



AGENDA
COMMITTEE of the WHOLE - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Council Chambers, Wyoming

Page

1. Call to Order - Committee of the Whole

Committee Members: J. Agar, G. Atkinson, D. Boushy, M. Bradley, A. Broad, T. Case, D. Cook, B. Dennis, D. Ferguson, B. Hand, B. Loosley, C. McRoberts, S. Miller, D. Sageman, I. Veen, B. White, and Warden K. Marriott.

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

If any.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

A) Information Reports

5 - 8

a) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding 4th Quarter Work in Progress Statistics and Approval Authority Activity.

9 - 16

b) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding 4th Quarter 2025 - Building, Plumbing, Septic, By-Law.

17 - 19

c) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Emergency Management Coordinator Activities Report.

20 - 22

d) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Woodlands Annual Report 2025.

B) Other Business

4. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION - Emergency Medical Services Department

A) Reports Requiring a Motion

23 - 26

a) Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Lambton / Chatham-Kent Ambulance Border Coverage Agreement.

B) Other Business

5. CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

A) Information Reports

- 27 - 39 a) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Libraries Fourth Quarter 2025 Statistics.
- 40 - 42 b) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Library of Things Collection.
- 43 - 47 c) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives Fourth Quarter 2025 Statistics.
- 48 - 73 d) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Cultural Services Division 2025 Annual Report.

B) Reports Requiring a Motion

- 74 - 75 a) Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Libraries Donations, October 1 to December 31, 2025.
- 76 - 79 b) Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives Collection Management December 2025.

C) Other Business

6. LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

A) Information Reports

- 80 - 82 a) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Temporary Licenses Update.

B) Other Business

7. CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

A) Correspondence to Receive and File

- 83 - 84 a) CS 03-01-26 A letter dated January 28, 2026, from Mayor Gary Atkinson, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation expressing strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.
- 85 - 86 b) CS 03-02-26 A resolution dated January 21, 2026, from The Township of Southgate opposing the proposed changes to the *OMERS Act* contained in Bill 68 and asks the Government of Ontario to reconsider moving forward with these amendments. The Township also supports AMO's position that the current OMERS governance structure, with two corporate boards,

should be maintained, as it best aligns with the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

B) Other Business

8. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND ACQUISITIONS DIVISION

No agenda items.

A) Other Business

9. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

A) Information Reports

- 87 - 91 a) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Ontario Works 2025 Year End Update.
- 92 - 95 b) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding 10-Year Capital Asset Management and Funding Plan Update.
- 96 - 98 c) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Child Care Facility Development Update.
- 99 - 102 d) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Housing Services Comparative Statistics Report 2025 to 2024.
- 103 - 107 e) Information Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Children's Services Department Update.

B) Other Business

10. OFFICE OF THE CAO

A) Reports Requiring a Motion

- 108 - 111 a) Report dated February 18, 2026 Regarding Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division Management Realignment.

11. IN-CAMERA

Recommendation

That the Chair declare the Committee go in-camera to discuss the following:

- a) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding negotiations between The Corporation of the County of Lambton and Stones 'N Bones Museum and the City of Sarnia for the potential acquisition and display of museum materials, pursuant to s. 239(2)(k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- b) to receive a report regarding an interest arbitration award pertaining to ONA MGM, pursuant to s. 239(2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- c) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding collective

agreement negotiations with ONA LMV-NLL, pursuant to s. 239(2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

- d) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding personnel matters within the Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division, pursuant to ss. 239(2)(b) and (d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

12. ADJOURNMENT

 <p style="text-align: center;">INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Will Nywening, Senior Planning Official
REVIEWED BY:	Corrine Nauta, Manager Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	4th Quarter Work in Progress, Statistics, and Approval Authority Activity

BACKGROUND

The Development Services Department (the “**Department**”) provides planning services for 10 of the 11 member municipalities in the County of Lambton. In addition, the Department administers the functions of Emergency Management, 9-1-1/ Municipal Addressing, and Woodlands Conservation County-wide.

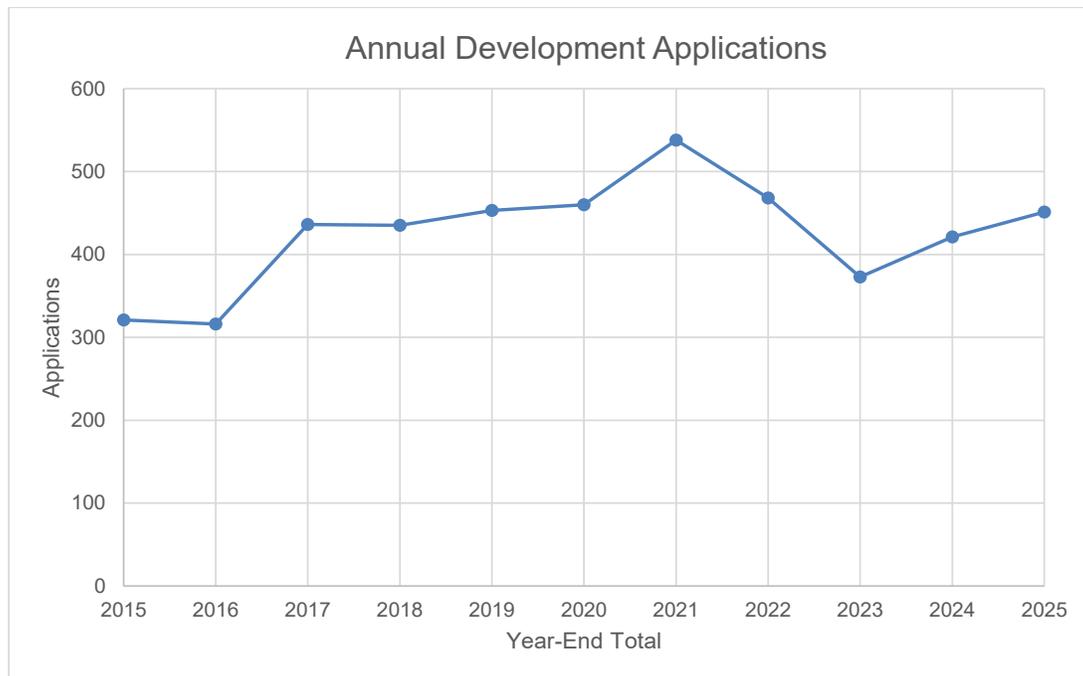
DISCUSSION

The following table sets out the number of applications that the Department received and processed for the full year of 2025 and 2024, by category.

Applications	2025	2024
Committee of Adjustment	160	160
Site Plan Control	15	18
Zoning By-Law Amendments	45	57
Official Plan Amendments	7	12
Woodlot Applications	1	0
Woodlot Notice of Intent to Cut	118	97
Woodlot Reviews	22	29
Letters of Compliance (Zoning Confirmations)	55	38
Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Applications	5	4
Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Extensions	5	1
Part Lot Control	0	1
Final Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Approvals	1	2
Draft Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Approvals	5	2
Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Amendments	1	0
Official Plan and Official Plan Amendment Approvals	11	15
Totals	451	421

Application Volumes

Application volumes in 2025 are similar to those in 2024. Activities related to subdivision approval increased slightly. The Committee of Adjustment files were the same. Site plan, zoning, and official plan files decreased slightly. Zoning report requests also increased.



Official Plan Amendments

The following two (2) Official Plan Amendment approvals occurred in the fourth quarter of 2025:

- The Municipality of Lambton Shores – to change the land use designation from “Commercial” to “Residential.”
- The Town of Petrolia – to remove a “Significant Woodlot” designation on one property and redesignate a portion of another from “Residential” to “Major Open Space” and “Significant Woodlot”.

Final Approval of Plan of Subdivision/Condominium

None.

Draft Approval of Plans of Subdivision/Condominium

- One Draft Plan of Subdivision or Condominium was approved in the fourth quarter in Point Edward.

- Staff also assisted in Lambton Shore's approval of one draft plan of subdivision.
- Extension/Reactivation was granted for Greenwood Acres in the Town of Petrolia.

Additional Work in Progress

Zoning By-Law Reviews are ongoing in Plympton-Wyoming, Point Edward, and Warwick with the assistance of NPG Planning Solutions. A Zoning Review by staff is ongoing in Lambton Shores. Consultants/staff have completed red-line documents for the bulk of each Zoning By-law. Work is being completed by consolidating and simplifying zones. Red-line documents of proposed zoning revisions are being reviewed internally and readied for presentations to the respective local municipalities.

J.L. Richards has been retained to assist in reviews of the Brooke-Alvinston Zoning By-Law and Dawn-Euphemia Official Plan. Those reviews are now underway.

NPG Planning Solutions has also been retained to complete a review of St Clair's Zoning By-law, and that review has also commenced.

The County Official Plan Review is ongoing with the assistance of NPG Planning Solutions. County growth forecasts and land supply analysis have been completed and drafts posted for comment. These documents will be updated based on feedback and it is anticipated that they will be brought to Council in the second quarter of 2026 for approval. A background paper from the consultant on proposed updates to the Official Plan text is also expected to be released in the second quarter.

Other notable files include the following initiatives:

- Twin Creeks Landfill is completing an Environmental Assessment process for vertical expansion. A site plan approval application to Warwick Township is anticipated;
- Warwick Township is in the process of updating its Community Improvement Plan; and
- Staff are assisting in site plan approval for the new Lambton-Kent District School Board K-12 School in Forest.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

Municipalities, the public, as well as provincial and other regulatory agencies, are routinely consulted in the planning and approval processes addressed in this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Area of Effort #2: Services and Communications - The County is focused on the provision of responsive services and programs, independently and through partnerships, and is committed to progressive and effective communications in promoting the same, by:

- Anticipating and aligning service delivery to emerging needs and expectations (including changing demographics);
- Engaging and informing residents, stakeholders, and municipal partners of the County's services, programs, opportunities, and challenges; and
- Advocating Lambton County's perspective on provincial and federal programs and legislative amendments.

CONCLUSION

The Department will continue to provide quarterly statistical updates, work in progress, and approval authority activity.

 <p style="text-align: center;">INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Connor McEachen, Deputy Chief Building Official
REVIEWED BY:	Corrine Nauta, Manager, Development Services Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	4th Quarter 2025 – Building, Plumbing, Septic, By-Law

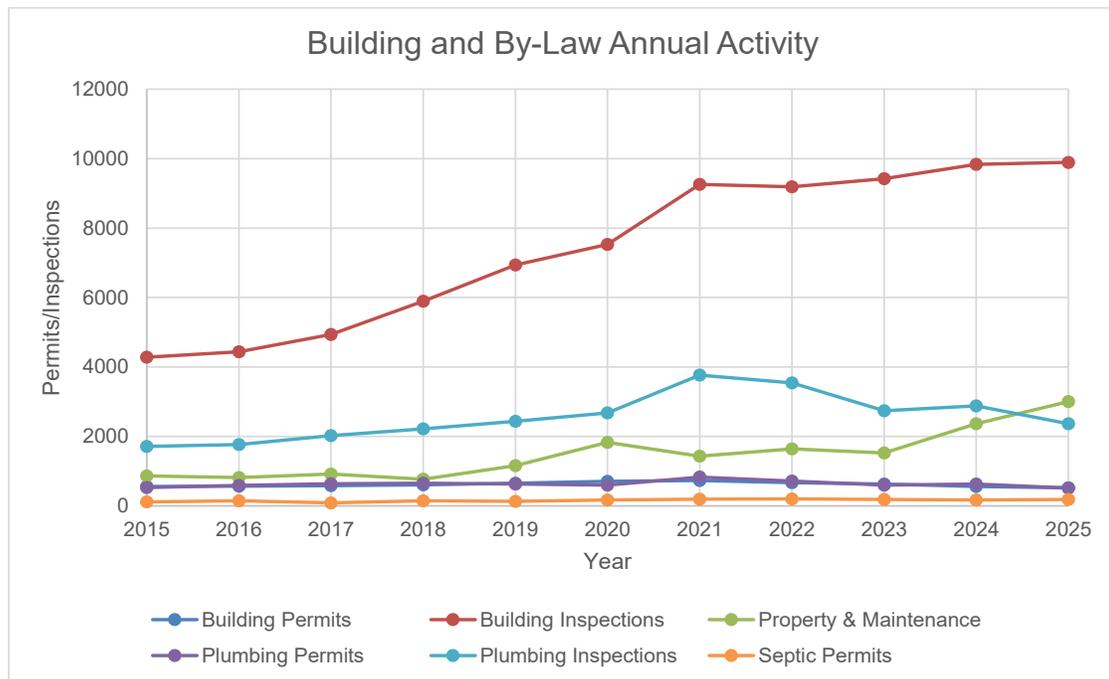
BACKGROUND

The Development Services Department (the “**Department**”) provides building and planning services to 10 of the 11 member municipalities in the County of Lambton (the “**County**”). In addition, Department staff conduct plumbing and septic system inspections for all 11 member municipalities in the County. Property standards services are also supplied for nine member municipalities in the County and the Department is also responsible for weed inspections. Additionally, the City of Sarnia and Walpole Island First Nations were contracted for inspection services for 2025, on an as-needed basis, and will continue into 2026. The Department also assists the Housing Services Department with the Lambton Renovates program, as required.

DISCUSSION

In the fourth quarter of 2025, the Department provided effective and efficient services to the local and contracted municipalities. Communication lines continue to be maintained and strengthened. Good working relationships exist between the County and the City of Sarnia. Maintaining complete property files is a departmental priority and a key component of risk management, with staff continuing efforts to reinforce and sustain this initiative.

Year-over-year, the building activity in 2025 remained consistent with that of 2024. The total number of building permits issued decreased by 40 from 559 to 519. The total number of building permit inspections remained consistent, slightly increasing by 62. The total number of dwelling units increased by 13. Property Standards inspections increased by 635. Plumbing permits issued decreased by 114, and inspections decreased by 516. Septic permits and inspections remained consistent.



The Department statistics for Lambton Shores are attached. The City of Sarnia’s statistics report is also attached separately, as per their request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Statistical numbers are consistent with expectations for permit issuance and inspection.

CONSULTATIONS

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Area of Effort #2: Services and Communications – The County is focused on the provision of responsive services and programs, independently and through partnerships, and is committed to progressive and effective communications in promoting the same, by:

- Anticipating and aligning service delivery to emerging needs and expectations (including changing demographics);
- Engaging and informing residents, stakeholders, and municipal partners of the County’s services, programs, opportunities, and challenges; and

- Advocating Lambton County’s perspective on provincial and federal programs and legislative amendments.

Application of Area of Effort #5: Partnerships – The County is committed to developing strong relationships with community partners, municipalities, and First Nations by:

- Cultivating sustainable relationships that include strategies to improve communication and understanding and provide mutual assistance on projects.

CONCLUSION

The Department concludes another successful year in the County for building, plumbing, septic, property standards, and weed inspection. Department staff will continue to maintain open communication lines with all municipalities and their respective building departments.

Department staff will also continue with the timely completion and closing of property files while keeping our member municipalities updated on the progress with respect to building services issues.

Overall, the Department remains dedicated to providing essential services, effectively and efficiently, to our local and contracted municipalities.

**Building Services Department
4th Quarter Statistics Comparison 2025 vs. 2024**

Building	4th Quarter		Year-To-Date	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Permits	106	107	520	559
Inspections	1908	2436	9892	9830
Property & Maintenance	671	629	3002	2367
Amount Invoiced	\$275,579	\$274,705	\$1,239,887	\$1,077,627
Building Permit Value	\$25,518,214	\$37,872,665	\$128,225,900	\$163,255,489

Plumbing	4th Quarter		Year-To-Date	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Permits	129	124	514	628
Inspections	617	674	2367	2883
Permit Revenue	\$50,721	\$38,619	\$148,847	\$168,399

Septics	4th Quarter		Year-To-Date	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Septic Permits	26	31	109	104
Septic Backfill Permits	20	22	76	67
Severences	3	5	8	26
Minor Variances	2	4	11	15
Amendments	7	3	18	9
Private Sewage Assessments	2	5	8	15
Enquiry Requests	7	5	17	20
Enforcement Inspections	8	12	16	32
Subdivisions	0	0	0	0
Septic Revenue	\$13,475	\$13,825	\$52,925	\$48,940

**4th Quarter Building Statistics
Year-to-Date Comparison - 2025 vs 2024**

	Number of Permits		Value of Construction	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Residential	371	387	\$77,555,956	\$87,926,312
Commercial	40	52	\$3,925,537	\$14,096,705
Industrial	23	12	\$11,289,625	\$5,502,700
Agricultural	70	90	\$32,499,808	\$35,829,606
Institutional	15	18	\$2,954,974	\$19,900,166
TOTALS	519	559	\$128,225,900	\$163,255,489

New Dwelling Units in County of Lambton

Municipality	New Dwelling Units	
	2025	2024
Brooke-Alvinston	26	3
Dawn-Euphemia	6	3
Enniskillen	4	4
Oil Springs	2	3
Petrolia	9	11
Plympton-Wyoming	43	57
Point Edward	1	0
St. Clair	51	51
Warwick	8	5
TOTALS	150	137

Unless otherwise noted, dwelling units are single-family dwellings.

- Notes:
- Brooke-Alvinston: 8 single family dwellings; 2 duplex units; 4 semi-detached units; 12 townhouse units
 - Dawn-Euphemia: 5 single-family dwellings; 1 dwelling unit attached to storage bldg.
 - Oil Springs: 2 semi-detached units
 - Petrolia: 8 single-family dwellings; 1 second-floor apartment over commercial space
 - St. Clair: 26 single-family dwellings; 23 townhouse units, 1 additional dwelling unit created for a duplex; 1 dwelling unit above commercial space
 - Warwick: 5 single-family dwellings; 1 trailer for seasonal workers; 2 duplex units

**2025 Building Statistics
The Municipality of Lambton Shores**

The Municipality of Lambton Shores

Type/Number of Permits	
Residential	101
Commercial	19
Industrial	0
Agricultural	12
Institutional	1
Other	36
TOTAL	169

Year-Over-Year Comparison 2025 vs 2024

All Permit Categories

Municipality	Permits 2025	Value of Construction	Permits 2024	Value of Construction
Lambton Shores	169	\$59,078, 658	211	\$48,737,972

New Dwelling Units

Municipality	New Dwelling Units 2025	New Dwelling Units 2024
Lambton Shores	45**	37*

- * 5 of 37 Multiple Family Dwelling Units
- ** 14 of 45 Multiple Family Dwelling Units



Building Department Monthly Permit Report

Report Month: January - December 2025

Type of Building	Issued Permits	Residential Units Created	Construction Value
Single Detached Dwellings	26	26	\$16,350,000
Additional Dwelling Unit	19	19	\$1,310,000
Multi-Residential			
<i>Semi-Detached / Duplex</i>	1	2	\$400,000
<i>Town House / Row House</i>	6	6	\$3,300,000
<i>Apartment Building / Multi-Residential</i>	4	243	\$65,785,000
Total Multi-Residential	11	251	\$69,485,000
Residential Miscellaneous*	188	n/a	\$15,177,051
Commercial	48	n/a	\$19,829,388
Industrial	18	n/a	\$14,475,007
Institutional	13	0	\$8,922,830
Agricultural	5	n/a	\$1,220,000
Signs	31	n/a	\$0
Tents	8	n/a	\$104,250
Pools	33	n/a	\$1,595,900
TOTALS	400	296	\$148,469,426

*Residential Miscellaneous includes residential renovations, alterations, additions, or accessory structures (i.e., decks or sheds) that do not result in the creation of a new dwelling unit.



Building Department Monthly Permit Report

Report Month: January - December 2024

Type of Building	Issued Permits	Residential Units Created	Construction Value
Single Detached Dwellings	21	21	\$13,018,460
Additional Dwelling Unit	30	31	\$2,125,550
Multi-Residential			
<i>Semi-Detached / Duplex</i>	0	0	\$0
<i>Town House / Row House</i>	15	15	\$7,480,000
<i>Apartment Building / Multi-Residential</i>	3	132	\$35,376,000
Total Multi-Residential	18	147	\$42,856,000
Residential Miscellaneous*	196	n/a	\$10,431,587
Commercial	42	n/a	\$18,063,885
Industrial	16	n/a	\$11,185,000
Institutional	20	130	\$66,245,962
Agricultural	8	n/a	\$2,488,000
Signs	44	n/a	\$0
Tents	4	n/a	\$96,300
Pools	30	n/a	\$1,616,900
TOTALS	429	329	\$168,127,644

*Residential Miscellaneous includes residential renovations, alterations, additions, or accessory structures (i.e., decks or sheds) that do not result in the creation of a new dwelling unit.

 <p style="text-align: center;">INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Jay vanKlinken, Emergency Management Coordinator
REVIEWED BY:	Corrine Nauta, Manager Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Emergency Management Coordinator Activities Report

BACKGROUND

The Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for working with the provincially mandated Emergency Management Program Committee to develop and implement the County’s emergency management program in accordance with the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (the “**EMCPA**”) and O. Reg. 380/04.

The following is a summary of recent activities related to emergency management.

DISCUSSION

Year-End Program Review

The County’s Emergency Management Program Committee met late in 2025 to review its compliance with the EMCPA and related regulations. The committee examines the County’s Emergency Plan, training, exercises, local hazards, public education, and critical infrastructure to ensure program alignment with the legislation. In 2025, the Committee identified air quality, artificial intelligence, extreme heat, flooding, and substance use and overuse as emerging hazards in the community. The Committee also noted the County’s Emergency Response Plan will likely require updates in the coming months to ensure alignment with the modernized EMCPA (discussed later in this report).

Federal Emergency Management

Through *Budget 2025*, the federal government is committing \$55.4 million over four years, and \$13.4 million ongoing, to support the renewal of the National Public Alerting System (“**Alert Ready**”). Alert Ready allows federal, provincial, and territorial agencies (e.g., Environment and Climate Change Canada, Emergency Management Ontario) to send broadcast intrusive alerts to Canadians through compatible wireless devices, television, and radio, without a subscription. Alerts are hazard-based and are dispatched for

incidents that are considered a threat to life. Qualified municipal representatives can request activation of the Alert Ready system through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. The County has developed protocols for requesting provincial activation of the Alert Ready system on its behalf; however, any activation of the system would be considered supplemental to the County's use of Sarnia-Lambton Alerts, a local subscriber-based public alerting system, administered by BASES.

Public Safety Canada is also undertaking a review of the federal government's role in emergency management. A public engagement process is open to the public through [Public Safety Canada's website](#) until February 28, 2026. Discussion questions focus on federal leadership and coordination, building capacity and partnerships, and enhancing risk awareness and public readiness.

Emergency Management Modernization Act

The *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025*, received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature on December 3, 2025. The legislation updates, primarily, the EMCPA, but also the *Ministry of Community and Social Services Act*. Key changes to the EMCPA include the requirement that municipal emergency management programs conform to a yet-to-be-established provincial planning framework, permitting two or more municipalities to develop joint emergency management programs and/or plans, imposing pre-conditions and reporting requirements on municipal emergency declarations, and requiring prescribed critical infrastructure entities to develop and implement emergency management programs. Community Emergency Management Coordinators ("CEMCs") in Lambton have met to review how the legislation impacts municipal emergency management programs and are awaiting future regulations, direction, and guidance from the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Legacy Oil & Gas Well Funding

The Ministry of Natural Resources ("MNR") has allocated \$105,000 to the County of Lambton for the third year of its three-year *Legacy Oil and Gas Wells* Transfer Payment Program. The program is designed to assist communities in understanding risks related to legacy wells, reducing those risks, and enhancing emergency preparedness. The County is working with several local municipalities to allocate funding for gas detection, monitoring, ventilation, and emergency shelter and decontamination activities. In addition, the MNR will be hosting a regional Legacy Wells Municipal Symposium in March, with details to be confirmed soon.

Program Collaboration

The County CEMCs engaged in several collaborative activities recently, including delivering Warwick Township's emergency training and exercise, reviewing the Long-Term Care Division's emergency plan and procedures, participation in the planning of Emergency Preparedness Day 2026, department-based continuity of operations planning, and the development of an infectious disease hazard plan for the County's emergency control group.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have occurred as follows:

- **Year-End Program Review:** Emergency Management Program Committee, Emergency Management Ontario
- **Federal Emergency Management:** Local and provincial CEMCs, Ontario Association of Emergency Managers
- **Emergency Management Modernization Act:** Emergency Management Program Committee, Emergency Management Ontario, Local and provincial CEMCs
- **Legacy Oil & Gas Wells Funding:** Ministry of Natural Resources, Local CEMCs and fire chiefs, Emergency Management Program Committee
- **Program Collaboration:** Warwick Township Emergency Management Program Committee, Long-Term Care Division, Lambton BASES, General Managers, Lambton Public Health

STRATEGIC PLAN

Area of Effort #3: Community Development, Health, and Wellness – The County is committed to capitalizing on opportunities that enrich the quality of life and future prospects of the community by:

- Strengthening the County’s advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs.

Area of Effort #5: Partnerships – The County is committed to developing strong relationships with community partners, municipalities, and First Nations by:

- Collaborating with strategic partners to leverage available resources and service opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The County’s emergency management program continues to look for opportunities, both within the corporation and the community, to promote individual and organizational readiness, collaborate on hazard planning, and set procedures in place to ensure effective emergency response and recovery.

 <p style="text-align: center;">INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Tim Payne, Woodlands Conservation Officer
REVIEWED BY:	Corrine Nauta, Manager Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Woodlands Annual Report 2025

BACKGROUND

The Rules of Procedure for the Woodlands Hearings Board require staff to prepare an annual report for consideration by Committee A.M. (now Committee of the Whole) and County Council:

The Board shall, after the close of each calendar year, make an annual report upon the affairs of the Board to the Committee A.M. and thereafter to County Council. The Board, at its own discretion, may delegate this task to the General Manager of the Infrastructure & Development Services Division or the Manager of the Planning & Development Services Department.

This report outlines the administrative and enforcement activities undertaken in 2025 pursuant to the Woodlands Conservation By-Law No. 4 of 2012.

DISCUSSION

Activity under the Woodlands Conservation By-Law in 2025 demonstrated a 20% increase in harvesting activities throughout the County, which includes harvesting notice of intents and exemption approvals, when compared to 2024. Typical fall and winter temperatures assisted the contractor's ability to access Woodlands and complete scheduled work.

Woodland's promotion and education are always discussed with contacted landowners, contractors, and the public. In 2025, public complaints were received regarding the removal of woodlands or parts of woodlands, frequently expressing the importance of woodlands and environmental concerns.

The table presented in Appendix "A" provides a summary of the applications received by the Woodlands Conservation Officer in 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the management of the Woodlands Conservation By-Law are included in the approved County of Lambton Budget, including revenues associated with the collection of Notice of Intent fees. In-lieu funds from exemption applications are used to continue a no net loss approach to the forest cover of Lambton County.

CONSULTATIONS

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (“**SCRCA**”) was consulted in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Area of Effort #6: Corporate Sustainability - The County is committed to ensuring long-term environmental and financial sustainability in all its operations, by:

- Adopting and promoting environmentally sustainable practices in the face of climate change; and
- Undertaking environmental initiatives that protect and enhance woodlots and the County’s natural heritage features, and target waste reduction, energy conservation, lower fuel consumption, and the use of sustainable technologies and processes.

CONCLUSION

Staff will continue to administer the Woodlands Conservation By-Law through the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Landowner engagement to educate residents about the importance of woodlands is always a priority and discussed in all communication.

APPENDIX "A"

Municipality	Types of Application 2025															
	Good Forestry Harvesting		Circumference Limit Harvesting		Hearings Board Exemptions		Approved Exemptions*		Exemption Tile		Investigations**		Pipeline	General Inquiry	TOTAL	
Brooke - Alvinston			2				1								3	2%
Dawn - Euphemia			32				5				1				38	26%
Enniskillen			19												19	13%
Lambton Shores	2		5				1	1	1		1		1		11	8%
Plympton - Wyoming			11		1		9								21	14%
Sarnia			4										1		5	3%
St. Clair	4		31				2								37	25%
Warwick			8				4								12	8%
TOTAL	6	134.5 acres	112	2072 acres	1	5.0 acres	22	35.0 acres	1	0.4 acres	2	2.95 acres	0	2	146	100%

Approved Exemptions*

- Agriculture edge maintenance between the agriculture lands and the woodland
- Small scale squaring and straightening of woodland edges
- Areas that do not meet the definition of a woodland based on number of trees per acre or size of the woodland (hawthorn/ old pasture)

Investigations**

- One the Woodlands Conservation Officer was able to settle with the landowner using the compensation criteria
- Second matter was resolved through the legal firm on retainer with a donation to Warwick Township

	PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Stephen Turner, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Kevin Churchill, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
SUBJECT:	Lambton / Chatham-Kent Ambulance Border Coverage Agreement

BACKGROUND

Across Ontario, land ambulance services are delivered to the community through Designated Delivery Agents, which are primarily the province’s Upper Tier Municipalities. The delivery of service is provided in a manner that ensures borderless coverage between municipalities, where the closest, most appropriate ambulance is sent to a 911 call, regardless of where the call is located.

To help ensure local ambulance resources are immediately available for the highest priority calls, municipalities may establish cross-border response agreements to place parameters on when and how ambulances are assigned to calls between neighbouring jurisdictions.

Lambton County EMS has received a request from Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS to engage in a cross-border response agreement that would maintain current cross-border responses to high-priority Code 4 calls (emergent threats to life or limb) while non-emergent calls would be responded to by the ambulance service of the municipality from which the call originates.

The purpose of this report is to seek County Council’s approval to enter into a Border Coverage Agreement with Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS in the form attached as Appendix A.

DISCUSSION

Lambton EMS responds to approximately 20,000 calls to 911 annually. Approximately 300 calls in Lambton County are responded to by Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS, primarily in Dawn-Euphemia. Additionally, Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS responds to approximately 500 calls annually on Walpole Island due to an existing service agreement between their

service and Lambton EMS, owing to the closer proximity of their station in Wallaceburg. Of the 300 calls in the rest of Lambton that are serviced by Chatham-Kent, in 2025, 89 calls were for non-emergent situations.

Ambulance services across the province have faced increasing pressures associated with call volumes, staffing challenges and hospital offload delays, and have taken measures to ensure paramedics are available for higher priority calls when resources are low. The proposed Border Coverage Agreement is one such measure aimed at improving response times for life-threatening emergencies.

In developing the Border Coverage Agreement, staff aimed to ensure that any impact to response times for 911 calls in Lambton County would be minimized by limiting the agreement to only non-emergent calls for service where a Lambton EMS vehicle could arrive on scene within 45 minutes. As Chatham-Kent assists Lambton County by servicing the majority of calls on Walpole Island, the request for the Border Coverage Agreement was viewed as reasonable and appropriate. It is estimated that the Agreement would reduce the number of calls responded to by Chatham-Kent in Lambton County by approximately 70 calls annually. The total number of calls serviced by Lambton EMS would reciprocally increase by approximately 50, as Lambton EMS would have roughly 20 fewer calls that it would service in Chatham-Kent.

In September 2024, Lambton EMS updated its Deployment Plan which significantly reduced the number of Code 8 standby assignments. As a result, the ambulance station in Brigden had an overall reduction of standbys of 60%, markedly increasing the availability of the ambulance at that station to respond to calls in the Dawn-Euphemia area. This reduction will help mitigate any possible adverse impacts of the Agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of adopting this agreement.

CONSULTATIONS

Staff have consulted with Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS, Wallaceburg Central Ambulance Communications Centre, and the Ministry of Health Emergency Health Services Southwest Field Office in the development of this agreement.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The recommendation to adopt the ambulance Border Coverage Agreement is aligned with the strategic pillars of *Community Health and Wellness* through the delivery of the Lambton EMS Master Plan, and *Partnerships* through collaboration with strategic partners to leverage available resources and service opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The ambulance Border Coverage Agreement reflects efforts of ambulance services to optimize the use of resources to respond to calls for service in the community. Chatham-Kent and Lambton have a long history of collaboration and have continued to provide reciprocal service to each other's community, when needed. The Agreement will help provide Chatham-Kent the ability to better manage operational stressors while recognizing the ongoing support they have provided to Lambton County through their responses to Walpole Island.

RECOMMENDATION

That County Council authorize staff to enter into a Border Coverage Agreement with Medavie Chatham/Kent EMS, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A.

Appendix A

COUNTY OF LAMBTON AND MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

BORDER COVERAGE AGREEMENT

DEFINITION:

The municipal borderline separating the County of Lambton and Chatham-Kent shall be deemed to be the demarcation for this agreement. Non-life or limb Priority 3 Calls will be dispatched to either Lambton County EMS or Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS according to the municipality where the call is located. Lambton County EMS will respond to all Priority Code 3 calls within their municipal boundaries, and Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS will respond to all Priority Code 3 calls within their municipal boundaries. Notwithstanding the former, Chatham-Kent EMS will also continue to be the primary response agency for all calls on Walpole Island First Nation, regardless of priority. All Priority Code 4 life or limb calls, or Code 3 calls where the municipality's response is anticipated to be more than 45 minutes, will be dispatched to the closest, most appropriate available EMS resource, regardless of the geographical location along the borderline.

Emergency coverage and Code 3 responses outside of the service municipality will be considered on an ad-hoc basis. On-Duty Management for Lambton County EMS and Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS will be consulted when this is being requested by the Wallaceburg Central Ambulance Communications Centre.

The County of Lambton and Chatham-Kent Border Coverage Agreement will be automatically renewed each year for a period of 1 year, subject to the parties' right to terminate this agreement at any time and for any reason, with two weeks' notice in writing.

The parties will perform an annual review of this agreement on or before the date of below signature.

Approved on xxx, by:

Stephen Turner
Chief / Manager,
Lambton County EMS

Peter Morassutti
Acting Chief / General Manager,
Medavie Chatham-Kent EMS

 <p style="text-align: center;">CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	LIBRARY SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Darlene Coke, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Libraries Fouth Quarter 2025 Statistics

BACKGROUND

Lambton County Library provides services to the public through 24 libraries and a mobile library service. In-library services include books, audio books, magazines, audio-visual materials, story hours, guest speakers, reference services, and internet access. The Sarina Library is also home to the Sarnia Library Theatre which is used for library programming and available to the community for rent, hosting many concerts, celebrations, film screenings and more.

Lambton County also offers an eLibrary which provides access to electronic books, magazines, newspapers, digital media such as music and movies, and educational courses from any device connected to the internet, along with a library card. Lambton County also operates a Makerspace at the Sarnia Library and offers a Mobile Makerspace service to the remaining 23 branch libraries by circulating maker equipment on a rotating basis. Makerspaces offer opportunities for innovation and creation through the use of technology such as 3D printers which are not typically available in most households.

Statistics on the usage of various programs and services are maintained throughout the year and reported to Lambton County Council quarterly. Detailed fourth quarter 2025 statistics for the Libraries Department are attached.

DISCUSSION

For the third year in a row, the County of Lambton Libraries Department circulated more than 1,000,000 items in physical and electronic formats; however, 18,488 fewer items circulated in 2025 than 2024. This is the first time total library circulation has dropped since 2019. The decrease in circulation is attributed to physical items only, as the library’s electronic circulation continues to increase year over year. At the close of 2025, 53.8% of the library’s total circulation is attributed to electronic resources, such as e-books, e-

audiobooks, digital newspapers, music streaming and tv / movie streaming. The nine library branches / services reporting the most significant decreases in circulation included Courtright (29%), Brigden (27%), Library By Mail (26%), Thedford (24%), Port Lambton (22%), Sarnia (17%), Mooretown (15%), Inwood (12%) and Forest (11%). It is uncertain what may have caused the reduction in circulation at these locations; however, Forest Library experienced a week-long closure to accommodate new cement work around the building and a lengthy nearby road closure at Sarnia Library also may have deterred visitors.

Despite overall circulation seeing a 2% decrease over 2024, there was a 5% increase in the number of valid library cardholders. At the close of 2025, 26,848 people hold valid library cards, an increase of 1,351 cardholders over 2024.

In the fourth quarter, Lambton County Library offered 1,925 programs, attracting 14,842 people. Public computer use, along with wi-fi use remains strong. In the fourth quarter, private meeting rooms were reserved 207 times, serving 370 people over 537.5 hours. Over the full calendar year, free private meeting rooms were booked 873 times, serving 1,488 people over 2,274.5 hours. These meetings ranged from employment coaching to health care appointments to financial counselling with various community service and government agencies.

In October, Lambton County Library celebrated Ontario Public Library Week from October 20 to 26, 2025 with a number of special events. With a theme of, "*I Love My Library*", library patrons were invited to share why they love their local library by submitting testimonial cards in-library, on social media, or via email. At the conclusion of the week, the Library received a total of 534 testimonials. The Sarnia Library Theatre's 306 seats were filled to hear Canadian explorer and author Adam Shoalts speak about his newest book, "*Vanished Beyond the Map: The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell*". Florence Library held an Open House to acquaint visitors to its larger collection size and adjusted layout, following the closure of nearby Shetland Library at the end of August. Finally, several Lambton County Councillors stopped by their local libraries to help staff deliver Toddler Tales or Afterschool Kids' Clubs programs.

In December, Lambton County Library added Ukulele Kits to its Library of Things collection, which includes non-traditional items that patrons can borrow such as telescopes, binoculars and pickleball kits. The Ukulele Kit is the first musical instrument available to borrow from the library's collection.

Also in December, Lambton County Library worked collaboratively with Warwick Township to replace a StoryWalk at the Twin Creek Nature Trail in Watford. StoryWalks are a unique way to merge physical activity with literacy for both adults and children. Individual pages of a picture book are installed on posts along the trail, encouraging patrons young and old to read along as they walk. StoryWalks are updated every spring and fall and in addition to this site in Watford, are located at Ausable River Cut Conservation Area in Port Franks, Canatara Park in Sarnia, the Woodland Heritage Trail at the Lambton Heritage Museum in Grand Bend, the Mooretown Sports Complex, and the Port Franks Community Centre.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

The Technical Services Supervisor, the Library Operations Supervisor and the Facilities Supervisor were consulted in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The array of library services offered in Lambton align with the County of Lambton's mission statement to provide residents with "an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services. Such provision is accomplished by working with municipal and community partners."

CONCLUSION

With its total circulation surpassing one million items for the third consecutive year, and with a 5% increase in valid library cardholders, Lambton County Library continues its efforts to serve residents in accessing information, education and recreational resources.

Libraries Fouth Quarter 2025 Statistics

	Number of Valid Library Card Holders			
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025
General	0	0	0	0
Alvinston	364	369	372	367
Arkona	150	164	165	162
Brigden	374	372	378	349
Bright's Grove	1,492	1,554	1,587	1,567
Camlachie	238	243	259	253
Clearwater	3,818	3,992	4,130	4,199
Corunna	1,483	1,548	1,580	1,615
Courtright	102	103	104	103
Florence	79	80	145	149
Forest	1,801	1,865	1,900	1,881
Grand Bend	1,632	1,694	1,764	1,718
Headquarters	48	18	22	24
Inwood	88	87	85	89
Library By Mail	13	18	18	20
Mobile Library	143	152	152	159
Mooretown	90	88	91	90
Oil Springs	148	150	156	148
Petrolia	2,115	2,159	2,178	2,225
Pt. Edward	563	578	588	609
Pt. Franks	237	240	245	251
Pt. Lambton	226	232	231	225
Samia	8,876	8,915	8,831	8,690
Shetland	55	57	0	0
Sombra	150	152	162	162
Thedford	158	165	162	163
Watford	598	613	638	647
Wilkesport	48	51	53	56
Wyoming	889	892	909	927
TOTALS	25,978	26,551	26,905	26,848

	Circulation						
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	1,778	1,395	1,870	1,771	6,814	6,578	104%
Arkona	1,439	1,390	1,549	1,108	5,486	6,098	90%
Brigden	4,008	3,240	2,686	3,866	13,800	16,565	83%
Bright's Grove	8,802	8,764	11,015	8,706	37,287	37,253	100%
Camlachie	1,470	1,407	1,742	1,525	6,144	6,198	99%
Clearwater	22,651	19,330	23,903	19,513	85,397	69,747	122%
Corunna	6,343	6,214	7,065	5,957	25,579	25,759	99%
Courtright	505	474	536	355	1,870	2,641	71%
Florence	720	660	795	790	2,965	3,075	96%
Forest	9,956	9,268	10,427	8,626	38,277	43,239	89%
Grand Bend	6,928	6,366	6,471	6,577	26,342	26,373	100%
Headquarters	3,566	2,361	1,587	1,315	8,829	7,889	112%
Inwood	624	601	578	438	2,241	2,553	88%
Library By Mail	41	13	24	36	114	154	74%
Mobile Library	1,964	1,929	2,216	1,486	7,595	7,950	96%
Mooretown	543	507	348	716	2,114	2,476	85%
Oil Springs	1,194	810	1,057	984	4,045	4,072	99%
Petrolia	11,701	10,667	13,583	11,145	47,096	47,417	99%
Pt. Edward	6,417	6,192	7,307	6,015	25,931	28,540	91%
Pt. Franks	1,479	1,530	1,663	1,084	5,756	5,974	96%
Pt. Lambton	656	751	982	776	3,165	4,046	78%
Sarnia	29,269	29,045	32,062	26,603	116,979	140,784	83%
Shetland	370	221	280	0	871	860	101%
Sombra	736	712	967	826	3,241	3,429	95%
Thedford	723	454	683	708	2,568	3,381	76%
Watford	3,532	3,101	3,266	2,556	12,455	12,395	100%
Wilkesport	866	639	772	755	3,032	2,509	121%
Wyoming	6,993	5,871	7,087	5,349	25,300	27,672	91%
TOTALS	135,274	123,912	142,521	119,586	521,293	545,688	96%

e-circulation*						
Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
152,143	146,509	156,546	152,494	607,692	601,785	101%

Inter-library Loans							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Items Borrowed	254	351	344	259	1,208	1,421	85%
Items Loaned	261	269	443	415	1,388	1,207	115%

Reference Queries							
	Q1-2024	Q2-2024	Q3-2024	Q4-2024	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	38	32	41	41	152	217	70%
Arkona	92	87	122	97	398	493	81%
Brigden	156	175	254	228	813	624	130%
Bright's Grove	206	234	345	209	994	1,400	71%
Camlachie	18	16	55	104	193	244	79%
Clearwater	616	501	674	567	2,358	2,893	82%
Corunna	847	815	857	840	3,359	3,756	89%
Courtright	47	23	33	28	131	95	138%
Florence	14	25	9	23	71	31	229%
Forest	769	706	749	518	2,742	2,778	99%
Grand Bend	423	411	489	309	1,632	1,395	117%
Headquarters	74	33	51	40	198	250	0%
Inwood	49	52	23	14	138	244	57%
Library By Mail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mobile Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mooretown	73	57	17	11	158	404	39%
Oil Springs	52	19	64	40	175	96	182%
Petrolia	286	396	415	481	1,578	1,455	108%
Pt. Edward	188	191	192	174	745	939	79%
Pt. Franks	71	91	113	80	355	280	127%
Pt. Lambton	83	95	134	79	391	322	121%
Sarnia	544	547	629	573	2,293	3,106	74%
Shetland	7	9	2	0	18	34	53%
Sombra	34	53	66	62	215	123	175%
Thedford	76	32	29	21	158	208	76%
Watford	160	150	144	108	562	567	99%
Wilkesport	85	93	120	98	396	261	152%
Wyoming	175	144	256	241	816	939	87%
TOTALS	5,183	4,987	5,883	4,986	21,039	23,154	91%

Internet / Computer Use							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	167	171	314	204	856	653	131%
Arkona	6	15	8	5	34	34	100%
Brigden	18	30	37	17	102	70	146%
Bright's Grove	198	228	234	174	834	698	119%
Camlachie	15	14	31	21	81	43	188%
Clearwater	957	928	1,021	966	3,872	2,142	181%
Corunna	345	366	508	372	1,591	1,646	97%
Courtright	27	26	39	32	124	73	170%
Florence	10	11	92	100	213	44	484%
Forest	473	684	601	631	2,389	1,677	142%
Grand Bend	380	343	312	235	1,270	1,204	105%
Headquarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Inwood	59	58	74	54	245	183	134%
Library By Mail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mobile Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mooretown	14	25	4	38	81	33	245%
Oil Springs	47	14	59	35	155	40	388%
Petrolia	577	584	599	522	2,282	2,004	114%
Pt. Edward	93	99	124	115	431	323	133%
Pt. Franks	11	14	23	11	59	49	120%
Pt. Lambton	12	7	17	7	43	35	123%
Sarnia	2,627	2,663	2,549	2329	10,168	8,497	120%
Shetland	1	12	1	0	14	80	18%
Sombra	58	58	48	60	224	236	95%
Thedford	27	17	14	18	76	122	62%
Watford	123	117	170	92	502	337	149%
Wilkesport	30	16	34	40	120	117	103%
Wyoming	92	85	136	86	399	401	100%
TOTALS	6,367	6,585	7,049	6,164	26,165	20,741	126%

Internet Wireless Usage					
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD
Total Clients	12,129	12,402	10,554	10,031	45,116
Total Sessions	35,478	36,219	29,922	28,078	129,697

Electronic Information Sources							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Electronic Databases	8,166	8,332	6,494	6,480	29,472	39,166	75%
Early Literacy Stations	4,612	3,177	3,859	3,483	15,131	12,887	117%
TOTAL	12,778	11,509	10,353	9,963	44,603	52,053	86%

Website Visits							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Library	131,611	107,262	118,489	112,437	469,799	461,435	102%
Theatre	1,224	811	925	1,084	4,044	3,092	131%
TOTAL	132,835	108,073	119,414	113,521	473,843	464,527	102%
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025			
Facebook Friends	4,004	4,133	4,250	4,303			

Email Marketing Statistics			
	Q4 Email Recipients	Q4 Emails Read	Q4 Links Clicked
Monthly Emails	68,813	15,493	522
Campaign Emails	2,062	779	100
Reading Recommendations	278	150	40
Notices	1,704	765	8

Library Programs (#)							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	52	59	41	41	193	223	87%
Arkona	31	30	30	26	117	122	96%
Brigden	72	72	60	76	280	245	114%
Bright's Grove	72	64	65	56	257	350	73%
Camlachie	41	38	19	24	122	154	79%
Clearwater	176	166	132	131	605	415	146%
Corunna	123	120	112	125	480	447	107%
Courtright	27	33	33	29	122	107	114%
EarlyON Centres	90	88	79	122	379	433	88%
Florence	15	22	19	25	81	132	61%
Forest	87	99	93	100	379	439	86%
Grand Bend	42	41	47	43	173	275	63%
Headquarters	14	11	16	7	48	74	65%
Inwood	42	39	32	34	147	192	77%
Makerspace (Independent)	131	161	111	217	620	711	87%
Mobile Library	50	58	60	56	224	192	117%
Mooretown	17	19	14	15	65	118	117%
Oil Springs	38	37	34	32	141	165	55%
Petrolia	198	181	169	149	697	765	85%
Pt. Edward	19	21	36	26	102	150	91%
Pt. Franks	21	24	30	18	93	79	68%
Pt. Lambton	27	26	18	29	100	114	118%
Samia	353	365	363	327	1408	1385	88%
Shetland	28	15	10	0	53	85	102%
Sombra	23	27	17	24	91	91	62%
Theford	33	30	31	36	130	134	100%
Watford	53	54	44	48	199	229	97%
Wilkesport	14	15	16	20	65	101	87%
Wyoming	95	90	72	89	346	416	83%
TOTALS	1,984	2,005	1,803	1,925	7,717	8,343	92%

Library Programs (attendance)							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	441	472	550	327	1,790	1,567	114%
Arkona	133	152	291	91	667	874	76%
Brigden	1,831	1555	663	5090	9,139	5,197	176%
Bright's Grove	221	384	444	372	1,421	3,081	46%
Camlachie	134	91	33	66	324	400	81%
Clearwater	666	783	642	673	2,764	1,878	147%
Corunna	880	921	670	1,095	3,566	4,616	77%
Courtright	80	217	102	161	560	388	144%
EarlyON Centres	1,291	1268	872	837	4,268	7,500	57%
Florence	23	19	33	22	97	157	62%
Forest	505	743	1477	601	3,326	3,349	99%
Grand Bend	150	113	222	123	608	1,161	52%
Headquarters	661	850	428	249	2,188	3,828	57%
Inwood	120	158	85	92	455	588	77%
Makerspace (Independent)	146	175	125	249	695	795	87%
Mobile Library	558	544	621	601	2,324	1,638	142%
Mooretown	170	190	92	174	626	1,151	54%
Oil Springs	88	244	68	42	442	409	108%
Petrolia	1060	1950	1587	770	5,367	4,819	111%
Pt. Edward	77	179	132	132	520	1,007	52%
Pt. Franks	82	217	233	106	638	374	171%
Pt. Lambton	147	79	76	169	471	972	48%
Sarnia	2,691	2,610	2885	1,888	10,074	9,201	109%
Shetland	16	13	20	0	49	59	83%
Sombra	55	51	30	47	183	222	82%
Theford	53	105	84	122	364	457	80%
Watford	248	365	345	298	1,256	1,175	107%
Wilkesport	77	82	100	84	343	190	181%
Wyoming	501	523	701	361	2,086	2,848	73%
TOTALS	13,105	15,053	13,611	14,842	56,611	59,901	95%

Community Meeting Space - Lambton County Library

	Alvinston	Clearwater	Corunna	Forest	Sarnia Connection Cube	Sombra	Theford	Watford	Wyoming	Total	2024 Total	YTD %
Q1 - 2025 Bookings	20	15	33	30	77	1	17	24	11	228	108	211%
Q1 - 2025 Hours	75.5	21.5	133	148	112	4	26	112	23.5	656	282.5	232%
Q1 - 2025 Attendance	26	149	65	60	97	2	34	48	25	506	179	283%
Q2 - 2025 Bookings	16	7	24	29	100	5	10	13	6	210	220	95%
Q2 - 2025 Hours	73	16.5	123.5	160.5	138	18.5	30	78	10	648	678	96%
Q2 - 2025 Attendance	16	39	56	63	129	18	23	26	25	395	426	93%
Q3 - 2025 Bookings	20	3	23	63	62	6	7	13	33	230	196	117%
Q3 - 2025 Hours	85	6.5	117	146	86	22.5	17	78	19.5	577.5	610	95%
Q3 - 2025 Attendance	20	18	43	63	80	11	20	26	33	314	318	99%
Q4 - 2025 Bookings	16	5	23	26	113	4	1	10	7	205	207	99%
Q4 - 2025 Hours	76	5.5	110	129.5	131.5	13.5	1.5	58	12	537.5	590	91%
Q4 - 2025 Attendance	25	63	52	62	124	8	2	20	14	370	368	101%
YTD Bookings	72	30	103	148	352	16	35	60	57	873		
YTD Hours	309.5	61.5	483.5	501	460	58.5	74.5	326	65	2,274.5		
YTD Attendance	87	269	216	248	430	39	79	120	97	1,488		

Sarnia Library Theatre & Meeting Room Rentals							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Internal Bookings							
Bookings	3	0	0	3	6	8	75%
Hours	15	0	0	15	30	26	115%
Attendance	116	0	0	116	232	165	141%
External Bookings							
Bookings	88	119	67	87	361	324	111%
Hours	290.25	396.5	248.25	338.5	1,273.5	1,118.8	114%
Attendance	4,677	6,472	1,877	6,375	19,401	17,448	111%
Total Bookings	91	119	67	90	367		
Total Hours	305.25	396.5	248.25	353.5	1,303.5		
Total Attendance	4,793	6,472	1,877	6,491	19,633		

Total Number of Volunteers						
Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
0	0	6	7	13	0	0%

	CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	LIBRARY SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Darlene Coke, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Library of Things Collection

BACKGROUND

Over time, public libraries have transitioned from repositories of knowledge filled with hundreds or thousands of books, to places where people meet to exchange innovative ideas and access technology. Public libraries’ collections have also transitioned from the borrowing of books to items that are not traditionally thought of as library materials, such as snowshoes, binoculars or tool kits. In Lambton, these non-traditional library items form a collection branded as a “Library of Things”.

DISCUSSION

The County of Lambton Libraries Department added its first non-traditional items to the collection in the early to mid 2000s, with the introduction of pedometers, Kill-A-Watt meters, and GPS units for geocaching activities. In 2016, the library added snowshoes to its collection and launched a Seed Library that allowed patrons to borrow garden seeds. In 2022, the Cultural Services Division’s strategic plan called for the Division to focus on creating and delivering great experiences, and as part of that strategic direction, outlined the need to consider loans of alternative materials through libraries (e.g. musical instruments, binoculars for birding, equipment for fishing, etc.) Beginning in 2023 and continuing into 2024 and 2025, Lambton County Library made a concerted effort to diversify its collection to include non-traditional items that form the basis of its Library of Things.

When selecting items to add to the Library of Things, library staff consider many factors including required storage, the necessary amount of maintenance to keep the item in good repair, the ability to transport the item across 24 locations, the item’s durability to withstand wear and tear, the availability of non-traditional items in other libraries’ collections, along with provincial or national trends.

The public reception to the Library of Things appears to be positive, with many items seeing good circulation in 2025. The total circulation amounted to 8,433 in 2025, which amounts to 2% of the library's total physical circulation.

Library of Things Item	Launch Date	2025 Circulation
Binoculars	February 2023	59
Culture Pass	June 2022	194
Fishing Poles	March 2023	21
Garden Seeds	May 2016	5,176
Huron Shores Transit Pass	February 2024	55
Ontario Parks Passes	February 2021	1,158
Projector Kit	November 2024	94
Radon Detector Kits	November 2024	378
Snowshoes	November 2016	209
Sports Kit – Baseball	July 2024	11
Sports Kit – Basketball	July 2024	5
Sports Kit – Pickleball	July 2024	52
Sports Kit – Soccer	July 2024	7
Sports Kit – Tennis	April 2025	19
Telescopes	July 2024	131
Tool Kit	December 2024	7
Ukulele Kit	December 2025	10
Walking Poles	January 2023	38
Wi-Fi Hotspots	May 2024	192
Yoto Player / Card Kits	October 2024	578

In 2026, the Libraries Department added Memory Care Kits to align with Alzheimer's Awareness Month in January. These kits, created with advice from the Sarnia-Lambton Alzheimer's Society, include items to help support cognitive health. Later this year, the Department plans to launch a Nintendo Switch 2 kit and re-brand its "Seed Library" to "Garden Seeds" within the Library of Things.

The Department will continue its efforts to promote the existing collection, and to monitor trends in other library systems and collect suggestions when offered by members of the public or service partners.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

The Technical Services Supervisor and the Library Operations Supervisor were consulted in the creation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In addition to responding to the Cultural Services Division's strategic direction 2.12 (creating and delivering great experiences – considering loans of alternative materials), the Library of Things supports the County of Lambton's strategic goals of service and community development, health and wellness.

CONCLUSION

The Library of Things is responsive to the needs of the local community and provides residents with an opportunity to reduce their household costs, learn a new skill or hobby, or explore a potential hobby before committing to increased costs.

 <p style="text-align: center;">CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	MUSEUMS, GALLERY & ARCHIVES
PREPARED BY:	Laurie Webb, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Museums, Gallery and Archives Fourth Quarter 2025 Statistics

BACKGROUND

Lambton Heritage Museum (“LHM”) and Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site (“OMC”) manage collections that total over 35,000 artifacts that serve to interpret the settlement and development of the area and celebrate Lambton's oil heritage. Lambton County Archives (“LCA”) preserves family genealogical records, local newspapers, land records, historic images, maps, and community histories. Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (“JNAAG”) collection contains over 1,200 Canadian paintings, drawings, and sculptures that represent significant Canadian art history with many considered national treasures, including over 43 works by the Group of Seven.

The [Cultural Services Division Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#) adopted by County Council outlines the Strategic Direction for Cultural Services which identifies the actions to be taken, criteria it must meet, or performance indicators it must strive to reach to achieve success with plan implementation. As an outcome of extensive consultation, six areas of focus are relevant in setting directions and evaluating the progress of the Division. The discussion section of this report outlines the progress made in these six areas of strategic priority in relation to activity in the fourth quarter of 2025.

DISCUSSION

Enhancing Access, Inclusion and Community Engagement

In the fourth quarter of 2025, the Museums, Gallery, and Archives continued to reduce barriers to participation by offering a wide range of programs, exhibitions, and events designed to welcome diverse audiences. Attendance data shows strong community interest in on-site programs and special events across all sites, particularly at Lambton Heritage Museum and the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery. Digital access also played a

key role in engagement, with increased website traffic, virtual tour use, and online collections access supporting those unable to visit in person.

Creating and Delivering Great Experiences

Exhibitions and programs drive attendance to the Museums, Gallery and Archives sites and create meaningful cultural experiences. The chart below summarizes visitation to each site including general attendance, in person educational offerings, and participation in special events in the fourth quarter.

	JNAAG		LCA		LHM		OMC	
	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Visitors	552	549	139	119	554	234	249	273
Tour Participants	82	18	0	0	101	64	187	104
Special Event Participants	229	501	0	0	3,422	3,128	263	387
On-Site Program Participants	488	648	48	46	808	518	147	97
Facility Rental Users	0	0	0	0	8	10	0	35
Fourth Quarter Total	1,351	1,716	187	165	4,893	3,975	846	896

**OMC recently launched an app for the Driving Tour. In the fourth quarter, 34 users engaged in the app. Previously, the Driving Tour was unavailable during the winter months. The app now allows visitors to access the content and participate year-round.*

The following table outlines the exhibitions at each site available to the community during the fourth quarter of 2025:

Fourth Quarter Exhibits

<p>JNAAG Stories In Focus August 1 to October 4, 2025. Making Space: Recent Acquisitions November 7, 2025 to July 12, 2026. Debwewe Giizhik (sound in the distance) from the sky September 5, 2025 to May 31, 2026.</p>	<p>LCA Petrolia 150th Anniversary on display until 2026.</p>
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Larry Towell Boundaries October 3, 2025 to March 21, 2026.	
LHM Lambton Gallery Permanent Exhibit. Collections Centre Permanent Exhibit. Historic Buildings Permanent Exhibits, May to October 2025. A Taste of Science May 14 to October 25, 2025.	OMC Main Gallery Permanent Exhibit. Historic Buildings Permanent Exhibits, May to October 2025. <i>100 Years as a National Historic Site</i> Temporary display at Sarnia Library until late 2026.

Developing Partnerships That Increase Participation in Culture

In the fourth quarter of 2025, partnerships remained essential to increasing participation and extending the reach of cultural programming. Collaborations with libraries, schools, community organizations, and event partners supported exhibitions, commemorations, and outreach activities, including anniversary displays and off-site programming.

Of note, the Lambton County Archives has partnered with YourTV (Cogeco) for monthly segments on the Sarnia This Week news program. Each segment delves into a story in relation to local history and is capped off with information about any upcoming events. Out of the 16 Cogeco stations in Ontario, the Sarnia station is the second most watched, furthering the reach of the Archives to a significant number of local residents. The Museums and Archives continue to partner with other local museums to offer a twice annual virtual talk via the Heritage Sarnia Lambton network’s “Heritage Hour” presentations. In November the topic presented was “*Tunes in Time*” and drew 16 live participants and 192 views to date of the YouTube video posted after the event. Oil Museum of Canada continues to partner with local Long Term Care Homes to offer historic presentations to residents in area homes. This resulted in 380 residents in Long Term Care Homes discovering local history.

These partnerships continue to attract new audiences, support shared promotion, and strengthen the department’s presence across Lambton County.

Maximizing the Value of Collections and Spaces

The Museums, Gallery and Archives all use online resources to further the reach of their collections. Purposeful and targeted social media usage, engaging websites that showcase collections, educational offerings and visitor information and an online collections database provide access to Lambton’s history and art collections for those who are unable to visit, eliminate a barrier to accessing Lambton’s history while also raising Lambton’s profile. The chart below outlines ways the public accessed Lambton’s history

and collections materials, along with their social media engagement this quarter.

	JNAAG		LCA		LHM		OMC	
	Q4 2024	Q4 2025						
Website Visits*	4,652	20,938	37,376	42,437	37,376	42,437	37,376	42,437
Social Media Reach (Collections Content only)	3,096	1,754	168,446	195,536	26,909	47,686	8,314	11,991
Social Media Engagement (Collections Content only)	308	289	15,537	39,677	1,663	5,725	608	950
Collections Database* (Past Perfect)	n/a	n/a	3,518	3,119	3,518	3,119	3,518	3,119
Virtual Tour Engagement	16	31	n/a	n/a	31	30	24	27

*LHM, OMC and LCA share a single [website](#) and online [database](#). Work is currently underway at the JNAAG to make the collection available online.

**Social media strategy evolved in 2025 to prioritize meaningful online engagement over broad reach metrics, reflecting a more targeted approach to digital community building. This strategic shift resulted in comparable overall reach numbers, but higher engagement numbers, as the focus moved toward fostering deeper connections with engaged audiences rather than maximizing exposure.

Building Cultural Capacity and Raising Lambton’s Profile

Museums, Gallery and Archives continuously explore ways to engage with the community and raise Lambton’s profile on a larger scale. Off-site outreach participation increased notably at several sites, demonstrating the value of working collaboratively to bring cultural experiences directly into the community. Below are the Q4 numbers for 2025.

	JNAAG		LCA		LHM		OMC	
	Q4 2024	Q4 2025						
Offsite Outreach Participants	0	185	36	101	215	68	244	1,162

Managing Resources Efficiently and Effectively

The fourth quarter saw the implementation of a collections storage reorganization project at the Oil Museum of Canada, to more efficiently use the space in the museum proper and provide space for the collection to grow into the future, without the capital costs of adding onto the building. The project involved packing and relocating the entire collection to temporary storage off-site, minor demolition and renovation of the existing storage area and the installation of a compact mobile shelving system. This new shelving will result in more space to store artifacts within an existing footprint, provide years' worth of collecting space and ensures the best use of financial resources.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The exhibitions, programs and outreach of the Museums, Gallery and Archives supports the strategic directions and actions outlined in the Cultural Services Strategic Plan as follows:

1. Enhancing access, inclusion & community engagement,
2. Creating & delivering great experiences,
3. Developing partnerships that increase participation in culture,
4. Maximizing the value of collections & spaces,
5. Building cultural capacity & raising Lambton's profile, and
6. Managing resources efficiently & effectively.

CONCLUSION

In the fourth quarter of 2025, the Museums, Gallery, and Archives continued to advance the goals of the Cultural Services Division Strategic Plan. Through diverse programs, exhibitions, digital initiatives, and community partnerships, the department continues to expand access to cultural resources and strengthen connections with residents and visitors. Responsible resource management and ongoing evaluation supports sustainable service delivery while responding to evolving community needs. Together, these efforts reinforce the Division's role as a vital contributor to Lambton County's cultural life.

	CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Cultural Services Division 2025 Annual Report

BACKGROUND

The Cultural Services Division Annual Report evaluates the work accomplished during the past year in the context of the *Cultural Services Division Strategic Plan (2022 to 2026)* that was approved by Council. The following six strategic areas of focus were identified within the plan, informing how the Division measures and reports on its progress each year:

- Enhancing Access, Inclusion & Community Engagement;
- Creating & Delivering Great Experiences;
- Developing Partnerships that Increase Participation in Culture;
- Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces;
- Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Lambton’s Profile; and
- Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively.

DISCUSSION

The 2025 Cultural Services Division Annual Report (attached) evaluates the Division’s progress related to its planning objectives over the last year through the compilation of statistical information and divisional achievements. The report demonstrates the capacity of the Division to achieve provincial standards compliance and successfully implement the directives of Council in relation to service delivery, and is utilized for the annual provincial operating grant reporting obligations of the Libraries Department, and the Museums, Gallery & Archives Department.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

The compilation of the 2025 Cultural Services Division Annual Report involved consultation with various levels of staff support across the Division to ensure the document provides a complete overview of cultural services and programs, and accurately reflects the strategic priorities of The County of Lambton. The document was compiled by the Division's Community Engagement / Communications Supervisor, with support from the Division's management team.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The development of an annual report document responds to the strategic direction found in the *County of Lambton Strategic Plan, Area of Effort 2, Services and Communications*, related to engaging and informing residents, stakeholders, and municipal partners of the County's services and programs. *The Cultural Services Division Strategic Plan (2022 to 2026)* also identifies that annual reports be provided to council over the course of the five-year plan to ensure continuous engagement and evaluation, with annual updates on the progress of action items provided to council at the close of each budget year in anticipation of the next budget cycle.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Cultural Services Division Annual Report outlines several significant achievements in support of the Division's planning objectives. Divisional staff strive to deliver services which are responsive to the needs and expectations of the community. Senior management of the Cultural Services Division is grateful for the ongoing support of County Council, supporting Departments of the County, and the dedicated efforts of the entire Division's staff team. The Division looks forward to working with members of Council, the community, government agencies, and our local municipal partners in the year ahead to continue progress on planning priorities and further enhance services to residents.



CULTURAL SERVICES

2025 Annual Report



Cultural Services Division

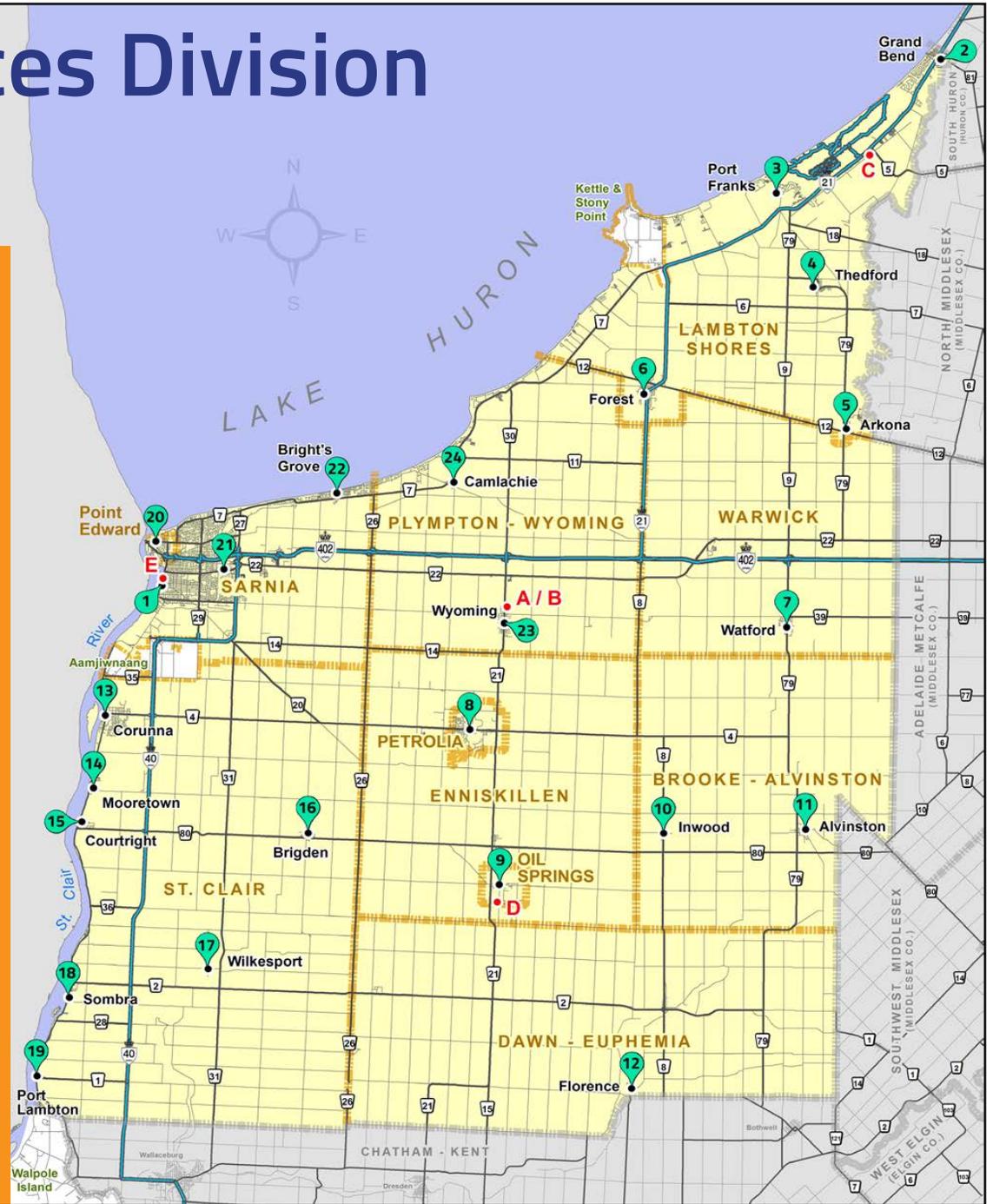
OVERVIEW MAP



Lambton Heritage Museum, 10035 Museum Road, Grand Bend

ID	LOCATION	WEBSITE	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS
A	Library Headquarters	www.lclibrary.ca	519-845-3324	787 Broadway Street
B	Lambton County Archives	www.lambtonarchives.ca	519-845-9426	787 Broadway Street
C	Lambton Heritage Museum	www.heritagemuseum.ca	519-243-2600	10035 Museum Road
D	Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site	www.oilmuseum.ca	519-836-2840	2423 Kelly Road
E	Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery	www.jnaag.ca	519-336-8127	147 Lochiel Street

REGION	ID	LIBRARY LOCATION	TELEPHONE	ADDRESS	MUNICIPALITY
Region 1	1	Sarnia Library	519-337-3291	124 Christina Street South	Sarnia
Region 2	2	Grand Bend Library	519-238-2067	15 Gill Road	Lambton Shores
	3	Port Franks Library	519-243-2820	9997 Port Franks Road	Lambton Shores
	4	Theftord Library	519-296-4459	16 Allen Street	Lambton Shores
	5	Arkona Library	519-828-3406	16 Smith Street	Lambton Shores
	6	Forest Library	519-786-5152	61 King Street West	Lambton Shores
	7	Watford Library	519-876-2204	5317 Nauvoo Road	Warwick
Region 3	8	Petrolia Library	519-882-0771	4200 Petrolia Line	Petrolia
	9	Oil Springs Library	519-834-2670	4596 Oil Springs Line	Oil Springs
	10	Inwood Library	519-844-2491	6504 James Street	Brooke-Alvinston
	11	Alvinston Library	519-898-2921	3251 River Street	Brooke-Alvinston
	12	Florence Library	519-692-3213	6213 Mill Street	Dawn-Euphemia
Region 4	13	Corunna Library	519-862-1132	417 Lyndoch Street	St. Clair
	14	Mooretown Library	519-867-2823	1166 Emily Street	St. Clair
	15	Courtright Library	519-867-2712	1533 Fourth Street	St. Clair
	16	Brigden Library	519-864-1142	1540 Duncan Street	St. Clair
	17	Wilkesport Library	519-864-4000	1349 Wilkesport Line	St. Clair
	18	Sombra Library	519-892-3711	3536 St. Clair Parkway	St. Clair
	19	Port Lambton Library	519-677-5217	507 Stoddard Street	St. Clair
Region 5	20	Point Edward Library	519-336-3291	220 Michigan Avenue	Point Edward
	21	Clearwater Library	519-542-2580	1400 Wellington Street	Sarnia
	22	Bright's Grove Library	519-869-2351	2618 Hamilton Road	Sarnia
	23	Wyoming Library	519-845-0181	536 Niagara Street	Plympton-Wyoming
	24	Camlachie Library	519-899-2202	6745 Camlachie Road	Plympton-Wyoming



Contents



Visitors create linoblock art at the Oil Museum of Canada's Black Gold Fest.



Staff at Petrolia Library get into the Halloween spirit.



A docent at JNAAG leads a guided tour of *Storm Watch*.

Cultural Services Division Overview Map	2	Developing Partnerships That Increase Participation in Culture	14
Cultural Services Division Profile	4	Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces	18
Enhancing Access, Inclusion & Community Engagement	6	Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Lambton's Profile	20
Creating & Delivering Great Experiences	10	Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively	22

COVER IMAGES: Clockwise from top left - 1) Archivist / Supervisor, Nicole Aszalos shows the process of how Lambton County Archives stores family diaries . 2) Visitors explore an interactive display at the Oil Museum of Canada. 3) Artist John Williams paints *Debwewe Giizhik | (sound in the distance) from the sky* at JNAAG. 4) Carriage drivers visited Lambton Heritage Museum on a fall morning for a ride. 5) Adrianne Lebert, Lambton County Library Public Services Coordinator - Adult, poses with author Adam Shoalts at an Author Talk at Sarnia Library Theatre.

Cultural Services Division Profile

The County of Lambton Cultural Services Division's mandate is to provide leadership and support to advance cultural development for economic, social and broader community benefit in Lambton County. In support of this mandate, the Division assumes responsibilities in the areas of cultural planning and policy development, capacity building, program delivery, strategic investment and resource development.



4

Lambton County Library

Lambton County Library manages a network of 24 libraries, provides courier service to all County Divisions and partner agencies Tourism Sarnia-Lambton and Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, and operates a mobile library outreach service. Services offered to its 26,848 active cardholders include the ability to borrow traditional items like books, audiobooks, and magazines and non-traditional items like video games, snow shoes, telescopes and more. Patrons can participate in story hours, hear from guest speakers, access reference service and access the Internet through public computer workstations or free public wi-fi. Library cardholders also have access to a range of convenient eLibrary services available on any device connected to the Internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services include electronic books, magazines, newspapers, digital media (such as music and movies) educational courses, electronic databases and research resources.

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (JNAAG) is a free public art gallery located in downtown Sarnia. JNAAG engages the community through a wide-range of exhibitions, tours, lectures and programs for all ages. The Gallery's collection is comprised of over 1,400 primarily Canadian historical and contemporary works of both local and national significance. The Gallery holds the distinction of Category 'A' designation from the Department of Canadian Heritage. As such, the Gallery meets and maintains a range of strict building, operational and professional standards.

Larry Towell *Boundaries* at JNAAG.

Oil Museum of Canada - National Historic Site

Oil Museum of Canada is a designated National Historic Site, situated on the world’s first commercial oil field. The ten-acre site features four historic buildings with reconstructed spring-pole and three-pole derricks dotting the property. A series of jerker lines, pumping stations, storage tanks and oil wagons combine with the material in the museum collection to bring the fascinating story of the oil industry to life. The main exhibition centre, constructed in 1960, houses over 9,000 artifacts that interpret the international influence of Lambton’s proud oil heritage.

Lambton County Archives

Lambton County Archives serves as an active genealogical and local history resource centre. The archives preserves significant local material including census records, birth, marriage and death records, local newspapers, corporate records, Land Registry records and a vast historical photograph collection. In total, the collection includes approximately 7,731 linear feet of records under care—the equivalent of nearly 1.5 kilometres of Lambton County’s documentary history. The archives also offers free seminars and information sessions to help individuals develop their historical and genealogical research skills, as well as educate Lambton’s residents about their past.

Lambton Heritage Museum

Lambton Heritage Museum is entrusted with the care of over 25,000 historic artifacts which preserve the history of Lambton County. Situated on 30 acres in an ecologically significant Carolinian forest, the museum maintains six historic buildings, two display buildings and one main exhibition centre. The museum also offers scenic picnic grounds and a 1km Woodland Heritage Trail. Lambton Heritage Museum has evolved from a passive museum site to an active experiential tourism destination.

Sarnia Library Theatre

Sarnia Library is home to the Sarnia Library Theatre, which features special Cultural Services Division programming and also plays host to many events planned by community organizations and cultural groups. With a capacity of just over 300 and projection, sound and lighting equipment, the theatre space is available for rent for concerts, lectures, celebrations, film screenings and more.

Creative County Grant Program

The Creative County Grant Program invests matching funds (up to 50% of the total cost) in new and innovative projects that build cultural capacity, strengthen the creative community, define Lambton’s unique identity and enrich the quality of life of all residents. Projects led by or in partnership with local Indigenous communities are also encouraged.

Wheels & Wells Car Show at the Oil Museum of Canada.



Below: Visitors using the virtual reality set to learn about how oil is formed at the Oil Museum of Canada.

Enhancing Access, Inclusion & Community Engagement



Welcoming Our Community

21,312 people visited museums, gallery and archives sites.



Beyond Our Walls

The Oil Museum of Canada delivered 49 heritage programs to long-term care homes, reaching **1,045 residents** across Lambton County.



Cardholder Growth

Lambton County Library welcomed **5,142 new cardholders** and grew its active cardholders by **5%**.



Learning Without Limits

Lambton County Library circulated over **1.1 million** items, supporting learning, discovery, and enjoyment across the county.



Visitors pose with artwork they created with JNAAG at the Sarnia Pop Culture Show.



A family visits the Oil Museum of Canada.



Families explore the feature exhibit, *A Taste of Science*, at Lambton Heritage Museum.

The Cultural Services Division strives to promote and enhance awareness of cultural opportunities across Lambton County, and provide access to relevant and engaging exhibitions, programming and services for residents at all phases of life.

Visits and Outreach

In 2025, Museum, Gallery, and Archives sites attracted 21,312 visitors, reflecting strong community engagement with Lambton County's cultural heritage. JNAAG welcomed 7,446 visitors, while the Oil Museum of Canada attracted 4,626. Lambton Heritage Museum welcomed 8,519 visitors and Lambton County Archives supported 721 researchers.

Through targeted outreach initiatives, Museums, Gallery, and Archives connected with an additional 5,018 participants at schools and community venues, extending access to programming and enhancing appreciation for local history and the arts throughout the region.

Digital Access and Learning with the Library

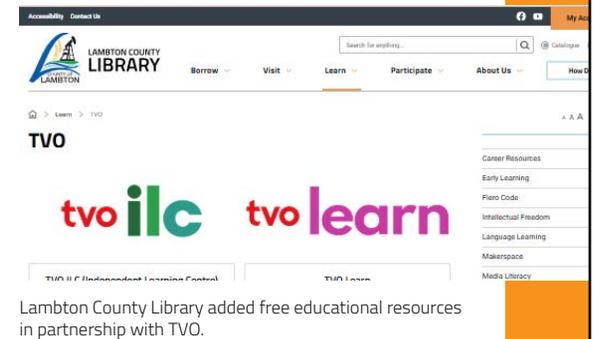
Lambton County Library's digital services portfolio continued to break down barriers to learning and opportunity throughout 2025. Grant Connect, a comprehensive online database, equipped local residents, non-profit organizations, and community groups with access to searchable funding opportunities, grant-writing resources, and application support tools.

Through a new partnership with TVO (Ontario's public educational media organization), library cardholders accessed high-quality digital learning content spanning curriculum-aligned resources, documentaries, and educational programming for children, students, and adult learners pursuing knowledge across diverse subjects.

Youth digital literacy advanced through Fiero Code, an innovative online platform that introduces young learners to computer programming and computational thinking through engaging, game-based lessons. This resource helped cultivate essential 21st-century skills among Lambton County's next generation.



Lambton County Archives Archivist / Supervisor, Nicole Aszalos leads a behind the scenes tour, being filmed by YourTV Cogeco during Archives Awareness Week.



Lambton County Library added free educational resources in partnership with TVO.



Rajni Perera *Futures* at JNAAG.



Larry Towell *Boundaries* at JNAAG.



Oil Museum of Canada's new Curator / Supervisor, Meagan Sinclair installs artifacts at Sarnia Library for an outreach exhibition.



A young patron visits Watford Library to get her first library card.

Library Use and Engagement

Lambton County Library circulated 1,128,985 items among 26,848 active cardholders, including 5,142 new patrons. These figures reflect the library's enduring role as an essential community resource, providing access to books, digital media, and information resources that support learning, recreation, and personal enrichment.

Museums, Gallery, and Archives Exhibitions

Throughout 2025, Museums, Gallery, and Archives presented a diverse and engaging exhibition program that attracted visitors and sparked dialogue across multiple disciplines.



Lambton Quilters Guild Quilt Show at Lambton Heritage Museum.

Lambton Heritage Museum opened the year with *Return of the Swans*, exploring the environmental significance of the majestic tundra swans to our region. Subsequent exhibitions included *A Taste of Science*, on loan from the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, which made scientific discovery accessible and engaging for all ages, and the biennial *North Lambton Quilters Guild Quilt Show*, celebrating traditional textile artistry and the skilled craftsmanship of local quilters.

The Oil Museum of Canada celebrated a century of national recognition, marking 100 years since its designation as a National Historic Site. This milestone exhibition, presented at Sarnia Library, reinforced the museum's critical role in preserving and interpreting Canada's petroleum heritage and the industry's transformative impact on the region and the nation. Additional exhibitions included *Village of Oil Springs: 160th Anniversary*, presented at Oil Springs Library and *Patrick Pickford: Modern International Driller*, was the featured lobby display that highlighted the global influence of a local innovator.

JNAAG delivered an ambitious exhibition calendar featuring both regional and national art. Early 2025 programming included Leslie Reid and Robert Kautuk's *Dark Ice*; *Sculpting Life*; *Pysanky*; Rajni Perera *Futures*; *Storm Watch*; and *Stories in Focus*, each offering distinct perspectives on art, culture, and human experience. The year concluded with three exhibitions: John Williams *Debwewe Giizhik | (sound in the distance) from the sky*, which centers Indigenous voices and perspectives; Larry Towell *Boundaries* the first displayed retrospective of internationally award winning photographer (and Lambton County resident) Larry Towell, and *Making Space*, showcasing recent acquisitions to the permanent collection. These exhibitions continue into 2026, extending their community impact.

Digital Impact



731,926 website views.



2,747,351 screens reached through social media.



Email campaigns received approximately 307,074 engagements.



313,818 website users.



921 hours of video watched.

Representing three websites, thirteen social media channels, and five email newsletters.

Youth Voice and Inclusion

Lambton County Library established a Teen Advisory Council in 2025, providing young people with a meaningful platform to influence library programming, communications methods and collections. This initiative recognizes teens as valuable stakeholders while fostering leadership development, civic engagement, and ensuring library services authentically reflect the interests and needs of youth in our community.

Mobile Library Reach

Throughout 2025, 212 residents of participating long-term care homes and retirement communities benefited from 230 Mobile Library visits. This outreach service brings library materials and programs directly to individuals who may face mobility challenges or transportation barriers, expanding library access across the community.



Mobile Library van in front of Albany Retirement Village in Petrolia.



Christina Sydorko, Educational Program Coordinator at the Oil Museum of Canada, delivers a program at Twin Lakes Terrace Long-Term Care Facility.

Long-Term Care History Education

The Oil Museum of Canada, delivered heritage and cultural programming directly to long-term care homes, extending Lambton's cultural reach to these communities. Through 49 visits to homes, programming reached 1,045 people, reinforcing Cultural Services' commitment to inclusive access while showcasing Lambton's rich history and expertise within care homes.

StoryWalk® at East Lambton Community Complex

In 2025, Lambton County Library launched a new StoryWalk® at the East Lambton Community Complex in Watford, creating an outdoor, interactive reading experience for children and families. Installed along a walking path near the complex, the StoryWalk® encourages early literacy, physical activity, and family engagement by combining pages of a children's book with movement and exploration. This addition expands access to literacy programming beyond library walls and strengthens the Library's presence in community spaces across Lambton County.



New StoryWalk® from Lambton County Library at the East Lambton Community Complex in Watford.

Creating & Delivering Great Experiences



Artist Rajni Perera leads an *Art & Ideas* Lecture on her exhibition, *Futures*.



A young visitor meets Victorian Santa at the Oil Museum of Canada's *Holiday Open House*.

The Cultural Services Division aims to provide unique experiences that engage and inspire visitors. This is achieved through the presentation of exhibitions and interpretive displays, programs and activities, tours and events, and the use of emergent technologies to enhance the visitor experience.

Programs and Participation

Cultural Services continued to create meaningful opportunities for residents and visitors to learn, connect, and explore their creativity through diverse programming.

Lambton County Library delivered 7,717 programs that engaged 56,611 participants across all age groups. Programming spanned early literacy storytimes, tech workshops, author visits, book clubs, STEAM programs, craft sessions, and community events—each designed to foster learning, creativity, and social connection.

The Museum, Gallery, and Archives sites collectively offered 198 programs that attracted 4,020 participants in 2025. These experiences ranged from hands-on heritage workshops and artist talks to archival research sessions, exhibition tours, seasonal celebrations, and cultural events that deepened public engagement with art, history, and local heritage.



10 Author Adam Shoalts speaks to a full Sarnia Library Theatre about his book *Vanished Beyond the Map: The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell*.



Community Participation

More than **60,600 people** took part in library, museum, gallery and archives programs across Lambton County.



Signature Events that Draw Crowds

Major festivals and events welcomed thousands of visitors, including **3,128 attendees** at the Fall Colour & Craft Festival and **525 attendees** at Black Gold Fest.



A Summer of Reading

3,014 readers shared the joy of reading by logging **47,265 books** during the Summer Reading Challenge.

Participants sketch in the *Storm Watch* exhibition space as part of *Group of Seven Day* programming at JNAAG.



Councillor Brian White reads a story to young patrons at Bright's Grove Library as part of Ontario Public Library Week celebrations.



Patron-submitted photo of tomatoes started using Lambton County Library's 2025 One Seed Lambton seeds.



A patron reads outside as part of Lambton County Library's Summer Reading Challenge.

Rhythms of Lambton

Lambton County Library's 2025 Rhythms of Lambton concert series welcomed 480 attendees across multiple free performances by local ensembles including The Georgian Singers, Forest Excelsior Band, Lambton Concert Band, and Relic. These concerts celebrated regional musical talent while providing accessible cultural experiences that brought the community together.

Ontario Public Library Week

Lambton County Library celebrated Ontario Public Library Week by highlighting libraries' community impact. Over 300 people filled the Sarnia Library Theatre to capacity to hear author Adam Schultz speak about his book, "Vanished Beyond the Map: The Mystery of Lost Explorer Hubert Darrell" and libraries across the county welcomed back County Councillors to participate in "Councillor Storytimes". The "I Love Lambton County Library" campaign collected 534 testimonials. These activities strengthened connections between staff, municipal leaders, and residents while emphasizing the library's essential role in public service.

One Seed Lambton

One Seed Lambton's 2025 program engaged 3,000 residents in growing the Purple Cherokee Tomato, enhancing food literacy skills, environmental awareness, and community connection. Participants grew plants, shared harvests, and exchanged knowledge, sparking discussions about sustainable food systems and the rewards of gardening while strengthening ties between Cultural Services and community partners.

Winter Reading Challenge and Gabriel Alluhdua Talk: Harvesting Freedom

Lambton County Library's Winter Reading Challenge encouraged participants of all ages to explore new books, develop literacy skills, and celebrate the joy of reading during the winter months. Complementing this, the library hosted acclaimed speaker Gabriel Alluhdua for a presentation titled "Harvesting Freedom: The Life of A Migrant Worker". This powerful presentation provided insights into the migrant worker experience and fostered community understanding and dialogue about agricultural labour and social justice.

Participants learn about reptiles as part of Lambton County Library's Summer Reading Challenge Launch Party.

Summer Reading Challenge

In 2025, Lambton County Library's Summer Reading Challenge engaged readers across Lambton County under the theme Wild Wonder. The program encouraged participants of all ages to explore new books, develop literacy skills, and engage with stories in creative and interactive ways. A launch party kicked off the challenge, generating excitement among readers, families, and library staff. The challenge saw 3,014 people read 47,265 books throughout the summer months. The Summer Reading Challenge continues to be a key program in promoting literacy, curiosity, and a love of reading throughout the county. It is also an important tool to ensure school age children maintain their literacy skills over the summer break away from formal education.





Wild Ontario shows a bird as part of Lambton Heritage Museum's PA Day Event, *Wildlife Encounter: Birds of Prey*.



Participants take part in a plein air workshop overlooking the St. Clair River during JNAAG's *Group of Seven Day*.



Lambton Heritage Museum's *Fall Colour & Craft Festival*, 2025.

PA Day Programming

In 2025, PA Day programming across Cultural Services sites offered children and families a variety of engaging and educational activities during school breaks. Programs included hands-on learning experiences related to natural and industrial heritage, art workshops, coding activities, movie screenings, and other interactive opportunities. These sessions encouraged creativity, curiosity, and a love of learning outside the classroom, while providing welcoming spaces for families to connect with culture, history, and community resources.

Black Gold Fest

Black Gold Fest at the Oil Museum of Canada, coordinated alongside the Village of Oil Springs' 160th anniversary celebrations, attracted 525 attendees in 2025. The event spotlighted Lambton County's petroleum heritage through demonstrations, interactive activities, and family programming. This signature festival continues drawing local and regional visitors to explore the county's unique industrial history.

Dave Jurasek's 1970 Plymouth Roadrunner parked at the Oil Museum of Canada's *Wheels & Wells Car Show*.

Fall Colour & Craft Festival

Lambton Heritage Museum's Fall Colour and Craft Festival welcomed 3,128 visitors in 2025, showcasing 79 local artisans. This popular annual sale raised \$18,859 for the Canatara Cabin reconstruction, reinforcing its dual role as both an important venue for local artisans and a valued fundraising initiative.

Wheels & Wells Car Show

The Oil Museum of Canada's inaugural Wheels & Wells Car Show welcomed 450 attendees and showcased 122 vehicles in 2025, successfully launching a new celebration that engages new audiences and unites automotive heritage with local history. Car enthusiasts, families, and history lovers gathered to explore stories of engineering, innovation, and community pride, establishing a promising foundation for this new annual tradition.



Group of Seven Day

Group of Seven Day at JNAAG engaged 105 participants in 2025 through programming that connected Canadian art history with local context. Activities included plein air painting workshops along the St. Clair River, art workshops in the exhibition space, tours, and family programming. The event strengthened appreciation for the connections between visual art, landscape, and community identity.

Sharing Preservation Knowledge

Lambton County Archives' Preservation Lab was launched as a series of free, hands-on workshops designed to teach residents practical skills for preserving their own historical documents at home. The sessions focused on topics such as proper handling, storage, and basic conservation techniques for photographs, paper records, and other family keepsakes. By sharing professional preservation knowledge, the Archives empowered community members to protect personal and family histories, while strengthening awareness of the importance of long-term care for documentary heritage.

Developing Partnerships that Increase Participation in Culture



Staff and partners plant trees at the Oil Museum of Canada during the Tree Canada Partners in Planting event

As a guiding principle of the County of Lambton Cultural Plan, the Cultural Services Division seeks to build partnerships and work collaboratively with the private, public and volunteer sectors to identify and seize shared challenges and opportunities.

Publications and Research

Lambton Heritage Museum and Lambton County Archives continued to support local authors and researchers in 2025 by providing access to collections, research assistance, and historical expertise for publications. This work contributed to several historical projects, including publications focused on Grand Bend history, historic farmhouses, and the life of celebrated philanthropist and Sarnia resident, Maud Hanna. By supporting research and publication, the museum and archives help ensure that Lambton County's stories are documented, shared, and preserved for future generations, while strengthening relationships with local historians, writers, and scholars.

Summer Reading Challenge and First Nations Communities

In collaboration with Maajigin Gumig Greenhouse at Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Lambton County Library developed an Earth Ball Kit that paired seeds, supplies and information to grow native plant species with Indigenous plant knowledge. The kit honours traditional Anishinaabe growing practices and integrates Anishinaabemowin language, supporting ongoing efforts to preserve and revitalize Indigenous languages and cultural knowledge. Distributed to participating Summer Reading Challenge registrants, the kits invited children and families to grow native plant species while learning about their cultural significance.

This collaboration provided an opportunity to strengthen connections with Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Public Library and Bkejwanong First Nation Public Library, and helped expand access to summer literacy programming across First Nations communities. The collaboration with Stony Point First Nation Public Library saw approximately 30 children and families attend in-library events, and a Hillside School presentation reached over 100

students and family members. Lambton County Library provided registration kits for distribution to Bkejwanong First Nation Public Library patrons which complimented their TD Summer Reading Program.

Trees at Oil Museum of Canada

Environmental partnerships continued with tree planting initiatives at the Oil Museum of Canada. Over 400 native trees and shrubs were planted on the museum grounds, enhancing biodiversity and supporting local ecosystems. This initiative was made possible through collaboration with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Tree Canada, Enbridge, TD Tree Day, Skyline, and Lambton County Library, demonstrating the value of cross-sector partnerships in promoting environmental stewardship and community engagement.

Tourism Sarnia-Lambton Collaborations

Cultural Services Division continued partnerships with Tourism Sarnia-Lambton throughout 2025, coordinating marketing efforts and resources that raised the profile of cultural attractions and drove tourism to the region.



Environmental Stewardship
More than **400 native trees** and shrubs were planted at the Oil Museum of Canada through cross-sector partnerships.



Expanding Knowledge
46 Anishinaabemowin words with English translations were featured on the Akii-Biwaakwad Earth Ball Kit available to all Summer Reading Challenge participants.



Youth Voices Through Art
The Teen Photo Contest gave **33 youth** a platform to share their art, with **26 photographs** selected for exhibition.



Reading That Adds Up
Students across Lambton County read an impressive **1,045,682 minutes** during the Clash of the Classrooms competition.



Growing Literacy Together
Weekly EarlyON storytimes reached **4,268** parents, caregivers, and young children, supporting early learning across Lambton County.

From Left: Vanitia Campbell, Lambton County Library, Public Services Coordinator - Youth, Dylan Henry, former greenhouse technician at Maajigin Gumig Greenhouse, and Adrienne Lebert, Lambton County Library, Public Services Coordinator - Adult showcase the Akii-Biwaakwad Earth Ball Kit.



Teen Photo Contest winners are presented with their winning photos. Left to right: Lambton College presents Fantasy, Lambton County Library presents Overall, JNAAG presents Comedy.



Baby Bookworm kits sit in bassinets at Bluewater Health ready to give out to new babies. *Photo courtesy of Literacy Lambton Facebook page.*



Lambton Heritage Museum's Curator / Supervisor, Dana Thorne with Diane Carrothers at the premier of *We Lend A Hand* at Sarnia Library Theatre.

EarlyON Partnership

Lambton County Library partnered with the County of Lambton Social Services Division to visit Ontario's EarlyON Child and Family Centres throughout Lambton County to deliver a storytime program. These visits offered parents and caregivers of children aged 0 to 6 various engaging activities and learning experiences, with 4,268 participants throughout the year.

Teen Photo Contest Expands

The Teen Photo Contest, a collaboration between Lambton County Library and JNAAG encouraged youth to enhance their artistic skills and connect with their community.

In 2025, the contest expanded with Lambton College becoming an official partner, providing additional expertise and opportunities for young photographers. With the theme "Stories in Focus" 98 photographs were submitted by 33 participants. A panel of jurors selected 26 photographs for the *Stories in Motion* exhibit. This contest provided a platform for young artists to share their perspectives, develop visual literacy skills, and contribute to Lambton's cultural narrative.

Clash of the Classrooms

The third annual Clash of the Classrooms partnership between Lambton County Library and Chatham-Kent Public Library brought 19 Lambton County schools together for literacy challenges. A total of 48 classrooms participated across Lambton, reading an impressive 1,045,682 minutes collectively. This initiative showcases a shared commitment to improving literacy while strengthening collaboration between bordering library systems that share district school boards.

Baby Bookworm

Lambton County Library continued to support Literacy Lambton's Baby Bookworm initiative. Each Baby Bookworm Bag included materials and information to encourage early reading habits, fostering literacy from birth. Through this partnership over 1,000 bags were delivered to new families at Bluewater Health in 2025, connecting them with library services from their child's first days.

Film and Local History

Lambton Heritage Museum partnered with local filmmakers to support the Sarnia premiere of *We Lend A Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes* at the Sarnia Library Theatre. Produced by Bonnie Sitter and Colin Field, the documentary highlights the contributions of more than 40,000 teenage girls who volunteered on Canadian farms during and after the Second World War, including many in Lambton County. The partnership complemented the Museum's ongoing interpretation of the Farmerette story through its in-person exhibition on the Ontario Farm Service Force and a related online exhibit, reinforcing the Museum's role in preserving and sharing this important chapter of local and national history.

Employment Ontario Collaboration

The collaboration with the County of Lambton's Lambton Works Centre continued to establish drop-in employment support services at six library locations, including Alvinston, Corunna, Forest, Thedford, Watford and Wyoming. This initiative connected rural job seekers with local employers and resources, expanding access to employment opportunities.



JNAAG's *New Ways* exhibition, curated from Inspirational Moments artwork.



The Art & Books Book Club touring Rajni Perera *Futures* at JNAAG after discussing the chosen book at Sarnia Library.



Visitors at Lambton Heritage Museum admiring quilts from the North Lambton Quilters' Guild Quilt Show.

Inspirational Moments

JNAAG continued its successful Inspirational Moments program, providing art-based programming for individuals living with Alzheimer's or dementia in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society of Sarnia-Lambton. This meaningful initiative uses art to spark memories, encourage social connection, and enhance quality of life. In 2025, 99 participants living with Alzheimer's or dementia connected through art during 12 sessions.

Huron Shores Area Transit Partnership

In partnership with Huron Shores Area Transit and the Municipality of Lambton Shores, Lambton County Library continued to offer Smart Cards in its collection, which provide free, unlimited travel on the transit system. Patrons can borrow transit passes for up to five days. In 2025, these passes supported inter-community connections across Lambton Shores, South Huron, North Middlesex, Bluewater, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, Sarnia, London, Goderich, Sarnia, and the addition of Wyoming in 2025.

Lambton Immigration Partnership

The Cultural Services Division participated in surveys and training with the Lambton Immigration Partnership (LIP) to better understand newcomer experiences and enhance inclusive service delivery. As a result, cultural sites are anticipated to strengthen their role as key resource centres for newcomers, offering access to information, community connections, and culturally responsive programs that support settlement, learning, and integration in Lambton County.

Book Clubs

In 2025, book clubs continued to offer dynamic opportunities for collaboration between Lambton County Library and the Museums, Gallery, and Archives Department. The Art & Books Club at JNAAG invited participants to explore the connections between visual art and literature. At Lambton County Archives, Beyond the Book Club encouraged participants to engage with historical themes. These programs demonstrate the strength of cross-institutional partnerships in promoting lifelong learning and meaningful cultural engagement.

North Lambton Quilters Guild

In 2025, Lambton Heritage Museum continued its long-standing partnership with the North Lambton Quilters' Guild with the return of the biennial Quilt Show. The Guild has exhibited at the museum for nearly two decades, sharing both traditional and contemporary textile work with the community. The 2025 exhibition featured quilts alongside handmade items such as clothing, wall hangings, and accessories, while also highlighting the personal stories, inspirations, and techniques behind each piece. The opening weekend included opportunities for visitors to meet Guild members, explore quilting vendors, and engage directly with local makers, reinforcing the museum's role as a hub for community-based creativity and living heritage.

Maximizing the Value of Our Collections & Spaces



Dana Thorne, Curator/Supervisor at Lambton Heritage Museum, inspects artifacts in the Collections Centre.

The Cultural Services Division strategically manages and strengthens Lambton County's collections and associated research, developing and enhancing the important museum, gallery and library collections entrusted to the County.



Donna Barnes, Collection Coordinator, and Meagan Sinclair, Curator/Supervisor at the Oil Museum of Canada, test new shelving in the museum's collection storage.

Oil Museum of Canada Collections Storage Renovation

The Oil Museum of Canada renovated its storage space to increase capacity and improve artifact accessibility. Under the supervision of staff, approximately 4,000 artifacts—including bankers boxes, bins, textile boxes, framed pieces, and oversized items—were inventoried, packed, and temporarily relocated while a wall was removed and high-density shelving prepared for installation. The upgraded storage will enhance preservation, support ongoing collecting, and allow future generations to explore Lambton County's industrial heritage, with public tours planned for 2026.

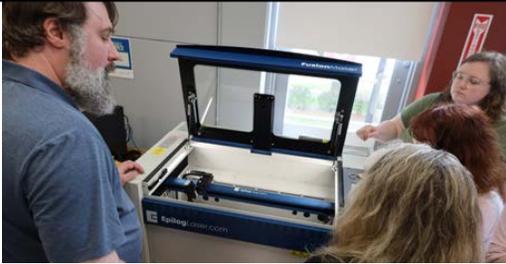
Lambton County Archives reused shelving that had previously been in the Oil Museum allowing for better preservation and access while supporting efficient management of historical records. These upgrades collectively strengthen the division's ability to care for artifacts and documents, ensuring Lambton County's cultural and documentary heritage is preserved for current and future generations.

Online Collection Database Continues to Grow

The Museums and Archives' Past Perfect collections database continued to expand throughout 2025 providing enhanced online and public access to records from museums and archives collections. The system recorded 15,918 searches conducted throughout the year, demonstrating strong public engagement with digital resources. At the end of 2025, the database included 20,923 records available for public search, with ongoing additions increasing accessibility each year.

New Acquisitions and Research

In 2025, the Museums, Gallery and Archives collections continued to grow, with 129 donations adding thousands of new items to the permanent collection. Support for research remained a priority throughout the year. Staff fulfilled dozens of research requests and welcomed 479 local researchers, supporting projects that deepen understanding of Lambton County's heritage and collections.



Sarnia Library staff learn how to use the updated Laser Cutter in Sarnia Library's Makerspace.



A tool kit available to borrow through Lambton County Library's Library of Things.



Damien Rousseliere, a researcher from France, visits the Archives while researching utopian communities, including the Maxwell Settlement (now Bright's Grove).

Library Collections

In 2025, Lambton County Library served 26,848 active cardholders and welcomed 5,142 new members. The library works annually to ensure it offers a balanced and current collection to its cardholders. In 2025, the library's physical collection totalled 184,981 items, including 12,167 new titles. Cardholders also have access to millions of eBooks, eAudiobooks, newspapers, magazines, music, movies and TV shows through subscription based services.

Access to technology remained a critical service. Public computers were used 26,165 times throughout the year, and the Wi-Fi hot-spot lending program recorded 192 checkouts. Free public Wi-Fi access continues to be in demand at libraries, underscoring the library's ongoing role in providing reliable internet access for learning, work, and everyday needs across Lambton County. The library also updated its laser cutter, enhancing makerspace technology and expanding opportunities for hands-on learning and creativity.

Virtual Library Services Expand

Lambton County Library continued to strengthen its virtual services throughout 2025, ensuring residents could access resources anytime and from anywhere. Databases and online library resources provided 24/7 access to research, learning, and reference materials, with 29,472 usages recorded over the year. Access to reading materials expanded through virtual books and audiobooks available on Libby and Hoopla, supporting flexible and convenient reading options for patrons. In addition, 37 virtual author talks were viewed 3,263 times.

Virtual exhibits from the Museums, Gallery and Archives Department extended experiences to online audiences, with 15 exhibits viewed 438 times. Programming shared through YouTube and other platforms increased access to educational content.

Together, these services reflect the Division's ongoing commitment to equitable access, lifelong learning, and digital inclusion across Lambton County.

Community Librarian, Naomi Woods, plays the ukelele from Lambton County Library's Library of Things.

Community Meeting Rooms

Community meeting rooms across Lambton County Library demonstrated substantial community engagement with 813 bookings, accumulating 2,251 hours of use and serving 1,752 attendees.

Library of Things

In 2025, the Library of Things continued to expand, offering access to useful items beyond traditional library materials. The collection grew to 19 unique items with the addition of Tennis, Ukulele and Tool Kits. By making occasional-use items available for borrowing rather than purchase, this service supports resource sharing, reduces waste, and helps patrons save money.



Building Cultural Capacity & Raising Lambton's Profile



Performers take the stage in 1950s-inspired costumes during Pathways Health Centre for Children's Expressive Arts 2025 theatre production.

The Cultural Services Division endeavours to pursue opportunities that raise our profile at the provincial, national and international level, while maximizing our ability to contribute to the cultural, social and economic vitality of Lambton County.

Creative County Initiative

The Creative County Grant Program continued to invest in new and innovative cultural projects throughout 2025, building cultural capacity and strengthening the creative community across Lambton County.

Nineteen grants totaling \$69,275 were awarded to local organizations and groups. Funded projects in 2025 spanned community celebrations, Indigenous cultural programming, public art, theatre, music, heritage interpretation, youth literacy, and local history initiatives. Based on estimated project costs submitted by applicants, the 2025 grants are expected to leverage more than \$322,000 in local cultural investment, amplifying the impact of County funding through partnerships and community support.

IODE Celebrates Sculpting Life

To celebrate the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE)'s 125th anniversary, JNAAG welcomed provincial IODE representatives for a guided tour of the exhibition, *Sculpting Life*. In 1960, the IODE generously donated a collection of Inuit carvings, which formed the centerpiece of the exhibition. This collaboration highlighted the enduring impact of community investment in cultural programming and reinforced the importance of preserving and showcasing Inuit art.



Sonya Blazek, Curator / Supervisor of JNAAG, poses in *Sculpting Life* with provincial members of the IODE in celebration of their 125th anniversary.



Building owners, artists, friends, family and members of the Downtown Collective gather to celebrate the completion of the waterfront mural, partially funded by the Creative County Grant Program.



Behind the scenes of filming the documentary *We Lend a Hand*, which explores the story of the Farmerettes in Lambton County and was partially funded by the Creative County Grant Program.



A band performs on stage at the Inwood 150 Music Festival, partially funded by the Creative County Grant Program.



The Village of Oil Springs celebrates its 160th Anniversary with a village wide event. The celebration was partially funded by the Creative County Grant Program. *Courtesy of the Village of Oil Springs.*



The Canatara Cabin following chinking work, an important step toward sealing and restoring the historic structure.

Fiero Code Winner

Local Lambton County Library cardholder, Naina Patel earned second place in the 12 and under category for a global coding competition, using Fiero Code, a software available for free with a library card.



Naina Patel, a patron of Clearwater Library, poses with her video game that she created using the coding software, Fiero Code.

Board and Committee Leadership

In 2025, Cultural Services staff played a role in building cultural capacity across Lambton County and elevating the profile of the region through active leadership on community and sector-based boards and committees. By contributing professional expertise beyond their core roles, staff strengthened partnerships, supported sector development, and helped position Lambton as a community that values culture, learning, and inclusion.

Vanitia Campbell, Public Services Coordinator, advanced youth engagement and education through her leadership as Chair of the Youth Engagement Subcommittee for the Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy Demand Reduction Working Group and represents the group at the Strategy's Steering Committee. Her participation on the Program Advisory Committee for the Lambton College Photography Program and the Lambton Child and Family Network Committee further strengthened connections between Cultural Services, post-secondary education, and community support systems.

Laurie Webb, Manager of Museums, Gallery and Archives, contributed to provincial museum sector development through

her active leadership within the Ontario Museum Association (OMA). Beyond membership, Laurie participated in sector-wide discussions, knowledge sharing, and professional collaboration that supported advocating for sustainable and relevant provincial funding for museums.

Building Cultural Capacity Through Heritage Restoration

This year's progress on the Canatara Cabin Restoration Project reflects more than construction milestones—it demonstrates the growing cultural capacity and leadership as stewards of Lambton's heritage. Key restoration work, including the log chinking, chimney, and fireplace, was completed, with efforts now focused on sealing the structure by completing the installation of windows and doors as well as interior finishes. These visible advances have increased public awareness of the project and reinforced Lambton's profile as a community committed to preserving and interpreting its historic places. The momentum built in 2025 positions the project well for its next phase, when the cabin will be interpreted as a 1930s family summer cottage and opened as a meaningful cultural experience for residents and visitors alike.

Managing Our Resources Efficiently & Effectively



New windows installed by St. Clair Township at Sombra Library.

As a guiding principle, the Cultural Services Division ensures the most efficient and effective use of County resources, and strives for continuous innovation in addressing the needs of the community.



Residents of St. Clair Township participate in a Town Hall regarding library service at Port Lambton Community Hall.



The West Room at Sarnia Library after minor renovations.

Library-Led Facility Improvements

In 2025, the Library undertook several projects to enhance accessibility, safety, and the usability of its spaces. At Florence Library, minor modifications were completed to create an accessible service desk and improve the layout to accommodate an increased collection following the closure of Shetland Library. An accessible service desk was installed at Corunna Library. At Sarnia Library, the West and East Rooms were upgraded with new flooring, lighting, and paint, while the theatre received additional lighting to enhance programming and performance capacity. Hazardous materials abatement was also completed on the West Room to ensure its continued availability for public use.

Municipal Facility Investments

Partner municipalities continued to invest in library infrastructure to ensure safe, accessible, and energy-efficient facilities. St. Clair Township installed new windows at Sombra Library, as well as completing extensive exterior work at Corunna Library, including the installation of new windows and entrance doorway, soffit repairs, masonry work, and exterior painting. St. Clair Township also replaced the roof at Wilkesport Library. The Township of Warwick installed a new furnace at Watford Library. The Municipality of Lambton

Shores completed accessibility improvements with new concrete at the front entrance of Forest Library and installed a new roof at Arkona Library. At Florence Library, Dawn-Euphemia Township installed a power door to the washroom, improving accessibility.

Library Service Changes and Planning

Planning discussions began regarding library service in southern St. Clair Township, and focused on possible consolidation of services at Sombra and Port Lambton Libraries to better serve community needs by increasing library floor size in Sombra, renovating the building's interior and using the full building's footprint. A Town Hall meeting was held in Port Lambton, allowing community members to share their perspectives and help shape the direction of library service in the area. This process reflects the division's commitment to responsive, community-driven planning while maintaining equitable access to library resources across Lambton County.

Relocation of bookshelves at Florence Library to support an increased collection.





Laurie Webb, Manager, Museums, Gallery, Archives Department helps move collection items to prepare for a storage renovation at the Oil Museum of Canada.



The Chalmers Power House nears complete restoration with new footings and board and batten at the Oil Museum of Canada.



Restoration work completed on the jerker line system at the Oil Museum of Canada.

Cultural Facilities and Collections Infrastructure

In 2025, significant investments were made across Cultural Services sites to enhance collections care, preserve historic structures, and improve visitor experience.

At the Oil Museum of Canada, major restoration work continued on its historic buildings and industrial infrastructure. The Blacksmith Shop was repaired with new board-and-batten walls while retaining the original mortise-and-tenon structure, bricks in the forge and chimney were repointed, a cedar shake roof and interpretive signage were installed, and an audio tour point was added. The Jerker Line system was refurbished, including replacement of worn lines, reactivation of the North branch, and restoration of field wheels with new timber supports, ensuring these iconic structures remain operational for interpretation. The Powerhouse also received extensive restorative work, including a new concrete foundation, replacement of exterior walls while preserving the original late-1800s structural elements, and planned electrical upgrades to meet current codes.

Re-imagined Agricultural Hall at Lambton Heritage Museum

In 2025, major renovations began to the Agricultural Hall, formerly known as "The White Barn" at the Lambton Heritage Museum. These projects focused on improving visitor experience, enhancing collections care, and ensuring accessibility across the site. The renovations are scheduled for completion in 2026, with an anticipated reopening that will allow the public to fully explore the updated spaces and enjoy improved exhibitions and interpretation.



A new plowing exhibit in progress located in the Agricultural Hall at Lambton Heritage Museum.



New board and batten being installed on the Blacksmith Shop at the Oil Museum of Canada to help preserve the historic building.



A worker from Bill Dokter Masonry works on chinking the Canatara Cabin as part of restoration efforts.



CULTURAL SERVICES

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery

147 Lochiel Street
Sarnia, ON
N7T 0B4
519-336-8127
www.jnaag.ca

Lambton Heritage Museum

10035 Museum Road
Grand Bend, ON
N0M 1T0
519-243-2600
www.heritagemuseum.ca

Lambton County Library Headquarters

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
N0N 1T0
519-845-3324
www.lclibrary.ca

Lambton County Archives

787 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON
N0N 1T0
519-845-5426
www.lambtonarchives.ca

Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site

2423 Kelly Road
Oil Springs, ON
N0N 1P0
519-834-2840
www.oilmuseum.ca



BACK COVER IMAGES: Clockwise from top left - 1) Christina Sydorko, Education Coordinator at the Oil Museum of Canada teaches a family about rock layers and oil. 2) Lambton Heritage Museum surrounded by fall colours. 3) Young visitor, Claire Allen admires the *Pysanky* exhibition at JNAAG. 4) A patron shows off their artwork completed during a program at Lambton County Library. 5) Colleen McLean, Lambton County Archives Assistant, works with a resident to identify people in unidentified images at an X-Files outreach program at Albany Retirement Village in Petrolia.

	CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	LIBRARIES
PREPARED BY:	Darlene Coke, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
SUBJECT:	Libraries Donations, October 1 to December 31, 2025

BACKGROUND

Lambton County Library receives occasional donations from patrons, individuals, community organizations and local businesses.

DISCUSSION

The following donations were received for the period October 1 to December 31, 2025:

- \$500 from Leah Klompstra, Sombra, for library programs.
- \$100 from Alice Earl, Alvinston, for the library's general use.
- \$350 from an anonymous donor from Sarnia for the library's general use.
- \$1,000 from an anonymous donor from Sarnia for the library's general use.
- \$100 from Laurie McIntyre-Bell ("Fran's Girls"), Calgary, Alberta, for the purchase of children's materials in memory of Marcia Minielly.
- \$160.13 from donation boxes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial donations are recorded as revenue in the Department's budget each year, and any unspent dollars at year-end are placed in a donations reserve to fund special projects or equipment, not funded through the levy.

CONSULTATIONS

The Executive Assistant / Administrative Services Supervisor assisted in the completion of the report.

Libraries Donation, October 1 to December 31, 2025 (page 2)

February 18, 2026

STRATEGIC PLAN

Any monetary donations contribute to the operation of Lambton's library service which support the strategic plan's principles and values including: services and communications, community development, health and wellness and partnerships.

CONCLUSION

Lambton County Library is fortunate to receive occasional support from individuals and community organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Libraries Donations, October 1 to December 31, 2025 Report be accepted.

	CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	MUSEUMS, GALLERY & ARCHIVES
PREPARED BY:	Laurie Webb, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
SUBJECT:	Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management December 2025

BACKGROUND

The Manager, Museums, Gallery & Archives, reviews donations to Lambton Heritage Museum (“LHM”), Oil Museum of Canada (“OMC”), Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (“JNAAG”), and Lambton County Archives (“LCA”) to ensure they align with the mandate of each facility and serve to enhance the respective collections of each site.

As the governing body of the Museums, Gallery and Archives, Committee must review all artifact and art donations offered to these facilities and approve their acceptance into the permanent collection, after consideration of the recommendations of the Manager, Museums, Gallery and Archives. The following list of donations is for the month of December 2025.

DISCUSSION

Recommended for Acceptance

Attached are items recommended for acceptance that have been offered for donation to Lambton Heritage Museum, Oil Museum of Canada, Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery, and Lambton County Archives in the month of December 2025.

Attachment A – Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management December 2025

Items for Purchase

Occasionally, the Museums will purchase items for the collection. Money for these purchases is set aside in a specified reserve fund through donations for this purpose. Below are items recently purchased for the Museum collection.

Institution	Details
Lambton Heritage Museum	Hand-carved violin of Wilford Byrnes.

Recommended for Refusal

Many items are offered to the Museums, Gallery and Archives for donation. Items are reviewed for fit within the collecting mandate at the respective site, whether they are already represented in the collection and what condition the object is in prior to acceptance into the permanent collection. The list below outlines objects that were offered for donation in the month of December 2025 and are recommended for refusal.

Institution	Details	Reason for Refusal	Offered By
Lambton County Archives	Copies of original Land Instruments.	Duplicates of items in the collection.	Hank Poolman
Lambton County Archives	Three global maps, two of which are severely deteriorated and a 1999 phone book.	Outside of collections mandate (maps). Duplicate of item in collection (book).	Catherine Tyrie
Lambton County Archives	Forest Centennial Book.	Duplicate of item in collection.	Margaret Thompson
Lambton Heritage Museum	Pressed glass collection.	Duplicates of items already in collection. Referred to the Early American Pattern Glass Society.	James McLean
Lambton Heritage Museum	Portable dental drill.	No local provenance. Referred to Moore Museum.	Errol Burgess
Lambton Heritage Museum	Donnelly family photograph and newspaper.	No local provenance. Referred to the Lucan Area Heritage and Donnelly Museum.	Name not given.
Oil Museum of Canada	Dunn Company Tubing Stop.	Outside of collection mandate.	Radu Calin Dan

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost associated with the acceptance of items into the permanent collection and commitment to ongoing stewardship of material culture is incorporated into the annual

operating budgets of the department. Artifact purchases are funded through a reserve established from monetary donations set aside for this purpose.

CONSULTATIONS

This report involved consultations with collections and curatorial staff of the Museums, Gallery and Archives department.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The ongoing collection and preservation of local heritage artifacts and Canadian art supports the County of Lambton Strategic Plan's Principles and Values of a Healthy Community by *"providing a host of cultural and lifestyle services while understanding and respecting the environment."*

CONCLUSION

Artifact donations to the Museums, Gallery and Archives demonstrate ongoing public support of the facilities and a keen interest in preserving the local and community history of Lambton County.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management December 2025 be accepted, and items recommended for acceptance be approved for inclusion in the respective permanent collections.

Museums, Gallery and Archives Donations December 2025

Institution	Council Report Information	Contact	City
Lambton County Archives	Copies of baptisms, marriages, and deaths from Methodist churches in Arkona and Ravenswood area plus additional research, Fishery business ledger ca. 1900s, plus accounts ledger ca. 1920s.	Margaret Thompson	Lambton Shores
Lambton County Archives	Copies of mortgage and deed instruments dated ca. late 1800s related to properties in Petrolia, London Road West Church Recipe Book, Wyoming Wee Ones Nursery School Recipe Book, North Lambton Rest Home Cookbook, Sarnia Township Cookbook.	Hank Poolman	Petrolia
Lambton County Archives	Multiple Lambton County maps (post-1950s) from SS#3 Plympton, family material from families in Plympton Township.	Catherine Tyrie	Sarnia
Lambton County Archives	One real photo postcard of a farmhouse built for George P. Bloom (b. 1844, d. 1917), located in Dawn Concession 11, NW 1/4 of Lot 13.	Evan Abma	Bright's Grove
Lambton Heritage Museum	Items from the Korny Korner farm at 6193 Blackwell Sideroad in Sarnia, owned by the Thurston family for five generations. Includes a seeder, certificate, oil cans, buckets, wooden cart, rubber stamp, cowbell, and signage from the farm.	Martha Everingham	Sarnia
Lambton Heritage Museum	Petrolia Girl Guides uniform that belonged to Mary Anne (Artiss) Miller, as well as two photograph albums documenting her time with the Guides and her life growing up in Petrolia.	Mary Anne Miller	Sarnia
Oil Museum of Canada	Four sets of whippetrees used on draught horses on a farm in Dawn Township.	Wayne McMurphy	Oil Springs
Oil Museum of Canada	Photos and postcards from Borneo, belonging to International Driller Stuart Nisbet.	David Nisbet	Bryan
Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery	Livi Nungaq Unknown, c. 1959 soapstone 6 x 5 in.	Ron Hawkes	Sarnia

 <p style="text-align: center;">LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	ADMINISTRATION
PREPARED BY:	Michael Gorgey, General Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Temporary Licenses Update

BACKGROUND

A number of new and redeveloped long-term care spaces have been approved by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (“**MLTC**”) for Lambton County. During the construction and redevelopment phase, some Long-Term Care Homes have Beds in Abeyance (“**BIA**”) or spaces that cannot be utilized and are therefore withdrawn from service.

Construction of the Trillium Villa redevelopment is ongoing, with estimated completion by the end of 2026. As a result, long-term care capacity in the region continues to be reduced during this transition period.

To mitigate system pressures and maintain local access to care, two temporary licenses were previously approved for Marshall Gowland Manor (“**the Manor**”) and North Lambton Lodge (“**the Lodge**”) to offset the loss of operational beds. Given the extended redevelopment timeline, continued system capacity remains necessary.

Both the Manor and the Lodge are committed to renewing their temporary licence to maintain additional capacity until the Trillium Villa redevelopment is complete, aligning the end date of the temporary licence with the opening of Trillium Villa.

Staff continue to work collaboratively with the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team, Ontario Health West, the Ministry of Long-Term Care, and local operators to support coordinated system planning during this redevelopment period.

DISCUSSION

The Manor and the Lodge each converted an existing room to operate as a licensed long-stay space under temporary pandemic-era approvals. These rooms meet the compliance standards under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* and have been successfully integrated into operations.

Both Homes previously applied for and received approval to operate one temporary licensed space during the period of reduced system capacity. These spaces have supported local placement stability and reduced pressures within acute and community sectors.

Given that the Trillium Villa redevelopment will not be complete until the end of 2026, continued operation of these temporary spaces remains necessary to maintain system balance. Both the Manor and the Lodge are therefore seeking renewal of their temporary license to continue operating the additional beds until Trillium Villa opens.

Transition Plan

In accordance with the Ministry's requirements, the County has created a transition plan to successfully terminate the licenses upon the completion of Trillium Villa. Residents in the temporary beds will be managed through attrition.

The resident occupying the temporary licensed bed will not be transferred upon opening of Trillium Villa. Rather, the temporary bed will be eliminated through natural attrition prior to or aligned with the opening of Trillium Villa. Once attrition has occurred, the license will be returned to the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

This approach minimizes disruption to residents and families while supporting orderly system capacity planning.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The temporary licensed spaces continue to be funded in accordance with current Ministry of Long-Term Care per diem funding.

No additional capital investment or enhanced staffing complement is required, as the beds have been operational and integrated into existing staffing models.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have occurred with:

- Administration teams at the Manor and the Lodge;
- Ontario Health West; and
- Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Ongoing coordination will continue throughout the redevelopment period.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The renewal of the temporary licenses ties into the outcomes of the County's Strategic Plan, specifically Area of Effort #3 – Community Development, Health, and Wellness by:

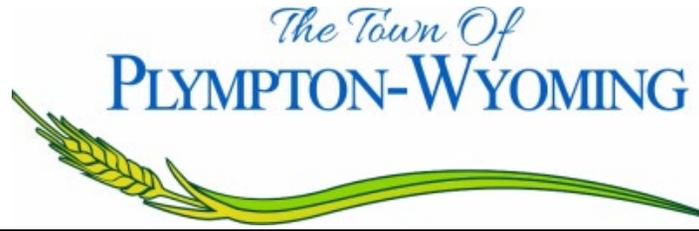
- Planning for and responding to the evolving needs of an aging population.
- Supporting system capacity and access to long-term care services during periods of redevelopment.

CONCLUSION

The Manor and the Lodge will continue operating their temporary licensed beds to offset reduced system capacity associated with the Trillium Villa redevelopment.

Both the Manor and the Lodge intend to renew their temporary licenses and align the end of the license term with the anticipated opening of Trillium Villa. The temporary beds will be eliminated through natural attrition, at which time the license will be returned to the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

Maintaining these temporary spaces supports regional system stability and ensures continued access to long-term care services during the redevelopment period.



CS 03-01-26

Date: 28 January 2026 6

Moved By: Councillor Mike Vasey

Seconded By: Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

That Council support correspondence item 'f' from North Grenville & Merrickville-Wolford OPP Detachment Board regarding Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of stop-arm camera systems.

✓
Carried

Defeated

Deferred

	Yay	Nay
Gary L. Atkinson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Netty McEwen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alex Boughen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kristen Rodrigues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John van Klaveren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Vasey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Woolvett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Town of Plympton-Wyoming
546 Niagara Street, PO Box 250
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

January 28, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
Province of Ontario

Re: Municipal Support for School Bus Safety and Stop-Arm Camera Systems

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the **Town of Plympton-Wyoming**, I am writing to express our strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.

Illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a serious and widespread issue throughout the province, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day. These violations place children at unacceptable risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities. Municipalities require effective, modern enforcement tools to address this dangerous behaviour.

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming supports provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the Highway Traffic Act. These systems have demonstrated success in deterring illegal passing, improving driver compliance, and strengthening accountability. Provincial funding and implementation support would help ensure municipalities of all sizes can deploy this technology equitably.

We also support the Let's Remember Adam – Stop for the School Bus campaign, launched in memory of Adam Ranger, a five-year-old child who tragically lost his life when a driver failed to stop for a school bus displaying its flashing lights and stop arm. This tragedy highlights the urgent need for continued public education, enforcement, and the use of technology to better protect children travelling to and from school.

We respectfully call on the Province of Ontario to provide municipalities with the necessary funding tools, legislative support, and implementation guidance to advance school bus stop-arm camera systems and complementary child-safety initiatives across Ontario.

Protecting children on our roads is a shared responsibility. Through strong provincial leadership and municipal partnership, meaningful progress can be made to prevent further tragedies and enhance road safety for families across Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Atkinson, Mayor
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc:

The Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipalities

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

CS 03-02-26

**Township of Southgate
Administration Office**

185667 Grey County Road 9, RR 1
Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0



Phone: 519-923-2110
Toll Free: 1-888-560-6607
Fax: 519-923-9262
Web: www.southgate.ca

January 21, 2026

Re: Township of Southgate - Notice of Motion – OMERS Bill 68 Municipal Resolution

Please be advised that at the January 21, 2026, regular Council meeting, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Southgate, approved the following:

No. 2026-027

Moved By Deputy Mayor Dobreen

Seconded By Councillor Shipston

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children’s aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS’ governance structure through Bill 68; and

WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

WHEREAS the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS municipalities are already under significant financial strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Southgate does not support the legislative changes to the *OMERS Act* contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Southgate supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain the current OMERS governance model, with two corporate Boards, as the structure that would best deliver on the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, MPP Paul Vickers, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (519) 923-2110.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Green

Lindsey Green, Clerk
Township of Southgate

CC: Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
MPP Paul Vickers
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipalities

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	ONTARIO WORKS
PREPARED BY:	Stacey Mullen, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Ontario Works 2025 Year End Update

BACKGROUND

Ontario Works (“**OW**”) is a mandatory program that provides legislated income and person-centered support ensuring people have access to the financial, stability, and employment support they need to build their independence and an enhanced quality of life. Since January 2024, the OW Department also offers a full suite of employment support through its Lambton Works Employment Services (“**LWES**”) team, as it is an Employment Ontario provider with the Windsor Regional Employment Network.

This report seeks to provide Council with an update of 2025 outcomes and efforts for the OW Department.

DISCUSSION

Caseload Statistics

The OW average caseload from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, was 3,037 households per month, including temporary care assistance cases. The OW average caseload for the same period in 2024 was 3,020, representing an approximate 0.5% increase. At the provincial level, 2025 saw a slight increase over 2024 of approximately 1.1%, reflecting the modest increase experienced within our service area.

The number of annual applications increased from 1,926 in 2024 to 1,978 in 2025, an increase of 2.7%. Across the province, applications saw a decline with a 4% reduction compared to 2024.

Emergency Assistance (“**EA**”) is provided in crisis or emergency situations such as eviction, utility arrears, or pending Employment Insurance income.

The EA cases decreased from 1,017 in 2024 to 445 in 2025, representing a 56.3% reduction. Similarly, the provincial trend shows a 31.8% decrease in the number of applications for EA in 2025 compared to 2024.

Person-Centered Stability Supports

OW staff provide direct, person-centered support to people with a wide range of needs, including those experiencing trauma, homelessness, and mental health and addiction challenges. People need longer-term, more intense support to reach goals, and increase their independence and quality of life. Data for 2025 indicates that the average number of months on assistance in Lambton is 47 months, reflecting that people being supported have complex needs that require longer term support. Families with children account for 28% of the caseload, where low-income employment and lack of childcare space contribute to the families' inability to exit social assistance.

In 2025, OW continued its partnership with the Brief Counselling Program at the Family Counselling Centre Sarnia. The program supported 220 OW recipients with accessing up to five sessions of counselling to support them in increasing stability and reaching their goals, including moving forward and gaining employment.

The Mental Health and Social Services Team (“**MHASST**”) uses an integrated team approach, where OW staff work collaboratively with staff from the Canadian Mental Health Association (“**CMHA**”) to support individuals in receipt of OW, where mental health and/or addiction appear to be impacting their quality of life. Discharges reflected successful transitions, including access to income support, progression into post-secondary education, and connection to ongoing mental health and community-based services through CMHA.

The Youth Wellness Hub Ontario provides comprehensive mental health and addiction services for youth aged 12 to 25, including counseling, peer support, crisis intervention, and specialized care. As part of a collaborative initiative, 17 new youth were supported by an OW caseworker in 2025 to foster connections and assist youth in accessing essential services, such as financial assistance, housing resources, and Ontario Disability Support Program (“**ODSP**”) application guidance.

Performance Outcomes

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (“**MCCSS**”) performance outcomes are meant to reflect stabilization and the integrated nature of social assistance and employment services. The OW Department trended slightly above the provincial average in three outcome areas.

Performance Outcome	Target	Lambton Actuals	Provincial Actuals
OW adults and ODSP non-disabled adults with participation requirements have an Action Plan	100%	95%	76.6%

Performance Outcome	Target	Lambton Actuals	Provincial Actuals
OW adults and ODSP non-disabled adults with participation requirements referred to Employment Ontario	39%	21.45%	27.2%
OW cases exit to employment	19%	10.26%	10.1%
Cases that exit OW that do not return to the program within 1 year	38%	35.3%	30.5%

Employment Services

Employment services provided by OW staff aim to serve the unique needs of those receiving OW services. Clients experienced positive employment outcomes in 2025 with Lambton exceeding the provincial average in three outcomes.

Employment Outcome	Lambton County 2025 Outcome	Provincial 2025 Outcome
% of Caseload with Earnings	9.76%	7.45%
Average Monthly Earnings per Case	\$867	\$896
% of Terminations Exiting to Employment	28.36%	25.07%
% of Caseload Exiting to Employment	1.30%	1.16%

Lambton Works Employment Services

Throughout 2025, the LWES team continued to build on the strong foundation established in 2024, further embedding industry best practices, technology integration, and alignment with Employment Ontario guidelines into day-to-day service delivery. Programs and services remained responsive to local labour market needs, with continued emphasis on strategies that effectively support both job seekers and employers.

Some key achievements of the team through 2025 include:

- Holistic Client Support: Wrap-around services include customized job matching, pre-employment support, and community service referrals, recognizing that stability is key to long-term employment success.
- In 2025, collaboration expanded to include the Local Immigration Partnership to strengthen newcomer support, as well as engagement with additional community agencies to support employer engagement sessions, coordinated job fairs, and sector-specific hiring initiatives.
- The team supported newcomer integration and Indigenous engagement while advancing innovative workforce solutions. In 2025, this included partnerships with Children’s Services and Lambton College to support an Early Childhood Education

Assistant pathway, responding to workforce shortages in the care sector and strengthening local labour supply.

LWES Outcomes (January 2025 to December 2025)	
Number of Intakes Completed	524
Number of Job Starts	90
Percentage employed at one month checkpoint	68%
Percentage employed at three-month checkpoint	46%
Percentage employed at six-month checkpoint	20%
Percentage of Satisfied Job Seekers	100%
Performance Based Funding Earned	\$34, 578

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

Not Applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Ontario Works is a legislated program delivered in keeping with the County's Mission County's Mission to promote an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services accomplished by working with municipal and community partners. The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;
- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;
- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;
- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning framework*, Lambton Public Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service*

- System Plan*; and
- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

CONCLUSION

As the demand for social assistance support within the community grows, staff remain dedicated to delivering integrated, person-centered services. They focus on building meaningful relationships with the individuals they support, while collaborating with community partners to create connections and pathways for accessing stability services. These services cover essential areas like food security, housing, income sources, mental health, addiction support, and primary care.

The LWES team and OW staff work together to assist individuals in achieving greater stability and employment readiness, with the goal of fostering independence, allowing individuals to succeed in reaching their goals.

	SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	HOUSING SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melisa Johnson, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	10-Year Capital Asset Management and Funding Plan Update

BACKGROUND

Lambton County Council, at its meeting on November 18, 2015, approved a 10-Year Capital Asset Management and Funding Plan for Housing Services (the “Plan”). Additionally, Lambton County Council, at its meeting on May 21, 2025, approved an update to the Plan for years 11 to 20.

This report provides an update regarding the implementation of the final year (Year 10) of the initial Plan.

DISCUSSION

The Plan identified the capital needs of the 835 County-owned social housing units. Work is required for each of the major building components, including substructure, shell, common area interiors, services (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC), site work and unit interiors.

Staff prepared the scope of work and solicited bids as appropriate through the County's procurement process for the 2025 capital work. This included requests for quotation, requests for tender and requests for proposals. Staff also completed the 2024 carry-over projects.

In 2025, a total of \$4.1 million was spent on capital repairs. The following provides a summary of the \$4.1 million in capital projects completed in 2025.

2024 Carry-Over Projects**Doors & Windows \$72,000**

- Replace exterior doors and windows
- Locations: Sarnia (150 Queen Street)

Interior Common Space \$114,000

- Common refinish
- Locations: Forest, Sarnia (125 Euphemia Street)

Unit Interiors \$600,000

- Architectural services for unit interiors, nine (9) complete unit refurbishment
- Locations: Sarnia (230 Capel Street, 914 Confederation Street, Kathleen Avenue, 124 Queen Street, Roger Street), Sombra

2025 Completed Projects**Balcony Rails and Coating Replacement \$311,000**

- Replace guard rails and balcony coating
- Engineering Services for future balcony project
- Locations: Sarnia (700 Cathcart Boulevard, 150 Queen Street)

Bathrooms, Flooring and Kitchens \$298,000

- Upgrades to bathrooms, kitchens and replace flooring as needed
- Locations: Various sites across the portfolio

Concrete Work \$29,000

- Foundation repairs, slab-jacking, parking lots, sidewalks, and drain replacement
- Locations: Sarnia (124 Queen Street)

Doors & Windows \$163,000

- Replace interior doors, exterior doors and windows, passage sets, install automatic door openers, redesign of front entrance vestibule, enter phone systems
- Locations: Alvinston, Petrolia, Point Edward, Sarnia (230 Capel Street, 244 Devine Street, Kathleen Avenue, 124 Queen Street, 150 Queen Street, Roger Street), Sombra, Thedford, Watford

Electrical & Lighting \$44,000

- Emergency lighting upgrades and replacement of light fixtures with LED technology, outdoor lighting upgrades, receptacle, switch and panel upgrades
- Locations: Alvinston, Corunna, Petrolia, Point Edward, Sarnia (125 Euphemia Street, Kathleen Avenue, 124 Queen Street, 150 Queen Street, Roger Street), Sombra, Watford, Wyoming

Exterior Site Elements \$489,000

- Playground Replacement, deck replacement, brick repointing and eavestroughs replacement
- Locations: Corunna, Sarnia (914 Confederation Street, Kathleen Avenue, Roger Street)

Truck Replacement \$79,000

- Replace two trucks at end of useful life
- Locations: Not Applicable

Interior Common Space \$435,000

- Common interior refinish
- Locations: Sarnia (993 Maxwell Street)

Mechanical Work \$93,000

- Replacement of makeup air units, building controls, boilers, hot water tanks, cooling units and heat pumps
- Locations: Various sites across the portfolio

Unit Interiors \$1,375,000

- Architectural services for unit interiors, 31 complete unit refurbishments
- Locations: Alvinston, Petrolia, Sarnia (230 Capel Street, 914 Confederation Street, 125 Euphemia, Kathleen Avenue, 124 Queen Street, 150 Queen Street, Roger Street), Sombra, Thedford, Wyoming

Projects Currently Underway**Unit Interiors \$355,000**

- Architectural services for unit interiors, 6 complete unit refurbishment
- Locations: Sarnia (230 Capel Street, 914 Confederation Street, 125 Euphemia Street, 124 Queen Street, 150 Queen Street)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2025, the Housing Services Department completed approximately \$4.1 million in capital repairs. This included carry-over projects from 2024. Approximately \$355,000 will be carried over in 2026 for the remaining unit interiors.

CONSULTATIONS

The Plan was based on the results of the 2013 Building Condition Assessment completed by Nadine International Consulting Engineers and in consultation with the CAO, General Managers, Department Managers and staff in Divisional Support Services, Housing Services and Procurement and Project Management.

The Housing Services and Procurement and Project Management Departments have also retained external consultants where necessary to assist in delivering the Plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Providing safe affordable housing is in keeping with the County's Mission to promote an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services accomplished by working with municipal and community partners.

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;
- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;
- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;
- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning* framework, Lambton Public Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service System Plan*; and
- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

CONCLUSION

In 2025, the Plan identified \$4.1 million in work to address recognized health and safety concerns, maintain legislated requirements, resolve water infiltration issues, improve energy efficiencies, complete upgrades of unit interiors and purchase required equipment and appliances. Addressing these capital repairs and replacements ensures the County of Lambton is able to continue providing safe and affordable housing and to maintain these valuable assets.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Kim Godin, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Child Care Facility Development Update

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on May 7, 2025, Lambton County Council passed the following motion:

#10: Loosley/McRoberts:

- a) *That Council approve and authorize staff to proceed with adding an additional 24 preschool spaces to the design, engineering and construction of the child care facility located at Lambton Meadowview Villa, in Enniskillen Township for a total of 73 new licensed child care spaces ("Project") at an additional estimated cost of \$1,123,331 funded by provincial grants for a total estimated Project cost of \$6,980,519.*
- b) *That staff continue to provide County Council with quarterly project updates, including capital budget monitoring updates.*

Carried.

The new child care facility in Enniskillen Township will provide a total of 73 new licensed child care spaces, including 10 infant, 15 toddler, and 48 preschool spaces for children ages zero (0) to four (4). Construction is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

DISCUSSION

In January 2025, ROA Studio Inc. began coordinating with County staff and Lambton Rural Child Care to support the planning and design of a new child care centre on the Lambton Meadowview Villa property. Extensive consultation with the County's Long-Term Care Division, Children's Services Department, and Lambton Rural Child Care informed the schematic design, final site plan, and selection of a site in the southern portion of the

property. The design and development phase is now complete, and the project has advanced to the permit and construction phase, including the preparation of detailed technical documentation. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2026, and completion targeted for November 2026.

In December 2025, a Request for Proposals for General Contractor services was issued. Agri-Urban Building Inc. was selected as the successful proponent. Final contract negotiations are underway, and the project remains on schedule.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Outlined below is the financial summary of the Lambton Meadowview Villa - Child Care Capital Budget that highlights the approved capital budget.

Expenditure	Total Budget
Development/Design/Architectural	\$1,065,438
Construction	\$5,280,488
Contingency @ 10%	\$634,593
Total Estimated Cost	\$6,980,519
Source of Funding	
Province: EDU Childcare/Start Up	\$2,308,957
Province: ELCC Infrastructure	\$1,123,331
Children Services Reserve	\$1,636,380
Debenture	\$1,911,851
Total Source of Funding	\$6,980,519

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with the General Manager, Social Services Division, the General Manager, Long-Term Care, and the Executive Director of Lambton Rural Child Care.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;
- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase

housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;

- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;
- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning* framework, Lambton Public Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service System Plan*; and
- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

CONCLUSION

As part of the provincial strategy under CWELCC, municipalities are responsible for implementing directed growth plans to achieve a minimum child care access rate of 37% by 2026.

The development of a new child care facility in the Township of Enniskillen serving the Town of Petrolia and surrounding rural communities addresses priority growth areas for child care in Lambton County. This project will contribute to increasing access to licensed child care spaces and support the County in meeting its targeted access rate.

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	HOUSING SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melisa Johnson, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Housing Services Comparative Statistics Report 2025 to 2024

BACKGROUND

The Housing Services Department provides rental assistance and support services to over 2,300 residents of Lambton County. This assistance helps some of the most vulnerable residents to acquire and maintain permanent housing that is safe and affordable.

The Housing Services Department administers legislated housing programs, numerous housing agreements, maintains a wait list for approximately 1,500 units and manages 835 housing units owned by the County of Lambton.

DISCUSSION

The attached report provides comparative statistics for 2025 and 2024.

There were 117 households that moved into rent geared-to-income (“**RGI**”) assisted housing in 2025 compared to 127 in 2024. Overall, the number of housed applicants has been relatively consistent in recent years; however, we are currently housing approximately 50 fewer households per year than 2019. This overall decrease can be attributed to the lack of affordable housing and lower vacancy rates in the community. In addition to the households that moved into RGI assisted housing, there were 69 households that received a portable housing benefit through the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (“**COHB**”) program in 2025, compared to 40 households that began receiving this benefit in 2024.

Average monthly rent arrears for the 835 County of Lambton owned units decreased to \$8,306 in 2025. This saw an average of 12 households in arrears in 2025, which is a similar number of households from 2024. Staff continue to work with individuals to address arrears, make repayment agreements and/or access funding to assist.

The Housing Advocacy Program is an eviction prevention program. Community Support Workers (“**CSWs**”) within this program provide outreach and supports to tenants and their families by advocating on behalf of tenants to improve their quality of life while maintaining their housing. The CSWs have caseloads that consist of many individuals with complex needs. In 2025, the CSWs assisted an average of 119 individuals monthly and prevented evictions for an average of 25 tenancies each month. They had an average of 256 client visits per month and assisted clients in accessing over \$200,000 in funds, such as community resources related to eviction prevention and retro payments of government assistance (i.e. pension or child tax benefits).

The average number of applicants on the wait list for rental assistance in 2025 increased from 945 households in 2024 to 974 households in 2025. The Housing Services Department has seen an increase in the number of eligible applicants applying for rent geared-to-income assistance. This is partially attributed to the lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates in the area.

Wait times in 2025 for various sized units across the housing portfolio have been consistent with wait times in 2024. Although this rate is consistent, it represents a significant increase when compared to previous years. This increase can be attributed to the lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates in the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Providing safe affordable housing is in keeping with the County's Mission to promote an enhanced quality of life through the provision of responsive and efficient services accomplished by working with municipal and community partners.

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;

- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;
- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;
- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning* framework, Lambton Public Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service System Plan*; and
- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

CONCLUSION

Comparative statistics provide information which assists in the management of the wait list, rent arrears and eviction prevention. This information will also be helpful as the County implements the *County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020 - 2024*.

HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Comparative Statistics 2025 vs. 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Applicants Housed	117	127
Number of Applicants Housed (COHB)	69	40
Total Applicants Housed	186	167
Average monthly tenant rent arrears	\$8,306	\$13,808
Housing Advocacy Program		
Average number of unique individuals receiving services per month	119	133
Average number of evictions prevented per month	25	20
Average ongoing case management appointments per month	256	267
Average funds per month obtained by clients including eviction prevention and retro benefit payments	\$17,221	\$14,285
Average Number of Eligible Applicants for Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance		
Bachelor/1 Bedroom	757	725
2 Bedroom	91	85
3 Bedroom	63	74
4 Bedroom	58	57
5 Bedroom	5	4
Total	974	945
Minimum Wait Times for Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance		
Bachelor/1 Bedroom	48 months	48 months
2 Bedroom	36 months	36 months
3 Bedroom	36 months	36 months
4 Bedroom	36 months	36 months

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Kim Godin, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Children's Services Department Update

BACKGROUND

Under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, the County of Lambton (the “**County**”), as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (“**CMSM**”), is designated to administer child care and early years services across Lambton County. This includes planning and funding licensed child care, administering fee subsidies to eligible families, and allocating additional supports for children with special needs, overseeing EarlyON Child and Family Centres, Indigenous-led child care and early years services, and the implementation the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (“**CWELCC**”) agreement.

Ontario’s CWELCC action plan prioritizes the expansion of licensed child care spaces for children aged zero (0) to five (5) through a directed growth strategy focused on priority locations and underserved communities. CMSMs are responsible for achieving a 37% child care access rate by 2026. Lambton County has been allocated 758 new child care spaces, to be operational by December 31, 2026.

DISCUSSION

Lambton’s Child Care Expansion Progress

As of December 31, 2025, Lambton County has 64 licensed child care sites providing 3,033 licensed spaces for children aged zero (0) to five (5), serving approximately 31% of the population in this age group. An additional 1,549 spaces are available to serve children aged six (6) to twelve (12) through before and after school programs. Demand for licensed child care continues to significantly exceed supply. As of December 2025, 1,645 children aged zero (0) to five (5) remain on the waitlist for licensed care.

In 2026, the Children’s Services Department is projected to add 273 new licensed child care spaces for children aged zero (0) to four (4), increasing the child care access rate to

approximately 38%. The County's CWELCC allocation of 758 new child care spaces have been fully committed, with all spaces expected to be operational by December 31, 2026.

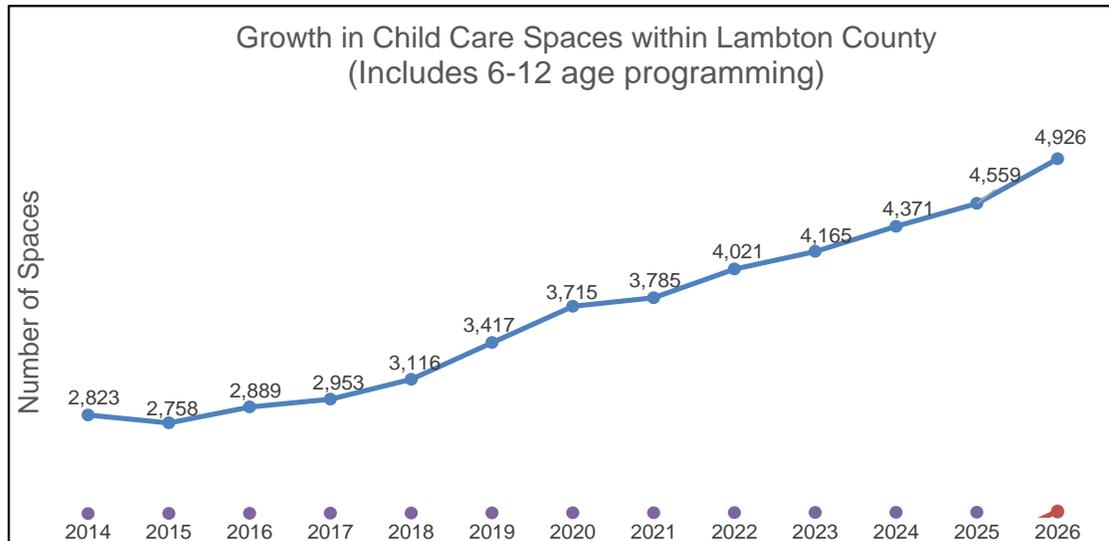
In 2026, the following expansion projects are underway:

- Lambton Meadowview Villa - Enniskillen Petrolia - Child Care build
- North Lambton Child Care - Watford United Church renovation
- Kiddies Korner Child Care - Wyoming United Church renovation
- Lakeside Child Care - Sarnia site renovation
- Lambton Rural Child Care – Corunna St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church renovation
- Beacons Child Care - Sarnia site renovation
- Ska:na Family Learning Centre Indigenous-led Child Care - Sarnia site renovation

The following chart outlines all approved child care expansion projects under the CWELCC directed growth plan:

CWELCC Directed Growth Priorities 2024 to 2026	# of New Spaces
Lakeside Child Care Centre - Sarnia	84
Bee and Bee Child Care Centre - Thedford	31
Gregory Hogan Early Learning Centre - Sarnia	114
St. Francis Xavier French School - Sarnia	32
Kiddies Korner - Courtright	32
Licensed Home Child Care – Lambton County	49
Before and After School – Hyde Park School - Sarnia	26
Before and After School – London Road School – Sarnia	26
Errol Village Public School - Camlachie	49
Lambton Rural Childcare - Corunna	52
Lambton Meadowview Child Care – Enniskillen Petrolia	73
East Lambton Elementary School – Watford	16
St. Peter Canisius School – Watford	26
North Lambton Child Care - Watford	23
Kiddies Korner – Wyoming	49
Lakeside Child Care – Sarnia	20
Beacons Child Care – Sarnia	16
Ska:na Family Learning Centre Indigenous-led Child Care – Sarnia	40
Total	758

Figure 1: Year-over-year variations in licensed space closures and net new directed growth spaces.



Workforce Development

In 2025, targeted workforce development initiatives delivered measurable outcomes for Lambton’s Early Childhood Education (ECE) sector:

- 162 individuals attended local child care focused career fairs.
- 641 child care professionals participated in county-wide professional development opportunities and 901 child care staff engaged in professional learning workshops.
- 48 students graduated from Lambton College’s one-year fast-track Early Childhood Education pilot program. An additional 17 students are currently enrolled and are anticipated to graduate in February 2026.
- In partnership with Ontario Works, Lambton Works, and Lambton College, a pilot program called “Pathway to Early Childhood Educator” was launched to address critical child care workforce shortages. The pilot supported 10 participants with micro-credentials and transition into the child care sector.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer programs and services that support the developmental health and well-being of young children and their families, aligning with Ontario’s vision for accessible, high-quality early years services. There are 17 centres and mobile sites across Lambton County.

In 2025, Lambton’s EarlyON Child and Family Centre’s attendance included:

- 27,808 children visited EarlyON sites.
- 2,696 children served through EarlyON programs.
- 2,638 parents or caregivers served through EarlyON programs.

Child Care Fee Subsidy and Authorized Recreation Programs

In 2025, the demand and utilization of child care and authorized recreation programs increased. Through the County's Child Care Fee Subsidy program, 1,189 children from 788 families received financial assistance to reduce the cost of licensed child care. In addition, Children's Services supported equitable access to recreation through the Youth Recreation and Sports Program, which subsidized recreational activities for 351 eligible children.

Lambton Child and Family Network

The Children's Services Department continues to chair the Lambton Child and Family Network ("LCFN"), a collaborative governance structure that brings together relevant community partners to support the child care and early years system. LCFN guides strategic progress on the *County of Lambton Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2024–2028*. In 2026, the department is conducting a mid-point review of the five-year plan to assess progress, identify strengths and challenges, and evaluate service accessibility and responsiveness. The final report will be presented to Lambton County Council in Spring of 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with the General Manager, Social Services Division, the Ministry of Education, LCFN, licensed child care operators, and EarlyON Child and Family Centre operators.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;
- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;
- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;
- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related

plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning* framework, Lambton Public

Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service System Plan*;
and

- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

CONCLUSION

The CWELCC agreement has driven significant growth and transformation in Lambton County's child care and early years sector, with Children's Services playing a key role in implementing fee reductions, expanding licensed child care spaces, supporting vulnerable populations, and executing a directed growth strategy to achieve a 37% access rate by 2026.

Workforce recruitment and retention are strategic priorities to ensure a stable, well-trained Early Childhood Education workforce capable of sustaining system quality and effectiveness. Ongoing collaboration through the Lambton Child & Family Network, along with the mid-point review of the *County of Lambton Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2024–2028*, will continue to guide evidence-based planning, address service gaps, and support equitable access to high-quality early years programs across the County.

 <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PREPARED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2026
SUBJECT:	Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division Management Realignment

BACKGROUND

The County’s General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division (the “FFA Division”) retired effective December 31st, 2025.

The General Manager’s retirement provides an opportunity to review and realign the FFA Division’s organizational structure on a trial basis, for further organizational assessment and review. If endorsed by Council, this approach would eliminate the General Manager position and reassign its duties and responsibilities among the existing management team within the FFA Division. It may also result in the elimination of the FFA Division as a standalone Division.

Council adopted the current administration model on November 5, 2008; and so, the purpose of this report is to seek authorization for the trial noted above.

DISCUSSION

Division Management Oversight / Organizational Design

As of December 31, 2025, the General Managers’ (GM) position had oversight of the FFA Division, while three (3) Managers are responsible for the following Departments that comprise the Division:

- Financial Services Administration;
- Divisional Support Services; and
- Acquisitions: Procurement & Project Management.¹

In addition to the General Manager and the above-noted three (3) management positions, a team of thirty-two employees supports the FFA Division’s operations in various roles.

¹ Until October 1, 2024, the Court Services Department was under the FFA Division’s oversight. On that date, responsibility for Court Services was transitioned to the Corporate Services Division. This change was implemented to capitalize on existing strengths and operational synergies between the Corporate Services Division and Court Services Department.

Division Department Responsibilities

In summary, each of FFA Division's departments fulfils the following functions:

Financial Services Administration:

The Department is responsible for the County's financial records, performs its banking activities, provides reception services for the County's Administration Building and processes the Corporation's payroll. The Department is also the primary liaison with the Corporation's external auditors, bank, and Federal and Provincial tax authorities. It provides accounting and payroll services to other related public sector entities such as Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, Lambton Group OPP Detachment Board, and The County of Lambton Community Development Corporation and Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc.

Divisional Support Services:

The Department's primary role is to supply accounting and financial expertise to the County as well as oversight of the annual budget and variance reporting activities and internal audit functions. Department staff coordinate and facilitate specialized financial reporting and monitor both the County's Operational and Capital activity to ensure that the County's financial policies are followed. Divisional Support Services also provides services and support to area Municipalities.

Procurement and Project Management:

The Department is responsible for purchasing coordination, including administration of the County's Purchasing Policy, inventory practices and competitions for the supply of goods and services. The Department coordinates the construction, demolition and maintenance of County owned and leased facilities, and assumes oversight of capital projects (design, specifications, progress inspection, etc.). The Department is also responsible for the ongoing maintenance of various County premises including the Wyoming Administration Offices and Lambton Shared Services Centre.

Retirement Provides Opportunity to Realign

As noted, the GM's retirement provides an opportunity to review the FFA Division and its reporting relationship within the County's organizational structure. To that end, Council's authorization is sought to redistribute the GM position's responsibilities and

accountabilities to the existing management team, who in turn will report to the County's Chief Administrative Officer, on a trial basis for the remainder of 2026.

There are several compelling reasons to pursue this initiative at this time.

(a) Professional Development and Upskilling

First and foremost, a number of individuals within the FFA Division will have the opportunity for professional growth and development given the resulting realignment of duties and responsibilities.

(b) Organizational Structure Review

Secondly, the realignment provides an opportunity to review the Division and its reporting relationship with the County's divisional structure. In addition to assessing workloads and performance, the FFA Division's status as a standalone division will be assessed and reviewed during the trial period. Consideration will be given to possibly realigning the FFA Division into another Division.

(c) Operational Savings

Lastly, if Council endorses the initiative, the redistribution of duties and responsibilities will result in wage, benefit and pension cost savings resulting from the GM position not being filled – although this is not the impetus of the initiative.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of the proposed restructuring and realignment other than anticipated wage, benefit and pension savings resulting from the elimination of the GM position.

CONSULTATIONS

The three (3) Managers of the FFA Division; Corporate Manager, Human Resources; and General Managers were consulted on the subject matter of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

The General Manager's recent retirement affords an opportunity to review the management structure of the FFA Division and its position within the County's divisional structure, while at the same time providing career development opportunities to others within the Division. If endorsed, the GM's duties and responsibilities will be redistributed within the Division on a trial basis for the remainder of 2026, the FFA Division will report to

the Chief Administrative Officer, and the FFA Division's standalone status will be reviewed during the trial period. The Chief Administrative Officer will evaluate this initiative and bring back a final report with final recommendations by the end of 2026 for County Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to: (a) eliminate the General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division position; (b) reassign the General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division duties and responsibilities within the Division, on a trial basis for the remainder of 2026; (c) review the standalone status of the Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division during the trial period; and (d) report back to County Council by the end of calendar year 2026 on the assessment and review thereof and final recommendations therefor.