant improvements in waste management and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS the exclusion of cigarette manufacturers from current producer responsibility programs in our province creates an inconsistency in environmental policy and hampers our overall efforts to reduce waste and protect our environment. It is imperative to address the environmental impact of cigarette manufacturing, usage, and disposal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of The Archipelago hereby requests the Province of Ontario to include cigarette manufacturers within the scope of producer responsibility regulations and programs;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Government takes necessary steps to develop and amend legislation to ensure cigarette manufacturers are responsible for the collection, recycling, and proper disposal of cigarette waste and the Province of Ontario be encouraged to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including public health organizations, environmental groups, and retail associations,

Lambton County Council (Open Session) November 1, 2023 (page 4)

to develop comprehensive and effective strategies for the inclusion of cigarette manufacturers in producer responsibility program, taking into account the unique challenges posed by tobacco products;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario allocate adequate resources and establish monitoring systems to ensure compliance with the newly imposed responsibilities by cigarette manufacturers, including penalties for non-compliance;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario adopts regulations and policies that require cigarette manufacturers to:

1. Take financial responsibility for the collection, transportation, recycling, or safe disposal of discarded cigarettes and related waste materials.
2. Develop and engage in public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the environmental impact of cigarette butt litter and implement programs to educate the public on the safe disposal of cigarette butts.
3. Implement measures to minimize the environmental impact of their products through the use of sustainable materials, reduced packaging, and improved recycling initiatives;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED The Ministry of the Environment actively collaborates with other provinces and territories within Canada to encourage a nationwide approach towards including cigarette manufacturers in Producer Responsibility initiatives;

AND FURTHER BE FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honorable Andrea Khanjin Minister of the Environment, Conservations and Parks, relevant Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), Leader of the Opposition parties, All Municipalities in Ontario, Pollution Probe, Georgian Bay Forever, Georgian Bay Association, and other pertinent stakeholders as appropriate, urging their support and action in this matter. Carried.

CC 11-04-23 An email dated October 18, 2023, from Sasha Helmkey-Playter, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services, Township of Clearview advising that at its meeting held on October 16, 2023, Council passed a resolution in support of the Town of Grimsby's resolution regarding establishing a guaranteed livable income:

Moved by Councillor Broderick, Seconded by Councillor McArthur, That in consideration of correspondence received September 11, 2023, from the Town of Grimsby respecting establishing a guaranteed livable income, Council of the Township of Clearview directs staff to send a letter of support for the resolution passed by the Town of Grimsby to the Premier of Ontario, the MP and MPP for Simcoe-Grey, and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) November 1, 2023 (page 5)

#3: Boushy/Agar: That correspondence CC 11-03-23 and CC 11-04-23, be received and filed.

Carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH (LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH)

Correspondence to Receive and File

CC 11-05-23 A letter from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health, Peterborough Public Health dated September 26, 2023, regarding Section 50 Agreements. Peterborough Public Health would like to recommend that the Ministry of Health:

1. Ensure continued opportunity for Section 50 agreements within the Health Promotion and Protection Act;
2. Seek to revise the HPPA to be inclusive of urban Indigenous peoples and their health needs under that Act so they have equal opportunities to help shape board of health decision-making; and
3. Ensure the review and revisions of the Ontario Public Health Standards maintains directives for engagement with Indigenous peoples.

CC 11-06-23 A letter from René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts dated October 16, 2023, regarding a motion made at its September 21, 2023 meeting supporting an expansion of outdoor air quality monitoring stations and the Air Quality Health Index across Northern Ontario.

#4: Veen/Case: That correspondence CC 11-05-23 and CC 11-06-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#5: Veen/Ferguson: That the following Information Reports from the Board of Health (Lambton Public Health) be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated November 1, 2023 Regarding Community Safety and Well-Being Plan - Update on Implementation Report.
- b) Information Report dated November 1, 2023 Regarding Extreme Temperature Initiatives - Update.
- c) Information Report dated November 1, 2023 Regarding Lambton Public Health 2022 Annual Report.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) November 1, 2023 (page 6)

- d) Information Report dated November 1, 2023 Regarding Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program Update.
- e) Information Report dated November 1, 2023 Regarding Tobacco, Vape and Cannabis Strategy Update.

Carried.

Items Not Requiring a Motion

#6: Dennis/Loosley: That the following Items not Requiring a Motion be received and filed:

- a) Lambton County Creative Committee Meeting minutes dated March 30, 2023.
- b) Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board Meeting minutes dated May 30, June 15 and 27, 2023.
- c) Lambton Seniors' Advisory Committee minutes dated August 22, 2023.
- d) Tourism Sarnia-Lambton Board minutes dated September 28, 2023.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Report dated November 1, 2023 Regarding 175th Anniversary of Lambton County

#7: Broad/Cook: That staff be authorized to implement the activities outlined in this report to mark the 175th Anniversary of The Corporation of the County of Lambton and to celebrate its role as a unified federation of local municipalities that have worked collectively for generations to support the residents of Lambton County.

Carried.

CAO

Report dated November 1, 2023 Regarding Strategic Plan Committee, Public Health Strategic Team

#8: Miller/Sageman:

Lambton County Council (Open Session) November 1, 2023 (page 7)

- a) That the following membership of the Strategic Plan Committee be hereby approved and ratified:

Kevin Marriott, Warden
Brian White, Deputy Warden
Jeff Agar, South
Bill Dennis, Northwest
Bev Hand, Central
Dan Sageman, North

- b) That the following membership of the Public Health Strategic Team be hereby approved and ratified:

Kevin Marriott, Warden
Brian White, Deputy Warden
Dave Ferguson, South
Bill Dennis, Northwest
Bev Hand, Central
Dan Sageman, North

Carried.

Committee Minutes

Mr. I. Veen presented the Committee A.M. minutes dated October 18, 2023.

#9: Veen/Hand: That the Committee A.M. minutes dated October 18, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Mr. D. Ferguson presented the Committee P.M. minutes dated October 18, 2023.

#10: Ferguson/Dennis: That the Committee P.M. minutes dated October 18, 2023, be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Other Business

Addressing Homelessness In Sarnia and Point Edward

Councillor Bradley asked staff to provide insight in relation to: (1) the hours of operation for the Out of the Cold emergency shelter and the Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre located in Laurel Lea Centre – St. Matthew’s Presbyterian Church and other warming centers throughout the City of Sarnia and the Village of Point Edward;

Lambton County Council (Open Session) November 1, 2023 (page 8)

(2) hours of assistance provided by the County's homelessness prevention outreach staff; (3) the continuation of the Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre following expiry of the County's existing lease in April 2024; and (4) the hours of operation of the local medical transportation van funded and operated by Bluewater Health, Canadian Mental Health Association and West Lambton Community Health Centre.

Housing Services Building Tour

Councillor Case thanked County staff for organizing the Housing Services Department building tour that took place on October 25, 2023. Councillor Case encouraged any County councillors who could not attend the tour to do so for any future events as it was very informative and eye-opening to see the County's facilities firsthand.

Councillor Hand seconded Councillor Case's comments and added that it was helpful to see the buildings and units currently undergoing renovations.

By-Laws

#11: Loosley/McRoberts: That By-Laws #28 - #30 of 2023, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

#12: McRoberts/Loosley: That By-Laws #28 - #30 of 2023, as circulated, be taken as read a third time and finally passed.

Carried.

Adjournment

#13: Veen/Ferguson: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

Carried.

Time: 9:48 a.m.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk

CC 11-08-23



MUNICIPALITY OF
North Perth
www.northperth.ca

A Community of Character

330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel, ON N4W 1L3

Phone: 519-291-2950

Toll Free: 888-714-1993

October 26th, 2023

Minister of Long-Term Care
438 University Avenue, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 16th, 2023 regarding a request for support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022 from Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP.

Moved By: Lee Anne Andriessen **Seconded By:** Sarah Blazek

THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth supports Consent Agenda Item 7.11 *Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP – Request for Support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022.*

AND THAT: Staff be directed to forward the resolution to other provincial entities and other Council counterparts across Ontario.

CARRIED

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Sarah Carter
Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor
Municipality of North Perth
330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel ON N4W 1L3
519-292-2062
scarter@northperth.ca

Cc: Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
Perth Wellington MPP, Matthew Rae
All Ontario Municipalities



Catherine Fife
MPP Waterloo

Todd Kasenberg
Mayor of Municipality of North Perth

RE: Requesting your support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022

September 25, 2023

Dear Mayor Kasenberg,

I am writing to you today to share an update on Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022, and to request your support for this important legislation.

Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

The Act was inspired by Cambridge resident Jim McLeod, who will have been separated from his wife of 65 years Joan, on September 17, 2023. Nearly 6 years later, Jim continues to champion spousal reunification. He often says that he will talk to anyone and has two giant binders full of his advocacy work on the Bill. Last week, he told me that his heart is breaking because of his separation from Joan. He has brought other seniors who are separated from their spouses into the advocacy – you cannot sit with these folks for any amount of time and not care deeply about this legislation.

I know that you value the many contributions that older adults have made to Waterloo Region, and care deeply that they can live their final years with dignity and love. **I am hoping you will consider bringing a motion forward to your Council, in support of the Till Death Do Us Part Act.** Your support will help us to keep attention on this important legislation, so that it can finally be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy – one step closer to Royal Assent.

I would be happy to discuss the Bill with you further, via phone call or an in-person meeting at your convenience. Thanks in advance for considering my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Fife".

Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
Finance & Treasury Board Critic

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Waterloo, ON N2J 4A8
Ph: 519-725-3477 | Fax: 519-725-3667
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Email: cfife-qp@ndp.on.ca

BACKGROUND:

On November 15, 2022, the Till Death Do Us Part Act, passed second reading in the Ontario legislature after being [introduced for the third time in September 2022](#). The bill was then referred to the Ontario Legislature's Social Policy Committee. You can view highlights of the second reading debate here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYRIgQqDe2k>

I have been pushing for the Standing Committee on Social Policy to schedule a time to begin the work of reviewing Bill 21 since November 2022. **Today marks 286 days since the Act passed second reading at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.** Unfortunately, the Bill has yet to be called to committee.

Bill 21, which was formerly Bill 153 and 95, respectively, had passed second reading and was sent to the Justice Committee in December 2019, but was wiped off the order paper when Premier Ford prorogued the house in 2021. It was reintroduced early 2022 but did not have time to progress before the election.

Since I first introduced this Bill in 2019, the number of people who've reached out to my offices with heartbreaking stories of couples entering long-term care who are torn apart has skyrocketed. Simply put, Ontario seniors deserve dignity in care and should have the right to live with their partner as they age. Of note, Nova Scotia passed similar legislation, titled the [Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act](#) in 2021.

Following many meetings with stakeholders, it's clear that "care campuses" which offer different levels of care (independent, assisted living and long-term care) are the progressive model for investing in quality care for Ontario's aging population. Care campuses are an essential element to keeping couples together as they often age at different rates. This level of choice has been brought to my attention as especially important to rural and northern municipal leaders across Ontario. The care campus model for seniors housing that builds different levels of care has unique financial savings that will be critical as we grapple with a rapidly aging province.

We need the Bill to be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy as soon as possible. We know that couples who are separated across Ontario cannot wait any longer for this legislative change to be made.

Here are the links to recent media coverage of the Till Death Do Us Part Act, which provide more specific insights into the lived experiences of older adults who are separated from their spouses:

- [CTV News Kitchener: Ontario seniors separated in long-term care pushing for the right to remain together](#)
- [CityNews Kitchener: Waterloo MPP appeals for seniors bill to be brought forward](#)
- [Waterloo Region Record: Cambridge senior calls for end to separating couples in long-term care](#)

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Email: cfife-qp@ndp.on.ca

CC 11-09-23



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Toll Free: 888-714-1993

October 26th, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 23rd, 2023 regarding Policy Update – Social and Economic Prosperity Review from the Association of Municipalities Ontario.

Moved By: Matt Duncan **Seconded By:** Allan Rothwell

THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth endorses the briefing from AMO calling for discussion on Social and Economic Prosperity and that North Perth is willing to participate.

AND THAT: The resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, AMO, Perth-Wellington MP John Nater, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Sarah Carter
Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor
Municipality of North Perth
330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel ON N4W 1L3
519-292-2062
scarter@northperth.ca

Cc: AMO
Perth-Wellington MP, John Nater
Perth Wellington MPP, Matthew Rae
All Ontario Municipalities

10/18/23, 2:27 PM

AMO Policy Update - Social and Economic Prosperity Review

AMO Policy Update not displaying correctly? [View the online version](#)
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POLICY UPDATE

October 18, 2023

Policy Update - Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Municipalities across Ontario are facing increasingly complex challenges, such as tackling homelessness and climate change, without the financial tools to solve them. It's time for the province and municipalities to work collaboratively towards solutions for the long-term stability and sustainability of municipal finances.

[AMO has called on Premier Ford](#) to propose an update of the partnership between provincial and municipal governments to build sustainable communities, a solid foundation for economic growth and quality of life.

A [social and economic prosperity review](#) would help to create a sustainable, accountable provincial-municipal relationship where both orders of government can meet their responsibilities, grounded in:

- Affordability and fiscal sustainability for both orders of government
- Fairness for taxpayers and affordability for residents
- Coordinated and timely infrastructure investment resilient to climate realities
- Increased housing supply and affordability
- Robust health and social services supporting increased economic participation
- Long term economic development and prosperity for Ontario and its communities
- Modern, effective and streamlined service delivery

It's the right time for a province-wide conversation.

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

CC 11-10-23



MUNICIPALITY OF
North Perth
www.northperth.ca

A Community of Character

330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel, ON N4W 1L3

Phone: 519-291-2950

Toll Free: 888-714-1993

October 26th, 2023

The Honourable Doug Downey
Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurty-Scott Building
720 Bay St., 11th Flor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9
Via Email: doug.downey@ontario.ca

Re: Catch and Release Justice in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 23rd, 2023 regarding "Catch and Release" Justice in Ontario.

Moved By: Sarah Blazek **Seconded By:** Matt Richardson

THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth endorses the resolution from the Town of Midland and circulates the resolution to relevant stakeholders.

CARRIED

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Sarah Carter
Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor
Municipality of North Perth
330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel ON N4W 1L3
519-292-2062
scarter@northperth.ca

Cc: Perth-Wellington MP, John Nater
Perth Wellington MPP, Matthew Rae
All Ontario Municipalities

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF MIDLAND**



575 Dominion Avenue
Midland, ON L4R 1R2
Phone: 705-526-4275
Fax: 705-526-9971
info@midland.ca

September 8, 2023

The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Via Email: sencom@sen.parl.gc.ca

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON
M7A 1A1

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: "Catch and Release" Justice is Ontario

At its September 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting with Closed Session the Council for the Town of Midland passed the following Resolution:

That the Town of Midland send a letter to the Federal and Provincial Governments requesting meaningful improvements to the current state of "catch and release" justice in the Ontario legal system. Police Services across Ontario are exhausting precious time and resources having to manage the repeated arrests of the same offenders, which in turn, is impacting their morale, and ultimately law-abiding citizens who are paying the often significant financial and emotional toll of this broken system; and

That this resolution be sent to other Municipalities throughout Ontario for their endorsement consideration.

Thank you.

Yours very
truly,

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MIDLAND

Sherri Edgar

Sherri Edgar, AMCT
Municipal Clerk
Ext. 2210

CC 11-14-2023

Subject: FW: Notice of Online Public Information Centre: Highway 40 Widening Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (City of Sarnia, County of Lambton)
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:15:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[GWP 3019-21-00 Highway 40 Widening Notice of Online PIC Nov.27-Dec.10, 2023.pdf](#)

From: Highway 40 Widening <Highway40Widening@ghd.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:43 PM
Cc: Ian Dobrindt <Ian.Dobrindt@ghd.com>; Andrea Clegg <Andrea.Clegg@ghd.com>; joel.toth@ontario.ca; Julie Bui (<julie.bui@ontario.ca> <Julie.Bui@ontario.ca>); Heal-Reu, Ronnie (MECP) <Ronnie.HealReu@ontario.ca>; Highway 40 Widening <Highway40Widening@ghd.com>
Subject: Notice of Online Public Information Centre: Highway 40 Widening Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (City of Sarnia, County of Lambton)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your interest in the Highway 40 Widening Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study. You are receiving this email at the request that your contact information be added to the Study's mailing list for receiving notifications.

The Ministry of Transportation has developed and evaluated alternatives leading to a recommended plan to address the safety and transportation needs in the highway corridor. An online Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held from **Monday, November 27 to Sunday, December 10, 2023, 2023** and is available on the project website. Further information on the Study is available on the project website (www.highway40widening.ca) and in the **attached Notice**.

We invite you to view the online PIC and welcome your comments.

Thank you.

On behalf of,
Andrea Clegg, P.Eng.
GHD Project Manager

Alia Eid, B.A.Sc., PMP®
Environmental Planner

GHD
Proudly employee-owned | ghd.com
65 Sunray Street Whitby ON L1N 8Y3 Canada
E Alia.Eid@ghd.com

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NOTICE OF ONLINE PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE
Highway 40 Widening from Indian Road to 0.6km north of Wellington Street,
City of Sarnia (GWP 3019-21-00)

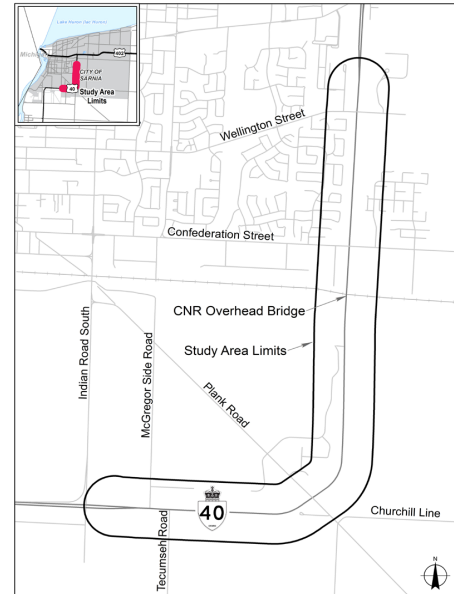
THE STUDY

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained GHD to undertake the Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study (Study) for the widening of Highway 40 from Indian Road to 0.6km north of Wellington Street, located in the City of Sarnia within the County of Lambton, as shown in the key plan. Further information is available on the Study website: www.highway40widening.ca.

The MTO has developed and evaluated alternatives leading to a recommended plan to address the safety and transportation needs in the corridor. The online Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held on the Study website from **Monday, November 27 to Sunday, December 10, 2023**.

THE PROCESS

The Study is being completed in accordance with MTO's Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000) as a Group 'B' project. Following the online PIC, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared at the end of the Study to document the Class EA process and will be made available for a 30-day comment period.



ONLINE PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

When: Monday, November 27 to Sunday, December 10, 2023

Where: www.highway40widening.ca

The purpose of the PIC is to:

- Provide an update on the Study
- Present the Study Area considered in evaluating the alternatives
- Present and seek input on the evaluation of the alternatives
- Present and seek input on the recommended plan

COMMENTS

The Study Team will respond by email to input received from the public following the online PIC. In addition, please contact either one of the following Study Team members if you would like to provide comments, request additional information, and/or be added to the Study's mailing list to receive future Study notifications directly:

Joel Toth, P.Eng.
MTO Project Engineer
 659 Exeter Road, 3rd Floor
 London, ON N6E 1L3
 Phone: (519) 630-9289
 Email: highway40widening@ghd.com

Andrea Clegg, P.Eng.
GHD Project Manager
 455 Phillip Street
 Waterloo, ON N2L 3X2
 Phone: (519) 340-3748
 Email: highway40widening@ghd.com

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this Study, please contact one of the Study Team members listed above. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.



CC 11-15-23

Subject: FW: Notice of Public Information Session 2 - WM TCEC Landfill Optimization Project EA
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:22:10 PM
Attachments: [WM TCEC Landfill Optimization EA - Notice of Public Information Session 2.pdf](#)

From: Beri, Kelly <Kelly.Beri@hdrinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Lambton Public Health <publichealth@county-lambton.on.ca>; Theresa Warren <theresa_warren@county-lambton.on.ca>; Stephane Thiffault <Stephane.Thiffault@county-lambton.on.ca>; Olivia Leger <Olivia.Leger@county-lambton.on.ca>; Ryan Beauchamp <Ryan.Beauchamp@county-lambton.on.ca>; Ken Melanson <Ken.Melanson@county-lambton.on.ca>; Jason Cole <jason.cole@county-lambton.on.ca>; Matt Deline <Matt.Deline@county-lambton.on.ca>
Subject: Notice of Public Information Session 2 - WM TCEC Landfill Optimization Project EA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon,

On behalf of WM Canada (WM), please find attached the **Notice of Public Information Session 2** for the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre Landfill Optimization Project.

WM, the owner and operator of the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre (TCEC) located in the Township of Warwick, Ontario, is undertaking an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* seeking approval to develop additional landfill disposal capacity as part of the optimization of the design and operation of the TCEC landfill.

Public Information Session 2 will be held on **Wednesday, November 29, 2023** and **Tuesday, December 5, 2023** at the **Twin Creeks Environmental Centre, 5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON** from **4 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Members of the public, agencies, Indigenous communities and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate by attending consultation opportunities or contacting staff directly with information, comments or questions.

You are invited to submit any comments by mail, email, or phone to the project contacts listed below. If you would like to be added to the project mailing list or have project-related questions, please contact:

Wayne Jenken
Landfill Engineering Manager, Canada Area
WM Canada
5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0
519.849.5810
wjenken@wm.com

Larry Fedec, P.Eng. M.B.A.
Solid Waste Program Lead, Canada
HDR Corporation
100 York Blvd., Suite 300, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J8
289.695.4696
larry.fedec@hdrinc.com

Regards,
Kelly

Kelly Beri, B.A.Sc. (She/Her)
Sr. Environmental Planner

HDR
5035 South Service Road, Suite 400
Burlington, ON L7L 6M9
D 416.895.5428
kelly.beri@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Notice of Public Information Session 2



Twin Creeks Environmental Centre Landfill Optimization Project Environmental Assessment

November 29 & December 5, 2023 | 4 - 8 PM

Twin Creeks Environmental Centre

5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0

WM Canada (WM), the owner and operator of the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre (TCEC) in Watford, Ontario, will be hosting **Public Information Session 2** for the TCEC Landfill Optimization Project Environmental Assessment (EA).

There are approximately 8 years of approved landfill airspace capacity remaining at the TCEC (i.e., capacity will be reached in approximately 2031). The Project would provide additional airspace of approximately 14 million cubic metres, which could extend the site life by approximately 12 years (from 2031 to 2043), and may be achieved through alternative landfill configurations or alternative methods within the existing 301 ha TCEC site area. No changes are proposed to the size of the TCEC site area, approved service area, or annual fill rate.

The purpose of the EA is to assess the potential effects of the Project on the environment.

For additional information on the project, please visit the project website:
www.wm.com/ca/en/twin-creeks-landfill/landfill-optimization-project.

Public Information Session 2 is being held to:

- Provide an update on the EA
- Present a screening of Alternative Methods
- Provide a summary of Existing Conditions
- Present next steps in the EA Process
- Obtain your input

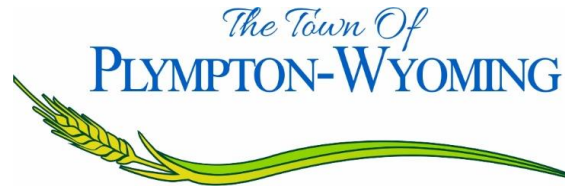
We value your engagement and look forward to discussing the project with you. You are welcome any time from 4 - 8 PM on November 29 and December 5.

If you have questions, please contact:

Wayne Jenken
Landfill Engineering
Manager, Canada Area
WM Canada
5768 Nauvoo Road,
Watford, ON N0M 2S0
519.849.5810
wjenken@wm.com

Larry Fedec, P.Eng. M.B.A.
Solid Waste Program Lead,
Canada
HDR Corporation
100 York Blvd., Suite 300,
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J8
289.695.4696
larry.fedec@hdrinc.com

CC 11-11-23



Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

October 26th 2023

Sent via e-mail: doug.downey@ontario.ca

Re: Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006

Dear Mr. Downey,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on October 25th 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolution from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

Motion 10

Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

That Council support item 'L' of correspondence from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Kwarciak".

Erin Kwarciak
Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Sent via e-mail
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities

546 Niagara Street, P.O Box 250 | Wyoming ON, N0N 1T0 | 519-845-3939 | www.plympton-wyoming.com



Township of McKellar

701 Hwy #124, P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario POG 1C0

Phone: (705) 389-2842

Fax: (705) 389-1244

October 19, 2023

Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Sent via email: Doug.Downey@ontario.ca

RE: Call for an Amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006*

Dear Mr. Downey,

At the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 17, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar carried the following resolution:

Resolution No. 23-671

Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen

Seconded by: Councillor Zulak

WHEREAS Metroland Media Group has sought bankruptcy protection and will cease the print publication of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario, moving to an online-only model; and

WHEREAS Neil Oliver, Chief Executive Officer and President of Metroland Media Group, said the 71 Metroland community publications will be digital only going forward; and

WHEREAS the *Legislation Act, 2006* provides a definition of "newspaper" which applies to every Ontario Act and Regulation, as in a provision requiring publication, means a document that, (a) **is printed in sheet form**, published at regular intervals of a week or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest; ("journal"); and

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

Page 1 of 2

WHEREAS communities such as the West Parry Sound Area cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Parry Sound North Star news publication is no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper”; and

WHEREAS some small, rural, Ontario Municipalities may not have the means to bring an application to the Court to ask for directions and approval of an alternate manner of providing notice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar does hereby request the Provincial government to make an amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006* to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

FURTHER request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith; The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO); CEO and President of Metroland Media Group, Neil Oliver and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Regards,



Karlee Britton
Deputy Clerk
Township of McKellar
deputyclerk@mckellar.ca
(705) 389-2842 x5

cc:

Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities



CC 11-12-23

October 27, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health

The Honourable Michael Tibollo
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Dear Premier Ford and Provincial Ministers Jones and Tibollo:

Re: Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention

On behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, please accept this correspondence highlighting our commitment to health promotion and chronic disease prevention.

At its meeting on October 19, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #60-23:

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to ensuring it addresses the public health needs and health equity in its catchment area, as aligned with board of health requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and Ontario Public Health Standards; and

WHEREAS Health Promotion Ontario's White Paper on the Value of Local Health Promotion in Ontario recommends strong and sustained investment in local health promotion by public health units to ensure that health promotion is prioritized on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS the Board recognizes that there are opportunities for system improvements as part of the review of board roles and responsibilities announced under the government's Public Health Strengthening initiative, including an assessment of its role in chronic disease prevention through health promotion interventions; and

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Healthier communities for all.
Des communautés plus saines pour tous.

Letter to Premier Ford and Provincial Ministers Jones and Tibollo
Re: Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention
October 27, 2023
Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS chronic diseases are mostly preventable, are the cause of 75% of deaths in Ontario, and incur \$10.5 billion in direct health care costs in the province; and

WHEREAS as the scope and intensity of infectious disease risks increase in the context of finite resources, there is a risk of under-resourcing public health actions that work on longer horizon chronic disease prevention;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in the context of the Public Health Strengthening roles and responsibilities deliberations, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts urges all health system actors to remain committed to maintaining appropriate investments in health promotion and chronic disease prevention, while ensuring health risks associated with its health protection work are managed;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board request that the Chief Medical Officer of Health ensure proactive local engagement in the sector-driven review of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Chronic diseases account for a substantial burden on the health of Ontarians and the health care system. They are the leading cause of death in Ontario, and they disproportionately impact populations who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, intensifying inequities. Chronic diseases are expensive to treat but they are largely preventable. Health promotion and chronic disease prevention work is critical to reducing the health and economic burden of chronic diseases.

The Board of Health respectfully urges the Provincial Government to ensure all health system actors, including local Public Health, are supported to invest in coordinated action to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases, affecting so many Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
Heather Schramm, Acting Director, Health Promotion and Prevention Policy and Programs Branch, Ministry of Health
Susan Stewart, Chair, Health Promotion Ontario Executive Committee
Michael Sherar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Ontario
Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
Brian Ktytor, Chief Regional Officer, Ontario Health North East & North West
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
All Ontario Boards of Health



CC 11-13-23

October 27, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Finance

Honourable Jenna Suds
Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development

Honourable Lawrence MacAulay
Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Ministry of Public Services and Procurement

Dear Federal Ministers Freeland, Suds, MacAulay, and Duclos:

Re: Support for a Funded Healthy School Food Program in Budget 2024 (Federal)

At its meeting on October 19, 2023, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts carried the following resolution #61-23:

WHEREAS a universal publicly funded student nutrition program can positively impact students' nourishment, health and well-being, behaviours and attitudes, school connectedness, and academic success; and

WHEREAS the current provincial student nutrition program strives to offer a breakfast, snack, and/or lunch to students each school day, but not all schools have adequate financial and human resources to offer them; and

WHEREAS the annual monitoring of food affordability in Sudbury and districts demonstrates that some families may struggle to purchase food, and a universal fully-funded student nutrition program can help to ensure no child is left out of the program due to their family's ability to pay; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts passed motion [02-20](#) supporting a universal publicly funded healthy school food program; and

WHEREAS although the Ontario government recently announced an additional \$5 million this year in the provincial Student Nutrition Program and the First Nations Student Nutrition Program, more support is needed to

Healthier communities for all.
Des communautés plus saines pour tous.

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
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t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON POP 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON POM 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Letter to Federal Ministers Freeland, Sudds, MacAulay, and Duclos
Re: Support for a Funded Healthy School Food Program in Budget 2024
October 27, 2023
Page 2 of 4

ensure a fully-funded universal student nutrition program; and

WHEREAS the federal government announced its commitment to work toward the creation of a National School Food Policy to help Canadian communities access healthy food in the [Food Policy for Canada](#); and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards requires boards of health to support and participate with other partners in advancing school food policy and programming using population health assessment and surveillance, policy development; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts support the [recommendations](#) submitted by the Coalition for Healthy School Food to the Government of Canada as part of advance consultations for Budget 2024:

Allocate \$1 billion over five years and collaborate with provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners to provide them with an initial \$200 million as soon as possible to fund existing school food programs; and

Create a separate School Food Infrastructure Fund grants program of, at minimum, \$50 million; and

Negotiate independent School Food Policy agreements with First Nation, Inuit and Métis leadership to ensure long-term and sustainable funding for Indigenous school nutritious meal programs; and

THAT the Board calls on the Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development for investment in healthy school food in Budget 2024, as presented in the House of Commons' online [e-4586](#) (Food and drink); and

FURTHER THAT The Board share this motion with relevant stakeholders, including Ontario Boards of Health and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa).

Currently, Canada is the only G7 country without a national school food program in place. In Ontario, the current student nutrition program faces inconsistent year-to-year funding, posing barriers to stability and sustainability and impacting full implementation of the program, such that all students can benefit from proper nourishment. The patchwork of funding sources compromises the quantity and quality of food served, and the availability of adequate infrastructure and human resources to offer a student nutrition program where all children are able to benefit from.

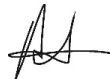
In the [Food Policy for Canada](#), the Government of Canada announced the intention to “engage with provinces, territories, and key stakeholder groups to work toward the creation of the National School Food Program”¹. Despite this intention, there was no financial commitment made to establish a National School Food Program in the 2023 federal budget.

Letter to Federal Ministers Freeland, Sudds, MacAulay, and Duclos
Re: Support for a Funded Healthy School Food Program in Budget 2024
October 27, 2023
Page 3 of 4

The Board of Health is pleased to join many leaders from across Canada in supporting a publicly funded universal school food program model that can positively impact student's nourishment, health and wellbeing, behaviours and attitudes, school connectedness, and academic success. The proposed universal program model with leadership by Canada, and Ontario's Ministries would enable all students to have the equal opportunity to eat healthy meals at school everyday, and that no child is left out due to their family's ability to pay.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue. Given the impact of nutrition related children's health and wellbeing, we trust you will advance this work quickly and so that no child is left out.

Sincerely,




Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health
Jamie West, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
France G elinas, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Local Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
Viviane Lapointe, Local Member of Parliament, Sudbury
Marc Serr e, Local Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
Carol Hughes, Local Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
Bruce Bourget, Director of Education, Rainbow District School Board
Danny Viotto, Director of Education, Huron Superior Catholic District School Board
Joanne B enard, Director of Education, Sudbury Catholic District School Board
Lesleigh Dye, Director of Education, District School Board Ontario North East
Lucia Reece, Director of Education, Algoma District School Board
Paul Henry, Directeur de l' ducation, Conseil scolaire catholique Nouvelon
S ebastien Fontaine, Directeur de l' ducation, Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario
Sylvie Petroski, Directrice de l' ducation, Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivi eres
Debbie Field, Coalition for Healthy School Food
Carol Dodge, Executive Director, Better Beginnings Better Futures
Ontario Boards of Health

Letter to Federal Ministers Freeland, Sudds, MacAulay, and Duclos
Re: Support for a Funded Healthy School Food Program in Budget 2024
October 27, 2023
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ⁱ Government of Canada. (2020, November 17). *The Food Policy for Canada*.
<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada>

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection Siobhan Churchill, Epidemiologist Bethany Gaudet, Program Planning & Evaluation Coordinator
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 29, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	After Action Review of Lambton Public Health's COVID-19 Pandemic Response - Partner Engagement Reports

BACKGROUND

During the summer of 2022, Lambton Public Health (LPH) conducted the first phase of an After-Action Review (AAR) of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The goal of the first phase of the review was to identify internal key challenges and best practices through staff debrief sessions, interviews, and surveys. The results of this review were summarized in the report, “*Progressing beyond the Pandemic: Lessons Learned from Lambton Public Health’s COVID-19 Response*” which was provided to Council for The Corporation of the County of Lambton (County) through Council report [After Action Review of Lambton Public Health's COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Summary of Lessons Learned](#) dated April 5, 2023.

During 2023, LPH conducted the second phase of the AAR which gathered input from key partner organizations that were regularly engaged during the pandemic. The goal of this phase of the review was to secure valuable input and feed-back on LPH’s pandemic response efforts from an external perspective. The organizations engaged through this review included: the Board of Health (BOH), long-term care homes, retirement homes, schools and childcare centres, shelters, the Sarnia jail, Bluewater Health, St. Joseph’s Hospice, and other congregate living settings such as group homes, community living, and temporary foreign worker housing.

The key findings identified through LPH’s AAR with partner organizations are summarized in the attached reports, “*AAR Appendix: Board of Health Interviews*” (Appendix A), and “*AAR Appendix: Partner Organization Survey*” (Appendix B). The results provide valuable insight on strengths and lessons learned throughout the pandemic response and will help LPH to evaluate, learn, improve, and better prepare for future public health emergencies.

DISCUSSION

During 2023, LPH engaged community partners through qualitative interviews with BOH members, and a mixed-methods survey of other partner organizations. Interview and survey questions were designed to have participants identify the following while working with LPH during pandemic response:

1. What went well, and why?
2. What didn't go well, and why?
3. What recommendations do you have to improve how our organizations work together in the future?

In addition to these questions, partner organization survey respondents were asked to evaluate their firsthand experiences with the following services and supports provided by LPH during the pandemic:

- Interpretation of public health guidance
- Consultation on pandemic related policies and procedures
- Outbreak detection and management
- Infection prevention and control audits
- On-site vaccine clinic support
- Tangible resources (e.g., personal protective equipment, test kits)

Key results of each of these projects are summarized below and are available in more detail in the full reports (Appendices A & B).

Results - Board of Health Engagement

LPH and the BOH shared resources and information to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine rollout and clear communication from the Medical Officer of Health were seen as highlights of this collaboration. Both organizations experienced challenges including inconsistent pandemic response guidance, as well as pushback and misinformation. While some initial lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities of the BOH and public health presented a challenge, participants provided relevant recommendations to help address these challenges. Recommendations from participants fell into the categories of: BOH/LPH Engagement, Public Information Sharing, and Emergency Response.

Results - Partner Organization Survey

Overall, participants responded very positively to quantitative evaluation questions on the support that LPH provided to partner organizations during the pandemic. The majority of participants agreed that LPH provided effective interpretation of public health guidance, consultation on pandemic related policies, outbreak detection and management, infection prevention and control audits, on-site vaccine clinic support, and tangible resources. When asked qualitative questions about what did and did not work well while collaborating

with LPH, clear communication emerged as both a challenge, and a success. The importance of clear communication is consistent with findings from AAR engagement with LPH and the BOH.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Program (IDPC) and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program are included in the approved 2023 LPH budget, which are cost-share funded 70% provincial and 30% municipal. The IDPC program is also eligible to receive 100% provincial grants for IPAC Hub coordination and COVID-19 response activities.

CONSULTATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health, General Manager, Public Health Services, LPH Managers and staff were consulted, as necessary in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The mandatory Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Programs are consistent with the principles and values identified in the County of Lambton Strategic Plan. These programs encourage Lambton's residents to care for one another and support the value of Lambton County as a healthy community. Lambton Public Health's mission is to promote and protect the health of Lambton County's citizens, including the prevention of disease.

CONCLUSION

LPH and partner organizations worked collaboratively to respond to a public health emergency that changed continuously over the course of two years. LPH's external engagement sessions provided an opportunity for community partners and BOH members to share their experience in working with LPH during the pandemic response. The results of both the BOH Interviews and the Partner Organization Survey highlight several key strengths and areas for improvement in the local pandemic response.

Overall, the results reflected positive perceptions of all types of support that were evaluated. The findings from these reports will be used to strengthen existing partnerships and better prepare for future emergencies. The results emphasize the strong local partnerships that contributed to a successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Lambton County.

After-Action Review Appendix A: Board of Health Interviews



November 29, 2023

Prepared by Siobhan Churchill, MSc and Bethany Gaudet, MPH

Background

During the summer of 2022, Lambton Public Health (LPH) conducted an After-Action Review of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The goal of the review was to identify key challenges and best practices through staff debrief sessions, interviews, and surveys. This report builds on the internal review, seeking to identify key pandemic response challenges and best practices from the perspective of members of the Board of Health (BoH). The goal of documenting these lessons learned is to inform future planning and emergency response preparedness for both LPH and the BoH.

Methods

During the spring of 2023, LPH invited five current BoH members who served on the board during peak pandemic response (2020 to 2022) to participate in confidential interviews. The participation rate was 100%. Interviews were up to 30 minutes in length, and were conducted via Microsoft Teams by LPH staff trained in Epidemiology and Program Evaluation. Participants were provided with the interview questions in advance (Figure 1). Responses were transcribed and analyzed using inductive coding to develop codes and themes. In order to represent participant recommendations accurately but anonymously, recommendations were not themed, but were paraphrased and listed.

Figure 1. Interview questions

1. Can you describe how your organization worked with LPH during the pandemic?
2. Can you describe what worked well while working with LPH?
3. Can you describe any challenges you encountered while working with LPH?
4. What specific actions should be taken in order to improve how our organizations work together during an emergency response?

Results

What went well?

Collaboration

All participants described instances of positive collaboration between the BoH and LPH. This is defined as the two organizations working together and sharing resources to achieve positive outcomes. When describing collaborative efforts, participants acknowledged that this required both organizations to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. Examples of positive collaboration included: the BoH redeploying County employees from other divisions to support public health, and LPH supporting the BoH in interpreting and implementing provincial public health guidance.

Medical Officer of Health Engagement

When asked to describe successful interactions between the BoH and LPH, most participants expressed that they valued the regular updates provided to the BoH by the Medical Officer of Health. Participants described Dr. Ranade as an excellent communicator, and a reliable source of information. It was noted that the relationship between the Medical Officer of Health and the BoH

grew and developed throughout the emergency response. This resulted in a strengthened connection and was a positive outcome of the pandemic.

LPH - Trusted partner

All participants expressed that the BoH relied on LPH for their wealth of expertise and guidance. Some expressed that they viewed LPH (in many cases the MOH) as the knowledge experts and therefore, took direction and trusted the advice that was provided. The BoH participants perceived that LPH responded well to the pandemic and were particularly impressed with the vaccine rollout. Most participants suggested that when challenges with pandemic response occurred, they did not directly involve LPH, rather the challenges were associated with external factors out of LPH's and the BoH's control. For example, challenges frequently mentioned included the constantly evolving situation and changes to the provincial guidance. BoH members expressed empathy and understanding towards LPH and generally supported the decisions made by LPH. It was widely understood that decisions were made with the information and resources available at the time.

What didn't go well?

Pre-existing local public health context

Participants described some pre-existing factors related to public health governance that contributed challenges to the pandemic response. Some noted that at the beginning of the pandemic, they were unclear on the roles and responsibilities of the BoH, and public health during an emergency response. Without this role clarity, they found it challenging to resolve conflict. LPH has an integrated BoH structure, meaning that one municipality appoints representatives to the BoH and operations are integrated with the municipality's administrative structure. This is in contrast to an autonomous BoH, which may include public appointees and/or citizen representatives. Related to this, participants expressed concern that BoH members did not have appropriate education/qualifications to provide direction to public health during a public health emergency. While multiple participants shared concerns about qualifications among BoH

members, not all explicitly attributed this concern to the structure of the BoH.

Inconsistent pandemic response guidance

Often when challenges were identified, they related to situations that were outside of LPH's control. This included the constant change in information and inconsistencies that often made it difficult to communicate clearly to the public.

Dealing with evolving information posed significant challenges identified by most BoH participants. Sometimes a change would be announced by the province but would not take into effect or was difficult to implement immediately. This resulted in conflicting messages being delivered to the public which caused confusion. Managing the dynamic changing directives from both federal and provincial levels of government presented ongoing challenges.

Another challenge was related to inconsistencies in the rules and regulations across the province, particularly in neighbouring regions. This inconsistency was sometimes the result of Ontario's regional approach to COVID-19 restrictions, and was sometimes the result of ambiguous guidance that was unintentionally implemented differently across jurisdictions. For example, it was mentioned that it was challenging to send a clear and consistent message to the public when there were different rules and regulations for neighbouring communities (e.g., Chatham-Kent and London-Middlesex). Participants expressed that it was difficult to explain why some activities were allowed in one region and not others. This was particularly difficult in communities that were on the border of neighbouring regions.

Pushback and misinformation

Some participants mentioned that the challenges related to the evolving information, changing guidance, and inconsistencies contributed to pushback and misinformation. Participants said that misinformation was generated by a proliferation of information from unreliable sources. Use of misinformation was observed among the public and members of the BoH. Pushback included both

disagreement with reliable sources of information, and backlash related to public health guidance. Often backlash was directly related to inconsistencies in this guidance.

Participant Recommendations

Participants provided the following recommendations on improving collaboration between LPH and the BoH, both related to pandemic response and regular operations. *Please note that these recommendations come directly from participants, and not synthesis of evidence from the reviewers. They are presented in no particular order.*

BoH/LPH Engagement

1. Explore ways to streamline communication between the Medical Officer of Health and the BoH, including:
 - a. Appointing a BoH member to liaise with the Medical Officer of Health
 - b. Engaging a smaller committee within the BoH
 - c. Providing the Medical Officer of Health with written questions from the BoH ahead of time, and allowing them to respond in writing
2. Maintain an ongoing and more collaborative relationship between LPH and the BoH, through:
 - a. Holding annual or bi-annual meetings between LPH and the BoH (or a sub-committee) outside of regular Council meetings in order to keep lines of communication open

Public Information Sharing

1. Expand and streamline access to information provided from LPH to the BoH during emergency response, including:
 - a. Hosting consistent, fact-checked public health information or Q&As from the Medical Officer of Health on county and municipal websites
 - b. Providing printouts of the same information at community organizations for those without regular access to the internet

Emergency Response

1. Continue practice of ongoing flexibility and adaptation that served both LPH and the BoH well during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. As part of BoH orientation, pre-establish clear responsibilities and expectations of both LPH and the BoH during emergency response, and identify mechanisms for conflict resolution
3. Examine value and potential risks of interventions before implementing
4. Collaborate with neighbouring jurisdictions to offer and advertise shared immunization clinics, especially near PHU jurisdictional borders

Conclusion

LPH and the BoH shared resources and information in an effort to respond to a public health emergency that changed continuously over the course of two years. The vaccine rollout and clear communication from the Medical Officer of Health were seen as highlights of this collaboration. Both organizations experienced challenges including inconsistent pandemic response guidance, as well as pushback and misinformation. While some initial lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities of the BoH and public health presented a challenge, participants provided relevant recommendations to help address these challenges.

Acknowledgments

The AAR Team includes: Chad Ikert, Siobhan Churchill, Bethany Gaudet, Nancy Wai, Anita Trusler, Lori Lucas, and Jennifer Graham. The team would like to thank Andrew Taylor, General Manager, Public Health Services Division, Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health (2012-2022), and Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health (2022-Present) for their guidance and support for the project.

Finally, the team would like to thank the staff of Lambton Public Health and their Board of Health for their contributions to the local COVID-19 response, and for their reflections that were foundational to the After-Action Review.



**Lambton
Public Health**

After-Action Review Appendix B: Partner Organization Survey

November 29, 2023

Report prepared by: Siobhan Churchill, MSc & Bethany Gaudet, MPH

Background

During the summer of 2022, Lambton Public Health (LPH) conducted an After-Action Review of the COVID-19 pandemic response with the goal of identifying key challenges and best practices through staff debrief sessions, interviews, and surveys. This report builds on the internal review, seeking to identify key pandemic response challenges and best practices from the perspective of representatives from congregate settings that worked with LPH during pandemic response. The goal of documenting these lessons learned is to inform future planning and emergency response preparedness.

Methods

LPH invited employees from local congregate settings to complete an online survey for the purpose of evaluating LPH's pandemic response. Sectors that were eligible to complete the survey included: **long-term care homes (LTCH), retirement homes (RH), schools and child care centres, shelters, the jail, the hospital, hospice, and other congregate living settings** such as group homes, community living, and temporary foreign worker housing. Potential participants were identified by LPH staff and invited by email and during regular meetings. Those invited were encouraged to invite their colleagues. Only those employees who directly engaged with LPH during the pandemic were eligible to participate. Respondents were asked to evaluate each type of support that they personally interacted with (Figure 1) through a series of quantitative rating scales. Respondents were also asked several qualitative questions at the end of the survey (Figure 2).

Evaluation Questions

Figure 1: Types of support evaluated

- Interpretation of provincial public health guidance
- Consultation on pandemic-related policies and procedures
- Outbreak detection and management
- On-site infection prevention and control (IPAC) audits
- On-site vaccine clinic support
- Tangible resources (e.g., test kits, PPE)

Evaluation Questions

Figure 2: Qualitative questions

1. Thinking of how LPH and your organization worked together during the pandemic - what worked well?
2. Thinking of how LPH and your organization worked together during the pandemic - what didn't work well? What changes would you recommend?
3. Is there anything else that your organization would like LPH to know?

Results

A total of **102** valid respondents completed the survey. As expected, the number of survey responses increased with the size of the sector. For example, just under half of respondents were from schools, including local school boards (Figure 3), while smaller sectors such as the hospice and jail accounted for 1% of respondents, respectively. Most respondents worked in a supervisory or managerial role (75%), and most worked with clients in-person during pandemic response (88%).

Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by organization type (n=102)

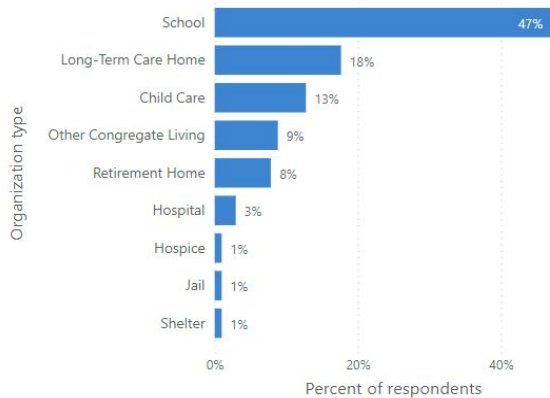
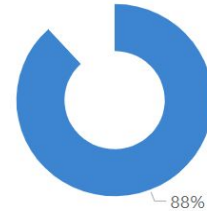


Figure 4: Percent of respondents who held a supervisory or managerial role during pandemic response



Figure 5: Percent of respondents who worked with clients in-person during pandemic response

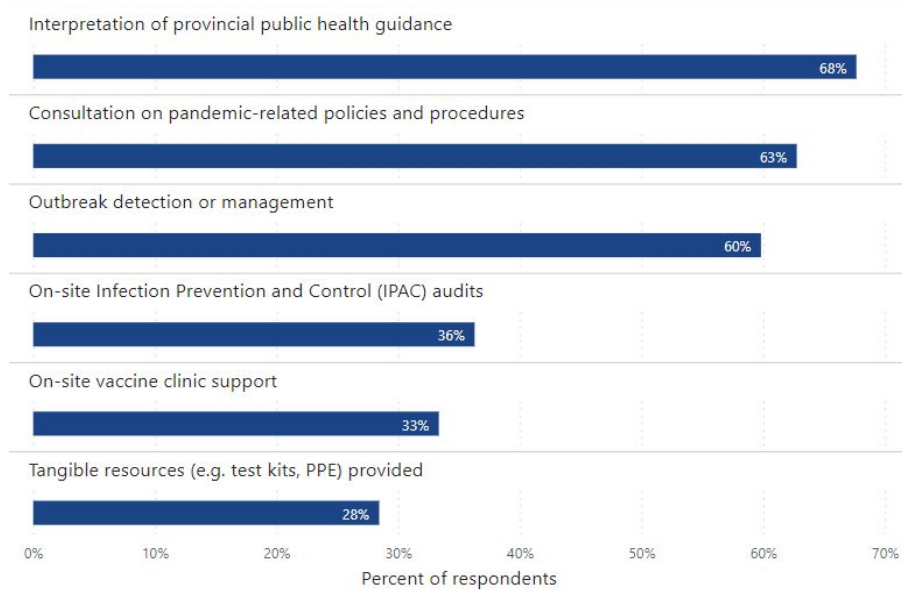


Support Provided by LPH

Interpreting provincial public health guidance was the primary form of support provided by LPH among respondents with **68%** of respondents selecting this option. This was closely followed by **consultation on pandemic-related policies and procedures (63%)** and **outbreak detection and management (60%)**.

Since organizations could receive more than one type of support from LPH, the percentages in Figure 6 do not sum to 100%.

Figure 6: Types of support provided to organizations by LPH

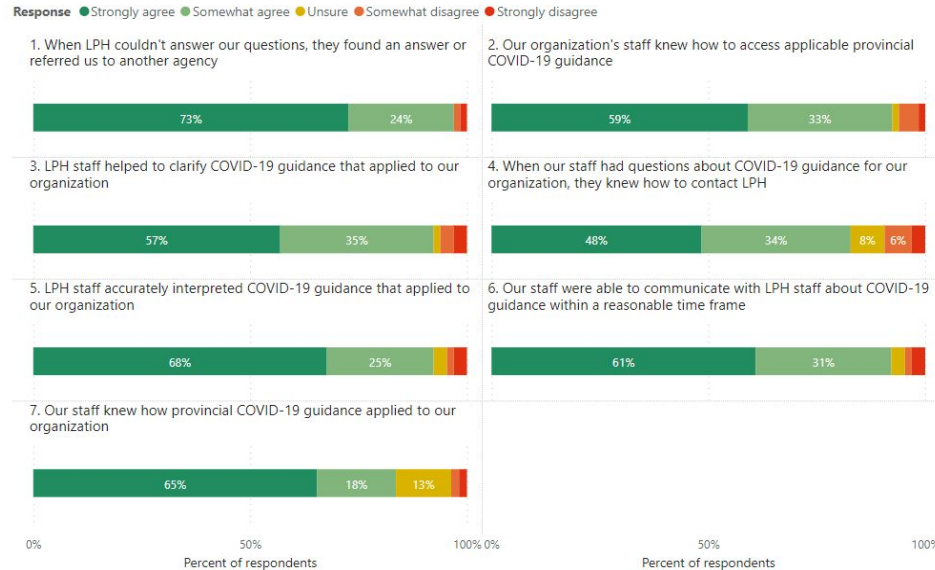


Interpretation of public health guidance

91% agreed that LPH staff accurately interpreted guidance that applied to their organization (Q5), and **97%** of respondents agreed that when staff from LPH couldn't answer their questions, they found the answer or made a referral (Q1).

While still strong, fewer respondents (**82%**) knew how to contact LPH for guidance (Q4), and **83%** agreed that *their own staff* knew how guidance applied to their organization (Q7).

Figure 7: Respondent perceptions of LPH support with interpreting public health guidance (n=66)



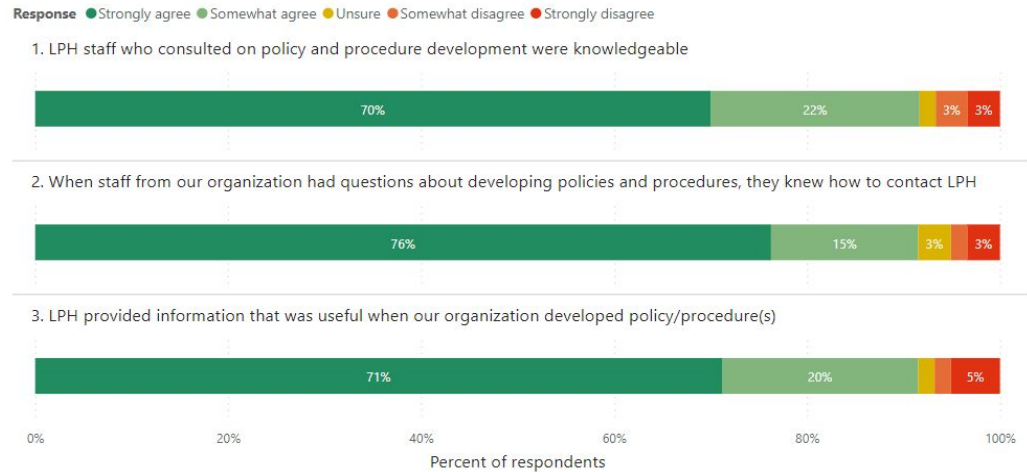
Excludes respondents who didn't receive this type of support, and those who selected N/A or no response

Consultation on pandemic-related policies & procedures

92% of respondents agreed that staff who consulted on policy and procedure development were knowledgeable (Q1) and **92%** agreed that useful information was provided (Q3).

Additionally, when organizations had questions related to developing policies and procedures, **91%** agreed they knew who to contact (Q2).

Figure 8: Respondent perceptions of policy & procedure consultation provided by LPH n=60



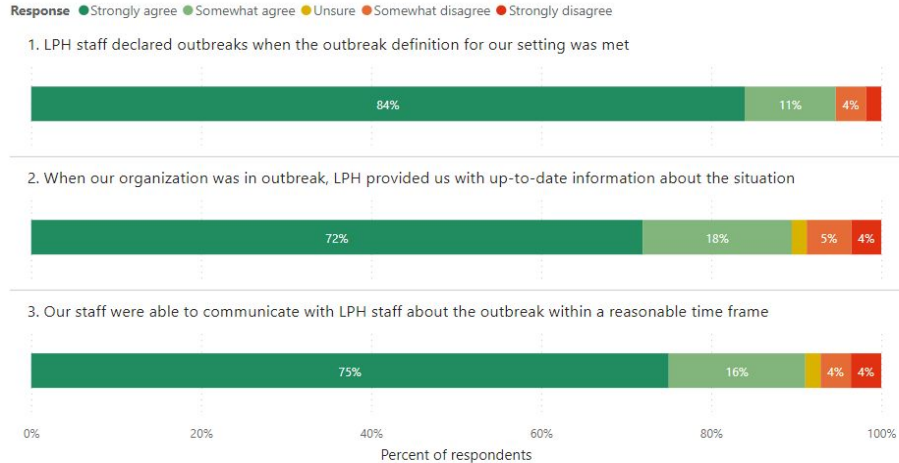
Excludes respondents who didn't receive this type of support, and those who selected N/A or no response

Outbreak detection and management

95% participants agreed that LPH staff declared outbreaks when the outbreak definition was met for the organization's setting (Q1).

90% of participants indicated that LPH provided their organization with up-to-date information (Q2), and **91%** agreed that it was communicated in a reasonable time frame (Q3).

Figure 9: Respondent perceptions of LPH support with outbreak detection and management (n=57)



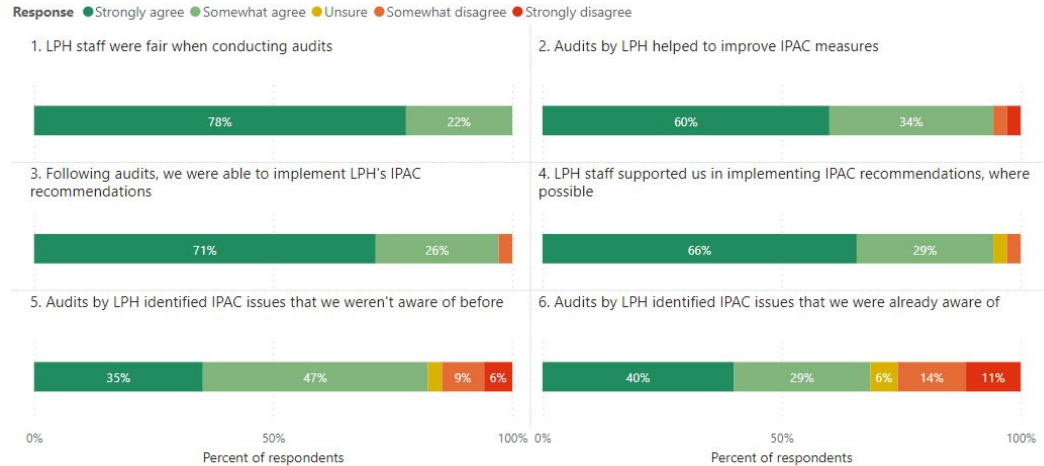
Excludes respondents who didn't receive this type of support, and those who selected N/A or no response

On-site IPAC audits

100% of respondents who received audits agreed that LPH staff were fair when conducting audits (Q1), and **94%** agreed that these audits helped to improve IPAC measures (Q2).

Audits identified IPAC issues that the facility was already aware of, and issues that were new to them (Q5, Q6).

Figure 10: Respondent perceptions of LPH IPAC audits (n=36)



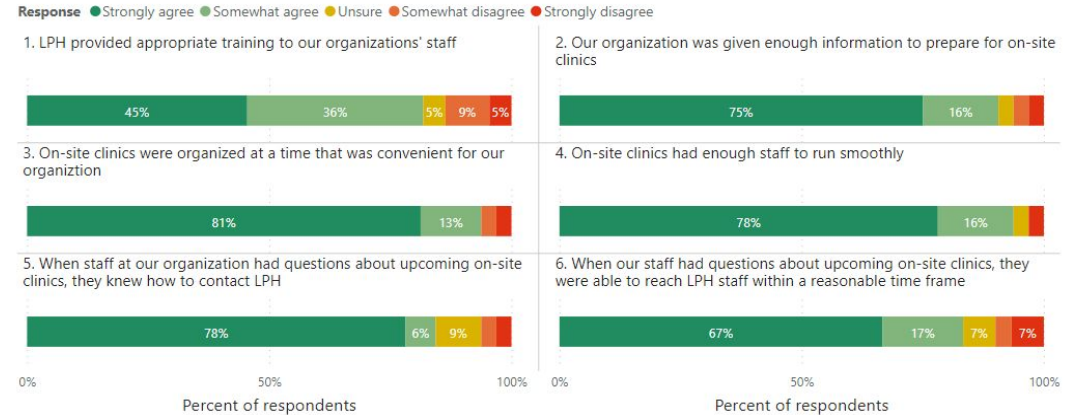
Excludes respondents who didn't receive this type of support, and those who selected N/A or no response

On-site vaccine clinic support

94% of respondents agreed that on-site clinics were organized at a time that was convenient for the organization (Q3) and that there were enough staff for the clinics to run smoothly (Q4).

While still mostly positive, **14%** of respondents disagreed that LPH provided appropriate vaccine clinic training to their organization's staff (Q1).

Figure 11: Respondent perceptions of LPH on-site vaccine clinic support (n=32)



Excludes respondents who didn't receive this type of support, and those who selected N/A or no response

Tangible resources

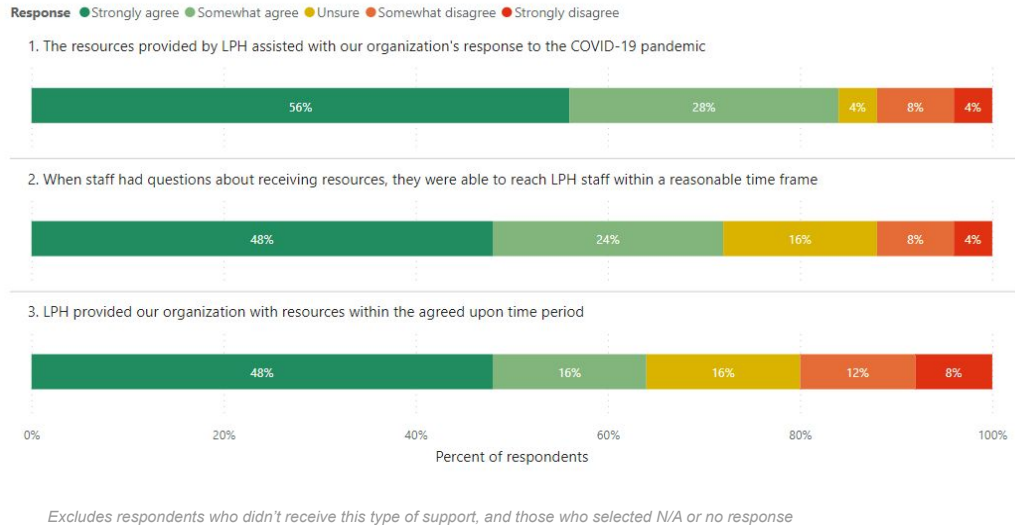
Of the 27 respondents who said their organization received tangible resources:

- **59%** received rapid test kits,
- **52%** received PCR testing support
- **44%** received personal protective equipment

Organizations could receive more than one type of tangible resource, so percentages do not sum to 100%.

While respondents mostly agreed that resources from LPH helped with their organization's pandemic response (**84%**), some noted that resources were not provided within the agreed upon time period (**20%**) or they were unable to reach LPH staff within a reasonable time frame (**12%**).

Figure 12: Respondent perceptions of tangible resources provided by LPH to organizations (n=27)



Open Response: What worked well while working with LPH?

Generally, survey respondents felt positively towards the support provided by LPH. The most commonly mentioned strengths included:

- ❑ **Communication** - positive information sharing or updates between partners and LPH staff (n=50)
- ❑ **Response time** - quick response time for questions, calls, or emails (n=35)
- ❑ **Staff** - positive experiences with LPH staff (n=30)

Examples of what worked well

“LPH nurses are very quick to respond to questions and very helpful in translating ministry guidance. We feel very comfortable reaching out to LPH when we have questions.” - Long-Term Care Home Respondent

“I called to set up mobile vaccination clinics for our 4 buildings in Sarnia and they were able to set up all of them quickly for 1 and 2 vaccines. Everything ran smoothly and were fully staffed. It made for a fast and easy clinic. We were able to add the parents of our congregate care clients. It was a great experience” - Congregate Care Respondent

“The team I worked with at LPH were always available to promptly answer any questions. They never hesitated to provide support to our home whether it was assistance with resident vaccinations, OB supports, auditing, or reviewing the guidance documents to ensure accurate directions were taken at every step during the pandemic. During audits if any gaps were found they were actively involved in assisting to mitigate those gaps in a supportive rather than punitive way. I appreciate that I have such a wonderful team to work with and I'm grateful for all their support, guidance and encouragement during the pandemic.” - Long-Term Care Home Respondent

“Having a couple of consistent LPH contacts made reaching out and finding answers much more accessible, as well as having the option to contact LPH after hours - LPH staff were on call - VERY much appreciated!” - Retirement Home Respondent

“Group zoom meetings for many daycares so that questions could be asked and answered. Also the guidance document that was supplied to centres was extremely helpful.” - Child Care Respondent

“Excellent communications existed between our agencies. Our organizations met each week, along with partners from Chatham-Kent Public Health. This provided us a safe and collaborative environment to problem solve.” - School Respondent

Open Response: What didn't work well while working with LPH?

22 respondents reported that they had no concerns/improvements to recommend. Among those who did, the most common concerns were:

- Confusion** - respondents experienced confusion about guidance & other public health information (n=23)
- Poor communication** - poor and/or delayed communication with LPH staff (n=19)
- Inconsistency** - inconsistent messaging within LPH, or across LPH and other organizations (n=15)

Open Response: Other information

Most respondents who completed this question used the space to express gratitude, reiterate prior remarks, and/or provide examples:

"Overall, [our] team truly appreciates the support provided by the LPH team. Important relationships between us were developed long before the pandemic and that allowed us to immediately be comfortable leaning on each other to work through the many different challenges of a pandemic. I look forward to continuing to grow our relationships and working together as a solid team within the Sarnia/Lambton community." - Hospital Respondent

"Appreciative of their efforts to help our organization - especially on site vaccinations!" - Congregate Living Respondent

"Thanks for being there when we needed you the most. We all know you must be so overwhelmed with so many things just being thrown your way like us, every few weeks, hats off to you." - Retirement Home Respondent

"We want them to know that their assistance during the Pandemic was invaluable!" - Long-Term Care Home Respondent

"I appreciated the common sense approach and the approachableness. Too often there is a fear of approaching governmental organizations because of a fear of being penalized or jumping through endless hoops. I found LPH approachable and friendly and calming. They seem to come alongside and not in a condescending manner. I thank you for that and LPH seems to recognize that we are not only looking for conformity but looking for best practices" - Congregate Living Respondent

"Thank you for assistance during the pandemic. It was not easy for anyone but knowing LPH was there to help and answer any and all questions as they arose made running a daycare during a pandemic more manageable." - Child Care Respondent

"LPH has always been very professional, knowledgeable, friendly and a much appreciated ally." - Retirement Home Respondent

Conclusion

LPH and partner organizations worked collaboratively to respond to a public health emergency that changed continuously over the course of two years. The results of the LPH partner organization survey highlight several key strengths and areas for improvement in the local pandemic response. In particular, clear communication emerged as both a challenge, and a success. Respondents described experiences where LPH staff were knowledgeable and diligent in interpreting guidance, but also experiences where they received conflicting information, and times when they didn't know how to reach LPH staff. The importance of clear and consistent communication between partner organizations is consistent with findings from AAR engagement with LPH staff and the Board of Health.

Overall, participants had positive perceptions of all types of support evaluated. It is important to note that the survey was completed by a sample of those who received support from LPH, and the perceptions of those who chose to participate may differ from those who did not participate. Additionally, since participation was limited to specific sectors, results may not be generalizable to other sectors that LPH supported.

The results from this survey highlight the many positive interactions between LPH and partner organizations. These findings will be used to help strengthen existing partnerships and prepare for future emergencies. The results emphasize the strong local partnerships that contributed to a successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Lambton County.

Acknowledgments

The AAR Team includes: Chad Ikert, Siobhan Churchill, Bethany Gaudet, Nancy Wai, Anita Trusler, Lori Lucas, and Jennifer Graham. The team would like to thank Crystal Palleschi, Jessica Zehnal, Jennifer Beaubien, Rhonda Galler, Matthew Butler, Donna Schmidtmeier, Kevin Churchill, and Michael Gorgey for consultation and support provided throughout this project. Thanks also to Arianna Satram for support with qualitative analysis.

The team would like to thank Andrew Taylor, General Manager, Public Health Services Division, Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health (2012-2022), and Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health (2022-Present) for their guidance and support for the project. Finally, the team would like to thank the staff of Lambton Public Health and all partner organizations for their contributions to the local COVID-19 response, and for their reflections that were foundational to the After-Action Review.



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 29, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project

BACKGROUND

Since 2020, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has led the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project (SAEHP), with Lambton Public Health (LPH) as a member of the overall project Advisory Committee and the Government Air Exposure Review Panel (GAERP). The MECP's SAEHP builds on previous work done by the Lambton Community Health Study Board.

This report serves to update Council on LPH's work in the SAEHP.

DISCUSSION

LPH was a member of the Lambton Community Health Study Board from 2007 to 2016 examining health-related impacts due to proximity to the petrochemical industry. The Lambton Community Health Study Board's 2016 report to the community, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "A", identified the progress made and research questions that remained unanswered. The Lambton Community Health Board was ultimately unable to conduct further comprehensive research required for a community health study following publishing their report in 2016.

In 2020, MECP began the SAEHP, working closely with provincial and federal government departments, health agencies, and First Nations. A final report for the SAEHP with recommendations is anticipated to be publicly released at the end of November. The report recommendations will include that LPH will request the province to continue to work with local industry to further reduce emissions, to protect the health of all Lambton County residents.

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' (page 2)
Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project

November 29, 2023

Frequently asked questions regarding LPH's role in the SAEHP report will be posted on the LPH website when available.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with LPH's participation in the work of the SAEHP are cost-share funded 70 percent provincially and 30 percent municipally, as approved within LPH's 2023 budget.

CONSULTATIONS

The following individuals were consulted during the preparation of this report: General Manager, Public Health Services Division; Public Health Ontario; Ministry of Health Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

STRATEGIC PLAN

LPH's participation in the SAEHP is consistent with the missions, principles, and values identified in the County's Strategic Plan and support the value of the County as a healthy community.

CONCLUSION

LPH was a member of the Lambton Community Health Study Board, examining the impact on health-related impacts due to proximity to the petrochemical industry, from 2007 to 2016. Extending from the work of the Lambton Community Health Study, the MECP commenced work on the SAEHP in 2020. The MECP will release the SAEHP report at the end of November.

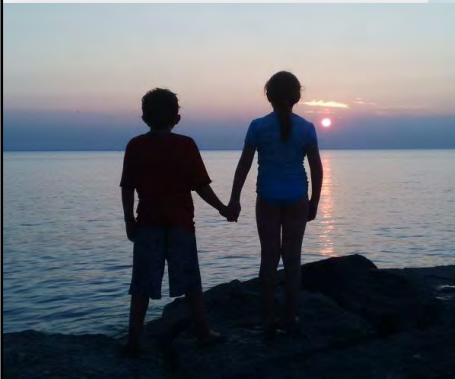
County Council can anticipate, aligned with the report recommendations, that LPH will request the province to continue to work with local industry to further reduce emissions from industry, to protect the health of all Lambton County residents.

APPENDIX A



**LAMBTON COMMUNITY
HEALTH STUDY**

PEOPLE • ENVIRONMENT • INDUSTRY



Report to the Community

June 2016

www.lambtonhealthstudy.ca

Anne Marie Gillis
Chair

Mary Jane Marsh
Independent
Process Observer

MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Sudit Ranade
Medical Officer of
Health

Ian Veen
County of Lambton

Anne Marie Gillis
City of Sarnia

Janice Robson
Village of Point Edward

Steve Arnold
Township of St. Clair

Sara Plain
Aamjiwnaang
First Nation

Janet George
Kettle & Stony Point
First Nation

Occupational Health
Clinic for Ontario
Workers

Alison Mahon
Sarnia Community
Round Table

Sarnia Lambton
Chamber of Commerce

Dean Edwardson
Sarnia Lambton
Environmental
Association

Ada Lockridge
Victims of
Chemical Valley



To the People of Lambton County

June 1, 2016

Dear Residents,

Since 2007, a small group of dedicated people has been working diligently to shed light on a serious question that affects all of us who live, work and play in Lambton County. The question - how does our proximity to the petrochemical industry affect the health of the residents of Lambton County?

There is no easy answer. The following report to the community will outline the progress that has been made, what we know now, what researchers are working on, and what questions remain.

After 8 years, the Board of the Lambton Community Health Study has decided to discontinue its activities. This decision was not made in haste, and not before every opportunity and possibility of securing funding was explored.

I feel strongly that through the efforts of this group, significant progress has been made. Since 2007:

- We established a governing body with representation from municipalities, occupational health, business, labour, industry, public health and the community at large.
- We completed and published our Phase II reports, including Literature Review and Community Engagement reports. These reports provide direction and insight to anyone interested in the health of Sarnia Lambton residents as it relates to the local industry.
- We have established relationships with, and captured the attention of leading researchers in the areas of cancer, aboriginal, occupational and community health.

The following report documents the successes, and the challenges, faced by the LCHS. I'm very proud to have been able to serve in this role, and I would like to thank the board, our funders - including the County of Lambton, the Province of Ontario, Health Canada, the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association, the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce - our academic partners, and especially the community for their ongoing interest and commitment to a healthier Sarnia-Lambton for future generations.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Gillis, Chair

BACKGROUND

With its vast network of petrochemical and refining complexes, Lambton County is internationally known as a significant industrial centre. While industry brings economic benefits to the region, some by-products produced by industrial processes are known to cause adverse health impacts at sufficient concentrations (e.g. benzene, 1,3-butadiene, PAH's, mercury).

Residents of Lambton County, particularly those living in close proximity to industrial areas, have expressed concerns about potential health effects associated with environmental exposures. In 2005, a study found that the proportion of male live births of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation had been declining continuously since the early 1990s.¹ The authors suggested that changes in the sex ratio were associated with exposure to emissions from local industries and recommended further assessment into the types of chemical exposures for this population. In 2007, another study found higher rates of hospital admissions in the Lambton area compared to both Windsor and London. The authors hypothesized that the differences were related to pollution.² In addition, several popular media articles were published which raised questions about the impact of local industry on residents' health.

While these studies suggested that environmental exposures may be linked to certain health outcomes, a clear relationship had not been demonstrated. In 2007, a meeting of community leaders and stakeholders took place and it was agreed that a comprehensive study of the potential health effects associated with exposure to emissions from petrochemical industries was needed to address concerns raised by the community.

The Lambton Community Health Study (LCHS) Board of Directors was formalized in 2008. The Board has representation from a diverse group of local stakeholders including municipalities, First Nations, business, labour, industry, occupational health, victims of occupational illness, and public health. The County of Lambton committed in-kind support for the health study group.

The function of the Board was to obtain funding and oversee the development of a study that would examine the impacts of the local petrochemical industry on the health of Lambton County residents. The Board also appointed an Independent Process Observer (IPO). The Independent Observer was put in place to ensure transparency, that the Board was acting within its mandate and its Terms of Reference and [report to the community](#) on a regular basis.

The Health Study Board developed a multi-year plan which involved three distinct phases. The Board was able to complete Phases I and II, but could not complete Phase III due to a lack of funding.

¹ Mackenzie, C. A., Lockridge, A., & Keith, M. (2005). Declining Sex Ratio in a First Nation Community. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 113(10), 1295–1298.

² Fung, K.Y, Luginah, I.N., & Gorey, K.M. (2007). Impact of Air Pollution on Hospital Admissions in Southwestern Ontario, Canada: Generating Hypotheses in Sentinel High-Exposure Places. *Environmental Health*, 6: 18.

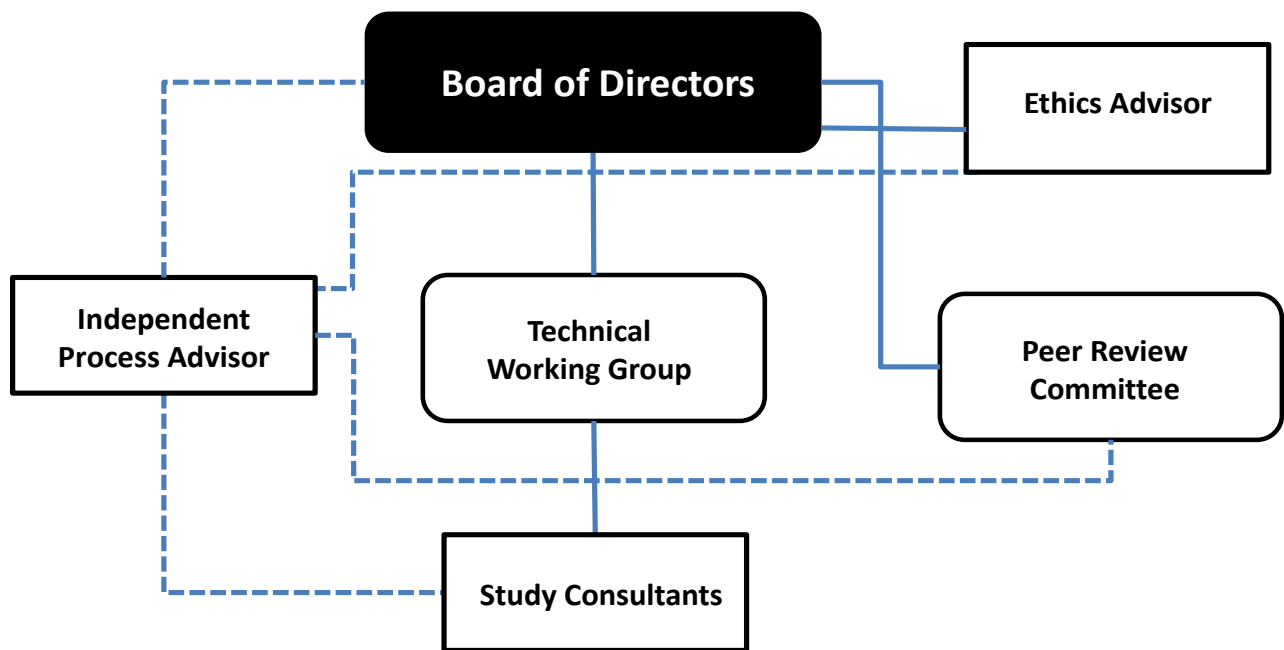
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- Phase I involved the establishment of a community based governance structure and the identification of a Board of Directors to oversee the project.
- Phase II included a comprehensive literature review, community engagement, and the development of research questions.
- Phase III was to include undertaking the identified study(ies), communication of the results to Lambton residents and stakeholder groups, identification of next steps and remedial initiatives, if required.

A schematic of the organizational structure is provided in Figure 1:

Figure 1: Organizational Structure



Additional background information is available at the [Lambton Community Health Study](http://www.lambtonhealthstudy.ca) website.

PROGRESS REPORT

Phase I Summary

In Phase 1, the following objectives were accomplished:

- Establishment of a Board, with defined stakeholders and roles;
- A detailed [Board Manual](#) was created, which included terms of reference, decision making process, reporting structure, etc.;
- Secured an in-kind contribution from the County of Lambton to:
 - act as the banker for the Board - to hold and be accountable for any funds received;
 - function as the secretariat to the board, setting meeting agendas, distributing meeting materials; and
 - develop and host a [web site](#) for the LCHS, as a means of making information and publications accessible to the public.

Phase II Summary

Funding to support Phase II activities was obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (\$50,000), the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (\$15,000) and the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce (\$10,000). The County of Lambton continued to provide in-kind support and additional in-kind support was provided by Health Canada. Dr. Pierre Band from Health Canada provided epidemiological expertise and reviewed Phase II documents for the Board.

Phase II included:

1. A systematic literature review of health outcomes associated with living in proximity to petrochemical industries. ([Link](#) to report)
2. A random telephone survey of 500 Lambton residents designed to collect information regarding the views of residents on potential health impacts related to industrial pollution. ([Link](#) to report)
3. An online survey duplicating the telephone survey, but open to all residents of Lambton County. ([Link](#) to report)
4. A series of five open houses held throughout Lambton County to gather questions, comments and concerns about the health impacts of local industry on health. ([Link](#) to report)

Phase II provided insight into the concerns of Lambton residents. Based on telephone and online surveys, respondents expressed high levels of concern about not having clear answers to health risks, but were equally likely to express concern about unemployment and the local economy. Approximately 50% of respondents were most concerned about industrial air pollution, followed by industrial accidents and surface/groundwater pollution. Odours and cumulative impacts of multiple exposures were also commonly raised concerns.

Approximately 80% of respondents felt that pollution from local industries was causing health problems for themselves or their families. Respondents were most likely to select cancer or respiratory health as primary health concerns that should be studied in Lambton County. When asked which types of cancer should be studied, many stated that all types should be studied. Lung, breast, brain and leukemia were among the most common sites specified by those who selected a single cancer site. While not as prominent as cancer or respiratory health, reproductive health (e.g. infertility, miscarriages, birth defects) was a concern among many.

Survey respondents and participants in the open houses wanted to know what Lambton residents are exposed to, how this compares with other communities across Ontario, and how this affects our health. There was a perception by many that disease rates (particularly cancers) are higher in Lambton/Sarnia compared to the province/country. Many considered the area to be a "hot spot" for cancers.

Finally, a predominant theme throughout the surveys and open houses was a need for better communication and increased transparency on the part of industry.

The literature review "did not identify any specific disease or health outcome that was unique to exposure and/or proximity to petrochemical complexes" (Page 4-11). Based upon the available evidence, expert opinion, as well as information about concerns in the community, the Board decided that the following health outcomes should be addressed in a proposed health study in Lambton County: lung cancer; cancer of the lymph, blood and related sites; brain cancer; pancreatic cancer; bladder cancer; and asthma/upper respiratory disease in children. Given this information, the Board identified potential research questions for a community health study. Recognizing the variety of concerns and perspectives raised in Phase II, this was an attempt to address the commonalities that were expressed by community members, while incorporating scientific evidence presented in the literature review.

Research Questions:

1. Exposure & Risk Assessment

- a. What chemicals are Lambton residents exposed to?
- b. Are the levels higher than those in reference populations?
- c. Are the levels considered harmful?
- d. What health effects are expected at these levels?

2. Cancer

- a. Are cancer rates higher in Lambton County compared to reference population rates?
- b. Do cancer rates in Lambton County vary by municipality or neighbourhood?
- c. If variation is present, is this associated with environmental petrochemical exposures?

3. Respiratory Health

- a. Are childhood asthma rates higher in Lambton County compared to reference population rates?
- b. Do childhood asthma rates in Lambton County vary by municipality or neighbourhood?
- c. If variation is present, is this associated with environmental petrochemical exposures?

4. Reproductive Health

- a. What is the current picture of reproductive health in Aamjiwnaang First Nation and surrounding areas, particularly with respect to the sex ratio at birth?

Other opportunities that were identified at the conclusion of Phase II included:

- Encourage participation in the Ontario Health Study, a long-term study to help us understand the causes of chronic diseases like cancer, heart disease and diabetes, and to develop new ways to prevent and treat them.
- Continue to support studies in the community and look for opportunities to collaborate with academic researchers to answer specific research questions. Several key partnerships with researchers were established in Phase II.
- Consider investigating ways to improve communication within Lambton County regarding industrial accidents, exposure levels, etc. or designate appropriate body to do so.

Phase III Summary

Though fundraising efforts existed during the first two phases, the third phase involved sustained and intense efforts to secure funding for the studies. A strategic planning meeting of the Board was held on February 28, 2013, at which the Board decided to focus on seeking full funding for the Lambton Community Health Study. The overall cost was estimated at \$5,000,000.

In May 2014, the Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association pledged to fund up to 30% of the study, a value of \$1,453,650. This commitment was contingent upon securing the remaining 70% of the funds from other sources including federal and provincial governments.

With this significant commitment secured by the stakeholder representing industry, the LCHS Board sought matching funding from provincial and federal governments. Board members had several face-to-face meetings with representatives of both governments, but the Board was ultimately unable to secure a funding commitment from either level of government. At the suggestion of Health Canada, the Board was invited to join with academic researchers at a forum sponsored by the Canadian Institute for Health Research for matching community partners to government-funded research. After attending this forum, we recognized that none of the proposed research projects fit with the goals of the Lambton Community Health Study.

Current Status

While the Board did not secure funding to direct a single comprehensive health study, we have established relationships with researchers at Cancer Care Ontario, the University of Toronto, the University of Ottawa, and the Ontario Health Study. These researchers have plans to continue research efforts in order to increase knowledge of health impacts related to cancer, reproductive health and respiratory health with a focus on our geographic region.

The following section describes the progress and status of efforts to address the original research questions.

1. Exposure & Risk Assessment

Questions related to exposure and risk assessment have not been addressed to date. See Recommendation 1, on page 11.

2. Cancer

a. *Are cancer rates higher in Lambton County compared to reference population rates?*

Lambton Public Health published a comprehensive health status report on cancer rates in Lambton County in 2007. They have continued to monitor cancer rates and presented updated data to various stakeholders in 2015, including the LCHS Board.

Overall conclusions:

- After accounting for age, the overall incidence rate for all cancer types was slightly elevated in Lambton compared to the provincial average. Lambton ranked 11th out of the 36 Ontario health units based on the most recent three year period (2007 to 2009). Although adjusted for age, these incidence rates do not account for the prevalence of other known risk factors for cancer (use of tobacco smoke, use of alcohol, physical inactivity, and eating habits).
- Examining site-specific cancer incidence data for the ten-year period, 2000 to 2009, incidence rates in Lambton were:
 - Similar to or lower than Ontario rates for several cancer sites;
 - Slightly elevated for the following sites: lung, colorectal (males) and prostate; and
 - Significantly higher than provincial rates for the following sites: mesothelioma, melanoma and larynx (females).

For more information, please see the [2007 report](#) and [2015 presentation](#).

b. Do cancer rates in Lambton County vary by municipality or neighbourhood?

In 2011, researchers from Cancer Care Ontario and the University of Toronto received funding from the Cancer Research Society to conduct a study entitled "Advanced spatial analyses to characterize environmental impacts on cancer risk: Phase I" (See [Research Summary](#)). The study focused on the Erie-St. Clair LHIN and involved mapping cancer incidence and known behavioural risk factors at the dissemination area (DA) level using advanced spatial statistics. Lambton Public Health has collaborated with Dr. Eric Holowaty, Dr. John McLaughlin and research staff at Cancer Care Ontario throughout the project. Preliminary results were presented to the Board in December 2014 and final results will be available once the results are peer-reviewed and published in a scientific journal.

The Erie-St Clair region was studied because of: concerns about the potential adverse effects of environmental exposures; a recognized need for further research to address these concerns; higher than expected rates for certain cancers across the region as a whole; and collaborative relationships that exist between the researchers, community leaders and stakeholder agencies.

c. If variation is present, is this associated with environmental petrochemical exposures?

While the results of the study described above will show geographic patterns of cancer incidence and reveal whether these patterns still exist after accounting for known risk factors (e.g. smoking, obesity), the study will not be able to show whether higher rates of cancer are caused by environmental exposures. For example, if there is a higher incidence of a certain type of cancer near industrial sources, even after accounting for known risk factors, this would suggest that further study is needed to determine whether local petrochemical exposures are responsible for this increase.

3. Respiratory Health*a. Are childhood asthma rates higher in Lambton County compared to reference population rates?*

Lambton Public Health has investigated hospitalization rates for asthma in Lambton County. They found that between 2009 and 2014, there has been a higher rate of hospitalizations among Lambton residents ages 0-19 years compared to the provincial average. Rates are similar to or lower than the provincial average for adults 20 years and older.³

However, prevalence estimates require data that represent more than one type of health service (e.g., hospitalizations). In 2012, a study was published that used a population-based asthma registry, based on emergency department visits, hospitalizations and physician visit data, to better assess spatial patterns of asthma prevalence in Ontario. During the 5-year period (2002 to 2006), this study found clusters of asthma cases throughout Ontario, including one in Lambton County among children 10 to 14 years of age.⁴

³ Public Health Ontario. Snapshots: Lambton Public Health: Hospitalization for asthma - age specific rates (both sexes combined) 2014. Toronto, ON: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; 2016 Feb 1 [cited 2016 Mar 30]. Available from: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Snapshots/Pages/Chronic-Disease-Hospitalization.aspx#.Vvw1tPkrKUK>

⁴ Crighton EJ, Feng J, Gershon A, Guan, J., To, T. A spatial analysis of asthma prevalence in Ontario. *Canadian Journal of Public Health* 2012; 103(5): e384-9.

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b. Do childhood asthma rates in Lambton County vary by municipality or neighbourhood?

Lambton Public Health has developed an informal connection with Dr. Teresa To, senior author of the paper mentioned above. Dr. To is an epidemiologist affiliated with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, The Hospital for Sick Children and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. Her research focuses on respiratory disorders, environmental issues and pediatric health.

Dr. To has provided preliminary asthma prevalence data at the municipality level, based on the same asthma registry used in the study mentioned above. While the data suggest that asthma prevalence varies within Lambton County, further analysis is required to make statistical comparisons to Ontario and other jurisdictions.

c. If variation is present, is this associated with environmental petrochemical exposures?

While it has been suggested that the higher prevalence rates of asthma among children and youth in Lambton may be due to environmental exposures, there has not been a study to examine this to date. Lambton Public Health will continue to work with academic partners to examine this issue and report any progress to stakeholders and the community.

4. Reproductive Health

Dr. Michel Camus, an epidemiologist providing in-kind support on behalf of Health Canada, initiated conversations between the Board and Dr. Laurie Chan from the University of Ottawa. Dr. Chan, a professor and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Toxicology and Environmental Health, agreed to work with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation to further explore and update the original study of sex ratios at birth that was done in 2005. This work is currently ongoing and results will be shared with stakeholders once the study is complete.

Ontario Health Study Partnership

The Lambton Community Health Study Board established a relationship with the Ontario Health Study in 2012. The Ontario Health Study is one of the largest longitudinal health studies ever conducted in Canada. In March 2016, Lambton Public Health hosted a Local Study Centre host to allow the Ontario Health Study to collect blood samples from Lambton participants. To date, participation from Lambton residents has been very strong, and these results may be used by future researchers.

- To date, over 3100 Lambton residents have registered for the Ontario Health Study by completing a comprehensive health survey questionnaire.
- Over 150 Lambton residents attended the March 2016 Local Study Centre to provide a blood sample.
- To date, a total of about 400 Lambton residents have provided blood samples that will be stored for future population health research.
- The survey data and the blood samples will be used by researchers to help gain a better understanding of chronic disease and its associated risk factors in the population.

Report to the Community

10

June 2016

CONCLUSIONS

The Lambton Community Health Study was able to achieve a number of goals since it formed in 2008.

1. The LCHS established a strong model of community-based participation to achieve a collective health-related goal. The governance model, our consensus-based decision making, and our inclusion of multiple stakeholders brought many skills, resources and viewpoints to the table.
2. The political will that was generated through the Board enabled connections to researchers who are studying the environmental impacts of industry in other parts of Canada and the world.
3. The LCHS board was able to engage Cancer Care Ontario, Health Canada, and academic researchers in support of our investigation. We were able to secure a funding commitment from industrial partners toward a study.
4. The LCHS board was able to commission a literature review of possible health effects and to engage the community to narrow our focus into suitable research questions for a community health study.
5. Finally, the LCHS board built strong relationships and connections between multiple stakeholders in pursuit of one goal - to understand the impact of proximity to the petrochemical industry on our health.

Though we were ultimately not able to secure enough dedicated funding to conduct and direct a community health study, we believe our efforts demonstrated a sincere commitment to realise this goal. We also hope our governance model will be helpful to other communities who seek to address a common question. We value the partnerships that we have built with each other and we have a better collective understanding of the factors that impact our health. We hope that the research partnerships developed as a result of the study will continue to yield information and insight to our community about factors that affect our health.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

At its final meeting, the Lambton Community Health Study Board supported the following recommendations:

1. Recommend that the County of Lambton, Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Kettle and Stony Point First Nation jointly request the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to conduct a screening human health risk assessment with regards to air, water and soil contaminants in the region based upon available data.
2. Lambton Public Health will continue its engagement with researchers conducting studies that were previously affiliated with the Lambton Community Health Study. When these study results are published, Lambton Public Health will communicate the information to community stakeholders including the former LCHS Board.
3. In recognition of the strength of the relationships that have been built between the stakeholders, the Board agrees to continue informal collaboration among its members.
4. The Board thanks the community-at-large for its support, advice and encouragement to the Lambton Community Health Study. Specifically, we recognize the financial and operational support provided by the Corporation of the County of Lambton.

STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS*

*The following stakeholder comments have been edited for clarity and brevity with permission.

The Lambton Community Health Study was a very worthwhile endeavor as it brought a broad cross section of the community together in an attempt to address health issues which may be related to environmental impacts. Working with individuals invested in the community, the study was able to make connections with researchers who will help advance our understanding of cancer outcomes, respiratory health and birth sex ratios. We look forward to learning more about this research in the future.

Dean Edwardson, Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association

The LCHS successfully united different sectors to help the public identify concerns regarding environmental health. It is unfortunate that we could not secure funds for a comprehensive study. However, we look forward to our continued partnership in exploring opportunities to examine the priority areas of concern.

Sara Plain, Aamjiwnaang

With attending, then being on the board for the LCHS on behalf of the Victims of Chemical Valley since the beginning, I met some very influential people from the Lambton area. This board was created because of the Peer Reviewed Birth Ratio Study of Aamjiwnaang that I am a co-author to. I was pleased to learn there are many more people concerned about their health and safety living near Chemical Industries through our efforts to ask residents of Lambton through our online, telephone survey, and community meetings. I am so happy that I was there and able to stand up and speak up to make sure things were on the up and up, as best as I could. Thank you.

Ada Lockridge, Vice-Chair, Victims of Chemical Valley

I have enjoyed my time on the Health Study Board. I was invited to become the IPO in the Fall of 2008. I feel that the direction that the Health Board is about to embark on is the correct one. I wish the committee well in planning for the future advisory committee and winding down the full Board. We have all learned a great deal as we progressed through the various steps of planning for a completed scientific health study. Thank you for the opportunity.

Jane Marsh, Independent Process Observer

I believe that 8 years ago, when this committee was formed - the intentions of trying to seek out Health Problem Answers was predominant. However, funding became the #1 component to the exploration of these questions. It is rewarding to know that the Ontario Health Study has finally noticed Sarnia-Lambton and hopefully will carry on our quest for answers.

Janice Robson, Village of Point Edward

On behalf of the Community Round Table, I appreciated the opportunity to be a member of the Community Health Study Board. From my perspective, a turning point for the Board was when we brought together researchers from Cancer Care Ontario, Public Health Ontario, University of Toronto, and Health Canada to discuss the concerns about potential health effects associated with environmental exposures. I consider the Community Health Study Board to have been a great example of the collaborative partnerships that exist across Lambton County to address issues of concern. I look forward to the upcoming results of the Aamjiwnaang birth ratio review, Cancer Care Ontario's report, respiratory health outcomes through ICES and Lambton Public Health, and a possible human health risk assessment.

Alison Mahon, Sarnia Community Roundtable

The Lambton Community Health Study is a good example of how multiple stakeholders in a community can work collaboratively to understand a health issue. With broad participation from organizations representing the interests of governments, industries, workers, scientists and citizens, we established a consensus-based governance model that can serve as a framework for future efforts to understand determinants of our health. Second, we consulted with the community and looked to available scientific evidence and experts to shape the questions that would guide a research study. Though we were not successful in obtaining funding for the last phase of the study, I have been very impressed at the cooperation that has been generated between people with very different perspectives on the issue of health impacts of petrochemical activities in Lambton County. At Lambton Public Health, we will continue to perform our roles of population health assessment and surveillance, health protection and health promotion to understand and improve the health of people in Lambton County.

Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health

Passion and commitment towards the Lambton Community Health Study was demonstrated by each and every dedicated participant who committed to this project. Local efforts resulted in important conversations being undertaken with senior levels of government, along with research that I believe will be useful to broader health study efforts that can learn from experiences in our Sarnia Lambton Community. As Warden I am grateful for the time people put into this effort. I am equally honoured to thank each and every participant on behalf of Lambton County residents.

Warden Bev MacDougall



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Board of Directors - Past and Present

Aamjiwnaang First Nation Sharilyn Johnston, Sara Plain
 County of Lambton..... Jim Burns, Ian Veen
 City of Sarnia Anne Marie Gillis, Terry Burrell, Bev MacDougall
 Kettle and Stony Point First Nation..... Janet George, Dianne George
 Township of St. Clair Steve Arnold, Pete Gilliland
 Village of Point Edward John Romlewski, Larry Mackenzie, Janice Robson
 Labour Keith MacMillan, Ray Fillion
 Lambton Public Health Dr. Chris Greensmith, Dr. Sudit Ranade
 Sarnia Community Round Table Alison Mahon
 Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce Gary MacDonald, Rory Ring, David McPhail
 Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association Dean Edwardson
 Victims of Chemical Valley Ada Lockridge, Margaret Buist
 Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers Jim Brophy, Dr. Jim Mackenzie,
 Nora Maher, Mary Falconer,
 Mark Parent, Jenny Schieman

Ex-officio

Independent Process Observer Mary Jane Marsh
 Secretary to the Board Ken Dick, Kevin Churchill

Staff Support - Lambton Public Health

Epidemiologist.....Crystal Palleschi
 EnvironmentalistPaul Buttery
 Administrative Assistants Harriet Nagle, Joanne Clark

Consultants

Environmental and Occupational Health PlusDr. Lesbia Smith
 Intrinsic Environmental Science, Inc..... Elliot Sigal, Chris Ollson
 2WA ConsultingMichael Howes

***The Lambton Community Health Study board gratefully acknowledges
the financial and in-kind support of the following organizations:***

- Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce
- Sarnia Lambton Environmental Association
- The County of Lambton
- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Health Canada: Dr. Sheryl Bartlett, Dr. Pierre Band, Dr. Michél Camus



*Lastly, the LCHS Board would also like to acknowledge the support of MP Pat Davidson
and her staff for their efforts to secure support from Health Canada and to
raise the profile of the LCHS at the Federal level.*



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 29, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Health Protection - 2023 Third Quarter Activity Report

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide Council for The Corporation of the County of Lambton (County) with an update on programs and activities administered by the Health Protection service area of Lambton Public Health (LPH) in the third quarter of 2023.

The most recent update on these programs and activities was provided to County Council through the Council report *Health Protection–2023 Second Quarter Activity Report* dated October 4, 2023.

DISCUSSION

Highlights:

- The 2023 beach monitoring program continued throughout July and August. LPH monitors seven public beaches along the shore of Lake Huron.
- Adult mosquito surveillance for West Nile virus (WNV) took place over a 12-week period from July to September. Four positive mosquito traps were identified with one each in Forest, Wyoming, Corunna and Sarnia.
- Municipal catch-basin larviciding took place throughout July and August. Pestalto Environmental Health Services was contracted to apply larvicide treatments to approximately 17,000 municipal catch basins. Three rounds of treatments were applied throughout the 2023 season.
- Immunization catch-up clinics were held throughout the summer for school-aged children to receive required and recommended vaccines.

Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Team Activities:

Activity	2023 Q3 Actuals
Reportable Disease Investigations	137 investigations - 38 enteric, 4 vector-borne, 87 respiratory (72 of which were COVID-19), 8 other
Institutional Outbreak Investigations	16 investigations (15 respiratory outbreaks, 1 enteric outbreak)
Infection Control Inspections	127 inspections (including 25 daycares, 56 personal service settings, 23 group homes, 18 long-term care facilities, 5 congregate living settings)
Infection Prevention and Control Complaint Investigations	4 investigations

Immunization and School Health Team Activities:

Activity	2023 Q3 Actuals
Grade 7 Immunization Clinics	101 vaccinations given at 4 school clinics
Routine, Catch-up and COVID-19 Immunization Clinics	689 vaccinations given at 21 clinics
Cold chain inspections	100 inspections
Immunization Record Assessments for Out-of-Province Students	113 records assessed and 74 vaccinations given

Environmental Health Team Activities:

Activity	2023 Q3 Actuals
Food Premise Inspections	273 inspections (including 258 routine inspections, 10 re-inspections, 2 pre-operational, and 3 Healthy Menu Choices Act)
Food Handler Training Course	63 food handlers certified
Food Safety Complaint Investigations	22 investigations
Recreational Water Inspections	81 inspections (including 62 public pools, 1 splash pad, 5 wading pools, 7 spas, and 6 re-inspections)
Rabies Investigations	155 investigations with rabies post-exposure prophylaxis being administered to 20 individuals
Health Hazard Investigations	50 investigations related to mould, pests, sewage, and sanitation
Extreme Temperature Alerts	3 Heat Alerts issued
Vector-borne Disease Program – tick surveillance	25 ticks were submitted for identification

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the Health Protection programs are included in the approved 2023 LPH budget, which are cost-share funded with the province at 30% municipal and 70% provincial. Some Health Protection programs are eligible to receive 100% provincial grants for infection prevention and control hub coordination, and student Public Health Inspector practicums.

CONSULTATIONS

In the preparation of this report, the Supervisors of Health Protection were consulted where necessary.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The programs, services and activities delivered by LPH staff are consistent with the missions, principles and values identified in the County's Strategic Plan and support the value of the County as a healthy community.

CONCLUSION

This report provides an update on programs and activities administered by the Health Protection team in the third quarter of 2023. These programs and services make a vital contribution to maintaining a safe and healthy community for all Lambton County residents.



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 29, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Funding for 2023-24

BACKGROUND

Further to the Ministry of Health Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement with Lambton Public Health (LPH), the Ministry of Health recently announced that LPH will be provided with up to \$238,500 in one-time funding for the 2023-24 funding year to support continued implementation and operations of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub.

The most recent update on this program was provided to Council for The Corporation of the County of Lambton (County) through Committee A.M. report "*Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Funding*" dated November 17, 2021.

DISCUSSION

In late September 2020, the Ministry of Health created the IPAC Hub program as part of the province's plan *Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19*, to strengthen IPAC capacity in congregate living settings (CLSs). IPAC Hubs were located across Ontario to provide province-wide coverage, with either a public health unit (PHU) or a local hospital acting as a host organization for each IPAC Hub. The operational implementation and management of the IPAC Hub in the Sarnia-Lambton region is led by LPH, with assistance and feedback from various community partners.

IPAC Hubs provide enhanced IPAC practices in CLSs in their respective PHU catchment area. CLSs include long-term care homes, retirement homes, residential settings funded by the Ministry of Health, residential settings for adults and children funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), shelters, and supportive housing.

IPAC Hubs provide the following IPAC services and supports to CLSs either directly or through partnership with IPAC Hub partners:

- deliver education and training;
- host communities of practice to support information sharing, learning and networking in congregate living settings;
- support the development of IPAC programs, policies, and procedures within sites/organizations;
- support assessments and audits of IPAC programs and practices;
- provide recommendations to strengthen IPAC programs and practices;
- mentor those with responsibilities for IPAC within congregate living settings;
- support the development and implementation of outbreak management plans (in conjunction with public health partners and CLSs); and,
- support CLSs to implement IPAC recommendations.

The Government of Ontario's continued investment to support the implementation and operation of IPAC Hubs across the province is a welcomed initiative that will provide expertise, education, and support to community-based CLSs in the Sarnia-Lambton catchment area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

LPH has received one-time funding in the amount of \$238,500 for the 2023-24 fiscal year to support continued implementation and operations of the IPAC Hub. This is an increase of approximately \$95,900 from funding received in 2021-22 and 2022-23. Eligible expenses include: IPAC Hub staff salaries, wages, and benefits; administrative overhead; building occupancy costs; personal protective equipment for IPAC Hub staff; professional development for IPAC staff; office equipment, communication, information and information technology; and mileage costs/car rentals/meal allowances, as indicated.

In 2021-22 and 2022-23, this one-time IPAC Hub funding was provided to LPH through Bluewater Health under a Hub partnership to support the implementation of an IPAC Hub in the Sarnia-Lambton region. Beginning in 2023-24, this funding is now being provided directly to PHU's from the Ministry of Health.

CONSULTATIONS


In the preparation of this report, the Supervisor of Health Protection, General Manager, Public Health Services Division and the Medical Officer of Health were consulted where necessary.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The services and activities delivered by LPH staff through the IPAC Hub are consistent with the missions, principles and values identified in the County's strategic plan and support the value of the County as a healthy community.

CONCLUSION

The Government of Ontario's continued investment to support the implementation and operation of IPAC Hubs across the province as part of its comprehensive plan *Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19* is a welcomed initiative that will provide support to community-based CLSs in the Sarnia-Lambton catchment area.

 <p style="text-align: center;">CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LEGAL SERVICES / CLERK'S
PREPARED BY:	Ryan Beauchamp, County Solicitor/Deputy Clerk
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 29, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Alternate Member Appointments – Policy C12.01

BACKGROUND

Council for The Corporation of the County of Lambton (the “**County**”) adopted the *Alternate Members Policy* (C12.01) effective on February 6, 2019, as amended (the “**Policy**”). The Policy requires that Alternate Member appointments made by each of the County’s local municipalities be reported to County Council, as such appointments are made.

This report serves to update Council on our local municipalities' alternate member appointments to date.

DISCUSSION

For your information, the chart attached as Appendix "A" lists all of the Alternate Member appointments to County Council made to date by the County’s local municipalities. Any future Alternate Member appointments will be reported to County Council in accordance with the Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable.

Alternate Member Appointments – Policy C12.01 (page 2)

November 29, 2023

STRATEGIC PLAN

Not applicable.


CONCLUSION

Not applicable.

APPENDIX “A”

Lambton County Council
Alternate Members Notification
(Policy C12.01)

Municipality	Name of Alternate Member
Town of Petrolia	Joel Field
City of Sarnia	Adam Kilner
Township of Dawn-Euphemia	Mark McGuire
Township of Plympton-Wyoming	Netty McEwen
Village of Point Edward	Greg Grimes
St. Clair Township	Pat Brown

 <p style="text-align: center;">FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	COURT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Cindy Vermeiren, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Larry Palarchio, CPA, CMA, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 29, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Court Services 3rd Quarter 2023 Statistics and Activity

BACKGROUND

The Court Services Department (the “Department”) maintains statistical data regarding the number, type, and value of fines assessed and paid through the County's *Provincial Offences Act* (POA) court. Staff provide Council with a summary and analysis of this data at the end of each quarter.

DISCUSSION

Activity

During the third quarter, the Department recorded 5,158 charges received. This number represents an increase of 899 charges over the previous quarter, and a total of 10,369 charges have been issued in 2023, representing 82% of 2022 totals at 13,369.

Municipal charges increased during the reporting period with 1,333 charges issued, representing 98% of the previous year’s totals. The increase can be attributed to the seasonal charges being issued in local Municipalities with a high volume of tourists. All agencies, Ontario Provincial Police, Ministry of Transportation, Sarnia Police Services, and other agencies, recorded increased ticket volumes over the previous quarter. The *Highway Traffic Act* lead the charges laid by the Act, with 2,807 charges laid, representing 81% of the total charges received in 2022.

There were 15 court sessions operating during the third quarter of 2023 with 1,697 cases heard, a decrease of two (2) court sessions and a reduction of 56 cases heard over the previous quarter.

At the end of September, there were 921 Part I matters scheduled for a court appearance and 1,274 Part III matters.

At the end of the reporting period, the Department reported 1,433 Part I trial requests received which *have not been scheduled for a court appearance date*, with offence dates ranging from March 2022 to December 2022.

As mentioned in earlier reports, on January 1, 2023, the Department transitioned into a dedicated Early Resolution Court. This process provides the defendant with the opportunity to select the option of speaking with a municipal prosecutor for a resolution meeting and/or precede with a trial at the time the charge is laid. Court staff administers the early resolution meeting requests with the defendant and the municipal prosecutor, by scheduling matters in five-to-seven-minute intervals with the prosecution on pre-determined dates. Once the early resolution meetings conclude, the defendants and prosecutor go before a Justice of the Peace to enter the results of the discussions on the court record. Results include guilty pleas and/or set dates for trial. This process is viewed by the Ministry to be a more efficient use of court time by reducing the number of trials and resolution discussions on court dates.

Currently, the Department has 375 early resolution meeting requests pending that are over 180 days old with dates ranging from January 2023 to April 2023.

The challenge continues to find court times to hear the outcomes of the early resolution meetings and trials. Management regularly informs the Regional Senior Justice Office of the status of backlogged cases and enquires if additional court dates could be scheduled to assist. To date, we have received three additional blitz court dates for early resolution guilty pleas and Part I trials. Staff and prosecution anticipate having 125 matters resolved on Monday, November 27th, 2023, our first early resolution guilty plea court date scheduled on one of the three blitz courts received.

New Fines Ordered

New fines ordered totalled \$543,228, a decrease of \$314,825 in comparison to 2022.

A total of 5,396 cases were sentenced at the end of the reporting period in 2023, totalling \$1,693,312.45 in fines.

Enforcing Payment of Court-Ordered Fines

During the reporting period, collection staff reported that \$117,981 was collected in-house, with third-party collections recording \$80,053 collected, a decrease of \$21,242 and an increase of \$6,395, respectively, over the previous quarter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Department continues to review current processes with reduced courts operating to ensure accountability and minimize budget impacts.

Court Services 3rd Quarter 2023 Statistics and Activity (page 3)

November 29, 2023

CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In keeping with the Principles and Values of the County of Lambton through leadership and accountability, the County's current efforts employs reasonable and sound decision-making and is accountable to ratepayers for the appropriate stewardship of their tax dollars.

CONCLUSION

The Court Services Department's ticket volumes are trending at previous year's levels; however, the challenges of reduced courts operating continue to impact meeting budget objectives.

**Quarterly Statistical Report - Court Services Department
Executive Summary - Provincial Offences Administration to SEP 2023**

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	2022 Total	% Prior	
Charges by Act	Highway Traffic	1,536	1,979	2,807	-	6,322	7,836	81%	
	Liquor License	122	251	452	-	825	795	104%	
	Cannabis Act	4	15	17	-	36	45	80%	
	Mun By-laws	831	309	1,358	-	2,498	2,637	95%	
	Prov Other	347	484	524	-	1,355	2,056	66%	
	Total Current Year	2,840	3,038	5,158	-	11,036	13,369	83%	
							2022 Total	% Prior	
Charges by Agency	Min of Transportation	310	454	698	-	1,462	1,208	121%	
	Municipalities	814	278	1,333	-	2,425	2,535	96%	
	OPP	803	1,243	1,913	-	3,959	4,264	93%	
	Other	73	164	171	-	408	768	53%	
	Sarnia Police	711	899	1,043	-	2,653	4,594	58%	
		Total Current Year	2,711	3,038	5,158	-	10,907	13,369	82%
							2022 Total	% Prior	
Charges Received	Part 1 - Prov Offence	1,640	2,748	4,209	-	8,597	10,248	84%	
	Part 2 - Parking	795	13	629	-	1,437	1,814	79%	
	Part 3 - Summons	288	277	320	-	885	1,307	68%	
		Total Current Year	2,723	3,038	5,158	-	10,919	13,369	82%
		Total Prior Year	2,878	3,879	4,259	2,353			
		Change +/- Volume	- 155	- 841	899	- 2,353			
		Change +/- %	95%	78%	121%	0%			

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	2022 Total	% Prior	
Courtroom Activity	Part 1	482	528	615	-	1,625	2,296	71%	
	Part 2	2	3	-	-	5	45	11%	
	Part 3	1,598	1,292	1,082	-	3,972	5,867	68%	
	Federal	203	230	-	-	433	603	72%	
		Total Current Year	2,285	2,053	1,697	-	6,035	8,811	68%
		Total Prior Year	1,993	2,535	1,753	2,530			
		Change +/- Volume	292	- 482	- 56	- 2,530			
	Change +/- %	115%	81%	97%	0%				

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	2022 Total	% Prior	
New Fines Ordered	Federal	\$ 33,780	\$ 85,350	\$ 49,825	-	\$ 168,955	\$ 865,513	20%	
	Highway Traffic	\$ 204,612	\$ 273,138	\$ 268,605	-	\$ 746,355	\$ 779,013	96%	
	Liquor License	\$ 550	\$ 435	\$ 65	-	\$ 1,050	\$ 2,265	46%	
	Mun By-laws	\$ 9,200	\$ 5,435	\$ 41,402	-	\$ 56,037	\$ 51,897	108%	
	Parking	\$ 29,096	\$ 520	\$ 23,216	-	\$ 52,832	\$ 68,285	77%	
	Prov Other	\$ 252,580	\$ 189,565	\$ 160,115	-	\$ 602,260	\$ 929,034	65%	
		Total Current Year	\$ 529,818	\$ 554,443	\$ 543,228	\$ -	\$ 1,627,488	\$ 2,696,007	60%
		Total Prior Year	\$ 436,318	\$ 762,265	\$ 858,052	\$ 639,371		-\$ 1,068,519	0
		Change +/- Volume	\$ 93,500	-\$ 207,822	-\$ 314,825	-\$ 639,371			
		Change +/- %	121%	73%	63%	0%			

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Fine Payments	Current, Own Office	\$ 157,164.28	\$ 442,127.00	\$ 223,839.06	\$ -	\$ 823,130
CAMS in house	Defaulted / Overdue	\$ 106,751	\$ 139,223	\$ 117,981	-	\$ 363,955
CAMS	Collection Agencies	\$ 56,843	\$ 73,658	\$ 80,053	-	\$ 210,554
3-1110	Other POA Locations	\$ 60,371	\$ 55,107	\$ 75,607	-	\$ 191,085
	LESS: Refunds, Adj., etc.					
FMW-Fine totals	Total	\$ 381,130	\$ 710,115	\$ 497,480	\$ -	\$ 1,588,725

YTD excludes reimbursements to other courts and the Province.

		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
O/S Accounts Rec'ble	A/R JUN/2023	\$ 3,152,966	\$ 2,198,569			
	New Revenue	\$ 543,228	\$ 639,371			
	Less Current Fines Pd	\$ 605,336	\$ 84,762			
	Less Overdue Fines Pd	\$ 117,981	\$ 101,729			
	Less Fines Pd at Agency	\$ 80,053	\$ 70,896			
	A/R SEP/2023	\$ 2,892,824	\$ 2,580,553	\$ 2,270,388	\$ 2,037,258	\$ 2,826,828

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE A.M.**

(Infrastructure & Development Services/Public Health Services/Cultural Services)

November 15, 2023

A meeting was held at the County Building at 9:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair I. Veen and Members J. Agar, D. Boushy, M. Bradley, T. Case, B. White, and Warden Kevin Marriott attended in person, and Members A. Broad and D. Sageman attended virtually. Various staff were present including the following General Managers: Ms. C. Nauta, Building Services Manager, Mr. A. Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services, Mr. A. Taylor, General Manager, Public Health Services, Mr. R. Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk and Mr. S. Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent

None.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

PD 11-07-23 A letter from Kristina Lepik, Deputy Clerk/Manager Legislative Services, Town of Coburg dated October 11, 2023, advising that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on October 2, 2023, passed the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Miriam Mutton
Seconded by: Councillor Brian Darling

That the Illegal Land Use Enforcement Taskforce's mandate be expanded to include other types of illegal land uses and not solely on illegal trucking land uses; and

That the Province be requested to strengthen municipal enforcement powers by:

- Amending the Municipal Act to enable municipalities to physically bar entry to properties where illegal land uses that have significant detrimental impacts on adjacent residential properties, the environment or create unsafe situations;
- Increasing the maximum penalty amounts in the Planning Act to \$50,000 for an individual upon conviction and on a subsequent conviction,

Committee A.M. – November 15, 2023 (page 2)

not more than \$25,000 for each day in which the contravention has continued after the day in which the person was initially convicted; and

- Including provisions to ensure a corporation is liable to fines of not more than \$100,000 upon first conviction and not more than \$50,000 for each day in which the contravention has continued after the day in which the corporation was initially convicted.

#1: White/Agar: That correspondence PD 11-07-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#2: Bradley/Sageman: That the following Information Reports from the Infrastructure & Development Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Building Services 3rd Quarter 2023 Statistics Report.
- b) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Planning Department 3rd Quarter Statistics and Approval Authority Activity.
- c) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Planning Department 3rd Quarter Work in Progress.

Carried.

Report Requiring a Motion

Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Public Works Departmental Staffing

#3: Boushy/White: That the County Public Works Department be hereby authorized to hire one additional full-time engineering/technical position effective January 8, 2024 to support development & growth, capital project management, and transportation & traffic management.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Report Requiring a Motion

Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Emergency Medical Services Master Plan 2024-2028

Committee A.M. – November 15, 2023 (page 3)

#4: Agar/Marriott:

- a) That County Council endorse the 2024-2028 EMS Master Plan and its recommendations, in principle.
- b) That staff be authorized to include the costs associated with adding 12 hours of service in 2024 into the department's budget for Council's consideration during the 2024 budget deliberations, which includes \$300,000 in new operating costs for service starting in June 2024, and with an ambulance and associated equipment to be purchased using operational reserves.
- c) That the remaining associated investments from the recommendations be brought forward for Council's consideration, through the County's budget process, in future years.

Carried.

Other Business

Andrew Taylor, General Manager, Public Health Services Division, advised that County staff would be presenting the EMS Master Plan to Council at the November 29, 2023, Council meeting.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#5: Sageman/White: That the following Information Reports from the Cultural Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Libraries Third Quarter 2023 Statistics/Activity.
- b) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Museums, Gallery & Archives Third Quarter Statistics.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Libraries Donations, July 1 to September 30, 2023

#6: Case/Agar: That the Libraries Donations, July 1 to September 30, 2023 Report be accepted.

Carried.

Committee A.M. – November 15, 2023 (page 4)

Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Museums, Gallery & Archives Collections Management September 2023

#7: Case/Agar: That the Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management September 2023 Report be accepted, and items recommended for acceptance be approved for inclusion in the respective permanent collections.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Committee Membership Rotations & Appointments and 2024 Meeting Schedule

#8: White/Marriott: That the 2024 Council, Committee A.M. & Committee P.M. meeting schedule attached hereto as Schedule “C”, which has both Committee’s August meetings rescheduled from August 21, 2024, to August 22, 2024, be approved.

Carried.

Other Business

Councillor Bradley requested a Reconsideration of a Notice of Motion for the November 29, 2023, Lambton County Council meeting regarding the Notice of Motion given by Councillor Boushy at the June 7, 2023, Lambton County Council, as follows:

#13: *Boushy/Dennis: That County Council support the following motion:*

Given that our two-county council committees are half of council we should consider joining together with council and meet once a month as a whole county council, on a trial basis.

Joining as one county council will:

- 1. Save council time.*
- 2. Save staff reports and staff time.*

Councillor Case provided Notice of Motion for the November 29, 2023, Lambton County Council meeting that Council consider meeting as a committee of the whole once per month rather than the current Committee A.M. and Committee P.M. structure.

IN-CAMERA

#9: White/SageMan: That the Chair declare the Committee go in-camera to discuss the following:

Committee A.M. – November 15, 2023 (page 5)

- a) to receive a report on information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality by the Province of Ontario, pursuant to s. 239(2)(h) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to receive a report and provide instructions on the potential acquisition of lands (and/or lease of lands) in the City of Sarnia, pursuant to s. 239(2)(c) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

#10: Motion to be dealt with In-Camera.

#11: Motion to be dealt with In-Camera.

#12: Bradley/Case: That the Chair declare the Committee go back into Open Session.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

#13: White/SageMan: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 9:31 a.m.

Ian Veen
Chair

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE P.M.**

(Long-Term Care/Corporate Services/Finance, Facilities and Court Services/Social Services)

November 15, 2023

A meeting was held at the County Building at 11:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair D. Ferguson and Members G. Atkinson, D. Cook, B. Hand, B. Loosley, and Warden Kevin Marriott attended in person. Member C. McRoberts attended virtually. Various staff were also present including the following: Ms. J. Joris, General Manager, Long-Term Care; Mr. L. Palarchio, General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Court Services; Ms. V. Colasanti, General Manager, Social Services; Mr. A. Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services, Mr. R. Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk; and Mr. S. Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent

B. Dennis.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

Information Report

Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Vulnerable Occupancy – Annual Fire Drills 2023

#1: Cook/Atkinson: That the Information Report dated November 15, 2023 regarding Vulnerable Occupancy – Annual Fire Drills 2023 be received and filed.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Information Report

Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding 2024 Social Housing Insurance Renewal Update

#2: Miller/Cook: That the Information Report dated November 15, 2023 regarding Social Housing Insurance Renewal Update be received and filed.

Carried.

Committee P.M. – November 15, 2023 (page 2)

Report Requiring a Motion

Report dated October 18, 2023 Regarding 2024 Committee Membership Rotations & Appointments and 2024 Meeting Schedule

#3: Loosley/Miller: That the 2024 Council, Committee A.M. & Committee P.M. meeting schedule attached hereto as Schedule “C”, which has both Committee’s August meetings rescheduled from August 21, 2024, to August 22, 2024, be approved.

Carried.

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION

Information Report

Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding 2023 – Q3 Budget Monitoring Update

#4: Miller/Atkinson: That Information Report dated November 15, 2023 regarding 2023 – Q3 Budget Monitoring Update be received and filed.

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#5: Atkinson/McRoberts: That the following Information Reports from the Social Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding County of Lambton’s Position on Sanctioned Outdoor Encampments.
- b) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Employment Service Delivery.
- c) Information Report dated November 15, 2023 Regarding Housing Services Statistical Report – Quarter 3.

Carried.

Committee P.M. – November 15, 2023 (page 3)

ADJOURNMENT


#6: Hand/Miller: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 11:10 a.m.

David Ferguson
Chair

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk

	INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 29, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Rural/Inter-Community Transit Follow-up

BACKGROUND

At the September 6, 2023, meeting of Lambton County Council, the following motion was made:

#13: Bradley/Case:

- a) *That motion #4 of the Committee A.M. minutes dated August 16, 2023, regarding Rural/Inter-Community Transit be tabled until Council's regularly scheduled meeting on November 29, 2023, so that staff can in the meantime consult with all local Lambton municipalities on the need and support for a rural/inter-community transit system and report back to Council on the results thereof.*

Carried.

This report provides an update to County Council on staff consultations with all local Lambton municipalities.

DISCUSSION

On September 15, 2023, the County staff circulated a brief survey soliciting input regarding rural and inter-community transit to the eleven local municipal partners in Lambton County. At this time, ten of the eleven municipalities have responded to the survey. Sarnia City Council has requested that City staff seek public input on rural transit prior to responding. At the time of writing this report, it is expected that City staff will present to City Council with recommendations at their scheduled meeting on December 11, 2023.

A summary of the responses to the survey is attached to this report. The survey asked whether there is a need within the applicable community for a rural transit system and how

local municipalities would be willing to support such a program if implemented. Responses were mixed, with a majority of municipalities indicating support for such a program. However, a Demand and Feasibility Study would be required to further engage with the County's local municipalities, interest groups and the public to determine appropriate program targets and scope of a rural transit system within the County.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Rural/inter-community transportation is not included in the 2023 approved County of Lambton Budget.

A cost of \$150,000 is appropriate to pursue a Demand and Feasibility Study to carry out a review of a rural/inter-community transportation program in Lambton County. Although there is currently no funding source, there may be renewed funding available through the federal Rural Transit Solutions Fund to support/offset this cost in the future.

Overall rural/inter-community transportation program costs vary widely across Ontario. Budgetary impacts for implementation will be heavily dependent on the scope and desired outcomes of the project.

CONSULTATIONS

A survey was distributed to local municipal partners to facilitate the request by County Council.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Application of Area of Effort #3: Community Development - Capitalizing on opportunities that enrich the quality of life and future prospects of the community by:

- Promoting policies and strategies that protect environmental resources and support the area's quality of life and economic development potential, allowing us to pass these resources on intact to future generations.
- Actively pursuing joint opportunities with community partners that contribute to the long-term growth and well-being of the Lambton community.
- Implementing and strengthening of the County's sustainability plan.
- Developing policies and practices that bolster and safeguard municipal infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

A survey regarding rural transit was circulated to all local municipalities in Lambton County. Responses regarding the need for rural transit were mixed, however, the majority of municipalities indicated that they would support such a program.

Rural/Inter-Community Transit Follow-up (page 3)

November 29, 2023

A Demand and Feasibility Study is needed to further engage local municipalities, interest groups and the public to determine appropriate program targets and scope of a rural transit system in Lambton County.

Although there are no identified funding sources at this time, grants toward such a study may become available through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund – Planning and Design Projects stream in the future.

County of Lambton Rural Transit Municipal Survey Results

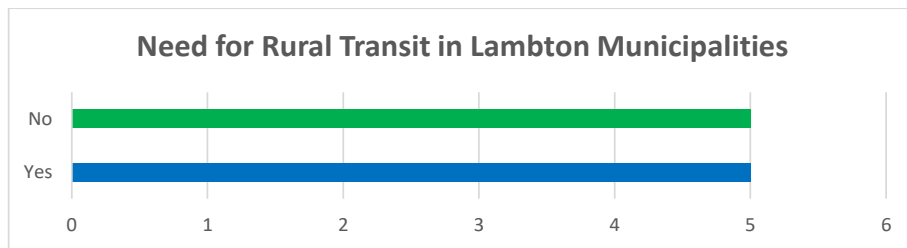
October 2023

Respondents:

- Village of Point Edward
- Town of Petrolia
- Enniskillen
- Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Village of Oil Springs
- Town of Plympton-Wyoming
- Warwick
- Township of St. Clair
- Brooke-Alvinston
- Dawn-Euphemia Township

Is there a need in your Municipality for Rural Transit?

50% of respondents indicated that there is a need for Rural Transit in their municipality.



If Respondents answered "YES":

How do you know that there is a need for a Rural Transit Program in your Municipality?

Please identify any outreach or studies that have been carried out in your Municipality demonstrating the need for Rural Transit.

- When I started work at Petrolia in 2013, our Town Council was considering a regional public transportation system. Council believed there was enough demand to at least look into this initiative. The demand would be greater now (2023) and Petrolia is expected to grow 20-40% over the next 5 to 10 years. I am not aware of any studies. I support the recommendation by County staff to conduct a transportation demand survey/study.
- We did a study and implemented a program through the CT grant.
- Through strategic planning exercises and public outreach, the community has expressed their desire for improved public transit. Currently the Town is home to

numerous at-risk individuals without access to Transportation. Some transportation services exist through local community organization such as Lambton Elderly Outreach, but support does not exist for the majority of individuals.

- Councilors report informal requests for residents requesting rural transit. However, no formal studies or outreach has been completed to date.
- Delegations to Council requesting this for seniors. Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with Four Counties Transportation out of West Elgin.

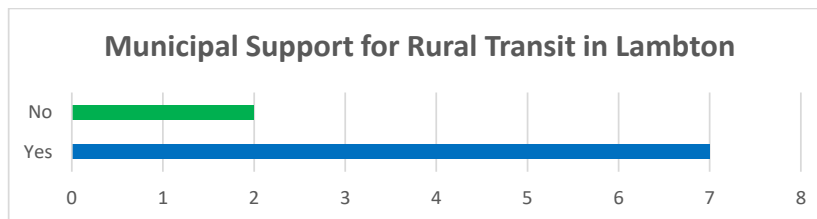
If Respondents answered “NO”:

How do you know that there is not a need for a Rural Transit Program in your Municipality? Please identify any outreach or studies that have been carried out in your Municipality demonstrating that there is not a need for Rural Transit.

- There have been no studies completed but we have had no concerns brought forward to the office asking for this service. There is some limited use of Sarnia Transit by Village residents. At times there is larger use of Sarnia Transit to bring people to the waterfront.
- We have had discussions on this subject and are not aware of any segment of the population that would support a transit system.
- We are not hearing of any residents requesting this service from our Village.
- If there was an "unknown" tab, I would have selected it, but absent of that I can say that we have not been approached by members of the public for a rural transit program.
- The municipality has never received a request for any kind of transit. So I am not aware of a need.

Would your Municipality support a Rural Transit Program?

70% of respondents indicated they would support a Rural Transit program.



In what way(s) would your municipality be willing to support a Rural Transit Program?

- We would be willing to help provide the information to the public to increase awareness of the service. We would also be willing to work with other communities to determine a path forward.
- I think the residents of Petrolia would support a rural transit program. Any financial support from the Town of Petrolia would have to be approved by our Town Council.
- The support would be conditional on the existence of a defined transportation need that could be satisfied by a transit system.
- Education, cooperation and if necessary, a council resolution for support.
- Given the expressed desire of the community, the Town would consider contributing financially to a regional rural transit system.
- Advertising, providing stop locations and information. Budget allocations would need to be considered by Council with a receipt of a proposal and evaluated based on cost and potential service benefit.
- At this time, I think we would have some committed seniors interested in a transit program. I have not heard of many students or workers requesting one. I can't comment on funds at the time but perhaps we could contribute "in kind" with a depot or similar arrangement.
- I am not sure if our Council would support it or not. They have not in the past but can't be sure about the future.

Please provide additional comments regarding Rural Transit.

- This is a great initiative. The obvious path forward would be fair compensate Sarnia Transit for expanded service through the County as the City has the transit infrastructure, personnel, and processes. Good luck.
- Council felt that this might be a good idea. They just don't think it is feasible to support for our residents. Don't feel that the residents would use. Council felt Lambton Elderly Outreach is available. Most residents rely on family or friends for their transportation needs to medical appointments.
- Thank you for taking the initiative to look into Rural Transit. A regional approach is needed to ensure the success of the program and the County is well placed foster such a program.
- Again, without an "unknown" button on the previous screen I would have to default to "no" as there has been no discussion of same at Council. There has been consideration in the Township for a public system that would transport people to and from Sarnia, but there has not been discussion of an inter-Township program.

Committee A.M. – August 16, 2023 (page 1)

Report dated August 16, 2023 Regarding Rural/Inter-Community Transit

#4: Sageman/Case:

- a) That provided the funding stipulated in paragraph b) below is secured, that the County of Lambton engage a third-party consultant to carry out a Demand and Feasibility Study on the need for, and options for, a rural/inter-community transit system.
- b) That the County be authorized to expend up to \$150,000 (including H.S.T.) to engage the third-party consultant for the purposes stated in paragraph (a) above, provided that the County first secure no less than \$50,000 in funding through external, third-party funding sources.
- c) That Staff return to Council in February 2024 with an update on items (a) and (b) above.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) September 6, 2023 (page 1)

Committee Minutes

Mr. I. Ven presented the Committee A.M. minutes dated August 16, 2023.

#13: Bradley/Case:

- a) That motion #4 of the Committee A.M. minutes dated August 16, 2023, regarding Rural/Inter-Community Transit be tabled until Council's regularly scheduled meeting on November 29, 2023, so that staff can in the meantime consult with all local Lambton municipalities on the need and support for a rural/inter-community transit system and report back to Council on the results thereof.
- b) That County Council invite Huron Shores Area Transit to attend County Council to speak to its current service offerings.

Carried.

 <p style="text-align: center;">INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager Lorri Kerrigan, Social Planner
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	August 16, 2023
SUBJECT:	Rural/Inter-Community Transit

BACKGROUND

At the June 7, 2023, meeting of Lambton County Council, the following motion was made:

#14: Case/Bradley: That a report be brought to Council to reconsider a County-wide regional transit system that was proposed as a pilot program in previous years.

Carried.

Rural transit was last considered by Lambton County Council through a series of reports prepared for Committee A.M. and Committee P.M. meetings held on June 14, 2016, November 16, 2016, and August 17, 2017. The associated reports from those meetings are attached.

Based on the investigation and community outreach at that time, Council was advised that there was little community interest in pursuing a rural transportation program, the information was received and no further direction regarding this matter was provided.

DISCUSSION

The County of Lambton is not currently engaged in direct operation or management of any transit systems servicing geographic areas in the County of Lambton. ¹

Existing Services

In 2016, a pilot project, funded by the County of Lambton through the Community Homeless Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding, provided no cost transportation to some of

¹ It should be noted that the division of responsibility provisions in the Municipal Act, 2001, do not assign "transportation systems" to the County of Lambton. Those are thus assigned to our local municipalities, per the operation of ss. 11(1)-(4) and the associated table of the legislation.

the community's most vulnerable residents to help them achieve housing stability. This was a joint initiative between the North Lambton Community Health Centre (NLCHC), Canadian Red Cross (CRC) and Lambton Elderly Outreach, with the CRC taking the lead. CRC built the program on their model of no cost transportation to health-related appointments and food bank delivery. The project offered door to door transportation with fixed route scheduling to promote housing stability. While CHPI funding is no longer available, this program still exists with a limited budget.

At the present time there are two inter-community/rural transportation programs funded by the Ontario Community Transportation Grant Program operating in the County of Lambton. Huron Shores Area Transit connects Sarnia, Forest, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Grand Bend, Bayfield, Dashwood, Exeter, Hensall, Zurich, Huron Park, Parkhill, Ailsa Craig, Goderich, Strathroy and London with four routes. The second inter-community transit program connects Sarnia, Strathroy, Mount Bridges, Komoka and London. These both operate as fixed route, scheduled services.

Additional transportation services are provided by Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) and the CRC. Both organizations provide affordable transportation to older adults and individuals with disabilities to attend social activities, medical appointments, and shopping.

The Canadian Cancer Society and Lambton County Developmental Services also provide transportation assistance for their respective client base.

Funding

There are no known provincial funding intake opportunities to support rural/inter-community transportation projects available at this time.

The two above-mentioned local transit projects in Lambton County are funded through the provincial Community Transportation Grant Program. These projects recently received renewed funding commitments for the 2023 to 2025 period in the amounts of \$1,065,946 toward the Huron Shores Area Transit and \$821,215 toward the Sarnia/Strathroy-Caradoc/London intercommunity transit services.

The Provincial Gas Tax Program is also targeted to provide a long-term, sustainable source of funding for municipal local public transit systems. It is structured as an incremental funding program, and not intended to supplement municipal contributions. The Gas Tax Program does not currently support pilot or start-up transit projects.

Federal funding opportunities exist through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund, which has two streams - planning and capital projects. The planning stream ended in 2021, however, in a recent information session, the possibility of opening the planning stream application process was discussed. Under the capital stream, up to \$3 million is available to help cover the costs of a new or expanded transit system or up to \$5 million to support zero-emission transit solutions on an approved application basis.

Although user fares provide potential revenue to offset program expenses, shortfalls in capital and operational costs are generally reconciled through municipal levy for rural/intercommunity transportation services.

Other Municipalities

Rural/inter-community transportation solutions are being offered with a diverse set of service levels, targets, and delivery mechanisms in municipalities, where present. Some of the considerations associated with these projects are:

- Fixed routes versus point-to-point service
- Internal, outsourced, or partnered/shared service providers
- Traditional or innovative models (e.g. ridesharing transit partnerships)
- Daily, seasonal, and last-minute scheduling accommodations for target users

A Demand and Feasibility Study is an important part of the process to establish servicing scope and assist to obtain funding for a Lambton transportation system, should Council opt to further study the need and feasibility of such service in Lambton County. To determine the feasibility of implementing a transit program in Lambton, a full needs assessment would be required to identify gaps in existing service, estimate the number of potential riders, project the extent to which the service would be used and identify travel patterns to help inform routes, frequency and timing. The study would have to be comprehensive and include multiple methods of input including physical and online surveys, community consultations, focus groups and key informant interviews.

Qualified transportation consultants are required to assess community need and make recommendations on the most appropriate transit system for the County of Lambton, particularly given that there are already a number of transportation services in the County operated by third parties. This activity will require adequate staffing and resourcing. For reference on the potential cost involved, Bruce County recently received a grant of \$50,000 from the federal Rural Transit Solutions Fund to hire a consulting firm to conduct a Demand and Feasibility Study. The municipality contributed an additional \$100,000 of their own funds to the project.

As was stated in the past, transit provides access to jobs, education, services, medical appointments, shopping and recreational activities which are all key elements in social determinants of health. There are currently a number of third-party service providers in the field. However, there is no Division within the County of Lambton with the responsibility to deliver public transportation systems or transit. Coordination with existing third-party transit services is key, so not to duplicate efforts and services. Moreover, soliciting the interest of local municipalities, whom have jurisdiction over these services, on their willingness to participate in a rural/inter-community transit option in Lambton is key.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Rural/inter-community transportation is not included in the 2023 approved County of Lambton Budget.

A cost of \$150,000 is appropriate to pursue a Demand and Feasibility Study to carry out a review of a rural/inter-community transportation program in Lambton County. Although there is currently no funding sources, there may be renewed funding available through the federal Rural Transit Solutions Fund to support/offset this cost in the future.

Overall rural/inter-community transportation program costs vary widely across Ontario. Budgetary impacts for implementation will be heavily dependent on the scope and desired outcomes of the project.

CONSULTATIONS

Western Warden's Caucus, Huron Shores Area Transit Project, City of Sarnia, Age Friendly Sarnia, various municipal transportation leads, and County of Lambton Divisional staff were consulted as part of the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Application of Area of Effort #3: Community Development - Capitalizing on opportunities that enrich the quality of life and future of the community by:

- Promoting policies and strategies that protect environmental resources and support the area's quality of life and economic development potential, allowing us to pass these resources on intact to future generations.
- Actively pursuing joint opportunities with community partners that contribute to the long-term growth and well-being of the Lambton community.
- Implementing and strengthening of the County's sustainability plan.
- Developing policies and practices that bolster and safeguard municipal infrastructure.


CONCLUSION

There is a wide regime of methods and service levels for rural transportation being implemented or considered by upper and single-tier municipalities in Ontario. Although there are two local municipalities participating in rural/inter-community transit projects within Lambton and a number of third-party agencies also providing transportation services, the County does not currently provide this service. Limited funding opportunities are currently available to support rural/inter-community transit solutions.

A Demand and Feasibility Study, including community consultation, should be considered as a first step to pursuing an inter-community transit program. This will help determine potential user needs, sustainability/resourcing, and socio-economic benefits. Funding for this work will need to be assigned in addition to the approved 2023 County of Lambton Budget. Sustainable long-term funding, and potentially additional staff resources, will be required for implementation and can be identified as project scope and outcomes are determined.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) That provided the funding stipulated in paragraph b) below is secured, that the County of Lambton engage a third-party consultant to carry out a Demand and Feasibility Study on the need for, and options for, a rural/inter-community transit system.**
- b) That the County be authorized to expend up to \$150,000 (including H.S.T.) to engage the third-party consultant for the purposes stated in paragraph (a) above, provided that the County first secure no less than \$50,000 in funding through external, third-party funding sources.**
- c) That Staff return to Council in February 2024 with an update on items (a) and (b) above.**

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	SOCIAL PLANNING AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Lorri Kerrigan, Social Planner Doug Ball, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Margaret Roushorne, General Manager Ronald G. Van Horne, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	August 17, 2017
INFORMATION ITEM:	Rural Transportation Project - Update

BACKGROUND

At the January 20, 2016 Committee A.M. meeting staff was directed to explore the possibility of implementing a rural transportation initiative utilizing school buses in rural Lambton with the following motion:

#13: Gillis/Bradley:

- a) That staff examine the potential to partner with local school boards and service providers for the development of a rural transit system based on the Muskoka Extended Transit pilot project.*
- b) That in reporting back to Committee A.M. on rural transit opportunities, staff identify potential grants, logistics, feasibility, ridership, AODA requirements and impacts to the ongoing Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).*

Carried.

At the June 14, 2016 Committee A.M. meeting staff provided the requested report and were directed to draft terms of reference for a working group to further the exploration of a rural transit initiative with the following motion:

#15: Bradley/Arnold: That a report be brought to Council outlining terms of reference for a working group to assume responsibility for furthering this Muskoka Extended Transit Model initiative.

Carried.

At the November 16, 2016 Committee A.M. meeting staff provided the requested report and were further directed to establish a rural transportation working group to determine the project scope for possible engagement of a consultant to complete a full needs assessment and development of an implementation plan for a rural transit system model with the following motion:

#12: Bruziewicz/Broad:

- a) *That Lambton County Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Rural Transportation Working Group to consider the project scope for a rural transportation program, to provide input into the development of a Request for Proposal to secure a consultant to complete a needs assessment and develop a local transportation model including an implementation plan.*
- b) *That a further report be prepared for Lambton County Council consideration regarding the anticipated costs associated with engaging a consultant to do the requisite work.*

Carried.

DISCUSSION

On May 15, 2017 staff held a community meeting of members and potential members of the Rural Transportation Working Group including stakeholders in the community to discuss the project. A total of 10 individuals out of 30 invited attended the meeting. To ensure community expertise and input is gathered the group determined that an online survey (attached) should be developed and sent to experts and other community stakeholders. The information provided from the surveys would be utilized to further inform the work and decision making of the group.

On June 22, 2017 the survey along with emailed invitations to participate in the survey were sent to 28 individuals. As of July 27, 2017 no completed surveys had been received. The engagement of community members in this process to this point has been challenging and staff is exploring other means of gathering information to inform the work.

Staff will be attending a transit information meeting being organized by the Grand Bend Chamber of Commerce on August 9, 2017. This meeting is about establishing a local transit system for Lambton Shores, Bluewater, South Huron and North Middlesex and will include a presentation on the Norfolk/South Coast Shuttle. Information will be gathered and possible linkages with the rural transportation project considered.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this time.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations were held with members of the Rural Transportation Working Group, staff from Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network, Canadian Red Cross, Lambton Elderly Outreach, Wight Bus Line, Hull Bus Line, First Student Sarnia, Langs Bus Line, and the General Manager Social Services.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The provision of a rural transit program supports the goal of providing an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services as indicated in the County of Lambton Mission Statement.

CONCLUSION

The completion of a rural transportation needs assessment and development of a comprehensive rural transportation plan requires considerable expertise in the area of transportation planning and community and stakeholder engagement. The working group is moving toward the development of the project scope and outlining the resources needed to secure a consultant to undertake the necessary planning should this be the determined direction. A final report will be brought to Committee this fall for consideration.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	SOCIAL PLANNING AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Lorri Kerrigan, Social Planner Doug Ball, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Margaret Roushorne, General Manager Ronald G. Van Horne, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	June 14, 2016
INFORMATION ITEM:	Rural Transit - Muskoka Extended Transit Model

BACKGROUND

At the January 20, 2016 Committee A.M. meeting staff was directed to explore the possibilities of implementing a rural transportation initiative utilizing school buses in rural Lambton with the following motion:

Rural Transit Opportunities Using School Buses

#13: Gillis/Bradley:

- a) *That staff examine the potential to partner with local school boards and service providers for the development of a rural transit system based on the Muskoka Extended Transit pilot project.*
- b) *That in reporting back to Committee A.M. on rural transit opportunities, staff identify potential grants, logistics, feasibility, ridership, AODA requirements and impacts to the ongoing Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).*

Carried.

Everyone, regardless of where they live, needs some form of mobility in order to access their basic needs. In rural areas, distances are long and services are spread out, which means that reliable motorized transportation is essential for health and well-being. However for some residents, vehicle ownership is not an option leading to *transportation disadvantage* or the inability to travel when and where needed without difficulty. The following provides the requested report on the potential for a rural transit system in Lambton based on a Muskoka model which utilizes school buses.

DISCUSSION**Muskoka Extended Transit**

The Muskoka Extended Transit (MET) is an 18 month pilot project funded through a \$100,000 grant provided by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program (CT Program). The provincial CT Program explores the effectiveness of different models of coordinating community transportation as a means to address transportation challenges. Community transportation is a way of providing transportation to a community that extends beyond public transit services. Coordinating the range of services available within a community can be a solution to providing more transportation options to more people, improving services and optimizing existing services within current budgets.

The MET launched in January 2016 and funding runs to March 2017. The goal of the MET is to help people living in rural areas access urban communities for services, programs and personal reasons. There is no income test or mandate to attend specific programming for individuals to access transportation. Individuals may travel for any reason including attending appointments, banking, shopping, accessing programs and services and visiting with friends. The program is administered by the District Municipality of Muskoka through the Community and Social Services Department.

MET has seven fixed routes which operate throughout the Muskoka region using school buses to transport people as detailed in the attached MET Routes and Overview (Appendix 1). Five routes operate one day per week and two routes operate two days per week. On each route, the first MET bus stop is located close to a school and the school bus begins taking on passengers around 9:00-9:15 am. There are several stops along each of the routes, arriving at the final stop between 10:00 and 10:45 am. Passengers have approximately 3½ hours to attend appointments, conduct their banking, or any other business or activity. Return trips start between 1:00 and 1:45 pm. Bus drivers must be back at the schools in time to pick up students for their end of the day trip home and are unable to wait for passengers.

Passengers, organizations and community agencies are able to pre-purchase passes. The fare is \$3.00 one way and \$5.00 for a return trip, with lesser fees charged for teens and children. The MET is only provided when school buses are running, meaning that there is no service if buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, on weekends, during school holidays or during the summer months.

A baseline survey of riders was completed with the launch of the initiative and ongoing surveys and tracking of fares using re-usable tickets is used to reassess needs and identify gaps. Community agency appointments and programs are coordinated around MET routes. Initial take-up has been slow and free ridership is being offered in May and June 2016 to raise awareness of the service. In order to be sustainable, the goal is to generate 50% of the required revenue from re-usable tickets (15 rides per day) with 50% funding to be provided by the District of Muskoka and community agencies.

The initial \$100,000 MET program budget incorporated the following components.

Professional and Consulting Fees	
• Marketing, Community Engagement, Evaluation Plan Development	\$2,500
• Survey and Project Evaluation	\$5,000
Equipment, Supplies and Materials	
• Contract local school bus operators - 320 days of service at \$150 per day for driver, vehicle, gas	\$48,000
• Re-usable tickets	\$2,000
Public Outreach and Communication Materials and Activities	
• Project Coordinator for scheduling of inter-agency programs and Execute Marketing and Community Engagement activities	\$22,500
• Advertising and Community Engagement tools	\$20,000

Meeting with Lambton School Bus Operators

A meeting with representatives from all four Lambton school bus operators and School Transportation Service administrators from Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CKLASS) was held April 8, 2016. It was acknowledged that a program similar to the MET would need to operate separately as Student Transportation Services, which has agreements with all four bus operators, deals only with the transportation of students to and from school. The four school bus operators in attendance were interested in the possibility of delivering a program similar to MET.

Initial discussions demonstrate that school bus operators would contemplate operating the Lambton rural routes as charters scheduled around school start and dismissal times. The school bus operators indicated quotes for the provision of services could not be provided until the routes are established. Charter fees would incorporate the flat rate, hourly rate and kilometer rate with the fee dependent on the route distance. The bus companies utilize scheduling software to maximize the use of their fleets and it was felt that route scheduling for a rural transportation initiative could be accommodated.

One area of concern identified in the Lambton context is the approach taken by Student Transportation Services to utilize buses for dual routes which involves transporting high school students and then completing a second run to transport elementary students. While efficient for the bus lines, this approach significantly reduces the amount of time available in between morning and afternoon runs subsequently limiting the time that would be available for residents when they reach their desired destination. The operators indicated they would be willing to operate before and after school bus times if that worked better for riders.

Current Lambton Transportation Services

Sarnia Care-a-Van provides transportation within the City of Sarnia and Lambton Developmental Services provide transportation throughout the County for individuals using their services. Other agencies such as the Canadian Cancer Society also provide transportation assistance for their specific client base. While this report does not reference these agencies specifically, it is acknowledged that any transportation planning must include these important partners to avoid duplication and to meet the needs of as many people as possible.

Canadian Red Cross (CRC) and Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) provide door to door rides for seniors or adults who have a disability to attend medical and therapeutic appointments, social activities and perform other daily tasks such as shopping. Advance booking is required and there is coordination between the agencies to better utilize service. Volunteer drivers are available through either agency for those individuals who are able to get into and out of a vehicle without assistance. LEO operates vans for individuals requiring assistance or that use mobility devices such as walkers, wheelchairs or scooters. There is a set fee charged by CRC and a per kilometer charge for service provided through LEO.

Staff contacted through Red Cross and Lambton Elderly Outreach indicated they felt there is a need for a more universal rural transit program but acknowledged that there should be a needs assessment conducted to determine potential ridership before proceeding. Neither agency tracks the number of requests that they are unable to accommodate because the reason for the ride falls outside their specific mandates. In the past year, a total of 136 requests were unable to be accommodated by the agencies as the request was for transport outside the County, there was ineligibility or the lack of room on a scheduled run.

Logistics and Feasibility

In order to determine the feasibility of implementing a similar model in Lambton, a full needs assessment would be required to be undertaken to identify gaps in existing service, estimate the number of potential riders, project the extent to which they would use the service if offered and identify travel patterns/needs to help inform possible routing, frequency and timing. In order to be comprehensive, multiple methods of information gathering should be employed to increase the number of respondents such as physical and online surveys, community consultations including focus groups and interviews and a survey of community partners.

One important aspect of the Muskoka model is the coordination of community services around the window of opportunity that is available for riders once they reach their destination. Consultation and coordinated planning would be required to determine the ability and willingness of local service agencies to provide service for riders during these windows.

A business case would be required to be developed based on the findings of the needs assessment and community service agency consultation, identifying the parameters for

the service, project budget, funding/subsidy possibilities and cost for the rider. It would be essential to integrate existing transportation service providers across the County in the resulting model to ensure a fully coordinated and cost effective approach is taken.

A lead agency would be required to be identified for the coordination and delivery of any resulting rural transit system. The lead agency would be responsible to work in close alignment with the school bus operators, key transportation stakeholders and riders within the County of Lambton.

AODA Requirements

The traditional school bus does not comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) at this time. Students with mobility limitations are transported with vans that can carry up to 10 people. The cost of using these vans for a rural transportation system would be higher than using a regular school bus. It should be noted that the District of Muskoka returned to their Council and received approval for an additional \$10,000 in funding to address AODA issues during the life of the pilot.

Potential Funding

The MET pilot program received \$100,000 through the 100% provincially funded Ministry of Transportation Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program. Applications for this grant are currently closed. In order to be considered sustainable, the MET has targeted a 50% revenue goal from tickets and 50% funding from the District of Muskoka and community agencies. This recognizes that it takes time for a rural transit initiative to gain acceptance and ridership and also acknowledges the need for subsidies to ensure affordability in rural areas which reduces transportation disadvantage.

Potential funding options for a County of Lambton rural transit program may include the Ontario Trillium Foundation, United Way, municipal governments, tourism, business, and local and provincial Foundations. The Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC-LHIN) completed a health transportation service study in 2013 which resulted in a number of recommendations for the main service providers, Canadian Red Cross and Lambton Elderly Outreach. While many of the recommendations have been or are being implemented there may be an opportunity to partner with the LHIN to conduct the needs assessment to promote continued integration, reduction in service gaps and improved health outcomes.

CHPI Transportation Pilot

The Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative Transportation Pilot (CHPI) is a two year project which provides no cost transportation to some of our most vulnerable residents in Lambton County which helps them achieve housing stability. This is a joint initiative between the North Lambton Community Health Centre (NLCHC), Canadian Red

Cross and Lambton Elderly Outreach with the CRC taking the lead. Red Cross is building on its current model of no cost transportation for health related appointments and food bank delivery. The pilot offers door to door transport with fixed route scheduling to promote housing stability which will increase the number served. Those found to be ineligible will be referred to LEO. The intake and scheduling is completed in concert with North Lambton Community Health Centre.

A total of \$215,000 in funding has been provided for 2016 which enabled the purchase of an accessible van and minivan and covers vehicle operating costs and staffing for a referral coordinator, intake coordinator and scheduler (2.6 FTE). Agreements are in place. Agencies are completing purchases and recruitment and finalizing the referral, intake and scheduling procedures. The initiative will launch soon and there will be an evaluation component to assess whether targeted outcomes are achieved and to consider the impact for individuals using the services.

Ideally, the implementation of a MET type approach in Lambton would not adversely impact current transportation service providers or the CHPI pilot. These are very early days and specific outcomes are expected to be achieved in order to assess the impact of the CHPI pilot on riders and the transportation service continuum. One of the objectives of the provincial program upon which the MET was developed is to *'create networks of coordinated community transportation service that leverages existing services and pools resources to provide more rides, to more people, and to more destinations'*. The CHPI pilot is intended to do just that with a targeted population and offers the potential for significant learning and evaluative data for any future expansion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this time.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations were held with staff from Chatham Kent Lambton Student Transportation Services, Erie St.Clair Local Health Integration Network, District of Muskoka, The Town of Petrolia, Lambton County Developmental Services, Canadian Red Cross, Lambton Elderly Outreach, Wight Bus Line, Hull Bus Line, First Student Sarnia, Langs Bus Line, General Manager Infrastructure and Development and the General Manager Social Services.


STRATEGIC PLAN

The provision of a rural transit program supports the goal of providing an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services as indicated in the County of Lambton Mission Statement.

CONCLUSION

It would be possible to consider an expansion to the existing transportation service network in Lambton based on the Muskoka Extended Transit model. Should County Council direct staff to pursue additional rural transit opportunities, there is agreement that a needs assessment would be required to identify gaps and opportunities in existing transportation services, potential ridership, and desired travel pathways. The needs assessment would be used to inform program design, routes and frequency, funding options and budgets projections. It would be essential to ensure that any resulting program design is fully coordinated for existing and new transportation service agencies and that existing transportation resources are leveraged to meet the goal of providing more rides, to more people, to more destinations.

The completion of a rural transportation needs assessment and development of a comprehensive rural transportation plan would require considerable expertise in the area of transportation planning and community and stakeholder engagement. A working group would need to be struck to develop the project scope and outline the resources needed to secure a consultant to undertake the necessary planning.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	SOCIAL PLANNING AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Lorri Kerrigan, Social Planner Doug Ball, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Margaret Roushorne, General Manager Ronald G. Van Horne, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	November 16, 2016
SUBJECT:	Rural Transportation Working Group - Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

At the January 20, 2016 Committee A.M. meeting staff was directed to explore the possibility of implementing a rural transportation initiative utilizing school buses in rural Lambton with the following motion:

#13: Gillis/Bradley:

a) That staff examine the potential to partner with local school boards and service providers for the development of a rural transit system based on the Muskoka Extended Transit pilot project.

b) That in reporting back to Committee A.M. on rural transit opportunities, staff identify potential grants, logistics, feasibility, ridership, AODA requirements and impacts to the ongoing Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).

Carried.

At the June 14, 2016 Committee A.M. meeting staff provided the requested report and were directed to draft terms of reference for a working group to further the exploration of a rural transit initiative with the following motion:

#15: Bradley/Arnold: That a report be brought to Council outlining terms of reference for a working group to assume responsibility for furthering this Muskoka Extended Transit Model initiative.

Carried.

DISCUSSION

Traditional terms of reference for a working group identifies the background and overall purpose of the group and outlines parameters regarding timelines, authority, membership, meeting frequency, approval processes, goals and objectives. The following terms of reference were drafted utilizing this traditional outline.

County of Lambton Rural Transportation Working Group Terms of Reference (TOR)**Purpose**

The Rural Transportation Working Group was formed at the direction of Lambton County Council at its regular meeting on July 6, 2016 to further a rural transportation initiative similar in scope to the Muskoka Extended Transit (MET) Model. The Rural Transportation Working Group will be responsible for the following:

1. Develop the project scope to create a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure a consultant with expertise in the area of transportation planning and community and stakeholder engagement to conduct a needs assessment and develop a comprehensive rural transportation plan.
2. Identify resources needed to secure a consultant to undertake the necessary planning and report back to Lambton County Council on projected cost.
3. Hire a consultant to conduct the needs assessment and develop a rural transportation model.
4. Make recommendations to Lambton County Council regarding a rural transportation model including identification of resources.
5. Develop an implementation plan for the transportation model.

Background

At the January 20, 2016 Lambton County Council meeting, staff were directed to examine the potential to partner with local school boards and community service providers for the development of a rural transportation system based on the Muskoka Extended Transit (MET) pilot project. This report was presented to County Council at the July 6, 2016 meeting (Appendix 1) and staff were directed to develop a report outlining the Terms of Reference for a working group to further develop the Rural Transportation Initiative.

Authority

Through the Chair, the Rural Transportation Working Group has the responsibility to provide advice to Lambton County Council and advise staff on matters related to the work of the working group.

Timelines

Timeframe	Task
3-4 Months	Define the scope of the project to inform the Request for Proposal (RFP) and identify resources needed. Seek Lambton County Council approval of the funds required to proceed with issuing the RFP.
4-6 Months	Work with County Procurement Manager to award the RFP
4-6 Months	Needs Assessment Conducted
4-6 Months	Develop a potential model for Lambton County and an implementation plan to recommend to Lambton County Council

Working Group Structure

The Working Group membership shall include representatives from the community from the following sectors and be co-chaired by a senior elected official and a representative from the municipal transit sector.

	Membership	Considerations
1.	Elected Official	Council may wish to appoint more than one elected official
2.	School Bus Operators	Four school bus operators in the County of Lambton
3.	Erie St. Clair LHIN	
4.	Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO)	
5.	Red Cross	
6.	Sarnia Transit	
7.	Lambton College	
8.	First Nations	
9.	Sarnia Care - A - Van	
10.	Canadian Cancer Society	
11.	United Way	
12.	People with Experience	
13.	Lambton County Developmental Services (LCDS)	
14.	Interested Citizens	

The Working Group will also be supported by staff from Social Planning and Children's Services, Infrastructure and Development and Housing Services.

Meeting Frequency

The Working Group will meet monthly until the project scope and resources are developed. Once a consultant is hired, the meeting schedule will be determined by the Working Group based on the progression of the project.

Approval Process

The Approval Process shall be by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken and decisions will be made based on 50% + 1 vote. Where there is not quorum at a meeting no vote can occur. A quorum shall be met when 60 percent of the membership is in attendance

Goals/Deliverables

1. Identify and develop the project scope to create a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant.
2. Identify the resources needed.
3. Secure a consultant via the RFP process.
4. Prepare a report that includes an assessment of the rural transportation needs, outlines a comprehensive rural transportation plan and identifies resources required for implementation.
5. Make recommendations to Lambton County Council regarding next steps for the Rural Transportation project which will include an Implementation Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this time.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations were held with staff from Chatham Kent Lambton Student Transportation Services, Erie St.Clair Local Health Integration Network, District of Muskoka, The Town of Petrolia, Lambton County Developmental Services, Canadian Red Cross, Lambton Elderly Outreach, Wight Bus Line, Hull Bus Line, First Student Sarnia, Langs Bus Line, General Manager, Infrastructure & Development and General Manager, Social Services.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The provision of a rural transportation program supports the goal of providing an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services as indicated in the County of Lambton Mission Statement.

CONCLUSION

The completion of a rural transportation needs assessment and development of a comprehensive rural transportation plan would require considerable expertise in the area of transportation planning and community and stakeholder engagement. A working group needs to be struck to develop the project scope and outline the resources needed to secure a consultant to undertake the work. The Terms of Reference for a Rural Transportation Working Group have been outlined in this report.

Should staff receive direction to establish the Rural Transportation Working Group, a future report would be prepared for Lambton County Council's consideration related to the costs associated with the Request for Proposal to engage the consultant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) **That Lambton County Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Rural Transportation Working Group to consider the project scope for a rural transportation program, to provide input into the development of a Request for Proposal to secure a consultant to complete a needs assessment and develop a local transportation model including an implementation plan.**
- b) **That a further report be prepared for Lambton County Council consideration regarding the anticipated costs associated with engaging a consultant to do the requisite work.**