



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

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
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) Correspondence to Receive and File

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- a) IDS 06-01-25 A notice from Hydro One dated May 2025, regarding Community Open Houses in June 2025 at various locations for community members to provide feedback about the preferred route for the proposed Longwood to Lakeshore Project.

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- b) IDS 06-03-25 A letter from The Honourable Robert J. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated May 13, 2025, regarding the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* (Bill 17).

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- c) IDS 06-04-25 A resolution from the Town of Orangeville dated May 12, 2025, regarding Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5: *Protecting Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*.

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- d) IDS 06-05-25 A resolution from Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services, Town of Shelburne dated May 12, 2025, regarding Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5: *Protecting Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*.

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- e) IDS 06-06-25 A resolution from Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO Municipality of Chatham-Kent dated May 13, 2025, regarding

Bill 5 - Risks to Your Communities and Support Requested.

B) Information Reports

- 16 - 20 a) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding 1st Quarter 2025 - Building, Plumbing, Septic and By-Law.
- 21 - 23 b) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding 1st Quarter Work in Progress, Statistics and Approval Authority Activity.
- 24 - 26 c) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Temporary Building Inspection Support in Strathroy-Caradoc.

C) Other Business

4. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION - Emergency Medical Services Department

A) Information Reports

- 27 - 30 a) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding 2024 Ambulance Response Times.
- 31 - 32 b) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Paramedic Services Week - May 18-25, 2025.

B) Other Business

5. CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

A) Information Reports

- 33 - 36 a) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Federal Funding for Collections Storage Project - Oil Museum of Canada.
- 37 - 40 b) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Lambton County Land Stewardship Program Pilot.
- 41 - 45 c) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives First Quarter 2025 Statistics.
- 46 - 58 d) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Libraries First Quarter 2025 Statistics.

B) Reports Requiring a Motion

- 59 - 62 a) Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management March, 2025.
- 63 - 67 b) Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding New Hours of Operation - Florence Library.
- 68 - 69 c) Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Libraries Donations, January 1 to March 31, 2025.

C) Other Business

6. LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

A) Correspondence to Receive and File

- 70 - 72 a) LTC 06-02-25 A memorandum from the Ministry of Long-Term Care dated May 8, 2025, regarding legislation re-introduced by the Province of Ontario to improve the quality of life and protect seniors across the province by better connecting seniors and their caregivers to complex care and increasing access to community and social programs that help seniors stay fit, active and healthy in their communities.

B) Information Reports

- 73 - 75 a) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding 2025 Quality Initiative Report – Long-Term Care.

C) Other Business

7. FINANCE, FACILITIES AND ACQUISITIONS DIVISION

No Reports.

A) Other Business

8. CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

A) Information Reports

- 76 - 80 a) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Court Services - 2025 1st Quarter Statistics and Activity.

B) Other Business

9. SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

A) Information Reports

- 81 - 129 a) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Lambton County 2024 Homelessness Enumeration.
- 130 - 133 b) Information Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Housing Services Statistical Report - Quarter 1.

B) Reports Requiring a Motion

- 134 - 139 a) Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Housing Services Capital Asset Management Plan Update - Year 11 - 20.
- 140 - 142 b) Report dated May 21, 2025 Regarding Lambton HART Hub Staffing.

C) Other Business

10. 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 County and a third party relating to a lease agreement in the Township of Enniskillen, pursuant to ss. 239(2)(k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

11. ADJOURNMENT

I&DS 06-01-25

Longwood to Lakeshore project

Notice of preferred route and invitation to virtual and community open houses #4

May 2025

Based on a detailed evaluation, which considered extensive public feedback, Hydro One has selected the preferred route for the proposed Longwood to Lakeshore project. Once built, the new transmission line will help meet electricity demands and support future growth in southwest Ontario.

Since February 2024, we’ve been conducting a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) under *Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Act* to build two proposed single-circuit, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines between Longwood Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and Lakeshore TS in the Municipality of Lakeshore.

We’ve gathered important environmental and technical information and will continue to engage with Indigenous communities, property owners, community members, elected officials, interest groups and businesses to make sure their feedback is reflected in the project.

Selection of preferred route alternative: Route 3B

As part of the Class EA process, three route alternatives with variations were evaluated for the proposed project and Route 3B was identified as the preferred route for the proposed transmission lines. Route 3B maximizes the re-use of existing transmission corridors and minimizes impacts to residences. Please see the enclosed map for an overview of the preferred route and visit our online interactive map for a more detailed view.

The proposed project also includes an expansion of Lakeshore TS, on property owned by Hydro One, as well as upgrades and the eventual expansion of Longwood TS to connect the new lines.

Project next steps

We’ve already started outreach to affected landowners to discuss land rights and continue to learn more about the unique features of their properties, including agricultural operations. We’re hosting several engagement opportunities in the coming weeks where you can learn more about the proposed project, speak with our project team and share your feedback.

Over the next several months, we’ll complete more detailed environmental and technical studies to develop the design and construction of the proposed lines, with a focus on starting construction of Line 1 in 2027.

We’re preparing the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR), which will document the work conducted under the Class EA process. The draft ESR will be released for a public review period later this year. As the Class EA progresses and project design advances, we’ll share detailed information and engage at every step of the way.

We want to hear from you

Your feedback is incredibly important to the success of this project, and we want to hear from you. We encourage you to attend an upcoming event or reach out to us to get involved in another way.



Please join us

May 15
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Virtual open house
–hosted on the project website

Learn more about the route selection process and ask your questions.

Community open house #4

June 4
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Kent–Belgian–Dutch–
Canadian Club
34 Byng Ave.
Chatham

June 5
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Ryder Hall at Tilbury
Community Centre
49 Bond Ave.
Tilbury

June 11
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Brunner Community Centre
32 Wallace St.
Thamesville

June 12
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Glencoe Agricultural Hall
268 Currie St.
Glencoe

Project website



HydroOne.com/
Longwood-to-Lakeshore

We’re here to help

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please contact Community Relations at:



1.877.345.6799



Community.Relations
@HydroOne.com



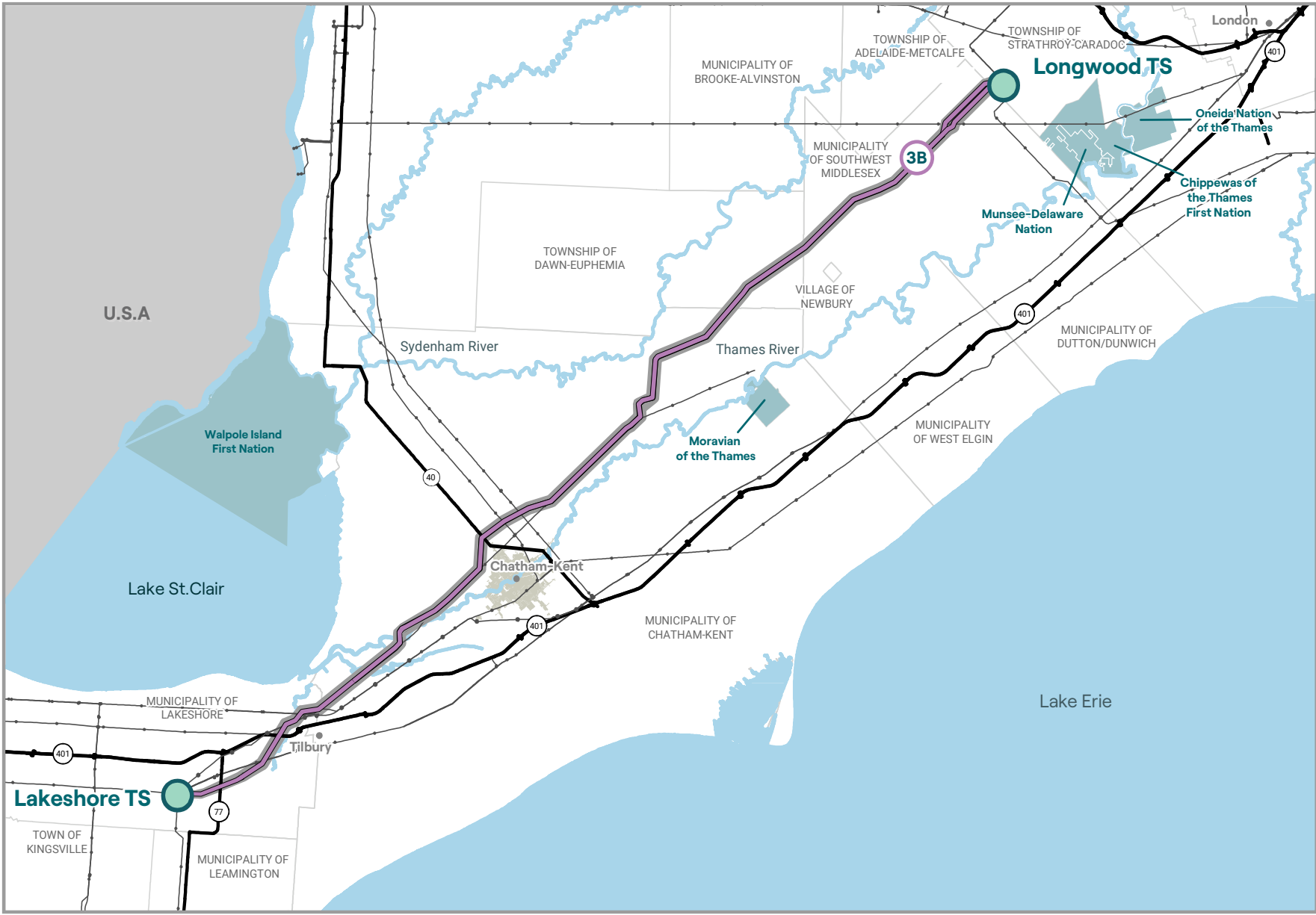
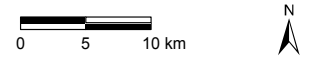
Longwood to Lakeshore project

Map Legend

- Transformer Station (TS)
- Preferred Route 3B
- Local Study Area (500 m buffer on either side of the route alternatives)
- Existing Transmission Line
- Highway
- Municipal Boundary
- Waterbody
- First Nation
- Built Up Area

Note: The illustrated route represents two transmission lines with parallel alignments, except near Longwood TS where the two lines have slightly different alignments exiting the station.

Please visit our online interactive map for a more detailed view: [HydroOne.com/Longwood to Lakeshore](https://HydroOne.com/Longwood%20to%20Lakeshore)



Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416.314.4075 or Foi.mecp@ontario.ca.

IDS 06-03-25

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2025-2204

May 13, 2025

Dear Head of Council,

On May 12, 2025 I introduced the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* ([Bill 17](#)). Through this legislation, and other changes, we are responding to recommendations and requests from municipal leaders to make it easier and faster to build new homes and infrastructure Ontario needs like transit, roads, water, and wastewater systems.

The bill contains bold actions to protect Ontario from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Transportation. Details about the range of measures can be found in the [news release](#).

Building Code Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedule 1 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Building Code Act* which include:

- Adding a provision to clarify that municipalities do not have the authority to create or enforce their own construction standards.
- Eliminating the requirement for a secondary provincial approval of innovative construction products for products that have already undergone a “Canadian Code Compliance Evaluation” by the federal Canadian Construction Materials Centre ([25-MMAH0042](#)). Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025.

Development Charges Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedule 4 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, to standardize the development charge (DC) methodology and framework and improve predictability of costs, include:

- Creating a regulation-making authority to merge service categories for DC credits.
- Creating a regulation-making authority to specify what constitutes a “local service.”
- Expanding the DC deferral to non-rental residential developments. Related changes include:

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- Providing municipalities authority, in circumstances set out in regulation, to require financial security for payment of deferred DCs for non-rental residential developments; and
- Removing authority for municipalities to charge interest on any legislated DC deferral amounts.
- Enabling municipalities to make any changes to their DC by-laws for the sole purpose of reducing DCs or removing indexing without undertaking certain procedural requirements.
- Creating a regulation-making authority to prescribe exceptions, including conditional exceptions, to capital costs that are eligible to be recovered from DCs.
- Providing that the frozen DC rates on a development would not be applicable if the current DC rates in effect would result in a lower payment.
- Exempting long-term care homes within the meaning of subsection 2 (1) of the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* from municipal DCs.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed measures. Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- [RR 25-MMAH003](#): Changes to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, to Simplify and Standardize the Development Charge (DC) Framework.

Planning Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedules 3 and 7 of the Bill propose changes to the *Planning Act* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* that would help streamline and standardize municipal development processes. If passed, the proposed changes would:

- Provide authority for regulations to limit municipal complete application studies and provide greater recognition of planning reports prepared by prescribed certified professionals,
- Remove the need for certain minor variances,
- Give the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the authority to impose conditions on a use permitted by a Minister's zoning order, and
- Streamline planning approvals for publicly funded kindergarten to grade 12 schools.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed measures. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- [ERO 025-0461](#): Proposed Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006 Changes (Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17- Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025).

We are also interested in receiving any comments you may have on associated regulatory changes. The government is undertaking 45-day consultations on the following proposals from May 12, 2025, to June 26, 2025:

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- [ERO 025-0462](#): Proposed Regulations – Complete Application (seeking feedback on proposed regulations to address complete application requirements (study/report requirements) and submissions from certified professionals)
- [ERO 025-0463](#): Proposed Regulation – As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements (seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would allow variations to be permitted “as-of-right” if a proposal is within 10% of requirements for setbacks from property lines applicable to specified lands)

The Environmental Registry postings provide additional details regarding the proposed changes.

Ministry of Infrastructure Act – Ministry of Infrastructure

Schedule 6 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Ministry of Infrastructure Act, 2011* (MOIA), to provide the Minister of Infrastructure with the authority to request information and data from municipalities and municipal agencies, where needed to support provincially funded infrastructure projects. This would help speed up the delivery of critical infrastructure that our growing communities need, while also supporting jobs and economic growth. Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario ([RR-25MOI003](#)) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025.

Transit-Oriented Communities Act – Ministry of Infrastructure

Proposed changes to the *Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Act, 2020*, would reduce barriers to implementing the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) by:

- Amending the definition of a “Transit Oriented Communities project” to include projects along the GO and LRT network more efficiently,
- Removing OIC approval requirements for any agreements between the Minister (or an entity with delegated powers) and a municipality, and
- Enabling the Minister to delegate certain responsibilities to Infrastructure Ontario for the purpose of developing TOCs.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed changes. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- [ERO 025-0504](#): Proposed *Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020*, changes to reduce barriers to implementing municipal agreements.

Ministry of Transportation

Schedule 2 of the bill proposes a change to the *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020* (BTFA) that, if passed, would extend the use of the BTFA measures to all provincial transit projects. This change would remove barriers to building transit faster and get shovels in the ground quicker to build major provincial transit projects that connect communities.

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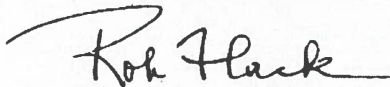
A proposed amendment to the *Metrolinx Act, 2006*, permits the Minister of Transportation to request certain information and data from municipalities or municipal agencies necessary to support the development of provincial transit projects or Transit-Oriented Communities projects.

You may provide your comments on the proposed change to the BTFA through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) notice [ERO 025-0450](#) and the Ontario Regulatory Registry notice ([RR 25-MTO005](#)) and the Metrolinx Act ([RR 25-MTO006](#)) from May 12, 2025 to June 11, 2025.

The government invites you to review the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) and [Regulatory Registry of Ontario](#) posting links provided above and share any feedback you may have. If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Tanner Zelenko, at Tanner.Zelenko@ontario.ca.

In the face of economic uncertainty, we must protect Ontario by speeding up construction so we can lower housing costs and keep workers on the job. I look forward to continued collaboration with you, our municipal partners, to create the homes that Ontario need today, tomorrow, and in the decades to come.

Sincerely,



Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c. The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
 The Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
 Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Laura Smith, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Municipal Chief Administrative Officers

IDS 06-04-25

**Resolution**

Meeting Date: May 12, 2025
Resolution No. 2025-093

Moved: Councillor Prendergast
Seconded: Councillor Andrews

Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of "Special Economic Zones" that may override local planning authority; and

Whereas the Town of Orangeville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario's natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Town of Orangeville:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
 - The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP for Dufferin–Caledon
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.

Result: Carried Unanimously

IDS 06-05-25

From: [Jennifer E. Willoughby](#)
To: [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](#); [sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](#); [premier@ontario.ca](#); [todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](#)
Cc: [policy@amo.on.ca](#); Minister (MMAH); [romachair@roma.on.ca](#); Alice Byl
Subject: Town of Shelburne - Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:03:15 AM

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

Good Morning

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of Shelburne Town Council, the following resolution was passed unanimously

Moved By: Councillor Len Guchardi
Seconded By: Councillor Lindsay Wegener

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of "Special Economic Zones" that may override local planning authority;

And Whereas the Town of Shelburne supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario's natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the Town of Shelburne:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario

CARRIED; Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

[Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk](#)

Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

Town of Shelburne | 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7

www.shelburne.ca

IDS 06-06-25



Darrin Canniff
Mayor/CEO
P 519-436-3219
ckmayor@chatham-kent.ca

May 13, 2025

To all Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

Re: Bill 5 - Risks to your communities and support requested

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, I am sharing this motion to bring to your attention the potential risks to your communities and ask for your support to oppose this approach. The following motion was approved yesterday, May 12, 2025:

“Whereas 29831 Irish School Road in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a property approximately 800 metres from the Town of Dresden;

And Whereas the property contain small fill areas used for historic local landfill purposes, and the property has never been properly studied or zoned for any significant landfilling use;

And Whereas the current property owners are attempting to create a new recycling and landfill facility for millions of tonnes of waste, which would result in hundreds of trucks travelling through towns and communities in the area;

And Whereas this approach has been strongly opposed by Council, the Community, neighbouring Indigenous Nations and many other voices, due to impacts to the environment, our homes, the safety of our families and children, and the fabric of our communities;

And Whereas the Provincial government has proposed Bill 5, which includes a section removing the obligation for a full Environmental Assessment for this new landfill and recycling facility;

And Whereas if this limited, historic local landfill use on the edge of Dresden can be expanded into a massive landfill and recycling facility, then this can happen anywhere;

And Whereas there are likely hundreds of properties across the Province that may have had limited, historic waste uses, which could also face this threat;

And Whereas Bill197 established a veto for Municipalities within 3.5 kms of a new landfill, which reflected the need for local government and community approval of landfill sites;

And Whereas the approach being taken for this property disregards the importance of our rural communities, and local voices, in determining appropriate landfill sites within their communities:

Cont'd...

Now Therefore to ensure that other Municipal Councils and communities know about what is happening in Dresden, and the potential risk to their community if this approach is taken by the Province, Council requests that the Mayor's Office write a letter to all other Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:


1. Advising them of this issue and the risks to their community if a similar approach is taken for other historic landfill properties; the possibility of the Ontario government setting a precedence and
2. Requesting their support in opposing this approach and ensuring that full Environmental Assessments are required for all landfills and that municipalities have a strong voice in determining appropriate locations for landfills in their communities."

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

	INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Connor McEachen, Deputy Chief Building Official
REVIEWED BY:	Corrine Nauta, Manager Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	1st 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 have contracted for inspection services for 2025, on an as-needed basis. The Department also assists the Housing Services Department with the Lambton Renovates program, as required.

DISCUSSION

In the first 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. Department staff recognize the importance of property file completeness and actively close files.

Year-over-year, the total number of building permits (new homes, renovations, storage sheds, etc.) decreased by 18. New dwelling units decreased by 11 from 43 to 32 compared to the same period last year. Building permit inspections increased by 398, while property standards inspections increased by 151. Plumbing permit issuance decreased by 61, and plumbing inspections also decreased by 164. The number of septic reports prepared for planning applications (such as severances and minor variances), backfill permits, inquiries, and assessment requests have maintained a steady trend. The number of septic permits issued has increased by 11.

The Department statistics are attached to this report and include building statistics for the City of Sarnia and the Municipality of Lambton Shores.

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 remains optimistic with regard to 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.

**1st Quarter Building Statistics
Year to Date Comparison - 2025 vs 2024**

Number of Permits			Value of Construction	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Residential	68	95	\$17,644,550	\$28,154,748
Commercial	4	6	\$1,755,000	\$3,792,461
Industrial	13	5	\$9,184,350	\$5,314,000
Agricultural	16	14	\$5,684,999	\$1,736,400
Institutional	2	1	\$350,184	\$3,500,000
TOTALS	103	121	\$34,619,083	\$42,497,609

New Dwelling Units in County of Lambton

Municipality	New Dwelling Units	
	2025	2024
Brooke-Alvinston	0	0
Dawn-Euphemia	0	0
Enniskillen	2	2
Oil Springs	0	0
Petrolia	1	3
Plympton-Wyoming	5	10
Point Edward	0	0
St. Clair	22	27
Warwick	2	1
TOTALS	32	43

Unless otherwise noted, dwelling units are single family dwellings.

**Building Services Department
1st Quarter Statistics Comparison 2025 vs. 2024**

	1st Quarter		Year-To-Date	
Building	2025	2024	2025 Totals	2024 Totals
Permits	103	121	103	121
Inspections	2346	1948	2346	1948
Property & Maintenance	552	401	552	401
Amount Invoiced	\$293,768.82	\$234,303.58	\$293,768.82	\$234,303.58
Building Permit Value	\$34,619,083	\$42,497,609	\$34,619,083	\$42,497,609

	1st Quarter		Year-To-Date	
Plumbing	2025	2024	2025 Totals	2024 Totals
Permits	92	153	92	153
Inspections	482	646	482	646
Permit Revenue	\$19,451	\$47,136	\$19,451	\$47,136

	1st Quarter		Year-To-Date	
Septic	2025	2024	2025 Totals	2024 Totals
Septic Permits	25	14	25	14
Septic Backfill Permits	6	19	6	19
Severences	0	4	0	4
Minor Variances	0	0	0	0
Amendments	0	0	0	0
Private Sewage Assessments	2	3	2	3
Enquiry Requests	2	5	2	5
Enforcement Inspections	0	18	0	18
Subdivisions	0	0	0	0
Septic Revenue	\$10,825	\$8,600	\$10,825	\$8,600

**1st Quarter Building Statistics
The City of Sarnia and The Municipality of Lambton Shores**

The Municipality of Lambton Shores

Type/Number of Permits	
Residential	21
Commercial	2
Industrial	0
Agricultural	1
Institutional	0
Other	9
TOTAL	33

The City of Sarnia

Type/Number of Permits	
All Categories	108
TOTALS	108

Year-Over-Year Comparison 2024 vs 2025

All Permit Categories

Municipality	Permits 2025	Value of Construction	Permits 2024	Value of Construction
Lambton Shores	33	\$8,665,189	35	\$5,173,480
Sarnia	108	\$20,958,270	90	\$16,223,565

New Dwelling Units

Municipality	New Dwelling Units 2025	New Dwelling Units 2024
Lambton Shores	9	4
Sarnia	18**	16*

*	9 of 16	Additional Dwelling Units
**	6 of 18	Additional Dwelling Units
	8 of 18	Multiple Family Dwelling Units

 <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:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	1st 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 first quarter of 2025 compared to the first quarter of 2024, by category.

Applications	2025	2024
Committee of Adjustment	39	46
Site Plan Control	6	3
Zoning By-Law Amendments	9	18
Official Plan Amendments	2	5
Woodlot Applications	1	0
Woodlot Notice of Intent to Cut	25	22
Woodlot Reviews	2	4
Letters of Compliance (Zoning Confirmations)	12	11
Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Applications	1	1
Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Extensions	1	0
Part Lot Control	0	1
Final Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Approvals	0	1
Draft Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Approvals	1	0
Plan of Subdivision/Condominium Amendments	0	0
Official Plan and Official Plan Amendment Approvals	6	2
Totals	105	114

Application Volumes

Application volumes for 2025 have demonstrated a slightly decreased level of activity. Applications continue to be received and processed for a wide range of services and remain in the high range of historic development activity.

Official Plan Amendments (“OPA”)

A total of six OPAs occurred in the first quarter, which include:

- 275 Wellington Street, Sarnia – add a site-specific policy to allow a high-rise apartment.
- 1873 London Line, Sarnia – to redesignate portions of the property to Residential Use and Parks and Open Space.
- 530-540 Exmouth Street, Sarnia – to amend the official plan and incorporate site and area specific policies to allow a high-rise building.
- Pamela Court, Sarnia – add a special policy to permit residential development within a significant woodland.
- Township of St. Clair Official Plan – updates as part of the comprehensive review.
- 200-206 Exmouth Street, Pt. Edward – change land use designation from “Special Tourist Commercial” to “Mixed Use”.

Final Approval - Plan of Subdivision/Condominium

No final approvals of a Plan of Subdivision, to date.

Draft Approval - Plans of Subdivision/Condominium

One Draft Approval of Plans of Subdivision or Condominium occurred.

Additional Work in Progress

Zoning By-Law reviews are underway in Plympton-Wyoming, Point Edward, and Warwick with the assistance of NPG Planning Solutions. Background issue papers were presented to the respective Councils. An internal zoning review is ongoing in Lambton Shores.

The County Official Plan Review is in progress with the assistance of NPG Planning Solutions. County growth forecasts and land supply analysis are to be communicated shortly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

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

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 updates for statistics, work in progress, and Approval Authority activity.

 INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Corrine Nauta, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Temporary Building Inspection Support in Strathroy-Caradoc

BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2025, Strathroy-Caradoc (“**SC**”) contacted the Development Services Department (the “**Department**”) requesting immediate assistance with building, plumbing, and septic administration services. Their request stemmed from the unexpected resignation of key staff members, including the Chief Building Official and Inspectors, with limited notice. SC indicated that a temporary arrangement of approximately three months would allow them sufficient time to recruit suitable replacements.

In response, the Department assessed the current needs of our member municipalities, internal staffing capacity, and applicable County policies and procedures. It was determined that our Department could provide the requested temporary coverage for three months without disrupting our primary service obligations to our member municipalities, which is consistent with County policy as follows:

Lambton County Council, at its meeting on March 5, 1997, endorsed the following motion of the Executive Committee minutes dated February 20, 1997:

#31: Byers/Dedecker: That Staff be permitted to perform work for outside public bodies on a full cost recovery basis on the following conditions:

- a) That their respective Standing Committees be so advised and that the work on the project in question be of a duration of less than three (3) months; and further*
- b) That all projects exceeding the three (3) month duration be required to have the approval of the respective Standing Committees prior to commencement.*

Carried.

The above policy was developed to cover the time and expertise that County staff would provide to local municipalities from time-to-time as well as provide some consistency on how that process was to be applied. The sharing of resources provides a benefit to local taxpayers through the leveraging of expertise found in the larger County organization.

This approach is in line with the County's established policy on inter-municipal support (including outside our County borders) and is consistent with a previous temporary arrangement made with the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and a current agreement with Walpole Island First Nations.

DISCUSSION

Currently, the Department operates at full staffing levels, and construction activity across the County has slightly declined. As such, the temporary agreement with Strathroy-Caradoc provides an opportunity to retain our highly qualified, core-trained staff during this declined activity, ensuring that service levels remain stable when construction volumes increase.

Fully qualified building code inspection personnel are increasingly difficult to recruit, a challenge acknowledged by both the Department and SC. This collaborative arrangement helps both parties by utilizing existing expertise and reducing redundancy in staffing efforts.

The agreement with SC will follow a 100% cost recovery model, meaning there will be no costs incurred by Lambton's local municipalities.

The County of Lambton municipalities remain the Department's top priority, and there will be no disruption or reduction in service delivery in any capacity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations took place with Jason Cole, P. Eng., General Manager, Infrastructure & Development Services and Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer.

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 feels strongly about exploring options for cost-sharing benefits by extending outside our borders where appropriate and this temporary agreement (< three months) provides staff with the opportunity.

The budget will remain in a balanced status and the costs associated will not be downloaded to our lower-tiers, as a cost recovery model is in place to provide the required services to SC.

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



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:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	2024 Ambulance Response Times

BACKGROUND

Under the *Ambulance Act* (Ontario Regulation 368/10 as consolidated into O. Reg 257/00), the Ministry of Health (“**MOH**”) requires ambulance service delivery agents to adopt municipally developed response time plans for cardiac arrest patients and Canadian Triage Acuity Scale (“**CTAS**”) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 patients receiving emergency responses. These response time plans are submitted on an annual basis to the MOH and are reviewed and monitored throughout the year by Lambton Emergency Medical Services (“**EMS**”).

Lambton EMS submitted its report to the MOH on March 27, 2025, and has adopted the same response time targets as its peers in other comparable urban / rural EMS services in Ontario.

DISCUSSION

For 2024, Lambton EMS submitted the following Response Time Standard Performance Plan to the MOH. It is noted that, for 2024, the department continued to successfully meet and perform better than its targets in all response time categories.

Table 1. 2024 Lambton EMS Response Time Performance vs. Target

Response Level*	Response Time Target (time in minutes from paramedic notification to arrival on scene)	Target (%)	Actual (%) 2024
Sudden Cardiac Arrest	Defibrillator Response in Six (6) minutes **	45%	55%
CTAS 1***	Paramedic Response in Eight (8) minutes	60%	70%
CTAS 2	Paramedic Response in Ten (10) minutes	70%	78%
CTAS 3	Paramedic Response in Ten (10) minutes	65%	70%

CTAS 4	Paramedic Response in Twelve (12) minutes	70%	78%
CTAS 5	Paramedic Response in Fifteen (15) minutes	80%	80%

* Response level can only be determined after patient contact has been made.

** Ambulance arrival only.

*** See Appendix 1 for explanation of CTAS criteria.

Table 2. Lambton EMS Response Time Performance Trends Over Past 5 Years

Response Level	Target Goal (%)	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual
Sudden Cardiac Arrest	45%	59%	54%	54%	57%	55%
CTAS 1	60%	78%	78%	75%	71%	70%
CTAS 2	70%	81%	81%	79%	78%	78%
CTAS 3	65%	76%	76%	75%	72%	70%
CTAS 4	70%	83%	83%	83%	80%	78%
CTAS 5	80%	92%	92%	91%	82%	80%

While there has been a slight overall decrease in the frequency in which calls are serviced within target times, these times have remained relatively stable over the past 3 years, despite an increase in the number of calls for service. Service improvements from the EMS Master Plan, including increased service hours, changes to the deployment plan, and an overall reduction in Code 8 standbys, have helped to hold response times within the target parameters.

In future reports, staff anticipate that there might be an increase in response times for less urgent calls for service (CTAS 4,5) as a result of an intentional shift to decrease response times and ensure resources are available immediately for the most urgent calls (Cardiac Arrest, CTAS 1,2). This change was reported to County Council through the [Lambton EMS Deployment Plan Report](#), and approved by Council at its Committee meeting dated September 18, 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the provision of Emergency Medical Services are eligible for up to 50/50 funding from the MOH.

CONSULTATIONS

The Ambulance Dispatch Reporting System dataset was consulted for this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The response time performance plan submitted to the MOH outlines a key performance metric of Emergency Medical Services in Lambton County underscoring Lambton County's commitment to Community Development, Health, and Wellness.

2024 Ambulance Response Times (page 3)

May 21, 2025

CONCLUSION

For 2024, the EMS department continued to meet or perform better than targets in all response time categories. Staff will continue to make process improvements to balance emergency coverage and reduce response times, wherever possible.

Appendix 1.

The Canadian Triage Acuity Scale (CTAS) was first developed for use in Canadian hospital emergency departments (ED) as a tool to help define a patient's need for care. Patients are triaged using CTAS to ensure that they are managed based on their need for care (e.g. sickest patients are seen first).

Level 1 (Resuscitation): Conditions that are considered threats to life or limb or have an imminent risk of deterioration requiring immediate aggressive interventions.

Level 2 (Emergent): Conditions that are a potential threat to life, limb or function requiring rapid medical interventions and the use of condition specific controlled medical acts. These patients have serious illness or injury and have the potential for further deterioration that may then require resuscitation.

Level 3 (Urgent): Conditions that could potentially progress to a serious problem requiring emergency interventions. May be associated with significant discomfort or affect ability to function at work or activities of daily living. These patients have normal vital signs, but their presenting problem suggests a more serious acute process.

Level 4 (Less Urgent): Conditions that relate to patient age, distress, potential for deterioration or complications that would benefit from intervention or reassurance. These patients will typically have stable vital signs and lower pain scales. The potential seriousness of their problem based on the chief complaint is not as acute.

Level 5 (Non-Urgent): Conditions that may be acute but non-urgent as well as conditions which may be part of a chronic problem with or without evidence of deterioration. These are truly minor complaints that do not pose any immediate risk to the patient.



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:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Paramedic Services Week – May 18-25, 2025

BACKGROUND

In Canada, Paramedic Services Week is celebrated annually during the third week of May to recognize the important work of paramedics and the Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) profession. It’s a time to appreciate the dedication of paramedics, highlight the services they provide, and educate the public about their role in healthcare. The week also offers an opportunity to learn more about the care paramedics provide and better understand how they contribute to community safety and well-being.

The Paramedic Chiefs of Canada have set the theme for this year’s observance as “We care. For everyone.”

DISCUSSION

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Lambton EMS from the time provincial downloading of responsibility for operating ambulances was passed to municipalities. Since that time, the service has evolved with more hours of service and a much broader range of skills and treatments available for patients in need.

The Lambton EMS team is made up of over 180 professional staff including 92 full-time front-line paramedics, approximately 60 part-time paramedics, 8 full-time Community Paramedics, 2 full-time Community Health Integrated Care paramedics, 10 management and supervisory staff members and 2 program support personnel. This team provides primary and advanced life-support service to the Lambton community 7 days-a-week, 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year. Lambton EMS paramedics respond to 911 emergencies, work with allied community health resources to provide care in homes and help to provide innovative care to those experiencing mental health and addictions challenges.

Paramedic services play an important role in the transformation of our health care system through enhanced integrations with our hospitals and community-based health partners such as primary care, mental health, social services, home and community care support services and Ontario health teams. These efforts have been very effective in helping to ensure that patients have access *to the right care, in the right place, at the right time*.

Lambton EMS staff will be recognized for their important contributions to the community through events and observances throughout the week, along with a public education campaign to bring awareness to the paramedic and emergency services provided by the County.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Lambton EMS works to deliver high quality services through Lambton County's strategic Areas of Effort, including providing *Responsive Services and Programs*, and strengthening the *Community's Health and Wellness*.

CONCLUSION

Lambton County has continued to provide reliable, professional and innovative paramedic services to its residents and visitors throughout its 25-year history and is honoured to help Lambton EMS in celebrating Paramedic Services Week 2025. Lambton EMS is proud of its professional team and their important contributions to the community.



CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	MUSEUMS, GALLERY AND ARCHIVES
PREPARED BY:	Laurie Webb, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Federal Funding for Collections Storage Project – Oil Museum of Canada

BACKGROUND

In 2021 to 2022 Council supported an extensive renovation of the Oil Museum of Canada (OMC) building structure, building components, exhibition and public spaces. The Museum reopened to the public in February 2022, providing an engaging and new product for the community to explore.

During planning for the renovation, it was identified that the collection storage space required upgrades, as it was at capacity. New items being donated to the museum were not able to be placed in storage, and were therefore on display permanently, resulting in risk of deterioration for artifacts, and an exhibition space that was overwhelmed with objects, making a narrative or theme difficult to identify. As part of the renovation, the exhibition was revamped to display fewer artifacts and create a cohesive story, allowing for items to be rotated on and off display as a preservation measure and to ensure refreshed content for visitors. As a result, some of the basement space was converted to collections storage. However, the renovation project budget did not allow for the purchase of proper collections storage shelving to maximize available floor space, and instead, staff repurposed used library shelving as an interim measure.

It is estimated that the collection at the Oil Museum of Canada contains over 9,000 individual objects and the current configuration is not adequate to safely preserve the collection long-term. The collection is currently being stored on a static cantilevered shelving that is designed for shelving library books, and does not provide adequate space for the safe storage of objects not currently on display. The storage space is also beyond capacity, with objects stored on the floor and in aisle ways.

Following the approaches taken in pursuing collections storage renovations at Lambton County Archives in 2017 and Lambton Heritage Museum in 2018, it was determined that the footprint of the storage space could be better utilized through the installation of

compact mobile shelving. In October 2024, Museums, Gallery and Archives staff submitted an application to the Department of Canadian Heritage through the Museum Assistance Program: Collections Management stream. In April 2025 staff were notified that the application was successful and the Oil Museum of Canada was awarded the maximum amount of funding available with an investment of \$50,000.

DISCUSSION

This project involves a full-scale reorganization of two existing collection storage spaces in the basement and the installation of new compact mobile shelving. The project will transition the two spaces into one large collection storage space with a modern storage system that is adequately sized for the collection and future growth. The new compact mobile shelving system will include wide-span shelving for heavier/large objects, rolled textile storage, an integrated drawer system to store smaller and flat objects, art racking and adequate size shelving for varied object storage. It will ensure room for future growth and include shelves of a size that are adequate for storage of a wide variety of artifacts. The shelving will be easily adjustable and will ensure the long-term safe storage of artifacts. Staff will no longer need to move multiple objects to retrieve the one they are looking for, ensuring faster retrieval of collection materials. This project will ensure the long-term preservation of the collection and is essential to the museum's ability to accept future donations.

The project consists of four phases:

1. Relocated the Collection (May to August 2025)

This phase will involve inventorying and packing the entire collection stored in the basement (not including items currently on display in the main floor exhibit gallery) and temporarily storing these items offsite. During the summer of 2025, museum staff and summer students will complete this task.

2. Demolition/Construction (September 2025)

This phase will include the removal of two drywall framed walls, adjustment of lighting layouts to suit the new shelving orientation, painting of walls and sealing of the concrete floor. During this phase, staff will be working to determine the location of each object within the new shelving layout, while also inputting collections records of any objects whose records are still on paper into the museum's collection management system.

3. Shelving Installation (October 2025)

This phase will include the installation of a raised false floor with an inlaid track for the shelving to roll on and the installation of the shelving system. Staff will be fine-tuning the planned location of objects, laying the groundwork for a smooth return of objects to the museum.

4. Return of the Collection (November to December 2025)

This phase will involve returning the collection to the site, unpacking objects, placing them in the new storage system, and recording the new location in the collections management system.

Once the shelving project is completed, the enhanced capacity and efficient use of available floor area will allow for the future growth of the Oil Museum of Canada artifact collection, provide a safe space for the current collection and allow staff to more effectively and efficiently access the collection materials for research, public requests and exhibition development. Additionally, the end of this project will mark the last significant investment required in the Oil Museum of Canada main building for several years. Staff will now be shifting focus to the series of historic buildings on site and the required repair and maintenance for the long-term preservation and care of them.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The overall project budget is \$230,000.00, of which \$180,000 was approved in 2025 budget. The remaining \$50,000.00 from the Department of Canadian Heritage will ensure the entire project is completed in 2025.

CONSULTATIONS

The General Manager, Cultural Services, the Curator/Supervisor, OMC and the Projects and Procurement Department were consulted in relation to this project.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The project falls within the Cultural Services Division Strategic Plan priority of Maximizing the Value of Collections and Spaces, and specifically Action Item 22: Evaluate storage needs and collections capacity, update collections policies, insurance and appraisal values. The project also aligns with the County of Lambton Strategic Plan Area of Effort 2 in relation to Services and Communications: Anticipating and aligning service delivery to emerging needs and expectations.

CONCLUSION

This investment by the Government of Canada will help the Oil Museum of Canada to ensure the safety and longevity of its important artifact collection. It will allow the collections objects to be stored in a more efficient and organized manner, reducing the time required to retrieve objects in response to public inquiries or exhibition-related needs. The project will also ensure the long-term preservation of the collection, alleviating the current risk of items being stored precariously on shelving that is not purpose-built, on the

Federal Funding for the Collections Storage Project – Oil Museum of Canada (page 4)

May 21, 2025

floor or in the aisles. The project will allow the collection to be housed in one location and ensure there is adequate room for collection growth in the future.

 <p style="text-align: center;">CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services / Deputy CAO Jason Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure & Development Services
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Lambton County Land Stewardship Program Pilot

BACKGROUND

As an outcome of the County of Lambton Corporate Climate Change Strategy, adopted in July of 2024, staff were directed (Action 4.1) to work in collaboration with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority ("**SCRCA**"), Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority ("**ABCA**") and the County of Lambton's Agricultural Advisory Committee ("**CLAAC**"), to investigate an annual County grant program to support land stewardship among farmers and landowners for the consideration of County Council (emulating the success of the Huron Clean Water Project).

County staff worked in collaboration with SCRCA, ABCA and Huron County staff to explore options for a similar funding program to be implemented in Lambton County, with the support of external funding sources. As a result of this collaboration, a report was presented to Lambton County Council on September 4, 2024, outlining the proposed Lambton County Land Stewardship Program (the "**Program**"), resulting in the following motion and direction to staff:

#17: *White/McRoberts:*

- a) *That County Council hereby authorize staff to work in consultation with the County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee and its partner agencies, the St. Clair Region and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authorities, to develop a Lambton County Land Stewardship grant funding pilot program, to be administered by The County of Lambton with the support of the SCRCA and ABCA;*
- b) *That County Council hereby authorize staff to respond to the Province of Ontario's call for funding applications through the Great Lakes Local*

Action Fund to support the cost of the Lambton County Land Stewardship grant funding pilot program, up to \$100,000;

- c) That if the funding contemplated in paragraph (b) above is not secured through external sources, staff bring forward options to fund the program for Council's consideration and defer this program to 2025 budget deliberations.*

Carried.

As an outcome of this direction to staff, an application was submitted to the Great Lakes Local Action Fund ("GLLAF") in September of 2024 for \$100,000 to fund the initial pilot year of the Program, and consultation with CLAAC was initiated to better understand the needs and priorities of local farmers and landowners with respect to Best Management Practices and stewardship projects on their property.

DISCUSSION

In March of 2025, just prior to 2025 budget deliberations, staff were made aware that the County's application to GLLAF was approved for the full amount of funding requested, providing \$100,000 for the initial pilot year of the program. As a result, there was no request for funding support for this Program made within the 2025 County budget.

This external funding support will allow the County to work in collaboration with the SCRCA and ABCA to initiate the pilot year of the Program, providing grant funding to landowners to help offset the cost of implementing land stewardship projects taking place between February 15, 2025, and December 31, 2025.

Funding requests will be considered for projects that align with the SCRCA and ABCA conservation goals within their respective watersheds/jurisdictions including:

- Rural stormwater management and wetland management plans
- Community projects (tree planting)
- Well decommissioning
- Cover crop incentive
- Forest management plans and woodlot enhancement
- Wetland restoration incentive programs (including phragmites management)
- Erosion control
- Living snow fences, windbreaks, riparian buffers, and woodlot expansion/increasing wildlife habitat connectivity

These project types were selected for their ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change locally, build soil resiliency, reduce agricultural and rural impacts to water quality, and reduce financial barriers to project adoption and uptake.

In an effort to minimize the demand on County resources, the Program will be managed through established SCRCA/ABCA Project Review Committees that evaluate the overall environmental benefit/impact of each stewardship project and determine funding allocations to individual projects.

The \$100,000 Program budget will allow for \$85,000 in grant allocations to landowners (providing matching grants to landowners of up to 50 percent to a maximum of \$10,000 to leverage private investment and additional funding as needed), with \$10,000 allocated to support the administrative costs of SCRCA (\$7,000) and ABCA (\$3,000) who will assign staff to meet with landowners, prepare applications and evaluate projects, as well as \$5,000 for program promotion and community engagement related expenses to ensure Program participation. A Memorandum of Understanding has been established between the County, SCRCA and ABCA to outline the terms of the pilot program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the Program in 2025, as the initial pilot year is fully-funded through the GLLAF funding.

After the first year, staff would work with the SCRCA and ABCA to evaluate the success of the Program and make a recommendation to council regarding its continuation and potential funding options (such as established reserves, levy or a combination thereof) for the consideration of Council as part of future budget deliberations.

CONSULTATIONS

The Program was developed through consultation with representatives of SCRCA and ABCA. The group also engaged with the County of Huron to learn from their experience with the development and implementation of a similar program that provides financial and technical assistance to Huron County residents to improve and protect water quality and mitigate impacts of climate change. An outline of the Program was presented to the County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee, where an exercise was conducted to review and prioritize the project category areas.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The development of a Lambton County Land Stewardship Program aligns with the County of Lambton mission statement and the strategic plan outcome related to Environmental Stewardship: practicing sound environmental principles that are transferable from one generation to the next and that promote and protect local waterways, shorelines, marshes, agricultural lands, and other components of the natural environment.

The development of a Land Stewardship Program also aligns with the Lambton County Strategic Plan Area of Effort related to *Corporate Sustainability*, and specifically addresses Strategic action (4.1) of Lambton County Climate Change Strategy.

CONCLUSION

As an outcome of the recently adopted County of Lambton Corporate Climate Change Strategy, staff have worked in collaboration with the SCRCA, ABCA and the County of Lambton's Agricultural Advisory Committee to develop a one-year pilot County grant program to support land stewardship among farmers and landowners.

The Program is fully-funded in its initial pilot year through GLLAF funding sources, and will be reevaluated after the initial year for council's consideration regarding its continuation and potential funding options. In 2025, funding requests from landowners will be considered for projects that align with the SCRCA and ABCA conservation goals, connecting Lambton County farmers and landowners with resources to help implement Best Management Practices and stewardship projects on their property.



CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	MUSEUMS, GALLERY AND ARCHIVES
PREPARED BY:	Laurie Webb, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Museums, Gallery and Archives First Quarter 2025 Statistics

BACKGROUND

Lambton Heritage Museum (**LHM**) and Oil Museum of Canada National Historic Site (**OMC**) manage collections of 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 of 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 direction 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 first quarter of 2025.

DISCUSSION

This quarter's analysis highlights efforts to engage and enrich the community through several initiatives.

Enhancing Access, Inclusion and Community Engagement

The first quarter of 2025 prioritized expanding access and increasing participation across all sites. Lambton County Archives removed research barriers through targeted workshops like "Beginner Genealogy" and "Researching Your Property: ONLand," making historical resources

more approachable for residents with varying knowledge levels.

Lambton Heritage Museum increased youth engagement via "PA Day: Winter Warm Up," strategically reaching students during school breaks to broaden heritage participation. Similarly, Oil Museum of Canada's "PA Day: Watts of Fun" program made educational content accessible to younger demographics through interactive delivery methods.

Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery addressed accessibility through multiple channels: continuing the "ArtPod" series to reach art learners with support needs, partnering with Lambton County Library for "Family Literacy Day" to engage literacy-focused audiences, and providing multigenerational "Family Day" programming to remove age barriers.

These initiatives directly support the division's strategic focus on eliminating participation barriers and expanding cultural engagement throughout the community.

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 first quarter. It is important to note that for the 2024 year only, Council approved free admission to the museum and archives sites as part of its 175th anniversary celebrations, which may account for the increased attendance year over year. Full admission has been reinstated at the museum and archives sites effective January 1, 2025.

	JNAAG		LCA		LHM		OMC	
	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Visitors	849	682	113	93	460	414	273	174
Tour Participants	50	138	n/a	0	24	41	163	89
Special Event Participants	0	13	86	0	79	0	0	2
On-Site Program Participants	658	667	17	60	12	20	128	22
Site Use Attendees	14	12	n/a	0	127	203	0	0
First Quarter TOTAL	1,571	1,512	216	153	702	678	564	287

**Oil Museum of Canada recently launched an app for the Driving Tour. In the first quarter, 26 users engaged with 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.*

*** Although reinstatement of full admission shows a slight decrease in visitation numbers for 2025, visitation across all sites reflects comparable first quarter numbers from 2023.*

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

First Quarter Exhibits

JNAAG Dark Ice October 4, 2024 to March 15, 2025. Sculpting Life November 1, 2024 to July 6, 2025. Pysanky March 26 to April 26, 2025	LCA Petrolia 150th Anniversary on display until 2025. <i>From District to County: Celebrating Lambton 175</i> on display at Sarnia Library until late 2025.
LHM Return of the Swans February 19 to April 5, 2025 Lambton Gallery Permanent Exhibit. <i>Collections Centre</i> Permanent Exhibit. <i>From District to County: Celebration Lambton 175</i> on display at Sarnia Library until late 2025.	OMC Main Gallery Permanent Exhibit.

Developing Partnerships That Increase Participation in Culture

Strategic partnerships remain key to expanding cultural participation across Lambton County. The first quarter saw several successful collaborative initiatives that enhanced cultural access by leveraging partner resources and audiences.

Lambton County Archives continued three partnerships: the "X Files Unidentified Photos" project with Albany Retirement Village created intergenerational connections between seniors and historical photographs; an "Introduction to Archival Research" workshop with Lambton County Library built community research skills; and an "Emergency Preparedness Workshop" with the Library and County offered valuable historical context on local emergencies. Oil Museum of Canada partnered with Lambton Works on "Level Up Your Job Search," connecting employment services with cultural resources. Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery collaborated with the Library on "Family Literacy Day," integrating visual arts with literacy development.

These partnerships helped reach new audiences, share resources efficiently, and create more meaningful cultural experiences through combined expertise.

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, eliminating a barrier to accessing Lambton's history while also raising Lambton's profile through online research. The chart below outlines ways the public accessed Lambton's history and collections materials, along with their engagement this quarter.

	JNAAG		LCA		LHM		OMC	
	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Website Visits*	3,300	15,277	20,000	49,812	20,000	49,812	20,000	49,812
Social Media Reach (Collections Content only)	n/a	1,760	375,515**	100,422	12,522	10,948	9,944	9,181
Social Media Engagement (Collections Content only)	n/a	420	4,053	13,373	143	1,863	468	2,270
Collections Database* (Past Perfect)	n/a	n/a	6,246	3,116	6,246	3,116	6,246	3,116
Virtual Tour Engagement	24	30	n/a	n/a	26	28	29	20

*Lambton Heritage Museum, Oil Museum of Canada and Lambton County Archives share a single [website](#) and online [database](#). Work is currently underway at the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery to make the collection available online.

**Social media reach in first quarter 2024 for the Lambton County Archives was driven higher than normal due to a single viral post, which had a reach of 52,649 and over 2,800 clicks.

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. Since the pandemic, there has been less engagement with virtual offerings and an increase with in-person participation. Museums,

Gallery and Archives staff are committed to participating in relevant outreach events to raise our profiles and engage with new audiences. Below are numbers for the first quarter of 2025.

	JNAAG		LCA		LHM		OMC	
	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Offsite Outreach Participants	0	0	868	390	29	185	640	319

Managing Resources Efficiently and Effectively

The quarter's metrics demonstrate the department's ability to maintain community connections even during a traditionally quieter period, while laying groundwork for expanded programming in the coming spring and summer months. This measured approach to winter programming allows for efficient resource allocation while maintaining essential community touchpoints throughout the year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

None.

CONCLUSION

The first quarter statistics emphasize that Museums, Gallery and Archives collectively advanced their strategic priorities through innovative programming, community engagement, and collaborative partnerships. These results reflect successful adaptation to evolving cultural engagement patterns while maintaining strong connections.



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:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Libraries First Quarter 2025 Statistics

BACKGROUND

Lambton County Library provides services to the public through 25 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 24 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 first quarter 2025 statistics for the Libraries Department are attached.

DISCUSSION

At the close of the first quarter, Lambton County Library is set to meet last year's circulation levels, both with physical and electronic items. At the close of the first quarter, the library has circulated 135,274 physical items and 152,143 electronic items. In March 2025, following budget approval, new daily spending limits were adjusted for the library's Hoopla service, resulting in fewer notices to patrons that their requested items were

declined due to budgetary constraints. As the year continues, staff will monitor this app's usage to determine if spending limits require further adjustment.

Internet / computer use is on track to slightly increase this calendar year, and the number of valid library card holders has increased by 481 during this first quarter. Presently, there are 25,497 library card holders with membership to Lambton County Library, which represents approximately 20 percent of Lambton's population. It remains a goal of the Libraries Department to continue to work to increase the number of library card holders in Lambton County.

The Libraries Department remains on track to offer an equivalent number of library programs compared to last year, although first quarter attendance statistics suggest that attendance is lower by about three percent.

The use of private meeting spaces in libraries continues to be in high demand, with the Libraries Department providing 228 bookings in nine different locations, meeting the needs of 506 people over 656 hours.

A number of literacy initiatives took place in the first quarter of the year including:

- The annual Winter Reading Challenge, *Be a Reading Machine*, which was available to all ages from January 25 to March 16, 2025. Participants logged the number of books they read to earn a variety of prizes. In total, 928 people registered for the program including 533 aged 0 to 12, 30 teenagers, and 365 adults. Seventy percent (70 percent) of the participants logged reading activities, reporting that the youngest participants read 11,643 books, teens read 13,982 minutes, and adults read 1,821 books.
- Lambton County Library hosted Family Literacy Day on January 25, 2025. At this half-day event, visitors attending either the Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery or Sarnia Library were treated to a variety of family-friendly literacy activities at no cost. Activities included face painting, a concert, virtual reality and retro gaming, henna art, the opportunity to make stamped clay pendants, amongst others. The Kiwanis Club of Sarnia-Lambton Golden K provided free popcorn throughout the event. Over 500 people attended the event.
- The annual competition, "Clash of the Classrooms" took place in partnership with Chatham-Kent Public Library from February 3 to March 7, 2025. Schools and homeschool groups were challenged to read the highest number of minutes to win prizes for the top reading classrooms and schools. In total, 54 schools and 199 classrooms competed, with 32 schools and 87 classrooms located in Lambton County. A total of 1,550,132 minutes of reading were logged, with 1,044,682 of those minutes originating in Lambton County. In Lambton County, the following classrooms won pizza parties: Grade 3 to 4 at Confederation Central School, Grade 4 at Errol Village, and the Secondary School Library Team at Great Lakes. Additionally, John Knox Christian School and North Lambton Secondary School

won a \$200 donation to their school libraries for recording the most minutes of reading as a school per capita.

Service Canada made 22 visits to six libraries in Lambton County (Alvinston, Watford, Forest, Corunna, Wyoming, and Thedford) between January and April to hold drop-in appointments for people with inquiries about federal government programs such as Old Age Security, the Canadian Dental Care Plan, Canadian Pension Plan and others. Approximately 75 people took advantage of the opportunity to speak with a Citizen Services Specialist. Service Canada has now concluded its pilot program with Lambton County Library and at this point in time, Service Canada will not be continuing to offer this service.

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

Lambton County Library is on track to deliver another productive year encouraging and improving literacy throughout the community.

Libraries First Quarter 2025 Statistics

	Number of Valid Library Card Holders			
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025
Alvinston	364	0	0	0
Arkona	150	0	0	0
Brigden	374	0	0	0
Bright's Grove	1,492	0	0	0
Camlachie	238	0	0	0
Clearwater	3,818	0	0	0
Corunna	1,483	0	0	0
Courtright	102	0	0	0
Florence	79	0	0	0
Forest	1,801	0	0	0
Grand Bend	1,632	0	0	0
Headquarters	48	0	0	0
Inwood	88	0	0	0
Library By Mail	13	0	0	0
Mobile Library	143	0	0	0
Mooretown	90	0	0	0
Oil Springs	148	0	0	0
Petrolia	2,115	0	0	0
Pt. Edward	563	0	0	0
Pt. Franks	237	0	0	0
Pt. Lambton	226	0	0	0
Samia	8,876	0	0	0
Shetland	55	0	0	0
Sombra	150	0	0	0
Thedford	158	0	0	0
Watford	598	0	0	0
Wilkesport	48	0	0	0
Wyoming	889	0	0	0
TOTALS	25,978	0	0	0

	Circulation						
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	1,778	0	0	0	1,778	6,578	27%
Arkona	1,439	0	0	0	1,439	6,098	24%
Brigden	4,008	0	0	0	4,008	16,565	24%
Bright's Grove	8,802	0	0	0	8,802	37,253	24%
Camlachie	1,470	0	0	0	1,470	6,198	24%
Clearwater	22,651	0	0	0	22,651	69,747	32%
Corunna	6,343	0	0	0	6,343	25,759	25%
Courtright	505	0	0	0	505	2,641	19%
Florence	720	0	0	0	720	3,075	23%
Forest	9,956	0	0	0	9,956	43,239	23%
Grand Bend	6,928	0	0	0	6,928	26,373	26%
Headquarters	3,566	0	0	0	3,566	7,889	45%
Inwood	624	0	0	0	624	2,553	24%
Library By Mail	41	0	0	0	41	154	27%
Mallroad	0	0	0	0	0	61	0%
Mobile Library	1,964	0	0	0	1,964	7,950	25%
Mooretown	543	0	0	0	543	2,476	22%
Oil Springs	1,194	0	0	0	1,194	4,072	29%
Petrolia	11,701	0	0	0	11,701	47,417	25%
Pt. Edward	6,417	0	0	0	6,417	28,540	22%
Pt. Franks	1,479	0	0	0	1,479	5,974	25%
Pt. Lambton	656	0	0	0	656	4,046	16%
Sarnia	29,269	0	0	0	29,269	140,784	21%
Shetland	370	0	0	0	370	860	43%
Sombra	736	0	0	0	736	3,429	21%
Thedford	723	0	0	0	723	3,381	21%
Watford	3,532	0	0	0	3,532	12,395	28%
Wilkesport	866	0	0	0	866	2,509	35%
Wyoming	6,993	0	0	0	6,993	27,672	25%
TOTALS	135,274	0	0	0	135,274	545,688	25%

e-circulation						
Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
152,143	0	0	0	152,143	601,785	25%

Inter-library Loans							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Items Borrowed	254	0	0	0	254	1,421	18%
Items Loaned	261	0	0	0	261	1,207	22%

	Reference Queries						
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	38	0	0	0	38	217	18%
Arkona	92	0	0	0	92	493	19%
Brigden	156	0	0	0	156	624	25%
Bright's Grove	206	0	0	0	206	1,400	15%
Camlachie	18	0	0	0	18	244	7%
Clearwater	616	0	0	0	616	2,893	21%
Corunna	847	0	0	0	847	3,756	23%
Courtright	47	0	0	0	47	95	49%
Florence	14	0	0	0	14	31	45%
Forest	769	0	0	0	769	2,778	28%
Grand Bend	423	0	0	0	423	1,395	30%
Headquarters	74	0	0	0	74	250	0%
Inwood	49	0	0	0	49	244	20%
Library By Mail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mobile Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mooretown	73	0	0	0	73	404	18%
Oil Springs	52	0	0	0	52	96	54%
Petrolia	286	0	0	0	286	1,455	20%
Pt. Edward	188	0	0	0	188	939	20%
Pt. Franks	71	0	0	0	71	280	25%
Pt. Lambton	83	0	0	0	83	322	26%
Sarnia	544	0	0	0	544	3,106	18%
Shetland	7	0	0	0	7	34	21%
Sombra	34	0	0	0	34	123	28%
Thedford	76	0	0	0	76	208	37%
Watford	160	0	0	0	160	567	28%
Wilkesport	85	0	0	0	85	261	33%
Wyoming	175	0	0	0	175	939	19%
TOTALS	5,183	0	0	0	5,183	23,154	22%

	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	0	0	0	167	653	26%
Arkona	6	0	0	0	6	34	18%
Brigden	18	0	0	0	18	70	26%
Bright's Grove	198	0	0	0	198	698	28%
Camlachie	15	0	0	0	15	43	35%
Clearwater	957	0	0	0	957	2,142	45%
Corunna	345	0	0	0	345	1,646	21%
Courtright	27	0	0	0	27	73	37%
Florence	10	0	0	0	10	44	23%
Forest	473	0	0	0	473	1,677	28%
Grand Bend	380	0	0	0	380	1,204	32%
Headquarters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Inwood	59	0	0	0	59	183	32%
Library By Mail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mobile Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mooretown	14	0	0	0	14	33	42%
Oil Springs	47	0	0	0	47	40	118%
Petrolia	577	0	0	0	577	2,004	29%
Pt. Edward	93	0	0	0	93	323	29%
Pt. Franks	11	0	0	0	11	49	22%
Pt. Lambton	12	0	0	0	12	35	34%
Sarnia	2,627	0	0	0	2,627	8,497	31%
Shetland	1	0	0	0	1	80	1%
Sombra	58	0	0	0	58	236	25%
Thedford	27	0	0	0	27	122	22%
Watford	123	0	0	0	123	337	36%
Wilkesport	30	0	0	0	30	117	26%
Wyoming	92	0	0	0	92	401	23%
TOTALS	6,367	0	0	0	6,367	20,741	31%

Wireless Internet Usage					
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD
Total Clients	12,129	0	0	0	12,129
Total Sessions	35,478	0	0	0	35,478

Electronic Information Sources							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Electronic Databases	8,166	0	0	0	8,166	39,166	21%
Early Literacy Stations	4,612	0	0	0	4,612	12,887	36%
TOTAL	12,778	0	0	0	12,778	52,053	25%

Website Visits							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Library	131,611	0	0	0	131,611	461,435	29%
Theatre	1,224	0	0	0	1,224	3,092	40%
TOTAL	132,835	0	0	0	132,835	464,527	29%
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025			
Facebook Friends	4,004	0	0	0			

Email Marketing Statistics			
	Q1 Email Recipients	Q1 Emails Read	Q1 Links Clicked
Monthly Emails	36,520	16,423	1,890
Campaign Emails	30,431	11,488	1,030
Reading Recommendations	251	148	63
Notices	3,772	2,046	73

	Library Programs (#)						
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Alvinston	52	0	0	0	52	223	23%
Arkona	31	0	0	0	31	122	25%
Brigden	72	0	0	0	72	245	29%
Bright's Grove	72	0	0	0	72	350	21%
Camlachie	41	0	0	0	41	154	27%
Clearwater	176	0	0	0	176	415	42%
Corunna	123	0	0	0	123	447	28%
Courtright	27	0	0	0	27	107	25%
EarlyON Centres	90	0	0	0	90	433	21%
Florence	15	0	0	0	15	132	11%
Forest	87	0	0	0	87	439	20%
Grand Bend	42	0	0	0	42	275	15%
Headquarters	14	0	0	0	14	74	19%
Inwood	42	0	0	0	42	192	22%
Makerspace (Independent)	131	0	0	0	131	711	18%
Mobile Library	50	0	0	0	50	192	26%
Mooretown	17	0	0	0	17	118	26%
Oil Springs	38	0	0	0	38	165	14%
Petrolia	198	0	0	0	198	765	23%
Pt. Edward	19	0	0	0	19	150	26%
Pt. Franks	21	0	0	0	21	79	13%
Pt. Lambton	27	0	0	0	27	114	27%
Sarnia	353	0	0	0	353	1385	24%
Shetland	28	0	0	0	28	85	25%
Sombra	23	0	0	0	23	91	33%
Thedford	33	0	0	0	33	134	25%
Watford	53	0	0	0	53	229	25%
Wilkesport	14	0	0	0	14	101	23%
Wyoming	95	0	0	0	95	416	23%
TOTALS	1,984	0	0	0	1,984	8,343	24%

	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	0	0	0	441	1,567	28%
Arkona	133	0	0	0	133	874	15%
Brigden	1,831	0	0	0	1,831	5,197	35%
Bright's Grove	221	0	0	0	221	3,081	7%
Camlachie	134	0	0	0	134	400	34%
Clearwater	666	0	0	0	666	1,878	35%
Corunna	880	0	0	0	880	4,616	19%
Courtright	80	0	0	0	80	388	21%
EarlyON Centres	1,291	0	0	0	1,291	7,500	17%
Florence	23	0	0	0	23	157	15%
Forest	505	0	0	0	505	3,349	15%
Grand Bend	150	0	0	0	150	1,161	13%
Headquarters	661	0	0	0	661	3,828	17%
Inwood	120	0	0	0	120	588	20%
Makerspace (Independent)	146	0	0	0	146	795	18%
Mobile Library	558	0	0	0	558	1,638	34%
Mooretown	170	0	0	0	170	1,151	15%
Oil Springs	88	0	0	0	88	409	22%
Petrolia	1060	0	0	0	1,060	4,819	22%
Pt. Edward	77	0	0	0	77	1,007	8%
Pt. Franks	82	0	0	0	82	374	22%
Pt. Lambton	147	0	0	0	147	972	15%
Samia	2,691	0	0	0	2,691	9,201	29%
Shetland	16	0	0	0	16	59	27%
Sombra	55	0	0	0	55	222	25%
Thedford	53	0	0	0	53	457	12%
Watford	248	0	0	0	248	1,175	21%
Wilkesport	77	0	0	0	77	190	41%
Wyoming	501	0	0	0	501	2,848	18%
TOTALS	13,105	0	0	0	13,105	59,901	22%

Community Meeting Space - Lambton County Library										
	Alvinston	Clearwater	Corunna	Forest	Sarnia Connection Cube	Sombra	Thedford	Watford	Wyoming	Total
Q1 - 2025 Bookings	20	15	33	30	77	1	17	24	11	228
Q1 - 2025 Hours	75.5	21.5	133	148	112	4	26	112	23.5	656
Q1 - 2025 Attendance	26	149	65	60	97	2	34	48	25	506
Q2 - 2025 Bookings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q2 - 2025 Hours	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q2 - 2025 Attendance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q3 - 2025 Bookings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q3 - 2025 Hours	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q3 - 2025 Attendance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q4 - 2025 Bookings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q4 - 2025 Hours	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q4 - 2025 Attendance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YTD Bookings	20	15	33	30	77	1	17	24	11	228
YTD Hours	75.5	21.5	133	148	112	4	26	112	23.5	632
YTD Attendance	26	149	65	60	97	2	34	48	25	506

Sarnia Library Theatre & Meeting Room Rentals							
	Q1-2025	Q2-2025	Q3-2025	Q4-2025	YTD	2024 Total	YTD %
Internal Bookings							
Bookings	0	0	0	0	0	8.00	0%
Hours	0	0	0	0	0	26	0%
Attendance	0	0	0	0	0	165.00	0%
External Bookings							
Bookings	88.00	0	0	0	88	324.00	27%
Hours	290.25	0	0	0	290.25	1,118.80	26%
Attendance	4,677	0	0	0	4,677	17,448.00	27%
Total Bookings	88.00						
Total Hours	290.25						
Total Attendance	4,677.00						

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



CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	MUSEUMS, GALLERY AND ARCHIVES
PREPARED BY:	Laurie Webb, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Meyer, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
SUBJECT:	Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management March, 2025

BACKGROUND

The Manager, Museums, Gallery and 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 from the month of March 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 March 2025.

Attachment A – Museums and Archives Donations

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 each respective site to determine whether they are already represented in the collection and if the condition of the object is acceptable prior to acceptance into the permanent collection.

The list below outlines objects that were offered for donation in the month of March 2025 and are recommended for refusal.

Institution	Details	Reason for Refusal	Donor
Lambton Heritage Museum	Rug beater	No local provenance. Duplicate of items already in collection. Referred to Moore Museum.	Name not given.
Lambton Heritage Museum	Singer sewing machine and bassinet	Duplicate of items already in collection. Referred to Moore Museum, Sombra Museum, Fanshawe Pioneer Village.	Name not given.
Lambton Heritage Museum	Foam generator for firefighting	Similar items are already in collection.	Name not given.
Oil Museum of Canada	Imperial Oil Review 1970	Duplicate of items already in collection.	Richard Bradley

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.

CONSULTATIONS

This report involved consultation 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.*"

Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management March, 2025 (page 3)

May 21, 2025

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 through our various facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Museums and Archives Donations

March 2025

Institution	Council Report Information	Contact	City
Lambton County Archives	2 Binders of CN Rail photographs a clippings of the CNPA Sarnia.	James Houston	Sarnia
Lambton County Archives	7 Volumes of Aughrim Women's Institute minute books.	Vera Brasjen	Alvinston
Lambton County Archives	Five St. Pats yearbooks 1988-1992	Marie Dillon	Sarnia
Lambton County Archives	Hargrove/Coombs Family history book, Lamrecton papers, History of Hargrove Store including store ledgers.	Warren Armstrong	Okemos
Lambton County Archives	Historical and trainee material pertaining to Polysar.	John Ward	Oil Springs
Lambton County Archives	One panoramic photo of the Duncan family 1925	Sharon Silvester	Brigden
Lambton County Archives	Photographs and documents pertaining to St. Paul Anglican, Mariner History, and Point Edward History.	Sheila McBeth	Point Edward
Lambton County Archives	Project Report of the 2022 Enbridge Pipeline.	Doug Jarvis	Oil Springs
Lambton County Archives	Research books on genealogy and conducting research in other Counties in Ontario.	Terry Wilson	Brights Grove
Lambton Heritage Museum	Aluminum postcard featuring the St. Clair Tunnel (circa early 1900s).	James Waring	Ottawa
Lambton Heritage Museum	Historical atlases for Huron, Middlesex, and Perth.	Barb McCurdy	Centralia
Lambton Heritage Museum	Picnic basket, made by a resident Stoney Point Reserve in c. 1950.	Grant Clarke	London
Lambton Heritage Museum	Two postcards of Oakwood Resort, one picture of Grand Bend beach, one book given as school prize.	Paul Miller	Grand Bend
Oil Museum of Canada	Hat with Oasis Oil Co. of Libya, Inc patch on front.	Linda Pickford	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:	May 21, 2025
SUBJECT:	New Hours of Operation – Florence Library

BACKGROUND

Lambton County Council, at its meeting on April 3, 2025, endorsed the following motion of the Committee of the Whole minutes dated February 19, 2025:

#8: Miller/Case:

- a) *That if the Township of Dawn-Euphemia consents to the closure of the Shetland Library, Staff be authorized to close the Shetland Library by such date and time in 2025 as mutually agreed upon with the Township of Dawn-Euphemia.*
- b) *That if the township of Dawn-Euphemia consents to the action authorized in paragraph a) above, Staff work collaboratively with the Township of Dawn-Euphemia on all reasonably necessary actions required to move the Shetland Library operations to the Florence Community Centre to enhance service delivery at Florence Library for the benefit of the community and to communicate the closure thereof to all affected stakeholders.*
- c) *That subject to recommendations a), b) above being realized, Staff be authorized to increase the public hours of operation at Florence Library from 12 hours over three days per week to 24 hours over five days per week, consisting of a range of morning / afternoon, weekend and evening service.*
- d) *That Staff report back to County Council on recommendations a) and b) above once direction from the Township of Dawn-Euphemia has been received and an action plan has been established, as applicable.*

Carried.

DISCUSSION

On February 18, 2025, Dawn-Euphemia Township Council approved the following resolution:

2025-23 Councillor McGuire - Councillor Meyer Shetland Library

That Council accepts the report dated February 19, 2025, from Lambton County Re: Library services that outlines the deficiencies, low circulation and accessibility issues related to Shetland Library; and is in agreement with the County of Lambton to close the Shetland Library at a mutually agreed upon date and time and to communicate the closure to all affected stake holders; and to collaborate with the County of Lambton to further enhance the service delivery at Florence Library including increasing the hours of operation from 12 hours to 24 hours per week, consisting of a range of morning, afternoon, evening, and weekend service; and that Council further requests the County of Lambton to transfer ownership of the existing communications tower to the Township.

Carried.

Lambton County Staff have developed a workplan to proceed with the closure of Shetland Library and the enhancement of Florence Library. On April 7, 2025, Library staff communicated key components of the workplan to the Township of Dawn-Euphemia which was considered at its April 7, 2025, meeting. The Township Council approved the following resolution:

2025-55 Councillor McGuire – Councillor LeBoeuf

That Council accepts the report dated April 7, 2025, received from the Manager, Lambton County Library Services, Re: Proposed Changes to Florence Library; and further that Council supports the proposal to remove the extra countertop from the family washroom to allow for the installation of a change table, to update the exterior signage, to install and move desks and shelving units, to add electrical outlets, and other minor changes to the Florence Library as proposed in the report, all at the cost of Lambton County; And that the Mayor and Public Works Superintendent (or delegate) meet with library staff on-site before any work begins to review the proposed changes; And that all structural and electrical work be coordinated and overseen by the Public Works Superintendent; And that no permanent fixtures be installed into the walls without prior approval from the Township; And that any storage cabinets purchased do not encroach on the entrance.

Carried.

Library staff met on-site with representatives from the Township on April 10, 2025, and confirmed plans to move forward with the necessary changes at Florence Library.

Shetland Library's last day of operation will take place on August 29, 2025. This will allow the Summer Reading Challenge to proceed as normal and provide an opportunity for children and teenagers to maintain or improve their literacy skills over the summer months when school is not in session. During the month of September, the contents of Shetland Library will be removed from the premises with the County returning possession of the building to Dawn-Euphemia Township by September 30, 2025.

The enhancements to Florence Library's collection, equipment and furnishings will occur as items become available and aspects of these enhancements may begin taking place over the summer months continuing into the fall. Most notably, the service desk will require relocation, which also requires the relocation of data / electrical outlets. Additional shelving will be purchased to increase the size of the collection, and a third computer workstation will be added to meet Guidelines set by the Administrators of Rural and Urban Libraries of Ontario (**ARUPLO**).

During the month of April, the County of Lambton made a survey available to residents of Dawn-Euphemia and users of Florence and Shetland Libraries to gather their feedback about an adjustment to the change of hours of operation for Florence Library beginning in September 2025. Sixty-one people completed a survey and 69 percent of those respondents reported living in Dawn-Euphemia Township. The vast majority (92 percent) of respondents are current library cardholders. Respondents were nearly equally divided, reporting that half are most likely to visit the library on a Saturday, with the other half being most likely to visit the library on a weekday. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays were the highest scoring preferences for weekday service. On weekdays, 43.7 percent preferred late afternoon to evening hours, compared to 19.3 percent preferring morning to early afternoon hours. On Saturdays, 41.7 percent prefer morning hours compared to 21.3 percent preferring afternoon hours.

As a result of the survey, the following new hours of operation are recommended for Florence Library, beginning on August 31, 2025:

Monday	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Library staff took the opportunity to ask for additional feedback regarding library services during the survey. It is of interest to note that:

- Non-cardholders indicated that they would be encouraged to visit the library if there was a wider variety of books, there was a greater variety of children's activities, and an adult book club for middle aged women. Non-cardholders also expressed an interest in seeing more program promotion.

- Current cardholders reported they would like to participate in a toddler program with their grandchildren during the morning, that longer hours on Saturday and evenings would be appreciated and that staffing ratios should be doubled when programs are running so that programs are not interrupted by other patrons checking out books or responding to inquiries.
- Current cardholders also expressed a need for the library to develop connections with the community, such as the Millview Apartments, so that the community is more aware of what is happening at the library.
- A variety of positive comments were also received, expressing appreciation for a library service, complimenting the existing programs and staff at the library along with the collection's high quality, and expressed confidence in the library.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The change in hours of operation will not impact the Libraries Department's operating budget as the staffing hours will be transferred from Shetland Library upon its closure. Any expenditures for enhancements to Florence Library including new shelving units and new children's early literacy stations will be funded through existing Departmental reserves.

CONSULTATIONS

The Library Operations Supervisor and the Community Engagement / Communications Supervisor were consulted in the creation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The partnership between two levels of local government to deliver library service reflects a guiding principle of the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan related to collaboration and partnerships. An investment in public libraries also results in an enhanced quality of life for residents. Public libraries contribute to the community's economic growth by providing informational and educational resources, technology, training, and spaces to meet and innovate.

CONCLUSION

The Libraries Department is on track to permanently conclude library services in Shetland Library on August 29, 2025, and will spend the summer and fall months in Dawn-Euphemia preparing enhancements to Florence Library. The public survey reveals that local residents are appreciative of the added hours of operation in Florence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Florence Library be open to the public on the dates and hours noted below, save and except for any holidays observed by the County of Lambton, starting August 31, 2025, and that these hours be communicated to all impacted parties:

Monday	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed



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:	May 21, 2025
SUBJECT:	Libraries Donations, January 1 to March 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 January 1 to March 31, 2025:

- \$75.00 from Kelly Robertson, Chatham, in memory of Bruce Frayne for the purchase of children's materials.
- \$2,000.00 from the Estate of the late Gwendolyn Fay Gray for the use of Alvinston Library.
- \$100 from an anonymous donor in memory of Norene Osmon-Desat for the purchase of children's materials.
- A copy of "Our Family Story II", researched and compiled by Doris Bond-Montgomery from Maxine Watson, Watford.
- A copy of each of the following books, "When Rivers Speak", "No Cold Ash", "Even This Land Was Born of Light", "Opening the Stone Heart", "Under the Watchful Eye", and "Four-Square Poems" by James Deahl and from James Deahl, Sarnia.
- \$126.65 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.

Libraries Donations, January 1 to March 31, 2025 (page 2)

May 21, 2025

CONSULTATIONS

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

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, January 1 to March 31, 2025 Report be accepted.

LTC 06-02-25

**Ministry of Long-Term
Care**

**Ministère des Soins de
longue durée**



6th Floor, 400 University
Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 1S5

400, avenue University,
6e étage Toronto ON
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May 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: Long-Term Care Licensees

FROM: Gillian Steeve, Assistant Deputy Minister
System Planning & Partnerships Division

Sean Court, Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Policy Division

Kelly McAslan, Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Operations Division

RE: ***Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2025***

The *Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2024* (Bill 235) was introduced in the Ontario Legislative Assembly on December 4, 2024 during the 43rd Parliament of Ontario.

The bill proposed amendments to the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* (FLTCA) to enhance the quality of life and care for seniors in Ontario by advancing priorities in three key areas:

- Improving dementia care and supports,
- Supporting seniors, their families and caregivers, and
- Protecting seniors and enhancing social connections.

Bill 235 had passed second reading in the Legislative Assembly and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy before the dissolution of the Legislature on January 28, 2025.

We want to thank you for the valuable input that you provided on Bill 235, including through the Ontario Regulatory Registry.

We are pleased to inform you that earlier today, the Ontario government re-introduced the proposed changes to the FLTCA through the *Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2025*, to resume the work that began last fall: [Bill 14, Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2025 - Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#)

The valuable input the ministry has received to date from multiple sector stakeholders and partners can be considered through the legislative process as the bill moves forward.

Please note that some of the proposed statutory amendments, if passed, may require associated regulations to be made. Information on any proposed regulations will be posted to the Regulatory Registry for public consultation at the appropriate time.

The proposed changes to the FLTCA are part of a broader plan being implemented by the Ontario government to better support seniors and those who care for them, by improving and expanding supports for seniors living in long-term care, retirement homes and in the community.

On May 5, 2025, the Ontario government also re-introduced the *More Convenient Care Act*, which proposes new legislation – the *Health Care Staffing Agency Reporting Act, 2025* – which seeks to create a regulatory framework to: achieve transparency regarding the rate that agencies charge hospitals and long-term care homes, increase cost certainty for employers, and stabilize agency rates.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your ongoing partnership and engagement and for working so closely with the ministry to deliver improvements for Ontarians in long-term care. Your collaboration and partnership enable the advancement of our shared vision: that every resident experiences the best possible quality of life, supported by safe, high-quality care.

Sincerely,

Gillian Steeve
Assistant Deputy Minister
System Planning and Partnerships Division

Sean Court
Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Policy Division

Kelly McAslan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Long-Term Care Operations Division

- c: Peter Kaftarian, Interim Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA)
Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
James Stewart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long-Term Care Capital, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
Anna Greenberg, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health atHome
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Long Term Care Association
Samantha Peck, Executive Director, Family Councils Ontario
Dee Tripp, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Residents' Councils
Dr. Sandy Shamon, President, Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Michael Sherar, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario

 <p style="text-align: center;">LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	ADMINISTRATION
PREPARED BY:	Lipine Prak, Quality Assurance Manager Matthew Butler, Performance Strategy and Innovation Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Michael Gorgey, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	2025 Quality Initiative Report – Long-Term Care

BACKGROUND

The *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* (“**FLTCA**”) requires each Home to complete an annual Quality Improvement Plan (“**QIP**”) that is available to the public. Each County of Lambton Long-Term Care home (“**Homes**”) determines priorities with guidance from Health Quality Ontario (“**HQO**”) and input of Elders, caregivers, Home’s leadership, and Quality Improvement Committee members. The QIPs are submitted to HQO to support the Provincial monitoring of long-term care performance.

DISCUSSION

This report highlights the 2025 QIP priorities for the County of Lambton Long-Term Care Division.

1) 2024/25 Divisional Priorities for all County of Lambton Long-Term Care Homes

a) Reduction of Falls

Falls reduction is a priority across all Homes. Each Home supports this through individual quality improvement plans, with an ongoing commitment to reducing falls and minimizing the use of physical restraints, both of which have steadily declined. Moving forward, effective falls reduction will require more personalized plans that respect Elders' activity preferences.

In June 2024, all three Homes implemented VitalLink, a software that syncs vital signs into care plans to enhance accuracy and efficiency of documentation. It also provides post-fall data to support comprehensive assessments and personalized care.

Staff also received training on falls reduction strategies, equipping them with tools to create individualized plans based on each Elder's risks and preferences. The overall goal is to reduce both the number and severity of falls.

b) Elder Experience

In collaboration with Resident and Family Councils, Home leadership, and the Quality Improvement Committee, an annual Elder survey identified areas for quality improvement. Recent survey results highlighted two Elder experience statements to prioritize developing quality improvement plans due to declining positive feedback — "I can express my opinions without fear of consequences" and "I participate in decisions about my life". In response, quality improvement initiatives include holding luncheons with Elders and Home leadership to foster relationships, and training staff on person-centered language, replacing terms like "unit" with "neighbourhood" and "resident" with "Elder", to promote dignity and respect.

In addition, all Homes are also adopting the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario Clinical Pathways Best Practice Guidelines, integrated with the PointClickCare ("PCC") system. Since 2024, assessments for admission, resident and family-centered care, delirium, dementia, and depression have been implemented, with falls and pain management underway. These efforts support more personalized, comfortable transitions to long-term care.

c) Canadian Institute for Health Information ("CIHI") Quality Indicators

The division's Quality Improvement team selected two CIHI indicators for 2024 QIPs: antipsychotic use without a psychosis diagnosis and urinary tract infections ("UTI"). Both were priorities in the previous cycle and have shown improvement, with antipsychotic use without a prescription decreasing and UTI rates falling below the provincial rates based on internal monitoring. Efforts continue in collaboration with Medical Directors, Pharmacy Providers, Infection Control Leads, and Behaviour Support Ontario to further reduce these rates.

2) 2025/26 Home Specific Priority for Lambton Meadowview Villa ("The Villa")**Potentially Avoidable Emergency Department Visits**

The Villa is working to reduce potentially avoidable emergency department visits by training nurses in IV therapy, allowing care to be delivered in-home rather than at the hospital. In 2024, all three Homes integrated the RESPECT tool into the PCC system. This risk communication tool supports staff in discussing goals of care with Elders and caregivers to guide care planning. Originally designed for home care, it has been adapted for long-term care settings.

3) 2025/26 Home Specific Priority for Marshall Gowland Manor ("The Manor")**Reduction of Worsened Pain Quality Indicator from CIHI**

The Manor identified a minor increase in Elders reporting worsened pain. Key actions for quality improvement include implementing the RNAO Pain Clinical Pathway, updating the division's Pain policy, reviewing all prescribed pain medications with the Medical Director and Pharmacy, and providing education to Elders and families on pain management expectations.

4) 2025/26 Home Specific Priority for North Lambton Lodge ("The Lodge")**Reduction of Skin Tears**

The Lodge is focusing on reducing skin tears in Elders due to an increase over the past two years. This includes staff training on prevention measures, education on nutrition and exercise to maintain healthy skin, and implementation of the PCC Skin and Wound application. This application supports nurses with fast, accurate wound documentation, enhances detection of wound progression and supports monitoring of treatment efficacy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Each Home's Quality Improvement Committee, Residents' Council, Family Council and Leadership Team were consulted on the writing and data in this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In keeping with the Vision and Mission Statements of the County of Lambton, the annual quality initiative reports contribute to enhance quality of life in Lambton County through selecting priority areas, developing and completing action items and evaluations.

CONCLUSION

The QIPs were developed based on HQO guidance, quality improvement data, and input from Elders, caregivers, leadership teams and quality improvement committee members. After the QIPs are selected they are posted publicly to ensure transparency. This supports a culture of quality improvement in County homes that continuously improves care for Elders.



CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	COURT SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Kelly Wiebenga, Supervisor
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Court Services – 2025 1st Quarter Statistics and Activity

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

Total Charges Received

In the first quarter of 2025, the Department recorded a total of 4,996 charges received, representing an increase of 1,979 charges or 66% from the previous quarter. In comparison to the first quarter in 2024, total charges received increased by a total of 815 or 19%.

In this quarter, the Department has received 27% of the total charges received in 2024.

Charges Laid by Enforcement Agency

With a total of 1,670 charges, Sarnia Police issued the highest number of charges this quarter. Charges increased from the previous quarter by 530 or 46%. In comparison to the first quarter of 2024, charges laid by Sarnia Police increased by a total of 1,039 or 165%. In this first quarter of 2025, Sarnia Police have already issued 47% of their total charges laid in 2024.

The Ministry of Transportation (“**MTO**”) issued the second highest number of charges this quarter, with a total of 1,145 charges laid. This marks an increase from the previous quarter of 725 charges or 173%. In comparison to the same quarter in 2024, MTO charges increased by 424 or 59%. During this first quarter of 2025, to enhance existing

and ongoing efforts to protect Ontario-U.S. borders and combat cross-border illegal activity, the Ontario Government launched a border security initiative called Operation Deterrence. The operation included an increase of MTO officers from across the region being assigned to this area to conduct commercial motor vehicle inspections. Although laying charges was not the primary focus of this operation, the additional MTO activities contributed to the increase in charges. In this first quarter of 2025, MTO have issued 40% of their total charges issued in 2024.

The Ontario Provincial Police (“**OPP**”) has recorded a 16% decrease in this quarter with a total of 1,012 charges laid, down by 195 charges from the previous quarter. In comparison to the first quarter of 2024, charges laid by OPP decreased by a total of 493 or 33%.

With a total of 1,117, charges laid by municipalities increased in the first quarter of 2025 by 941 or 535% from the previous quarter. During the postal disruption which began on November 15, 2024, municipalities were unable to submit parking tickets to the court for conviction until after January 5, 2025, due to an order made by the Ontario Court of Justice which extended specific time limits prescribed under the *Provincial Offences Act*. This is the reason for the significant increase in charges in this quarter compared to last quarter. In comparison to the first quarter of 2024, there was a decrease of 84 charges or 7%.

In this first quarter of 2025, charges laid by all other enforcement agencies totaled 52, a decrease of 22 or 30% from the previous quarter. When compared to the same quarter in 2024, total charges laid decreased by 71 or 58%.

Charges Laid by Act

66% of the total charges laid in this quarter were under the *Highway Traffic Act*, while Municipal By-Laws made up 23% of the total charges laid.

Over the last 3 years, the Department has seen a steady increase in enforcement of statutes such as the *Trespass to Property Act* and *Safe Streets Act*. In this reporting period, Sarnia Police issued 161 charges under the *Trespass to Property Act* and 16 charges under the *Safe Streets Act*. Compared to the same quarter in 2019, total charges issued under the *Trespass to Property Act* were 15 and 1 under the *Safe Streets Act*. Also in this reporting period, 9 charges were laid under the *Dog Owner's Liability Act*.

Courtroom Activity

During this reporting period, the Department held a total of 24 regular court dates, 1 special trial date and 3 judicial pretrial dates. A total of 2,977 matters were heard.

Early Resolution Meetings

The Municipal Prosecutor held a total of 7 days of Early Resolution Meetings (“**ERM**”) in this quarter dealing with a total of 410 matters. The Department continues to address a backlog of ERM requests.

New Fines Ordered

In the first quarter of 2025, new fines ordered totaled \$793,804, an increase of \$70,901 from the previous quarter. In comparison to the first quarter of 2024, new fines ordered increased by \$290,518.

Enforcing Payment of Defaulted Fines

During this reporting period, \$223,995 was collected in-house, with 3rd party collections recording \$64,367; an increase of \$84,279 and \$35,262, respectively, over the previous quarter.

As a result of the postal disruption beginning on November 15, 2024, and ending December 17, 2024, an order was made by the Ontario Court of Justice to pause new enforcement activities for 35 days after resumption of normal mail service. Court Services staff were able to resume enforcement of overdue fines on January 22, 2025.

Court Services staff begin resubmitting defaulted cases to collection agencies on January 28, 2025, after finalizing the new 3rd party collection agency agreements.

Court Security & Prisoner Transportation Costs

Provincial funding for the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (“CSPT”) Program has been on a decline year over year while the actual costs to provide CSPT continue to rise. In March, the Department received notice that the CSPT Program funding allocation provided by the province for 2025 will be \$552,505 which is \$58,000 less than the funding received in 2024. Actual CSPT costs submitted by the City of Sarnia are \$1,114,292. Any impacts to the budget due to the increased costs and funding shortfall will be communicated in the Corporation’s next quarterly budget update.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As charge volumes continue to trend higher, the additional revenue should assist in offsetting the increased CSPT costs and funding shortfall. Impacts to the budget due to the increased costs will continue to be monitored.

CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN

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

CONCLUSION

As charge volumes continue to trend higher, the additional revenue should assist in offsetting the increased Court Security and Prisoner Transportation costs and funding shortfall. Any impacts to the budget due to the increased costs will continue to be monitored and will be communicated in the Corporation's next quarterly budget update.

Quarterly Statistical Report - Court Services Department Executive Summary - Provincial Offences Administration 2025

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	2024 Total	% Prior
Charges by Act	Highway Traffic	3,293	-	-	-	3,293	11,741	28%
	Liquor License	45	-	-	-	45	810	6%
	Cannabis Act	13	-	-	-	13	69	19%
	Mun By-laws	1,149	-	-	-	1,149	4,032	28%
	Prov Other	496	-	-	-	496	1,649	30%
	Total Current Year	4,996	-	-	-	4,996	18,301	27%
							2024 Total	% Prior
Charges by Agency	Min of Transportation	1,145	-	-	-	1,145	2,895	40%
	Municipalities	1,117	-	-	-	1,117	3,920	28%
	OPP	1,012	-	-	-	1,012	7,461	14%
	Other	52	-	-	-	52	474	11%
	Sarnia Police	1,670	-	-	-	1,670	3,551	47%
	Total Current Year	4,996	-	-	-	4,996	18,301	27%
							2024 Total	% Prior
Charges Received	Part 1 - Prov Offence	3,576	-	-	-	3,576	13,914	26%
	Part 2 - Parking	1,049	-	-	-	1,049	2,699	39%
	Part 3 - Summons	371	-	-	-	371	1,688	22%
	Total Current Year	4,996	-	-	-	4,996	18,301	27%
	Total Prior Year	4,181	5,077	6,026	3,017			
	Change +/- Volume	815	5,077	6,026	3,017			
	Change +/- %	119%	0%	0%	0%			


		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	2024 Total	% Prior
Courtroom Activity	Part 1	1,436	0	-	-	1,436	4,391	33%
	Part 2	6	0	-	-	6	53	11%
	Part 3	1,535	0	-	-	1,535	5,043	30%
	Federal	13	-	-	-	13	0	0%
	Total Current Year	2,977	-	-	-	2,977	9,487	31%
	Total Prior Year	1,926	2,298	2,545	2,718			
	Change +/- Volume	1,051	2,298	2,545	2,718			
Change +/- %	155%	0%	0%	0%				

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	2024 Total	% Prior
New Fines Ordered RICO1005	Federal	\$ 6,265	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,265	\$ 322,275	2%
	Highway Traffic	\$ 356,522	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356,522	\$ 1,228,457	29%
	Liquor License	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	Mun By-laws	\$ 22,603	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,603	\$ 98,545	23%
	Parking	\$ 38,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,118	\$ 99,725	38%
	Prov Other	\$ 427,510	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 427,510	\$ 2,084,767	21%
	Total Current Year	\$ 851,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 851,018	\$ 3,833,769	22%
	Total Prior Year	\$ 493,904	\$ 778,140	\$ 1,836,725	\$ 724,999	-\$ 2,982,752 Difference		
	Change +/- Volume	\$ 357,114	-\$ 778,140	-\$ 1,836,725	-\$ 724,999			
Change +/- %	172%	0%	0%	0%				

		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Fine Payments	Current, Own Office	\$ 368,838.67				\$ 368,839
CAMS in house	Defaulted / Overdue	\$ 223,995				\$ 223,995
CAMS	Collection Agencies	\$ 64,367				\$ 64,367
3-1110	Other POA Locations	\$ 49,220				\$ 49,220
	LESS: Refunds, Adj., etc.					
FMW-Fine totals	Total	\$ 706,421	\$ 553,922	\$ 729,041	\$ 1,507,122	\$ 706,421

YTD excludes reimbursements to other courts and the Province.

		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
O/S Accounts Rec'ble	A/R DEC/2024	\$ 2,852,073	\$ 3,633,247			
	New Revenue	\$ 851,018	\$ 724,999			
	Less Current Fines Pd	\$ 453,231	\$ 1,337,352			
	Less Overdue Fines Pd	\$ 223,995	\$ 139,716			
	Less Fines Pd at Agency	\$ 64,367	\$ 29,105			
	A/R MAR/2025	\$ 2,961,498	\$ 2,852,073			

 SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION	
REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND SOCIAL PLANNING
PREPARED BY:	Sarah Churchill, Program Supervisor Lorri Kerrigan, Social Planner Ian Hanney, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Lambton County 2024 Homelessness Enumeration

BACKGROUND

The County of Lambton's Social Services Division participates in *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy*, administered by Housing and Infrastructure Communities Canada. In 2024, all Reaching Home Communities were asked to complete Point in Time Counts ("**PiT**") and Enumeration Surveys between October 1 and November 30 of 2024. Data collected through these surveys is used to inform a national profile of homelessness. Lambton's data from this exercise can be found in the attached community report. The information presented in this report is time-bound and limited to individuals visibly experiencing homelessness during the survey period. For comprehensive, real-time data, please refer to the County's [By-Name List](#) ("**BNL**").

Counting and surveying individuals experiencing homelessness presents considerable challenges. These individuals are transient, tend to couch surf, and avoid public spaces and some public services. These challenges are amplified in small, semi-rural communities like Lambton. The three most common "count methods" include:

1. By-Name List: An ongoing, regularly updated list of every known person experiencing homelessness in a community. This is the gold-standard data collection methodology for homelessness counts. It includes names, service interactions, and housing history. This helps service providers offer the right support to each person on the list, and track progress in reducing homelessness over time.
2. Enumeration Surveys: A several-day survey event where volunteers talk to people experiencing homelessness to learn their needs, service-use patterns, and places they frequent for resources or shelter.

3. Point in Time Counts: A one-day tally conducted annually or bi-annually to count people who are homeless. Volunteers go to shelters and the streets to see how many people are without homes. This provides a snapshot of homelessness at the time but may miss some people who are hard to find or don't want to be counted.

The Social Services Division utilizes all three of these data collection methods to identify who is experiencing homelessness in our community. Bi-annual data from PiT Counts and Enumeration is used to complement and add to the BNL, which is our most comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of local homelessness. Every time a person experiencing homelessness interacts with the service system (e.g., accesses a shelter bed, contacts their worker, visits the resource centre, etc.) their status is updated on the BNL.

DISCUSSION

The division conducted Homelessness Enumeration during the week of October 7-11, 2024. Data was collected using an Enumeration Survey and a PiT Count. In Lambton, the PiT Count occurred on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

The federal government provided a standardized set of 15 questions that were to be included in every Enumeration Survey across the country. Locally, seven questions were added to the end of this survey to capture trends and use of services specific to Lambton. Staff from the Social Services Division, the Inn of the Good Shepherd, the North Lambton Community Health Centre, and a broad group of community partner agencies worked throughout the week to conduct tallies and administer surveys.

Enumeration Highlights

Numbers represent data collected from October 7-11, 2024.

Total Count

- **228** unique surveys
- **83** people observed to be experiencing homelessness
- **18** children experiencing homelessness

Demographics

- **61%** male
- **35%** female
- **31%** identified as First Nations/North American Indigenous
- **48%** were sheltered (shelter, transitional housing, motel)
- **32%** were unsheltered (encampment, vehicle, abandoned building)

Local Findings**Access of Community Services (Top Three)**

- **81%** of individuals accessed local food banks
- **51%** of individuals accessed the Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre
- **45%** of individuals received services from the Homelessness Outreach Team

Barriers to Permanent, Stable Housing (Top Three)

- **81%** identified needing help to get affordable housing
- **66%** identified needing higher social assistance rates
- **31%** identified needing help securing a job

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Staff from the Homelessness Prevention and Social Planning, Housing Services, and Ontario Works departments participated in planning this enumeration. Consultations included the following community partners: A Better Tomorrow Committee, The Good Shepherd's Lodge, Sarnia-Lambton Rebound, the Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre, Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society and Lambton Emergency Medical Services.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Conducting Homelessness Enumeration aligns with the work of the Social Services Division's mandate to deliver programs and services that support the County of Lambton's Vision - Caring, Growing, Innovative - to create a better future for all.

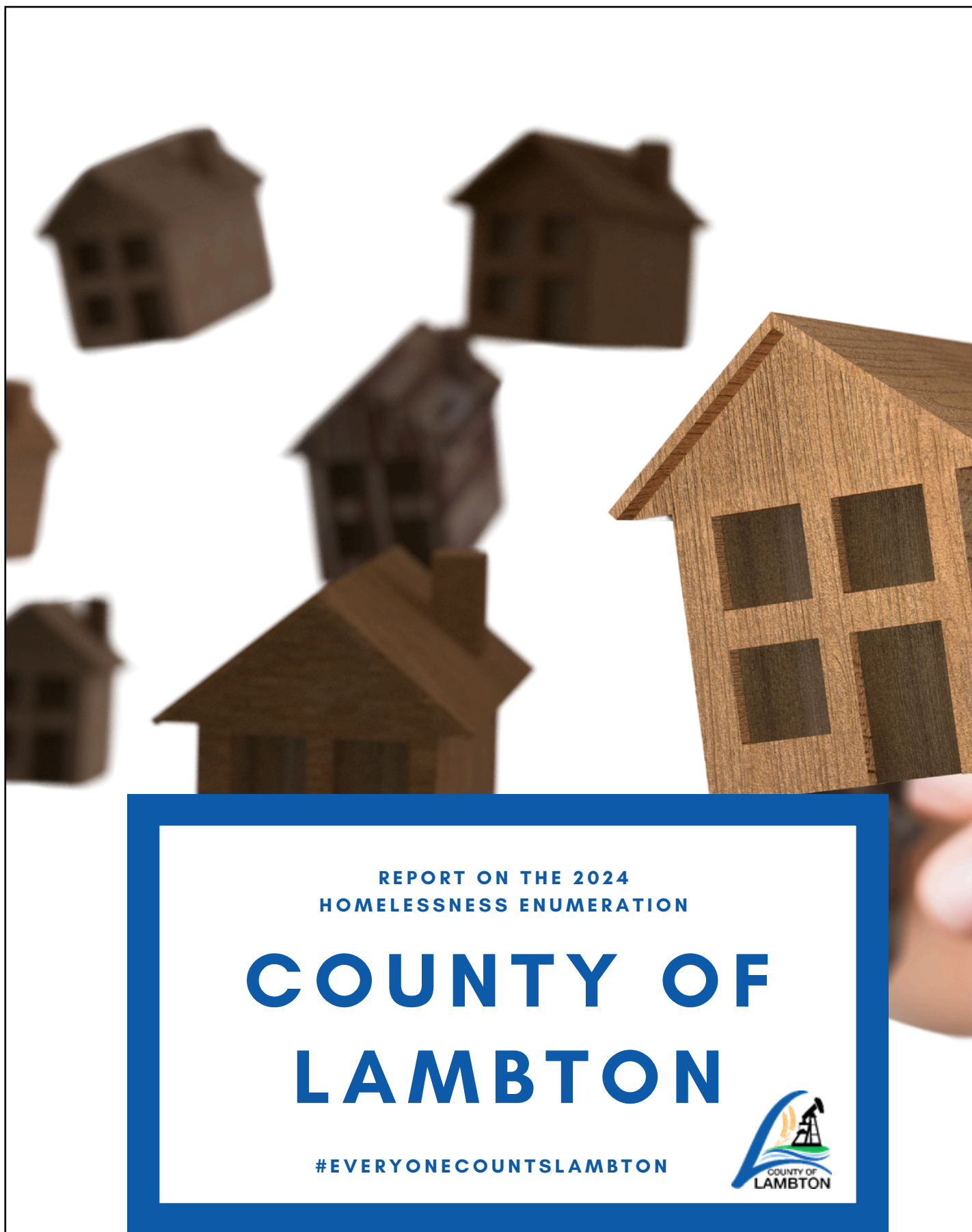
Homelessness Enumeration also supports the Strategic Plan's Community Development Area of Effort #3, specifically:

- 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

Information obtained during the 2024 Enumeration Survey provides insight into the experiences and needs of those experiencing homelessness in Lambton County. This data can be utilized locally to support programs and services that meet the needs of those who are experiencing homelessness and complement our current data. For robust monthly data and demographics on how many individuals are experiencing homelessness in Lambton, please continue to access the Homelessness Prevention Team's [By-Name List](#).



About This Report

The County of Lambton conducted Homelessness Enumeration during the week of October 7 - 11, 2024. This Report provides an overview of the methodology used and the data findings of the enumeration.

Kerrigan, L. (2025). Report on the 2024 homelessness enumeration in the County of Lambton.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special appreciation is extended to the following people for lending their expertise and support in the planning of Homelessness Enumeration:

Planning Committee

Ian Hanney, Manager, Homelessness Prevention & Social Planning

Nancy Kalbfleisch, Homelessness System Coordinator

Jen Renaud, Administrative Assistant

Paula Stokes, Executive Assistant

Ashley Weir, Administrative Assistant

Lorri Kerrigan, Social Planner - Lead

Advisory Committee

Tanya Anderson - Housing Services, County of Lambton

Amanda Benoit - The Good Shepherd's Lodge

Andraya McMillan - Sarnia-Lambton Rebound, Ohana Landing

Sandy McPhail - Ontario Works, County of Lambton

Jason Snelgrove - Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre

Anita Trusler - Lambton EMS, County of Lambton

Communications/Marketing Co-Ordinator

Lisa Leggate, County of Lambton

Health and Safety Co-Ordinator

David Cummings, County of Lambton

Special gratitude is extended to the following organizations who facilitated the enumeration to be administered on their premises:

Bluewater Health

Children's Aid Society of Sarnia Lambton

Brooke-Alvinston Food Bank

Corunna Food Bank

Forest Food Bank

Grand Bend and Area Community Health Centre

John Howard Society

North Lambton Community Health Centre

Petrolia Community Refrigerator

Petrolia Food Bank

Sarnia Lambton Rebound, The HUB & Ohana Landing

Watford Food Bank

River City Vineyard

Ryan's House

Sacred Heart Food Bank

The Inn of the Good Shepherd, Good Shepherd's Lodge, The Haven

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Homelessness Enumeration occurred during the week of October 7-11, 2024, serving two key objectives – participating in the national Point in Time (**PiT**) Count activities required by Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada (**HICC**) and collecting local data regarding the characteristics of those individuals who were experiencing homelessness.

Social Services Division staff and several community agencies partnered to administer the Enumeration survey to individuals experiencing homelessness. A (PiT) Count was conducted on October 9, 2024. PiT data provides a snapshot of homelessness and should be considered to undercount broad and hidden homelessness, which are more accurately captured through By-Name Data.



ENUMERATION RESULTS

228	Surveys
83	People counted using a Tally Sheet
18	Children in Families under the age of 18
329	TOTAL

2

Key Findings

- 61% Male
- 35% Female
- 42 - Average age
- 32 - Average age of first homeless experience
- 87% In receipt of OW or ODSP
- 48% Were sheltered (shelter or motel)
- 32% Were unsheltered (encampment, abandoned vehicle or building)
- 63% Identified as Caucasian (e.g., European, French, Ukranian, Euro-Latinx)
- 31% Identified as First Nations, North American Indigenous Heritage or Metis
- 65% Identified having a mental health issue
- 63% reported substance use (includes alcohol, opiates, etc.)

This data will help to inform a national snapshot of homelessness. Locally, community organizations serving the homeless population will assess the data to address the issues that give rise to homelessness and prevent people from being housed.

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OVERVIEW

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Homelessness Enumeration

Homelessness Enumeration is a count of individuals experiencing homelessness during a specific period of time. In the County of Lambton, homelessness enumeration occurred during the week of October 7-11, 2024, using the Point in Time (PiT) Count methodology, an enumeration survey tool and an observational tool called a Tally Sheet.

The PiT Count is a count of people experiencing homelessness during a specific 24-hour period in shelters and public spaces. Homelessness enumeration includes a short, anonymous survey for people who are experiencing homelessness. The PiT Count was conducted on October 9, 2024.

2024 marks the third time that the County of Lambton has conducted Homelessness Enumeration. Previous counts occurred in 2021 with a PiT Count and Registry Week methodology and in 2018 using Period Prevalence Count methodology.

Purpose of Homelessness Enumeration

The County of Lambton receives funding for homelessness programs through Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). A requirement of this funding is to conduct a Homelessness Enumeration every three years. HICC provides direction on the time of year to conduct the enumeration and the core questions that are to be included on the survey. Homelessness Enumeration is not meant to replace the By-Name Data which provides real-time information for the community.

In 2024, the prescribed timeframe for conducting homelessness Enumeration was October 1 - November 30, 2024. The data collected was shared with HICC to be used for creating a national snapshot of homelessness. Locally, the data will be used internally for planning and program design and shared with the community, including community organizations who serve the homeless population.

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METHODOLOGY

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Screening questions

Screening questions assisted surveyors to determine whether individuals were experiencing homelessness. If an individual was identified as experiencing homelessness they were then asked if they would like to voluntarily continue with the Point in Time Count Survey. Verbal consent was obtained to collect the information on the Enumeration Survey.

Point in Time Survey Core Questions & Supplementary Questions

Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada requires municipalities to collect information from a prescribed set of 15 standardized questions for comparative analysis across Canada. Local organizers had the opportunity to include additional questions that address local concerns. Lambton Enumeration planners chose to add seven additional questions to the survey. (Appendix A)

Tally Sheets

Surveyors and service providers were asked to complete an observational tool called a Tally Sheet (Appendix B) to count individuals who either declined to complete the survey or were unable to complete the survey. Information on the Tally Sheets included where the individual was at the time of the count and what the circumstances indicated they were experiencing homelessness at the time. Tally Sheets were completed by the surveyors, staff at the John Howard Society and by staff at the rural food banks.

Consent

Completing the Enumeration Survey was voluntary and anonymous. Verbal consent was obtained from each individual surveyed. Throughout the survey, respondents also had the opportunity to decline to answer any of the questions or opt out at any time.



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METHODOLOGY

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Data Collection Tools

The Enumeration Survey and screening questions were administered using paper surveys. Once the data was collected, the responses were input into the Point in Time Count module in the LITE version of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS-LITE).

Limitations

It is widely recognized that PiT Counts provide a snapshot of the day of the PiT Count and do not capture everyone who is experiencing homelessness on that day. Enumeration relies on community partners encouraging people experiencing homelessness to participate and those individuals self-identifying and reaching out to complete the surveys at survey locations or by phone. Individuals who do not appear to be homeless, who are well-hidden, or who actively avoid being counted could be missed. Therefore, the data collected during the 2024 should be considered the minimum number of people who were experiencing homelessness during the enumeration period.

De-Duplication

With the surveys being administered over several days and at several locations, there was a potential for people to complete more than one survey. To address this concern, the first screening question asked respondents if they had previously completed the survey. Individuals were asked to provide the first initial of their name as well the date and month of their birth, which was noted at the top of each survey. This allowed individuals to remain anonymous and analysts to use the unique identifiers to assess potential duplicate surveys.

Once the surveys were input into HIFIS, potential duplicates were assessed and removed from the data set as appropriate.

Data Analysis

After de-duplication and data cleaning, a report was generated, and the data was analyzed. Infographics (Appendix D) were created illustrating the characteristics of the various cohorts within the data set.



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HOMELESSNESS ENUMERATION



Volunteers

Staff in all departments of the Social Services division; Housing Services, Ontario Works and Homelessness Prevention and Social Planning and Children's Services, volunteered to assist with enumeration. Staff at Sarnia-Lambton Rebound, the HUB, Ohana Landing, John Howard Society and The Haven completed surveys with the youth they serve. Staff at the John Howard Society, Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society, Grand Bend and Area Community Health Centre, Forest Food Bank, Watford Food Bank, Alvinston Food Bank, Petrolia Food Bank, Scared Heart Food Bank and the Petrolia Community Refrigerator completed Tally Sheets. In total there were 68 volunteers who participated in enumeration.

Training Volunteers

Volunteers were trained on survey completion, safety protocols, 2SLGBTQIA+ sensitivities and Indigenous Awareness through in-person sessions and self-study training videos. Those who utilized the self-study option were asked to complete an attestation that they had completed the training.

HOMELESSNESS ENUMERATION

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Locations

The Planning Committees determined the locations for conducting enumeration to capture youth homelessness and systems homelessness (treatment centres and correctional facilities). Also important to consider was how best to reach those individuals who were experiencing homelessness in rural areas, those who were unsheltered or provisionally housed and those who actively avoid being counted. See Appendix C for enumeration locations in Sarnia.

Shelters and Transitional Housing

All of the shelters and transitional housing facilities participated in the enumeration – The Good Shepherd’s Lodge Shelter & Transitional Housing, The Haven, the Overflow Shelter, The Women’s Interval Home and River City Vineyard Sanctuary.

Public Spaces

Public spaces included the known encampments, and three Walking Routes (Appendix E) designed with input from the Community Outreach Team that regularly works with unhoused individuals.

Public Systems

Public systems include hospitals, detox centres and justice systems. Bluewater Health Hospital, Ryan’s House Addictions Treatment Centre and the John Howard Society participated in the enumeration.

Youth Serving Organizations

Youth serving organizations were very supportive of the enumeration. Rebound, the HUB, Ohana Landing, Children’s Aid Society and The Haven Youth Shelter were important partners and completed surveys with the individuals they serve.



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HOMELESSNESS ENUMERATION

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Rural Sites

With 44% of Lambton's population living in rural communities outside the city of Sarnia, it was important to try to connect with individuals in rural areas who were experiencing homelessness. Staff connected with six rural food banks and one rural Community Health Centre who agreed to participate by completing an observational tool to count the number of people who were experiencing homelessness in their service area. The food banks also inserted flyers into their food boxes in the three weeks leading up to enumeration week encouraging people to call into a dedicated phone line and complete a survey. See Appendix D for rural locations.

Phone Line

A dedicated phone line was available from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm each day of enumeration week for people to call and complete a survey. To ensure confidentiality, each person was able to choose a code name to pick up their gift card.

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DEFINITIONS

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Absolute Homelessness – refers to individuals who experience unsheltered homelessness such as encampments, public spaces including parks and abandoned buildings, and vehicles including cars, vans, RVs, boats, etc.

Acuity – the level of complexity of a person's needs and challenges, often used to determine the intensity of support and services required to assist a person to become housed. A person with high acuity indicates complex, ongoing needs that require intensive support.

By-Name Data – a real-time, up-to-date record of all people experiencing homelessness in a community. Each entry includes personal details including name, history of homelessness, health status and housing needs. This information is collected with the person's consent.

Chronic Homelessness – the national definition includes experiences of homelessness in both sheltered and unsheltered areas, including episodes of hidden homelessness. In this report the term chronic homelessness refers to individuals who reported that they have experienced homelessness for six or more months in the previous year and/or more than 18 months in the previous 3 years.



Emergency Shelter – accommodations that are designed to provide immediate, short-term housing for people experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelters offer a bed, hygiene facilities, supports to find housing and in some cases, meals. They are not meant to be long-term housing solutions.

Hidden Homelessness – people without permanent housing who stay with friends, family or in other informal arrangements on a temporary basis. Often referred to as “couch surfing”.

Homelessness – defined by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness as “the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent or appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means or ability to acquire it”. The definition of homelessness also includes a range of housing options, referred to as the shelter typology which includes individuals who are couch surfing or who have “no fixed address”.

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DEFINITIONS

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Point in Time Count (PiT Count) – a snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in a community on a single night, including those in shelters, sleeping outdoors and experiencing hidden homelessness (temporarily staying with others). Because the methodology is limited, the count is widely considered an undercount of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Provisionally Accommodated – refers to individuals who are staying in a hospital, treatment facility, jail or staying with someone temporarily (i.e., couch surfing) with no permanent home to return to.

Transitional Housing – temporary, time-limited housing with supportive services intended to help people transition from homelessness to housing. Locally, transitional housing is offered for one year with the expectation that individuals move to more permanent accommodations.

Tri-morbidity – co-occurring health conditions of chronic physical illness, mental illness and substance misuse.

Tri-morbidity and chronic homelessness – in this report, this refers to the co-occurring health conditions of chronic physical illness, mental illness and substance misuse and experiencing six or more months of homelessness in the previous year.



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TYPOLOGY OF HOMELESSNESS

There are four categories in the typology of homelessness.
On October 9, 2024 this is where people stayed:



48%
Emergency Shelter



32%
Absolute Homelessness



13%
**Provisionally
Accommodated**



7%
Transitional Housing

Details of Where People Stayed

- 39% in a homeless shelter including emergency, family or domestic violence shelter
- 17% in encampments
- 14% unsheltered in a public space (e.g. street, park, bus shelter, forest or abandoned building)
- 9% in a motel or hotel
- 8% at someone else's place (couch surfing)
- 7% in transitional housing
- 3% in jail to be released to homelessness within 4 weeks
- 1% in a withdrawal management program
- 1% in Hospital

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INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS IN LAMBTON

There are three First Nations communities in Lambton County: Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, and Walpole Island First Nation.

As per the 2016 Canadian Census, 6% of Lambton's population identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

In the 2024 Homelessness Enumeration, 31% of respondents identified as Indigenous, with the following breakdown: First Nations (73%), North American Indigenous Ancestry (15%), Métis (8%), and Inuit (3%).

The Indigenous community is significantly overrepresented in Lambton's homeless population.

DEFINING CANADIAN INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS

Indigenous homelessness, as defined by the Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness, describes a condition impacting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals, families, or communities who do not have stable, permanent, or appropriate housing, nor do they have immediate options, resources, or means to secure such housing.

This understanding of Indigenous homelessness extends beyond the conventional definition, recognizing a deeper perspective rooted in a holistic Indigenous worldview. It encompasses individuals, families, and communities that have become estranged from their connections to land, water, places, family, kin, one another, animals, cultures, languages, and identities. Those experiencing this form of homelessness struggle to reconnect culturally, spiritually, emotionally, or physically with their Indigenous identity or to mend severed relationships.

KEY FINDINGS

31%

IDENTIFIED AS FIRST
NATIONS, NORTH
AMERICAN INDIGENOUS
ANCESTRY, METIS OR
INUIT

61%

HAD PERSONAL
OR FAMILY
EXPERIENCE IN RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOLS

13%

HAD BEEN IN
FOSTER CARE

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SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

13

228

Completed
Surveys

18

Under 18
years old

35%

Female

42

Average
age of
respondents

35%

Most
recent
housing loss
was due to
eviction



83

Observed to be
homeless

61%

Male

85%

Identified sexual
orientation as
heterosexual

32

Average age of first
homeless episode

4%

Served in the Military

63%

Caucasian
e.g., European, French,
Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx



2%

Were Immigrants

76%

Reported 2
or more
health
related risk
factors

87%

In receipt of
Ontario Works
(OW) or Ontario
Disability Support
Program (ODSP)
benefits

31%

First Nations,
North American
Indigenous
Heritage, Metis
or Inuit

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WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT THE PAST YEAR

SEVERAL QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT EXPERIENCES IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR...



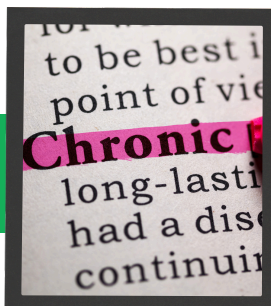
55,121

Days of homelessness, Combined, is 151 Years



81%

Used a food bank



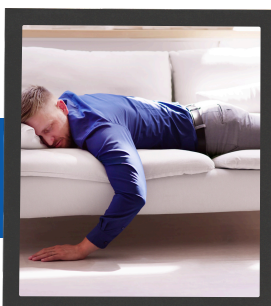
68%

Reported Chronic homelessness (6+ MONTHS)



65%

Stayed in the shelter system



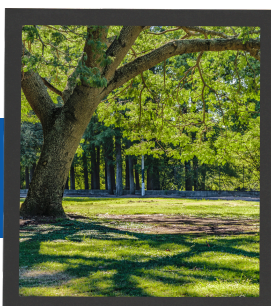
56%

Stayed with a friend



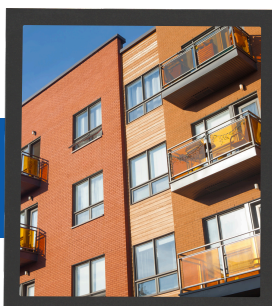
46%

Were homeless For 365 days



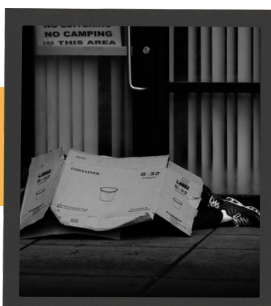
46%

Slept in a public space (park, abandoned building, etc.)



39%

Were in Transitional Housing



38%

Stayed in an encampment



37%

Spent at least one night in Hospital



27%

Spent at least one night in jail

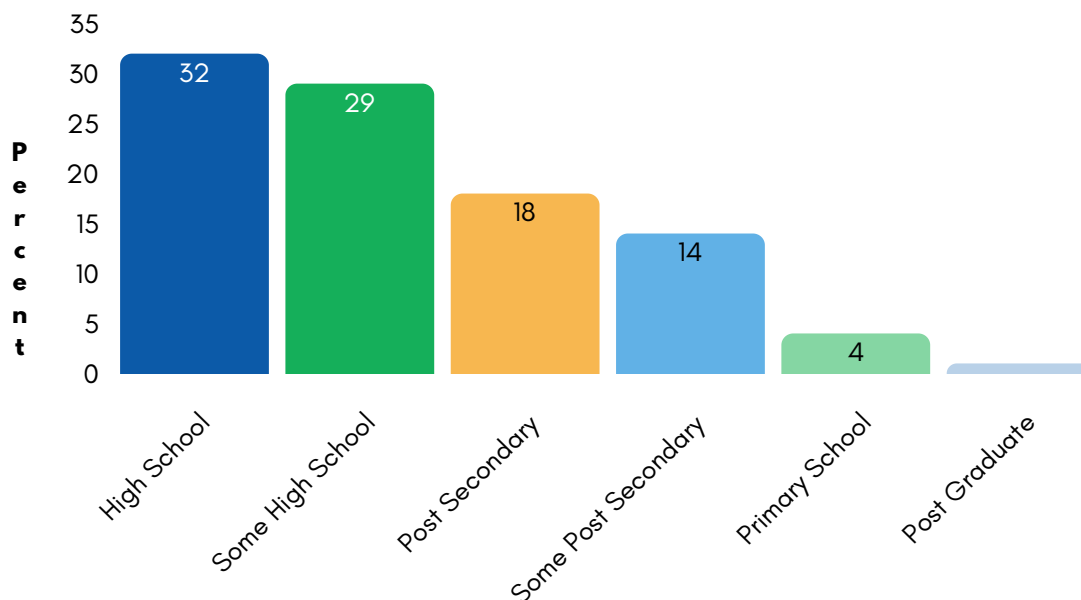


24%

Slept in a vehicle

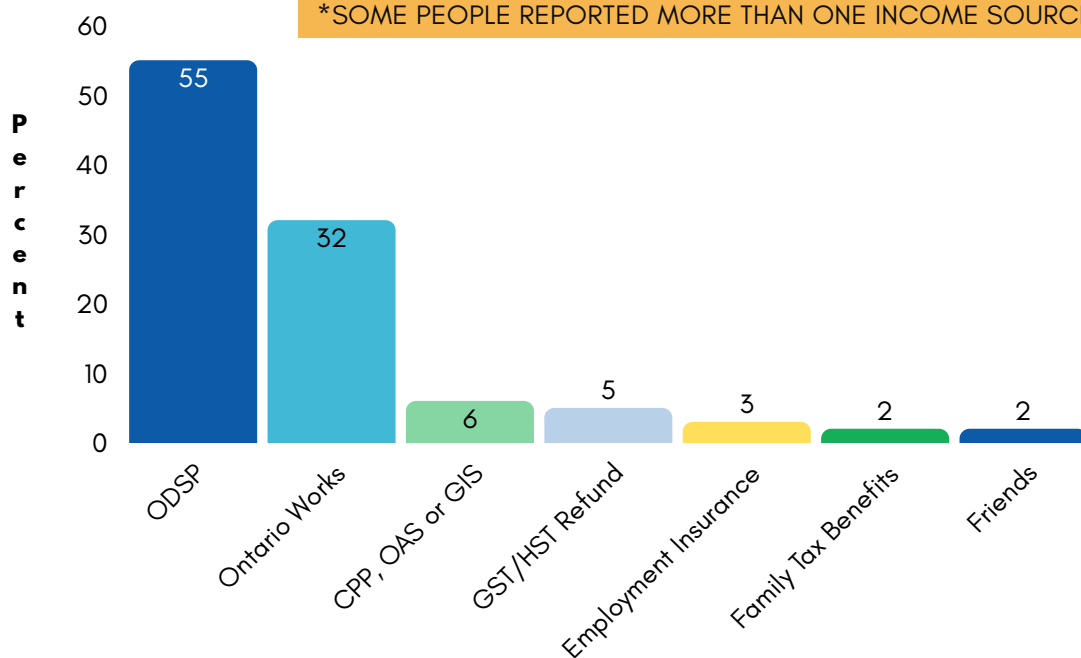
#EVERYONECOUNTSLAMBTON

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED



INCOME SOURCES

*SOME PEOPLE REPORTED MORE THAN ONE INCOME SOURCE

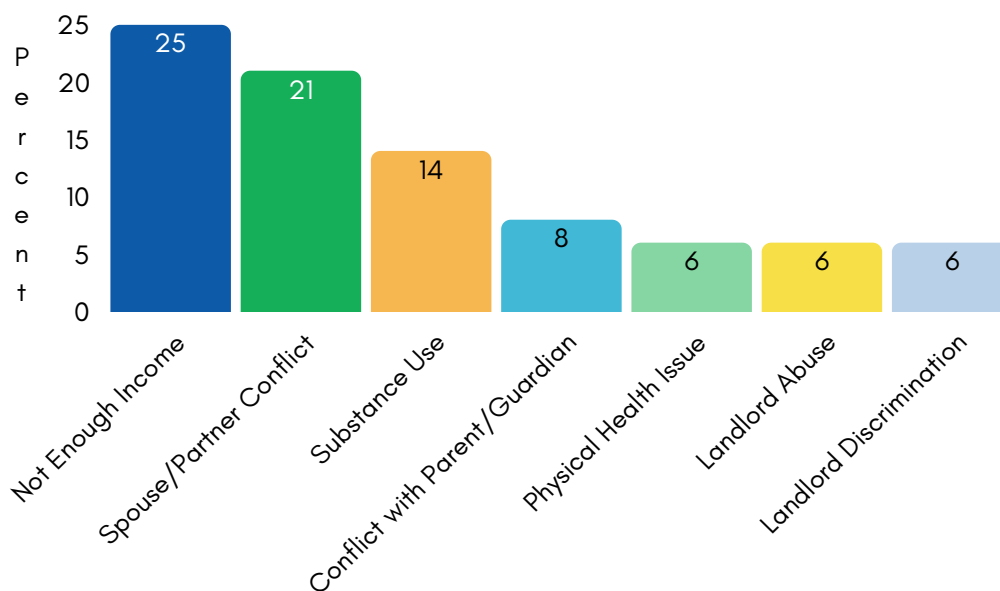


ODSP-ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM, CPP-CANADA PENSION PLAN, OAS-OLD AGE SECURITY, GIS-GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT

#EVERYONECOUNTSLAMBTON

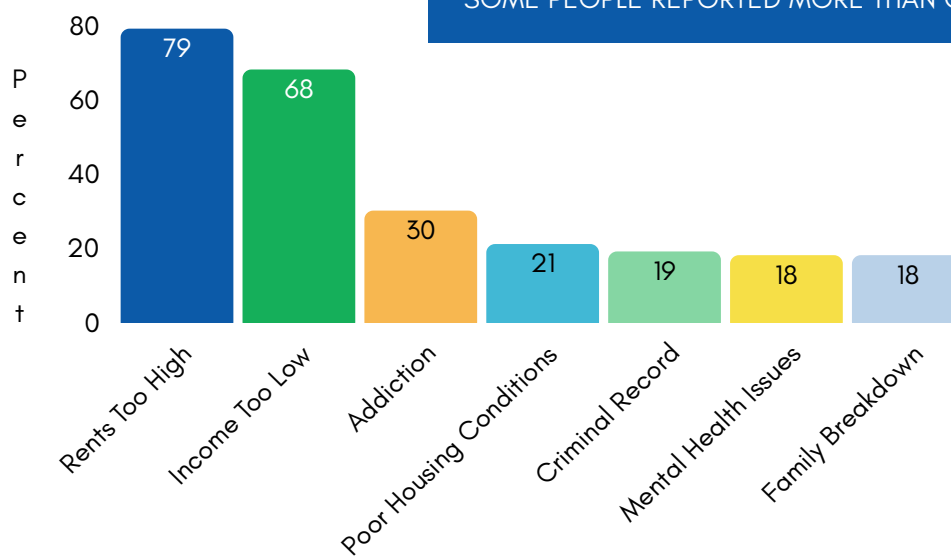
17

REASONS FOR MOST RECENT HOUSING LOSS



CHALLENGES IN FINDING HOUSING

*SOME PEOPLE REPORTED MORE THAN ONE CHALLENGE

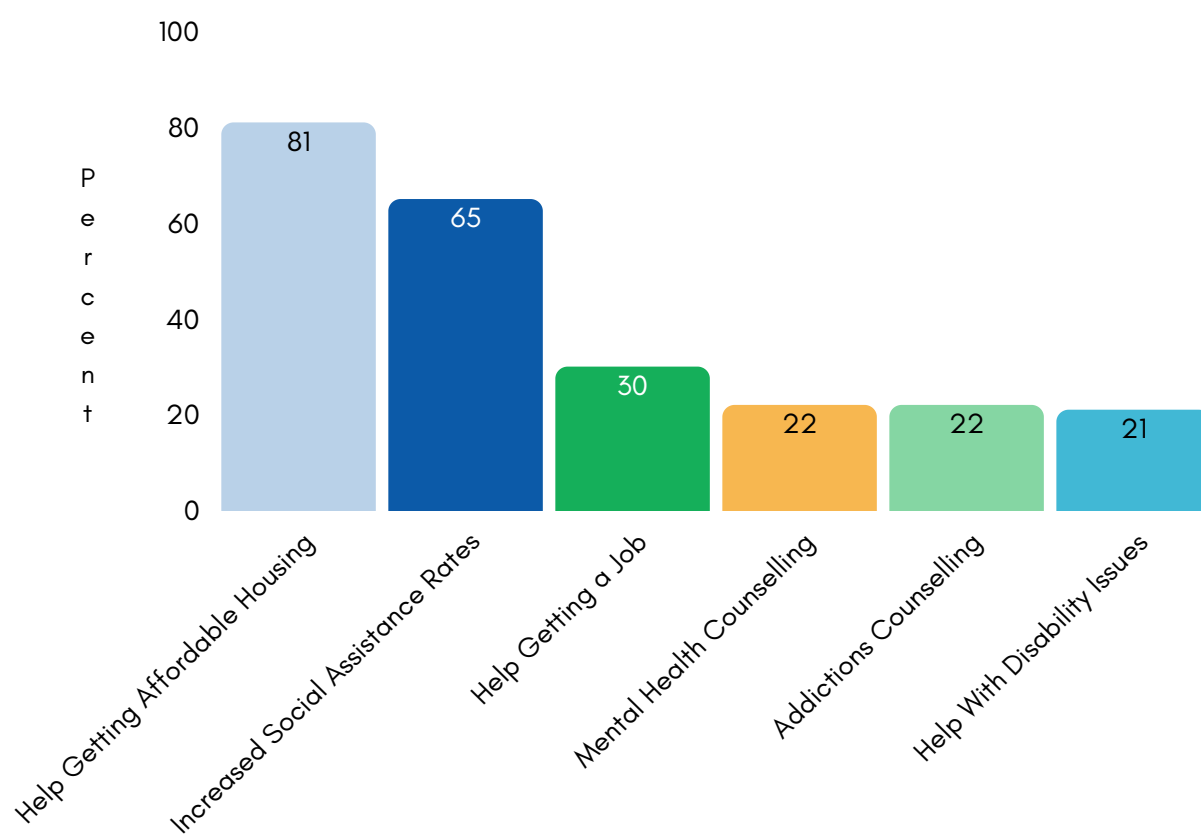


#EVERYONECOUNTSLAMBTON

18

WHAT WOULD HELP YOU FIND PERMANENT, STABLE HOUSING?

*SOME PEOPLE REPORTED MORE THAN ONE RESOURCE IS NEEDED



#EVERYONECOUNTSLAMBTON

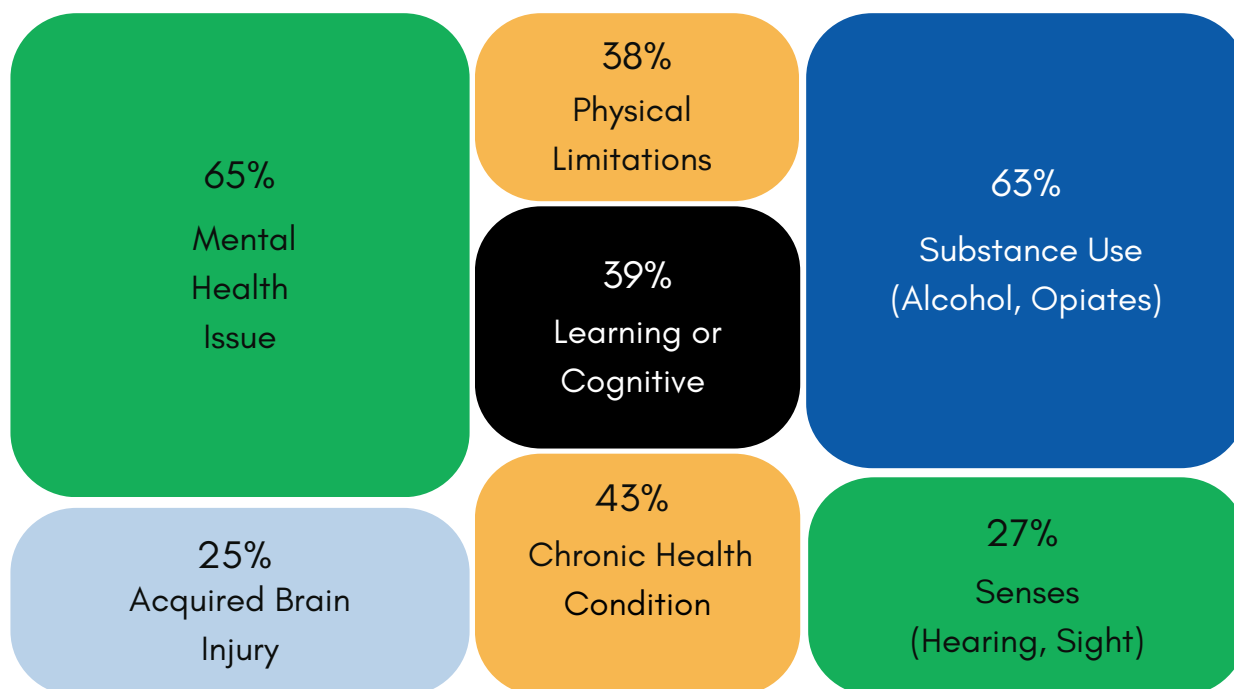
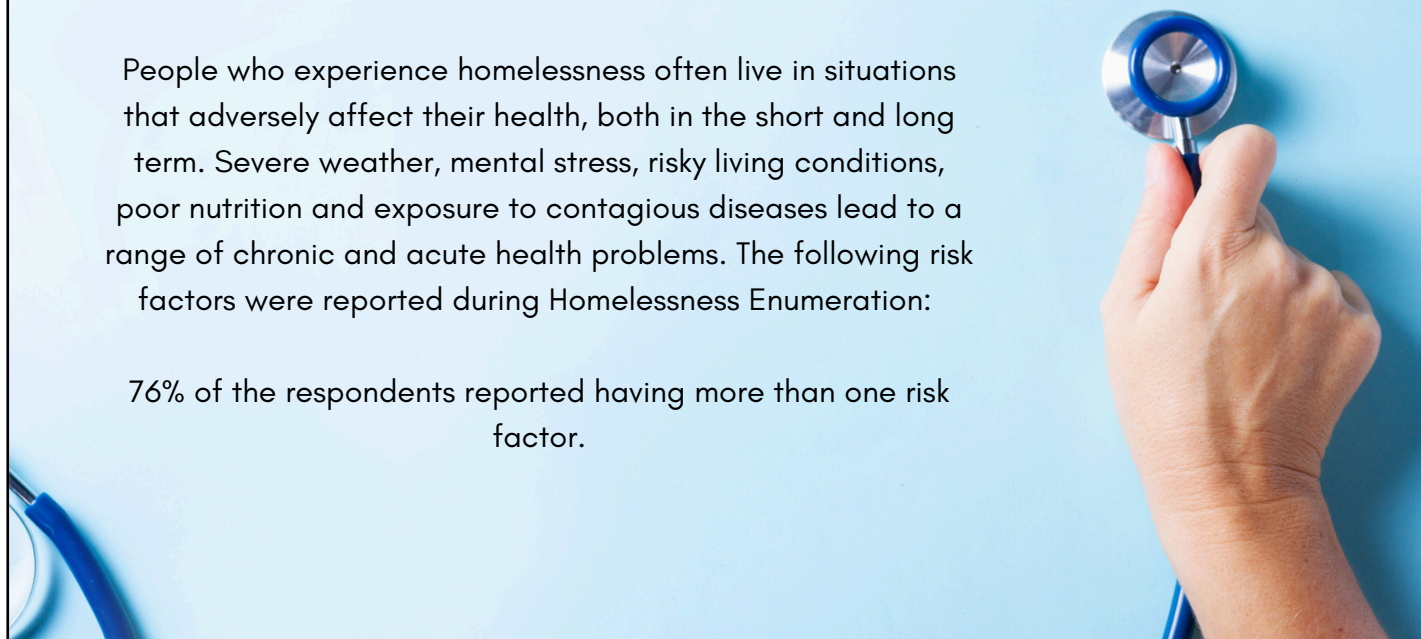
RISK FACTORS

19

Health

People who experience homelessness often live in situations that adversely affect their health, both in the short and long term. Severe weather, mental stress, risky living conditions, poor nutrition and exposure to contagious diseases lead to a range of chronic and acute health problems. The following risk factors were reported during Homelessness Enumeration:

76% of the respondents reported having more than one risk factor.



#EVERYONECOUNTSLAMBTON

RISK FACTORS

20

Health

TRI-MORBIDITY

A 2021 report from the Deloitte Centre for Health Solutions indicated that individuals facing chronic homelessness who also suffer from the tri-morbidities of physical health problems, mental health challenges, and substance use have a significantly higher mortality rate.

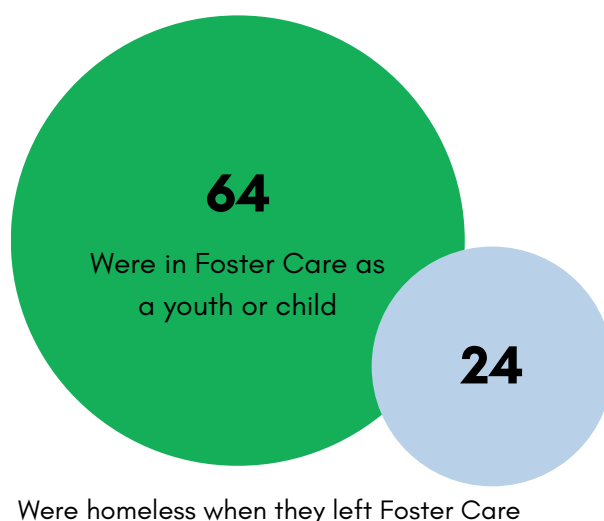
23% reported the tri-morbidity factors

18% reported tri-morbidity factors & chronic homelessness



FOSTER CARE

A 2009 report (Echenberg & Jensen) on the risk factors associated with homelessness found that a person's vulnerability to homelessness increases for those who transition out of the child welfare system, either from foster care or group homes. The report found that these individuals were disproportionately represented in the homeless population.



#EVERYONECOUNTSLAMBTON

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Echenberg, H. and Jensen, H. (2009) Risk factors for homelessness. Social Affairs Division. Parliamentary Information and Research Services. Ottawa. Publication No. PRB 08-51E

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Vallesi S, Tuson M, Davies A, Wood L. Multimorbidity among People Experiencing Homelessness—Insights from Primary Care Data. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2021; 18(12):6498.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

HOMELESSNESS ENUMERATION SURVEY

ENUMERATION AND SURVEY SCREENING TOOL

SURVEY # 1500

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the (*Lambton County*) housing needs and homelessness survey. The information will help us understand how our programs help you and help us get more money for programs.

A. Have you answered a survey with a person with this (*identifier*)?

[YES: Thank and end survey]

[NO: Continue]

We are conducting a survey so we can better understand the history and needs of people who are experiencing homelessness.

- You will receive a **\$20 gift card as a thank you for your participation.**
- The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.
- **Participation is voluntary and your name will not be used.**
- This survey asks about personal experiences. You can choose to skip any question or to stop the survey at any time.

B. Are you willing to participate in the survey?

[YES: Go to C]

[NO: Thank and record on Tally Sheet, if applicable]

- Thank you for agreeing to take part in the survey.
- If you need supports at any time, please let us know.

C. Where are you staying tonight? / Where did you stay last night? (*DO NOT READ CATEGORIES*)

a. DECLINE TO ANSWER	}	[THANK and record on Tally Sheet if you believe individual is experiencing homelessness.]
b. OWN APARTMENT/HOUSE		
c. SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE	}	C1. Do you have access to a permanent residence where you can safely stay as long as you want? a. Yes [THANK & END SURVEY] b. No (not permanent AND/OR not safe) [BEGIN SURVEY] c. Don't Know [BEGIN SURVEY] d. Decline to answer [THANK & add to Tally Sheet, if applicable]
d. MOTEL/HOTEL SELF-FUNDED		
e. HOSPITAL		
f. TREATMENT CENTRE		
g. JAIL, PRISON, REMAND CENTRE		
h. HOMELESS SHELTER (e.g. emergency, family or domestic violence shelter, warming centre, drop-in)	}	[BEGIN SURVEY]
i. HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM		
j. TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING		
k. UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (e.g. street, park, bus shelter, forest or abandoned building)		
l. ENCAMPMENT (e.g. group of tents, makeshift shelters or other long-term outdoor settlement)		
m. VEHICLE (e.g. car, van, recreational vehicle (RV), truck, boat)		
n. UNSURE: INDICATE PROBABLE LOCATION _____ (b. – m.)	}	[Follow instructions for probable location indicated]

SURVEY

SURVEY # 1500

Interviewer		Contact #:	
Date		Time:	AM / PM
Location			
ID = 1 st Initial - Birthday Month + Day (Example: L-MAR06)			

BEGIN SURVEY

**** In what language do you feel best able to express yourself?**

- ☐ ENGLISH
 ☐ NO PREFERENCE
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
☐ FRENCH
 ☐ NEITHER (please specify) _____
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

1. Have you spent at least one night in any of the following locations in the past year? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOMELESS SHELTER (e.g. emergency, family or domestic violence shelter, warming centre, drop-in) | <input type="checkbox"/> SOMEONE ELSE'S PLACE BECAUSE YOU HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDED BY CITY OR HOMELESS PROGRAM | <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL OR OTHER HEALTH FACILITY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITIONAL SHELTER/HOUSING | <input type="checkbox"/> JAIL, PRISON OR OTHER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNSHELTERED IN A PUBLIC SPACE (e.g. street, park, bus shelter, forest or abandoned building) | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENCAMPMENT (e.g. group of tents, makeshift shelters or other long-term outdoor settlement) | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VEHICLE (e.g. car, van, recreational vehicle (RV), truck, boat) | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

2. Do you have family members or anyone else who is staying with you tonight? / Did any family members or anyone else stay with you last night? (Indicate survey number for partners. Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> PET(S)																
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTNER - Survey #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ADULT (Can include other family or friends)																
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD(REN)/DEPENDENT(S) [indicate age for each child/dependent] AGE	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>6</th> <th>7</th> <th>8</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8										
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER																	

3. How old are you? [OR] What year were you born? (If unsure, ask for best estimate)

- ☐ AGE _____ OR YEAR BORN _____
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

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SURVEY

SURVEY # 1500

For this survey, "homelessness" means any time when you have been without a permanent and secure place to live, and includes sleeping in shelters, on the streets, or living temporarily with others without having your own permanent housing (e.g. couch surfing).

4. In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the PAST YEAR (the last 12 months)?
(Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.)

☐ LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

- 4b. In total, for how much time have you experienced homelessness over the PAST 3 YEARS?
(Does not need to be exact. Best estimate.)

☐ LESS THAN HALF ☐ ABOUT HALF OR MORE ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

5. How old were you the first time you experienced homelessness?

☐ AGE _____ ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

6. Did you come to Canada as an immigrant, refugee, asylum claimant (i.e. applied for refugee status after coming to Canada), or through another process?

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, IMMIGRANT -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, REFUGEE -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, ASYLUM CLAIMANT IN CANADA -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, OTHER WORK PERMIT -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, STUDY PERMIT -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, TEMPORARY RESIDENT -----> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, OTHER (including undocumented) --> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<p>If YES: How long have you been in Canada?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> LENGTH: _____ DAYS WEEKS MONTHS YEARS <input type="checkbox"/> OR DATE: ____/____/____ DAY / MONTH / YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
---	--

7. How long have you been in Lambton County?

<input type="checkbox"/> LENGTH _____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS / DATE		
<input type="checkbox"/> ALWAYS BEEN HERE	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

SURVEY

SURVEY # 1500

7b. Where did you live before you came here?

<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTRY _____	<input type="checkbox"/> PROV/TERRITORY _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

8. Do you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Métis or Inuit?

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, FIRST NATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, MÉTIS	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, INUIT	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	

8b. In addition to your response in the question above, do you identify with any of the racial identities listed below? (Show or Read list. Check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-AFRICAN (e.g., Ghanaian, Ethiopian, Nigerian)
<input type="checkbox"/> ARAB (e.g., Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-AFRO-CARIBBEAN OR AFRO-LATINX (e.g., Jamaican, Haitian, Afro-Brazilian)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-EAST (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	<input type="checkbox"/> LATIN AMERICAN (e.g., Brazilian, Mexican, Chilean, Cuban)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN- SOUTH-EAST (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian)	<input type="checkbox"/> WHITE (e.g. European, French, Ukrainian, Euro-Latinx)
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-SOUTH OR INDO-CARIBBEAN (e.g., Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED (PLEASE SPECIFY): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN-WEST (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK-CANADIAN/AMERICAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

9. Have you ever served in the Canadian Military or RCMP? (Military includes Canadian Navy, Army, and Air Force, Regular and Reserve, Army Rangers including completing basic training)

<input type="checkbox"/> YES, MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH MILITARY AND RCMP	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, RCMP	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

10. As a child or youth, were you ever in foster care or in a youth group home? (Note: This question applies specifically to Provincial child welfare programs.)

<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
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SURVEY

SURVEY # 1500

11. Have you been experiencing difficulties related to any of the following?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	DECLINE TO ANSWER
ILLNESS OR MEDICAL CONDITION (e.g. diabetes, tuberculosis (TB), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PHYSICAL MOBILITY (e.g. spinal cord injury, arthritis, or limited movement or dexterity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEARNING, INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL, OR COGNITIVE FUNCTION (e.g. fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or dementia)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (e.g. due to an accident, violence, overdose, stroke or brain tumour)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE [diagnosed/undiagnosed] (e.g. depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar or schizophrenia)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBSTANCE USE (e.g. alcohol or opiates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENSES, SUCH AS SEEING OR HEARING (e.g. blindness or deafness)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. What gender do you identify with? (Show list or read list.)

<input type="checkbox"/> MAN	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANS WOMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> WOMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANS MAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-BINARY (GENDERQUEER)	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

13. How do you describe your sexual orientation, for example straight, gay, lesbian? (Show list or read list.)

<input type="checkbox"/> STRAIGHT/HETEROSEXUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> BISEXUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ASEXUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT LISTED: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GAY	<input type="checkbox"/> TWO-SPIRIT	<input type="checkbox"/> QUEER	<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW
<input type="checkbox"/> LESBIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> PANSEXUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> QUESTIONING	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER

SURVEY

SURVEY # 1500

- 14. What happened that caused you to lose your housing most recently?** (Do not read the options. Check all that apply. "Housing" does not include temporary arrangements (e.g., couch surfing) or shelter stays. Follow up for the reason if the respondent says "eviction" or that they "chose to leave".)

HOUSING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES <input type="checkbox"/> NOT ENOUGH INCOME FOR HOUSING (e.g. loss of benefit, income, or job) <input type="checkbox"/> UNFIT/UNSAFE HOUSING CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING SOLD OR RENOVATED <input type="checkbox"/> OWNER MOVED IN	CONFLICT WITH: <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE/PARTNER <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN <input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD	EXPERIENCED ABUSE BY: <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE/PARTNER <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN <input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD
EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION BY: <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE/PARTNER <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT/GUARDIAN <input type="checkbox"/> LANDLORD	HEALTH OR CORRECTIONS <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUE/DISABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANCE USE ISSUE <input type="checkbox"/> HOSPITALIZATION OR TREATMENT PROGRAM <input type="checkbox"/> INCARCERATION (jail or prison)	OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLAINT (e.g. noise/damage) <input type="checkbox"/> LEFT THE COMMUNITY/RELOCATED <input type="checkbox"/> DEATH OR DEPARTURE OF FAMILY MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> PET(S)
<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

- 14b. Was your most recent housing loss related to an eviction?**

☐ YES
 ☐ NO
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

- 14c. How long ago did that happen (that you lost your housing most recently)?** (Best estimate)

☐ LENGTH _____ DAYS | WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS
 ☐ DON'T KNOW
 ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

- 15. What are your sources of income?** (Reminder that this survey is anonymous. Read list and check all that apply)

Formal or Informal Work <input type="checkbox"/> FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT <input type="checkbox"/> PART TIME EMPLOYMENT <input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL EMPLOYMENT (e.g. contract work) <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL INCOME SOURCES (e.g. bottle returns, panhandling, sex work)	Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE <input type="checkbox"/> DISABILITY BENEFIT (Name of PROV. disability benefit) <input type="checkbox"/> SENIORS BENEFITS (e.g. CPP/OAS/GIS) <input type="checkbox"/> WELFARE/SOCIAL ASSISTANCE [Prov. Benefit] <input type="checkbox"/> VETERAN/VAC BENEFITS <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD AND FAMILY BENEFITS <input type="checkbox"/> GST/HST REFUND	Other <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER MONEY FROM A SERVICE AGENCY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
--	--	--

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SURVEY

SURVEY # 1500

16. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRIMARY SCHOOL | <input type="checkbox"/> SOME POST SECONDARY | <input type="checkbox"/> NO FORMAL EDUCATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOME HIGH SCHOOL | <input type="checkbox"/> POST SECONDARY GRADUATE | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE/GED | <input type="checkbox"/> GRADUATE DEGREE (MASTERS, Ph.D.) | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

17. What challenges or problems have you experienced when trying to find housing? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOW INCOME | <input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO INCOME ASSISTANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY BREAKDOWN/CONFLICT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENTS TOO HIGH | <input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL HISTORY | <input type="checkbox"/> NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> PETS | <input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES | <input type="checkbox"/> DISCRIMINATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES | | |

18. If you are not from Lambton County, what is the main reason you came to (Sarnia/Lambton County)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOT NEW TO THE AREA | <input type="checkbox"/> TO ATTEND SCHOOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (SECURED) | <input type="checkbox"/> TO FIND HOUSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT (SEEKING) | <input type="checkbox"/> TO GET A MOTEL ROOM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENVIRONMENTAL DISPLACEMENT (Flooding, fire, lack of clean drinking water, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> TO VISIT FRIENDS/FAMILY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MOVED HERE | <input type="checkbox"/> TOO EXPENSIVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEAR FOR SAFETY | <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION/SHOPPING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GENDER BASED | <input type="checkbox"/> RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS EMERGENCY SHELTER(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TO ACCESS SERVICES AND SUPPORTS | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

19. If you answered "yes" to being in foster care as a child or youth: (Note: Refers to Question #10)

a) When you exited/left foster care were you homeless?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES – IF YES, FOR HOW LONG? ____ DAYS / WEEKS / MONTHS / YEARS | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER |

SURVEY

SURVEY # 1500

20. If you identify as First Nations (with or without status), Metis, or Inuit. (Note: Refers to Question #8)

a) Which Indigenous community are you from?

☐ AAMJIWNAANG (Sarnia) ☐ WALPOLE ISLAND ☐ KETTLE & STONY POINT ☐ OTHER: _____

b) Have you or any of your family members had a history related to residential schools?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

c) Would you be welcome/accepted back in your home community?

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐ DECLINE TO ANSWER

21. What would help you find permanent, stable housing? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> DON'T WANT HOUSING	<input type="checkbox"/> HELP GETTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDICTION COUNSELLING	<input type="checkbox"/> HELP GETTING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY COUNSELLING	<input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING
<input type="checkbox"/> HIGHER SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> HELP COMPLETING FORMS FOR PENSION(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> NO BARRIERS TO HOUSING
<input type="checkbox"/> HELP FOR HEALTH/DISABILITY ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> HELP GETTING A JOB	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> HELP GETTING A PARDON	

22. Have you accessed any of the following community services? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> CHIC (Green Shirts)	<input type="checkbox"/> NLCHC OUTREACH (North Lambton Community Health Centre)
<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY of LAMBTON OUTREACH (Yellow Shirts)	<input type="checkbox"/> REBOUND HUB
<input type="checkbox"/> FOOD BANKS	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> HHRC (Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre)	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE OF THE ABOVE
<input type="checkbox"/> IMPACT TEAM	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLINE TO ANSWER
<input type="checkbox"/> LPH OUTREACH (Jen) (Lambton Public Health)	
<input type="checkbox"/> MOBILE CARE BUS	

Thank you for completing this survey.

APPENDIX B

**TALLY SHEET
(OBSERVATIONAL TOOL)**

UNSHELTERED TALLY SHEET 2024

Area: _____ Time: _____ to _____ Surveyor: _____
Contact phone #: _____

Instructions: To record *observed homelessness*, please take note of those who decline to or are unable to respond, but who may be experiencing homelessness in the table below. Please also indicate the reason you believe they are experiencing homelessness (e.g., asleep outside with belongings).

	Location	Encampment? (Y/N)	Reason not surveyed (select one)		Indicators of Homelessness (e.g., asleep outside with belongings)
			Declined	Unable	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

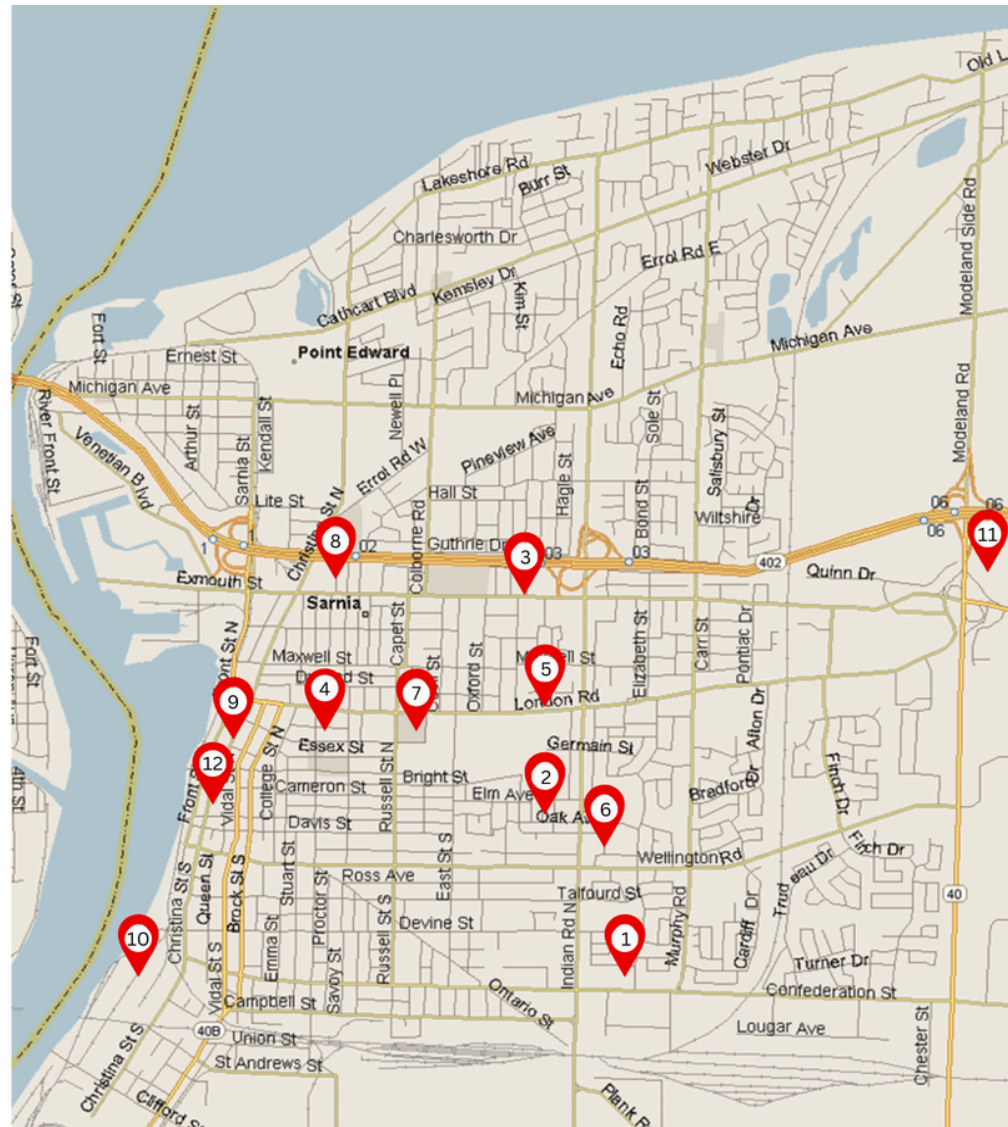
APPENDIX C

**ENUMERATION LOCATIONS
IN SARNIA**

Legend

1. Good Shepherd's Lodge - Shelter & Transitional Housing
2. Haven Youth Shelter
3. Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre & Overflow Shelter
4. River City Vineyard Sanctuary
5. Ohana Landing Transitional Housing
6. Rebound and HUB Youth Programs
7. Bluewater Health Hospital
8. Ryan's House Treatment Centre
9. John Howard Society
10. Rainbow Park Encampment
11. Motels
12. Lambton Shared Services Centre

** Surveys also conducted at the Women's Interval Home Sarnia Lambton



APPENDIX D

**ENUMERATION LOCATIONS
IN RURAL LAMBTON**

Rural Outreach

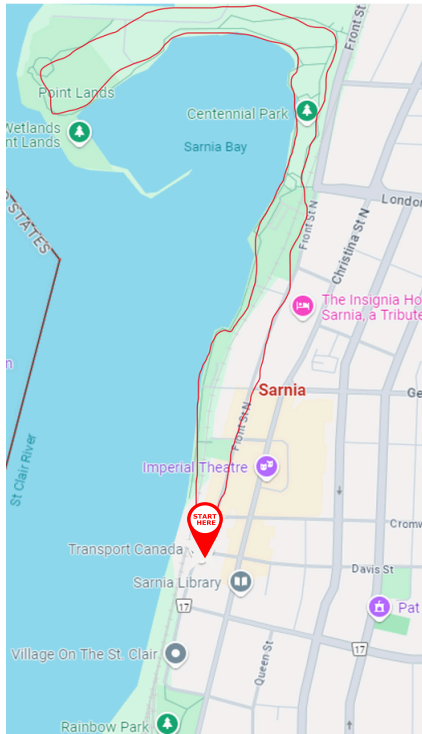
Six rural food banks handed out flyers in the three weeks prior to enumeration to encourage people to call a dedicated phone number and complete the survey during enumeration. Food Bank staff also completed an observational tool to count people they observed to be experiencing homelessness during the Enumeration period.

Staff at the Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre also completed the observational tool.

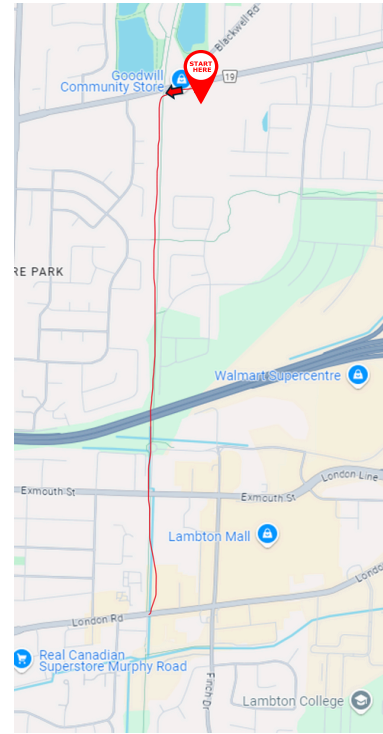


APPENDIX E

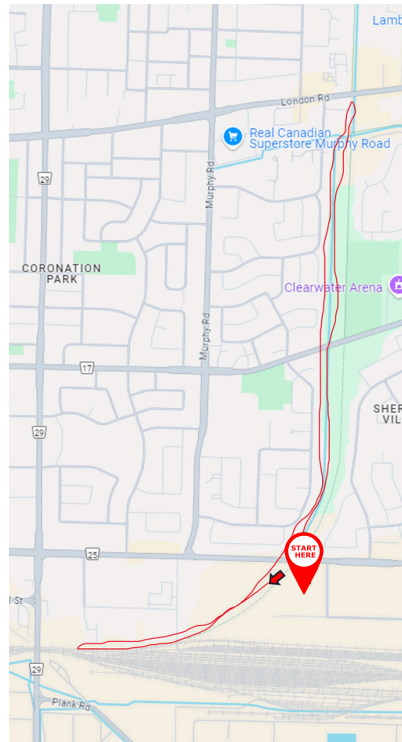
**ENUMERATION
WALKING ROUTES**



**WALKING ROUTE 1
CENTENNIAL PARK,
SARNIA**



**WALKING ROUTE 2
HOWARD WATSON
TRAIL NORTH, SARNIA**



**WALKING ROUTE 3
HOWARD WATSON
TRAIL SOUTH, SARNIA**

APPENDIX F

INFOGRAPHICS

ALL SURVEY RESPONSES - PAGE 1




2024 Homelessness Enumeration County of Lambton

#EveryoneCounts

Key Findings

The following information was obtained by completing surveys with individuals experiencing homelessness, an observation tool and HIFIS (Homeless Individuals & Families Information System) data obtained during the enumeration period of October 7-11, 2024. The Point in Time (PiT) Count occurred October 9, 2024.

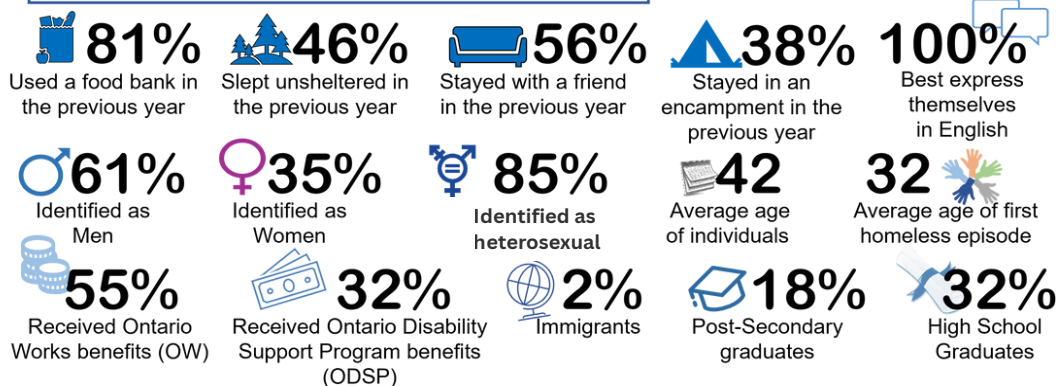
228 
Valid surveys were completed


Quick Facts		
Locations	Surveyors	Shelters
31	68	5
Walking Routes	Encampments	Rural Food Banks
3	3	6
Weather on October 9, 2024		
No Precipitation		
Daytime High	Overnight Low	
15C	7C	

+ 83 
Individuals were observed to be experiencing homelessness

+ 18 
Children under the age of 17

Total = 329



Racial Identity			Families	Residential School History
63% Identified as White	31% Identified as First Nations (with or without status), Indigenous Ancestry, Métis or Inuit	6% Identified as "Other"	14 Families 	61% Of those who reported a First Nations Identity also reported a history with residential school (personal or family members)

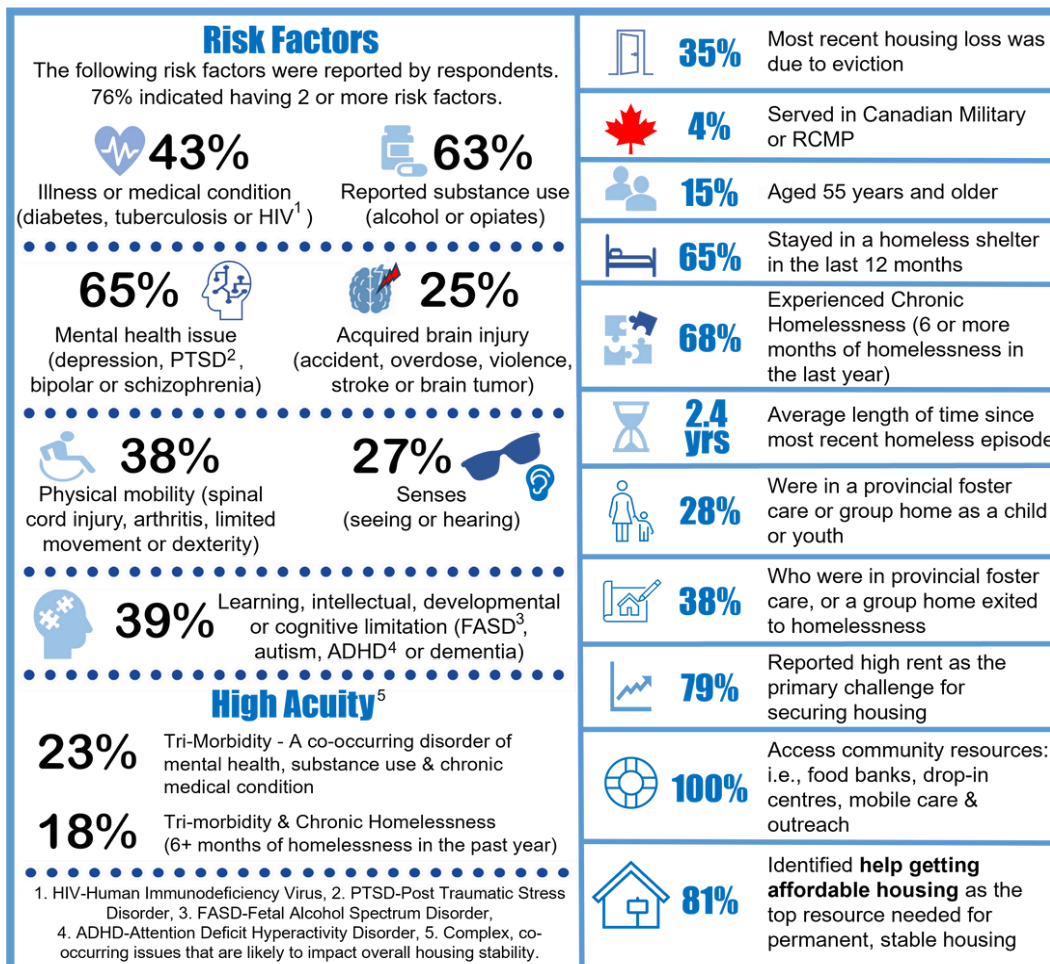
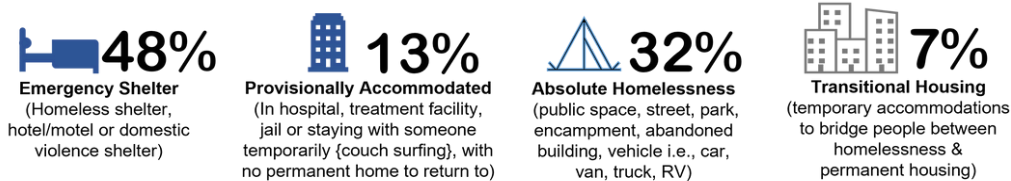
Created by Social Planning, County of Lambton, January 2025

ALL SURVEY RESPONSES - PAGE 2

2024 Homelessness Enumeration County of Lambton

Where individuals stayed on October 9, 2024

Individuals reported where they were staying during the enumeration (referred to as the typology of homelessness). Within the typology there are four classifications. Survey results are shown below and include the individuals counted in the observational tool. (n=311)





SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	HOUSING SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melisa Johnson, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	Housing Services Statistical Report - Quarter 1

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 834 housing units owned by the County of Lambton.

DISCUSSION

The 2025 first quarter statistical report is attached and provides a quarterly comparison over 2024.

There were 32 households that moved into rent geared-to-income (“**RGI**”) assisted housing units in quarter one of 2025 compared to 34 households in quarter one of 2024. Although this rate is consistent with 2024, it represents a significant decrease when compared to prior years. This decrease can be attributed to the lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates in the community.

Average monthly rent arrears for the 834 County of Lambton owned units decreased significantly to \$8,016 in the first quarter of 2025 from \$28,551 in the previous year. This saw an average of 14 households in arrears compared to 21 households over the same period in 2024. The decrease can be attributed to resolutions from Landlord Tenant Board hearings which cleared large arrears balances of a few tenants. 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 hard to serve individuals with complex needs. In the first quarter of 2025, the CSWs assisted an average of 128 individuals monthly and prevented evictions for an average of 22 tenancies each month. They had an average of 270 client visits per month and assisted clients in accessing a cumulative average of \$13,171 per month in funds such as community resources related to eviction prevention and retro payments of government assistance such as pension or child tax benefits.

The average number of applicants on the wait list for rental assistance in quarter one of 2025 has increased 14% to 957 from 842 in the first quarter of 2024. The Housing Services Department has seen an increase in the number of eligible applicants applying for RGI assistance which is partially attributed to the lack of affordable housing and low vacancy rates in the area.

Wait times in quarter one of 2025 for various sized units across the housing portfolio have been consistent with wait times in quarter one of 2024. Although this rate is consistent with 2024, it represents a significant increase when compared to prior 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

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

HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Statistical Report

Comparative Data	Quarter 1 2025	Quarter 1 2024
Number of applicants housed	32	34
Number of applicants housed (COHB)	36	0
Total applicants housed	68	34
Average monthly tenant rent arrears	\$8,016	\$28,551
Housing Advocacy Program		
Average number of unique individuals receiving services per month	128	137
Average number of evictions prevented per month	22	21
Average ongoing case management appointments per month	270	291
Average funds per month obtained by clients including eviction prevention and retro benefit payments	\$13,171	\$18,123
Average Number of Eligible Applicants for Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance		
Bachelor/1 Bedroom	740	648
2 Bedroom	87	69
3 Bedroom	69	72
4 Bedroom	56	51
5 Bedroom	5	2
Total	957	842
Average 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



SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	HOUSING SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melisa Johnson, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
SUBJECT:	Housing Services Capital Asset Management Plan Update - Year 11 - 20

BACKGROUND

Lambton County Council, at its meeting on November 18, 2015, approved a 10-Year Capital Asset Management and Funding Plan (“**AMP**”) for Housing Services.

Therefore, 2025 is the final year of the AMP. This report is to provide an update on the ongoing capital requirements for Housing for 2026 to 2035.

DISCUSSION

The County’s housing portfolio includes apartment buildings, row houses, semi-detached and single detached homes. The majority of the housing units were built between 1961 and 1978.

Department’s Historical Approach to Capital Planning

Prior to the implementation of the AMP in 2015, limited dollars were allocated as part of the Housing Services budget towards building sustainability. Staff prioritized substantial capital needs with the limited budget in an attempt to manage risk and maintain the building stock.

The AMP identified the capital needs of the 830, now 834, County owned social housing units, and the work required for each of the major building components including substructure, shell, common area interiors, services (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC), site work and unit interiors.

The 2015 AMP allowed for the aging housing stock to receive the significant investment it required. Without this investment, deficiencies would not have been addressed in a timely manner, resulting in building deterioration, negative effects on the tenant’s quality of life,

increased repair costs due to reactive or emergency responses rather than proactive and planned approaches, increased service disruption and increased risk due to potential failures and irreparable damage.

Year 1 – 10 Asset Management Plan Update

Between years one to ten of the AMP, including the planned work for 2025, \$45.2M in capital work was completed. Work was completed using a proactive, planned approach, allowing large scale projects to be completed with maximum efficiency and minimal disruption to the tenants.

An additional \$5.2M in capital work was completed beyond the original budgeted allocation of \$40M. By leveraging the annual funding under the AMP, staff secured external funding from federal and provincial sources, as well as energy efficiency grants. Without the committed funding under the AMP, it would not have been possible to access the additional \$5.2M in funding.

The following table provides a summary of the \$45.2 million in capital projects completed between 2016 - 2025.

Building Component	Actual Spending
Substructure	\$7,103,579
Building Interiors	\$2,295,483
Services	\$7,321,075
Building Site Work	\$6,212,346
Unit Interior	\$21,457,884
Building Contents & Vehicles	\$846,512
Total	\$45,236,880

Unit Interior Analysis

As part of the AMP, a programmed plan was implemented to completely renovate vacated units. This planned renovation allowed for unit layouts to be improved for greater accessibility, enhanced energy efficiency, strengthened pest control, and upgrading electrical and plumbing systems to current standards. It also facilitated the removal of building materials containing asbestos. To date, 131 units have been fully renovated, representing approximately 16% of community housing units, leaving 644 units to be completed. The energy efficiency and accessibility improvements achieved under the unit renovation program allowed the County to meet the funding requirements for federal funding programs.

Building Condition Assessments

A Building Condition Assessment (“**BCA**”) was completed in 2023 for the County's entire housing portfolio. The BCA provides a snapshot in time of the physical state of the County

owned community housing buildings. Physical inspections were completed on all components of the buildings. The BCAs identified that the majority of the buildings were in good condition however nine buildings were identified to be in fair condition. Ongoing capital expenditure is required to maintain the current building conditions. The 2023 BCA reported that capital repair requirements for the County owned community housing buildings total \$53.8M over the next ten years, with an average annual investment of approximately \$5.4M required.

Year 11 – 20 Capital Asset Management Plan

Given the success of the initial AMP for 2016-2025, along with the results of the recent BCA, staff recommend implementing an updated 10-year capital asset management plan to cover years 11 through 20 (2026-2035) (the “**AMP Update**”). Without a sustained capital commitment, staff will be unable to complete large scale, multi-year projects necessary to ensure maximum cost efficiencies. A multi-year capital plan allows for tendering of larger projects, to achieve a more cost-effective renovation approach. Without such a plan, there is a risk that required renovations to prepare vacant units for occupancy may not be completed in a timely or efficient manner.

In 2024, Housing Services experienced 88 unit turnovers, 47 of which required capital repairs such as flooring replacement, bathroom or kitchen renovations, or complete unit refurbishments. Without allocated funding, this work may have been deferred to a future budget year, potentially resulting in long-term unit vacancy. Deferred renovations can extend the amount of time a unit is vacant by six to eight months, which would increase the average wait time for an offer of housing from approximately four years to four and a half years. With 982 households currently on the centralized waiting list, this delay would negatively impact efforts to address the current housing and homelessness crisis in Lambton County.

Funding Strategy

Given the multiple capital and operational needs for the Corporation, staff feel it is not fiscally reasonable to request an immediate increase to the annual allocation for the AMP Update. Rather, staff propose a gradual increase to the annual funding allocation with the goal of reducing the infrastructure deficit over time.

A proposed funding allocation increase of \$100,000 per year would achieve an annual allocation of \$4.9M by 2035, resulting in total funding of \$44.5M over 10 years. While this would result in a cumulative funding deficit of approximately \$9M, staff are optimistic that with a planned funding program external sources of funding could also be secured to further reduce the \$9M infrastructure deficit.

Appendix 1 summarizes the capital investments required as identified in the 2023 Building Condition Assessment along with the proposed funding allocation to reflect the 10-year cumulative infrastructure deficit of \$9M.

Given the investment in the community housing stock under the 2015 AMP, along with the additional funding secured through external sources, the condition of the housing stock has been maintained. Continued investment through the AMP Update is required to ensure that the housing stock continues to be maintained long-term.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implementing a 10-year Capital Asset Management Plan Update will result in small, incremental increases to the levy of \$100,000 per year for the next ten years. This planned, proactive approach will prevent large increases to the levy in future years while allowing the County's valuable community housing assets to be maintained.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with the CAO; General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions, General Manager, Social Services; Manager, Procurement and Projects and staff in Divisional Support Services and Housing Services.

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

The County of Lambton's aging community housing stock requires ongoing investment. Without this investment, deficiencies will not be able to be addressed in a timely manner resulting in continued building deterioration, reduced quality of life and service disruptions for tenants, increased wait times for offers of housing as well as increased costs for replacement and/or repairs of assets.

Safe and affordable housing benefits the entire community both socially and economically. Through a planned and reasoned approach as outlined in the Housing Services 10-Year Capital Asset Management Plan Update, the County will maintain its valuable assets.

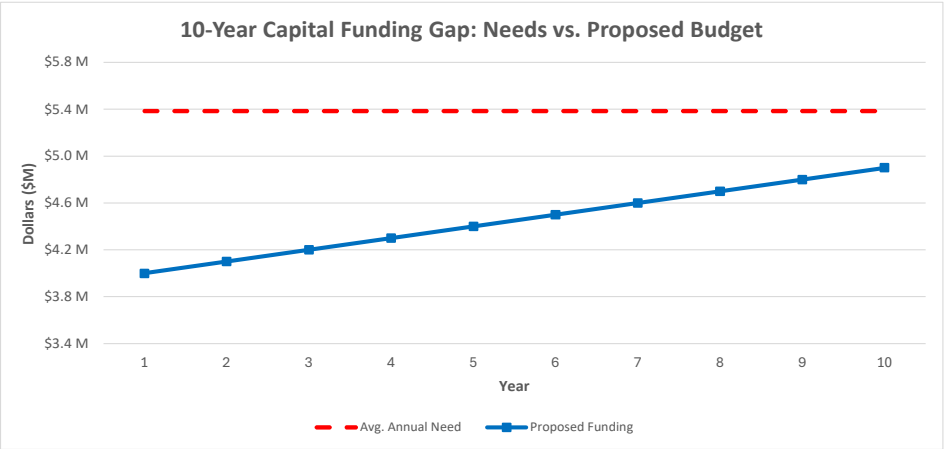
RECOMMENDATION

That Lambton County Council approve the Housing Services 10-Year Capital Asset Management Plan Update which outlines a strategy to provide \$4M in annual funding commencing in the 2026 budget cycle and further increasing by \$100,000 per year through to 2035, subject to annual budget considerations and deliberations.

Housing Services Department
Capital Asset Management Plan Update Year 11 - 20

Appendix #1 - Summary of 10 year Capital Needs and Funding Plan for Housing Services

10-Year Projection											
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Total
Substructure	1,900,550	169,900	221,100	252,000	487,600	289,100	732,380	17,960	402,800	295,100	4,768,490
Interiors	322,650	130,100	660,600	517,900	240,200	2,246,900	1,047,750	762,300	587,150	720,100	7,235,650
Services	2,087,300	1,233,900	3,282,100	2,535,400	3,060,500	2,926,800	1,765,000	915,000	441,500	261,600	18,509,100
Building Sitework	18,700	601,850	969,600	262,200	276,600	71,800	31,800	59,700	314,000	127,300	2,733,550
Unit Interiors	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	20,000,000
Building Contents	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	600,000
Grand Total	6,389,200	4,195,750	7,193,400	5,627,500	6,124,900	7,594,600	5,636,930	3,814,960	3,805,450	3,464,100	53,846,790
Proposed Funding	4,000,000	4,100,000	4,200,000	4,300,000	4,400,000	4,500,000	4,600,000	4,700,000	4,800,000	4,900,000	44,500,000
Cumulative 10 year Infrastructure Deficit											9,346,790





SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND SOCIAL PLANNING
PREPARED BY:	Ian Hanney, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 21, 2025
SUBJECT:	Lambton HART Hub Staffing

BACKGROUND

In October 2024, with the support of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, a group of local health and human service agencies quickly developed a HART (Homelessness & Addictions Recovery Treatment) Hub proposal for submission to the Province of Ontario. The HART Hub initiative is a multidisciplinary partnership between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. The proposed Lambton project was tailored to support the elevated need for homelessness and addictions supports in Lambton County, building upon existing successful partnerships and programming. Submitted through the lead agency of the Canadian Mental Health Association of Lambton Kent ("**CMHA**"), The County of Lambton, The North Lambton Community Health Centre, the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team, and Bluewater Health drew on their collective expertise to create the submission.

On January 28, 2025, the province announced the acceptance of the Lambton HART Hub proposal. In the months since this announcement, there have been delays in funding and programmatic confirmations due to the provincial election. However, at the time of the writing of this report, it is expected that operations of the Lambton HART Hub will commence in the month of June 2025.

The suite of new services offered through the Lambton HART Hub are targeted to individuals experiencing homelessness and incorporates a range of health and human programming, including treatment recovery beds, a multidisciplinary Hub, supportive housing, and mobile supports. Included in the new services are additional Homelessness Prevention staff, supported entirely through Ministry of Health funding.

DISCUSSION

The Lambton HART Hub is a broad program, led by a collection of health and human service agencies including the County of Lambton. Included in the suite of services are:

- The HART “Hub” – a multidisciplinary site offering a broad range of health and human services including primary care, employment, and housing supports. The HART Hub builds on and will augment the existing Housing and Homelessness Resource Centre (“**HHRC**”) operated by the County of Lambton, which has been the driving force behind Lambton’s notably high housing placements.
- 30 Transitional Recovery Beds that would complete the continuum of care available within the addiction model for Lambton. This longer-term bedded service would address a void for individuals who commit to the early phases of recovery but do not have the proper skills or environment to remain substance free.
- 14 scatter site supportive housing units supported through CMHA, and 12 fixed-site supportive housing units facilitated by Indwell, utilizing existing County of Lambton community housing units. These supportive housing units will provide culturally appropriate, permanent housing to individuals who require elevated levels of on-site mental health and addictions supports to remain stably housed.
- An increase in capacity through the Mobile Care Outreach Clinic, and related community supports including, but not limited to primary care, substance use navigation, mental health first response, and transportation services.

Included in the submitted application, and subsequently revised \$6.3 Million budget is funding for a County of Lambton Program Supervisor and 2.5 Community Support Workers to support the regular operations of the Lambton HART Hub.

These new positions are funded entirely by the Province. While the Program Supervisor is a new role, the Community Support Workers already operationalize the existing HHRC. The HHRC has been operated through an interdepartmental integration effort utilizing redeployed staff from the Ontario Works Department to meet the divisional demands. These staff are now required for future work conducted through the Ontario Works Department due to steadily increasing caseload sizes. Resultantly, the new Provincial funding will fund the Community Support Workers that operationalize the Lambton HART Hub and will result in an additional 3.5 staff increase in the Social Services Division.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report. All Lambton HART Hub staffing additions are 100% funded by the Province.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations took place with the General Manager, Social Services, Manager, Ontario Works, and the Lambton HART Hub Steering Committee members.

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

The imminent introduction of the Lambton HART Hub will address gaps in the existing local addiction service continuum, and augment available housing solutions to include supportive housing. This broad multi-agency program is funded through the Ministry of Health. The Lambton HART Hub will include the addition of one (1) Program Supervisor, and 2.5 Community Support Workers for the Homelessness Prevention Team.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the hiring of one permanent full-time Program Supervisor and 2.5 permanent full-time Community Support Workers to support the operations of the HART Hub, with a focus on Homelessness Prevention.