



AGENDA
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday, April 2, 2026 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, Wyoming

Page

1. **ROLL CALL**

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

3. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

If any.

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

Recommendation

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

- a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated March 4, 2026, pursuant to s. 239(2)(b),(c),(d),(h) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

5. **OPEN SESSION**

The Open Session meeting will commence immediately following the Closed Session meeting.

6. **SILENT REFLECTION**

7. **RISE AND REPORT MOTIONS OF THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

If any.

8. DELEGATIONS

5 - 8

- a) Michelle Davis, Corunna resident, will be speaking to County Council regarding supportive housing and the concentration of services in one area of the City/County.

9. MINUTES OF COUNCIL (OPEN SESSION)

9 - 15

- a) Reading and adoption of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated March 4, 2026.

10. BOARD OF HEALTH (Lambton Public Health)

A) Board of Health Correspondence to Receive and File Recommendation

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

16 - 19

- a) BOH 04-03-26 An email from Tania Caputo, Executive Assistant on behalf of, Algoma Public Health Unit Board of Health Chair Ms. Suzanne Trivers, dated March 5, 2026, regarding the passing of a resolution concerning the Combined DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib Vaccine. The Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit calls upon the Ontario Ministry of Health to amend the publicly funded immunization schedule to incorporate the DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib vaccine in order to strengthen early protection against HB, reduce preventable chronic infections, and advance health equity for children and families across Ontario.

20 - 24

- b) BOH 04-04-26 An email from Emily Durance, Executive Assistant on behalf of the Windsor, Essex County Health Unit Board of Health Chair Mr. Joe Bachetti, dated February 27, 2026, regarding a Resolution Report related to Digital Dependence Support & Prevention in Pre-School and School-Aged children. The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health is encouraging community partners working with pre-school and school aged children, to collaborate on the co-development of strategies that help build healthy technology habits and manage digital use.

B) Board of Health Information Reports

25 - 28

- a) Information Report dated April 2, 2025 Regarding 2025 Service Area Update: Strengthening the Health Promotion Operational Model.

29 - 34

- b) Information Report dated April 2, 2026 Regarding Public

Health Dental Program Update.

- 35 - 42 c) Information Report dated April 2, 2026 Regarding Rabies Prevention and Control Program Update.

C) Board of Health Other Business

11. CORRESPONDENCE

A) Correspondence to Receive and File

Recommendation

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

- 43 a) CC 04-02-26 A letter from John Zekveld, President, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, received March 16, 2026 Regarding the MZO order filed by Cargill Grain Terminal with a request that Council protect the operation of the elevator.

- 44 - 47 b) CC 04-05-26 A letter from Paul Dubé, Ombudsman of Ontario dated March 23, 2026 to Lambton County Council advising that the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario has completed its investigation into a complaint about a closed meeting held by Council for the County of Lambton on May 7, 2025 and determined the meeting did not contravene the open meeting rules.

B) Correspondence from Member Municipalities

- 48 a) CC 04-01-26 A copy of a letter from Mayor Jeff Agar, St. Clair Township to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Robert Flack dated January 14, 2026, expressing St. Clair Township's support for the continued operation of the Cargill Sarnia Grain Terminal while emphasizing the importance of community growth and mixed-density housing that aligns Provincial priorities.

12. INFORMATION REPORTS

A) Social Services Division

- 49 - 55 a) Information Report dated April 2, 2026 Regarding Overflow Shelter Update.

13. ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

- 56 - 58 a) County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee (CLAAC) Minutes dated March 05, 2026.

14. ITEMS TABLED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None at this time.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION

16. OTHER BUSINESS

17. NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

a) 10 of 2026 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including April 2, 2026.

A) First and Second Reading of By-Laws

a) #10 of 2026

B) Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

a) #10 of 2026

18. ADJOURNMENT

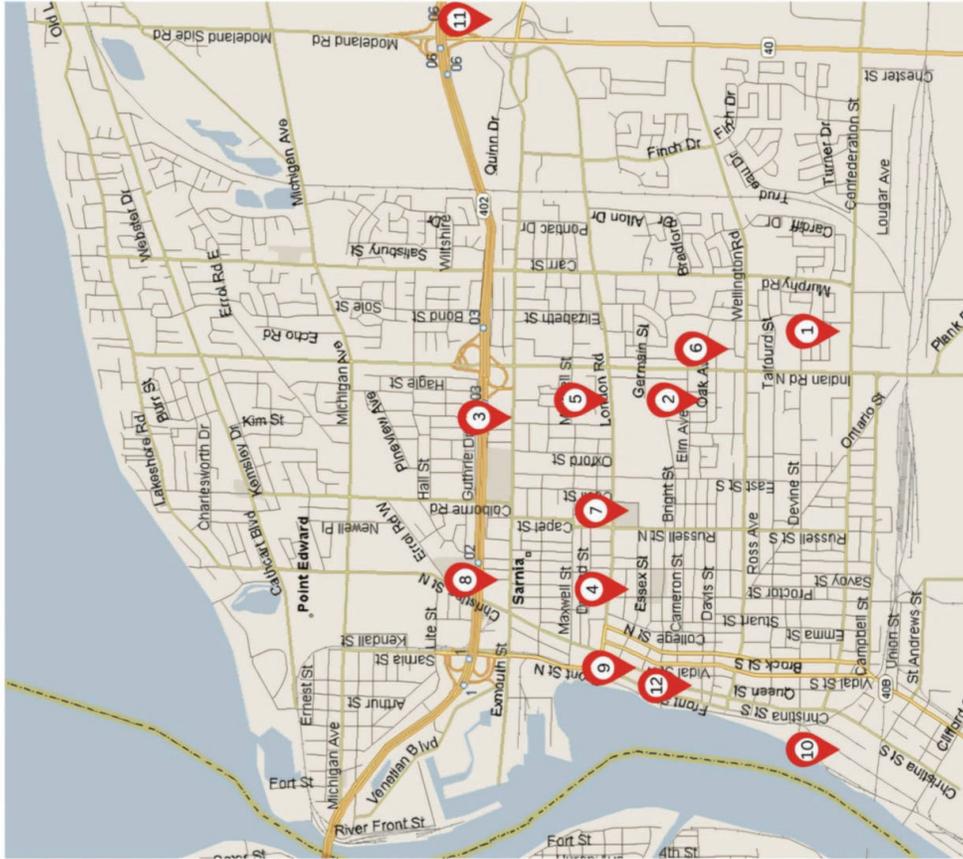
Recommendation

That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

19. O CANADA!

59

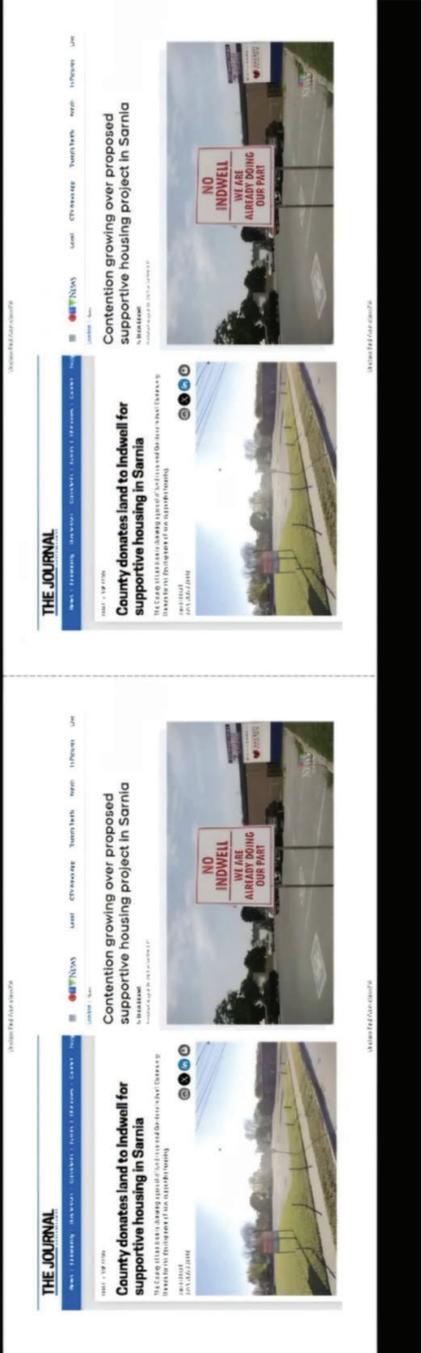
May 21, 2025
 County of Lambton
 Report on the 2024
 Homelessness Enumeration
 pg 35



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



NIMBYism Webinar
January 27, 2026

Picked Up
February 11, 2026
George St between
Forsyth St - Mitton St



 SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOUSING SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melisa Johnson, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	May 7, 2025
INFORMATION ITEM:	St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church – Agreement of Purchase and Sale Update

BACKGROUND
Lambton County Council, at its meeting on July 5, 2023, declared affordable housing its top priority by endorsing the following motion:

#3: *Bradley/White: That County Council publicly endorse making affordable housing and shelter the number one priority of County Council.* Carried.

In addition, Lambton County Council, at its meeting on June 5, 2024, authorized staff to enter into an agreement of purchase and sale ("APS") with the Anglican Diocese of Huron for the property municipally known as 710, 718 and 722 Cathcart Blvd. in the City of Samia (the "Property").

This report serves to update Council on the successful completion of the County's acquisition of the Property.

DISCUSSION

The County closed its acquisition of the Property and has undertaken operation and management thereof on April 25, 2025.

Funding

In accordance with Council's direction on June 5, 2024, \$3 million dollars has been allocated from the Affordable Housing Reserve for the acquisition of the Property and for the pre-development work to bring the Property to shovel-ready status. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church – Agreement of Purchase and Sale Update (page 2) May 7, 2025

Property Acquisition	\$1,950,000
Demolition	\$ 151,000
Pre-Development	\$ 899,000
Total	\$3,000,000

Demolition of 718 Cathcart Blvd.

The demolition contract has been awarded to Lanmar Environmental Solutions Inc. Lanmar has completed the necessary planning work regarding the demolition of this property.

Documents have been submitted to the City of Samia to obtain the required demolition permit. Pending permit, demolition is expected to begin on site in early May 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by July 2025.

Upon completion of the demolition, this space will be maintained as an open grass space until construction begins on a new building.

Pre-Development of 718 Cathcart Blvd.

Pre-development work has commenced through the completion of studies including Environmental Assessments and Designated Substance Reports. As a next step, a Request for Proposal ("RFP") for Architectural Services will be issued as well as the Pre-application Consultation for Rezoning will be initiated with the City of Samia.

Use of 722 Cathcart Blvd.

The former rectory home located at 722 Cathcart Blvd. is not included in the demolition and project plan for this site. During the construction period, this house will be used as the project office, utilized by the General Contractor and County staff. By utilizing this location and amenities as the project office, it is anticipated to save approximately \$250,000 in construction cost by eliminating the need for trailer and washroom rentals.

Once the project is completed, the use of 722 Cathcart Blvd. will be explored. Potential opportunities could include renovation and conversion to multi-residential units or sale, with proceeds used to reduce the overall project cost. Staff will seek Council direction regarding opportunities at 722 Cathcart Blvd. at a later date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implication of the acquisition of the Property and development of a shovel-ready project at 718 Cathcart Blvd is \$3 million dollars utilizing funds from the Affordable Housing Reserve.

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church – Agreement of Purchase and Sale Update (page 3) May 7, 2025

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with the C.A.O., General Manager, Social Services; Manager, Procurement and Projects; and Assistant County Solicitor/Deputy Clerk.

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, 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

County staff successfully completed the acquisition of the Property on April 25, 2025.

Acquiring the Property and completing the pre-development work to prepare the Property as a shovel-ready site will help facilitate the development of future affordable housing and open additional external funding sources to fund this development in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

County of Lambton
Council Meeting
May 7, 2025

**Housing Services Building Selections
- County of Lambton Owned**

- Alvinston Apartments
- Avondale Apartments
- Capel Manor
- Cardiff Acres
- Central Apartments
- Devine Street
- Eastland Gardens, Twin Berry Park
- Golden Villa
- Guernsey Gardens
- Huronview Apartments
- Jubilee Gardens
- King's Court
- Maxwell Park Place

- Moore Lodge
- Parkside Apartments
- Roger Street
- Sombra Apartments
- St. Clair Gardens
- Sunset Lodge
- Valley View Villa
- Watford Apartments

County Owned Property
County Website



**MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

March 4, 2026

Lambton County Council was in session in Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 9:00 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present. Councillor M. Bradley and Councillor B. Dennis attended virtually.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

IN-CAMERA SESSION - 9:02 A.M.

#1: Atkinson/Loosley: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to discuss the following:

a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated February 4, 2026, pursuant to s. 239(2)(c),(h) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

b) to receive a report and provide instructions regarding labour relations collective bargaining instructions with ONA MGM and ONA LMV-NLL, pursuant to s. 239 (2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

c) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated February 18, 2026, pursuant to s. 239(2)(b),(d) and (k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

Time: 9:05 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:07 a.m.

RISE AND REPORT MOTIONS OF THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

The Clerk noted that County Council went in-camera to discuss the following:

a) to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated February 4, 2026;

b) to receive a report and provide labour relations collective bargaining instructions for ONA MGM and ONA LMV-NLL negotiations; and

c) to review the Committee of the Whole In-Camera minutes dated February 18, 2026, which included:

- a report regarding negotiations between The Corporation of the County of Lambton and Stones 'N Bones Museum and the City of Sarnia for the potential acquisition and display of museum materials.
- a report regarding an interest arbitration award pertaining to ONA MGM.
- a report regarding collective agreement negotiations with ONA LMV-NLL.
- a report regarding personnel matters within the Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division.

DELEGATIONS

#2: Atkinson/Case: That we invite the delegations within the Bar to speak to County Council.

Carried.

Mr. Gary Eagleson, P.Ag., G. R. Eagleson Consulting Inc., spoke to County Council regarding the elimination of Class 1, 2 and 3 cropland in Southern Ontario.

Mr. Rod Catford, resident, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, spoke to County Council regarding addressing blowing and drifting snow on roads and road maintenance.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL (OPEN SESSION)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated February 4, 2026 and Budget Minutes dated February 4, 2026 were presented.

#3: Agar/Cook: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated February 4, 2026 and the Budget Minutes dated February 4, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH (Lambton Public Health)

Board of Health Correspondence to Receive and File

BOH 03-03-26 A copy of a letter from Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (“**alpha**”), to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, dated January 15, 2026, providing input into the 2026 Ontario Budget Consultation regarding the funding required to ensure a stable, locally based public health system.

BOH 03-04-26 An email from Emily Durance, Executive Assistant on behalf of the Mr. Joe Bachetti, Chair of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (“**WECHU**”) Board of Health dated December 11, 2025, advising that at its meeting held on November 20, 2025, WECHU passed a resolution regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (“**ACEs**”) Local Policy Advancement. The resolution supports engaging local community partners and health care providers to co-develop strategies and implement policies and training resources that reduce exposure to ACEs and trauma and strengthen protective factors across the region by encouraging the adoption of WECHU’s training resources and policy within partner organizations. WECHU is also calling on municipal, provincial and federal partners to implement policies and funding that prevent ACEs by addressing poverty, housing insecurity, food access, and family supports as well as to ensure sustained provincial investment.

#4: McRoberts/Miller: That correspondence BOH 03-03-26 and BOH 03-04-26 be received and filed.

Carried.

Board of Health Information Reports

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

- a) Information Report dated March 4, 2026 regarding 2025-26 Assessment of the Immunization Status of School Pupils and the Suspension Process - Update.
- b) Information Report dated March 4, 2026 regarding Clinical and Family Services Q4 2025 Activity Report.
- c) Information Report dated March 4, 2026 regarding Monitoring Food Affordability in Lambton County: The 2025 Nutritious Food Basket Report.
- d) Information Report dated March 4, 2026 regarding Health Protection Q4 2025 Activity Report.

Carried.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Corporate Services Division

Information Report dated March 4, 2026 Regarding 2025 Year-End and 4th Quarter Activity and Statistical Report

#6: Veen/Atkinson: That the Information Report dated March 4, 2026 regarding 2025 Year-End and 4th Quarter Activity and Statistical Report, be received and filed.

Carried.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A MOTION

#7: Case/Miller: That the following items be received and filed:

- a) Lambton Seniors' Advisory Committee minutes dated November 25, 2025.
- b) County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes dated November 27, 2025.
- c) Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board of Directors Meeting dated November 18, 2025.
- d) Lambton Creative County Committee minutes dated September 25, 2025.

Carried.

REPORTS REQUIRING A MOTION

Finance, Facilities and Acquisitions Division

#8: Cook/Sageman:

- a) That for the 2026 Taxation Year, the Property Tax Class Ratio for the Multi-Residential Property Class be reduced to 1.950000.
- b) That for the 2026 Taxation Year, the Property Tax Class Ratio for the Landfill Property Class be reduced to 25.000000.
- c) That for the 2026 Taxation Year, the Property Tax Ratios for all other Classes and Sub-Classes be maintained and remain unchanged from those enacted by Council for the 2025 Taxation Year through its Tax Policy.

Carried.

Social Services Division

Report dated March 4, 2026 Regarding Cathcart Project Public Consultation Update

#9: Bradley/McRoberts: That any future housing project at 718 Cathcart Boulevard in the City of Sarnia be owned and operated by the County of Lambton as rent geared-to-income housing (affordable housing).

Carried.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated February 18, 2026 were presented.

#10: Agar/Hand: That the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) minutes dated February 18, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor B. Dennis sought an update on the closure of the Laurel Lea shelter in Sarnia.

NOTICE OF BY-LAWS

6 of 2026 A By-Law to Establish and Levy Tax Rates for Upper Tier Purposes for the Year 2026.

7 of 2026 A By-Law to Set Tax Rate Reductions for Prescribed Property Subclasses for the Year 2026.

8 of 2026 A By-Law to Set Tax Ratios for Prescribed Property Classes for the Year 2026.

9 of 2026 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including March 4, 2026.

First and Second Reading of By-Laws

#11: Sageman/Veen: That By-Laws #6, #7, #8 and #9 of 2026, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

#12: Veen/Sageman: That By-Laws #6, #7, #8 and #9 of 2026, as circulated, be taken as read a third and final time.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

#13: Veen/Loosley: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

Carried.

Time: 10:17 a.m.

Kevin Marriott, Warden

Ryan Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk

BOH 04-03-26

From: [allhealthunits](#) on behalf of [Tania Caputo](#)
To: "EA LIST"; "allhealthunits@lists.alphaweb.org"
Cc: [Executive Team](#); [Suzanne Trivers](#)
Subject: [allhealthunits] Algoma Public Health (APH) Board of Health Resolution - Combined dTaP-HB-HPV-Hib Vaccine
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026 12:07:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[APH BOH Resolution 2026-19 - Combined DTaP-HB-HPV-Hib Vaccine - Feb 25, 2026.pdf](#)

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

Sent on behalf of the Algoma Public Health Unit Board of Health Chair, Ms. Suzanne Trivers:

Good afternoon,

At its February 25, 2026, meeting, the Algoma Public Health Board of Health passed a resolution regarding the **Combined dTaP-HB-HPV-Hib Vaccine**. *

Please see attached.

Thank you,

* *Should read: **DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib Vaccine**.*



Tania Caputo

**Executive Assistant,
Office of the Medical Officer of Health
& Secretary to the Board of Health**

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Email: tcaputo@algomapublichealth.com

Visit our website at www.algomapublichealth.com



BOARD OF HEALTH

MOTION: 2026-19		Support For Transitioning To The Combined Dtap-HB-IPV-Hib Vaccine Into Ontario’s Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule To Strengthen Early Protection against Hepatitis B	
DATE:	February 25, 2026		
MOTION MOVED BY:	D. McConnell		
SECONDED BY:	S. Hagman		

BACKGROUND

The publicly funded immunization schedule for Ontario currently recommends/funds immunization against Hepatitis B in grade 7 (12 years of age). These immunizations are delivered by Public Health Nurses in schools over two appointments at least 6 months apart. Drawbacks of this approach include high delivery costs within schools, multiple injections over the life course, and children are unprotected from hepatitis B for the first 12 years of life.

This is not the same approach in all provinces. British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec, New Brunswick, and PEI have hepatitis B programs that immunize children in infancy. For example, in British Columbia infants receive a combination vaccine protecting against 6 diseases including hepatitis B, where Ontario provides infants with a combination vaccine against 5 diseases with the hepatitis B vaccine given much later in grade 7. A shift to a similar program in Ontario would protect our children earlier and provide long-term cost-savings.

PROPOSED MOTION

WHEREAS hepatitis B (HB) infection acquired in infancy and early childhood carries the highest risk of chronic infection compared to other ages, with up to 95% of unvaccinated infants and approximately 50% of children infected before five years of age developing chronic HB, compared to 5–10% of those infected in adolescence or adulthood¹; and

WHEREAS chronic HB infection can result in serious long-term health consequences, including cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer, leading to significant morbidity, mortality, and health-system costs; and

WHEREAS Ontario currently administers HB vaccine primarily in Grade 7, leaving children susceptible to infection during their first 12 years of life, when they are at most vulnerable to chronic HB infection²; and

WHEREAS surveillance data from Public Health Ontario indicate that HB infections continue to occur among children in Ontario prior to adolescence, including Canadian-born children, often due to missed prenatal screening, incomplete post-exposure prophylaxis, household exposure to undiagnosed carriers, travel, or immigration from regions of higher HB prevalence³; and

WHEREAS universal infant HB immunization at 2, 4, and 6 months of age would significantly reduce the period of vulnerability from approximately 12 years to the first six months of life and better



protect infants and children in higher-risk circumstances, including those living with chronic carriers, attending child care, or from families who have immigrated from other countries with higher prevalence of HB; and

WHEREAS the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has concluded that HB vaccination in infancy provides long-lasting protection, with durable immune memory persisting even when antibody levels decline, and does not recommend routine booster doses for immunocompetent individuals who complete a full infant series^{1,3,4}; and

WHEREAS the cost of providing 3 doses of the DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib vaccine (combination vaccine against 6 diseases) in infancy is comparable or lower in cost than the currently utilized schedule of administering the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccines (combination vaccine against 5 diseases) in infancy and HB vaccines in grade 7; and

WHEREAS a recent analysis modelling Ontario's HB immunization strategies found that introducing a universal infant HB vaccine program would prevent more acute and chronic pediatric HB infections in Ontario, and would save health care dollars, particularly when the vaccine is administered through the combination DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib vaccine⁵; and

WHEREAS long-term cost-savings will be realized through the administration of a combination vaccine which requires less visits to a healthcare provider over the life course and less in-school vaccine delivery; and

WHEREAS routine infant immunization programs tend to have higher coverage than school-based programs alone, so it can be anticipated that a combined DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib vaccine administered routinely at the 2, 4 and 6 month well-baby visits would have higher uptake than the grade 7 program⁵ resulting in increased herd immunity; and

WHEREAS this change would further align Ontario's HB vaccination schedule with that of other Canadian jurisdictions such as British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec, New Brunswick, and PEI, ensuring more infants and children are protected earlier against HB infection⁴; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit calls upon the Ontario Ministry of Health to amend the publicly funded immunization schedule to incorporate the DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib vaccine in order to strengthen early protection against HB, reduce preventable chronic infections, and advance health equity for children and families across Ontario; and

FURTHER THAT, the Minister of Health, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and local MPPs be so advised; and

FURTHER THAT, The Board of Health sponsors a resolution to further promote this change to the publicly funded schedule at the alpha AGM.

References:

1. National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Update on the recommended use of Hepatitis B (HB) vaccine, 2017, Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/update-recommended-use-hepatitis-b-vaccine/update-recommended-use-hepatitis-b-vaccine-eng.pdf>
2. Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario, current edition. 2022, Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-01/moh-publicly-funded-immunization-schedule-en-2024-01-23.pdf>



- 3. Public Health Ontario. Hepatitis B Immunization Technical Report. 2017, Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/H/2017/hepb-technical-report.pdf?rev=441f1e45ffc74b878685409780228e98&sc_lang=en
- 4. Canadian Immunization Guide, Evergreen Edition. Hepatitis B Chapter, 2024, Available from: [Hepatitis B vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/mhc/hp/hpb/hpb-vaccines-canadian-immunization-guide-canada-ca.pdf)
- 5. Biondi MJ, Estes C, Razavi-Shearer D, Sahdra K, Lipton N, Shah H, Capraru C, Janssen HLA, Razavi H, Feld JJ. Cost-effectiveness modelling of birth and infant dose vaccination against hepatitis B virus in Ontario from 2020 to 2050. CMAJ Open. 2023 Jan 10;11(1):E24-E32. Available from: <https://www.cmajopen.ca/content/11/1/E24>

Suzanne Trivers

Board of Health Chair:

Carried Defeated

RECORDED VOTE:

Sally Hagaman	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Julila Hemphill	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Donald McConnell	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Luc Morrissette	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Sonny Spina	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Sonia Tassone	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Trivers	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Jody Wildman	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>
Natalie Zagordo	:	In Favour <input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed <input type="checkbox"/>

BOH 04-04-26

From: [allhealthunits](#) on behalf of [Emily Durance](#)
To: [MainYves@cscprovidence.ca](#); [bloomich@cscprovidence.ca](#); [boudreaultma@csviamonde.ca](#); [Kelly Ann Bull](#); [Karen Trotter](#); [Joe Bell](#)
Cc: [Leadership Team Mail List](#); [EA LIST \(ea@lists.alphaweb.org\)](#); [Joe Bachetti](#); "All Health Units"; [Kelly Farrugia](#)
Subject: [allhealthunits] FW: WECHU Board of Health Resolution - Digital Dependence Support & Prevention in Pre-School and School-Aged Children
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 1:46:29 PM
Attachments: [BOH Resolution - Digital Dependence Support and Prevention in Pre-School and School Aged Children.pdf](#)

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

Sent on behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health Chair, Mr. Joe Bachetti:

Good afternoon,

At its February 5, 2026, regular meeting, the *Windsor-Essex County Board of Health* passed the following Resolution related to **Digital Dependence Support & Prevention in Pre-School and School-Aged Children**.

Please see attached.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,
Mr. Joe Bachetti, Chair, WECHU

EMILY DURANCE
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A healthy community where everyone can thrive.

To keep students protected against vaccine-preventable diseases, Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires that students be immunized against certain diseases. Parents and guardians are responsible for providing student immunization records to their local health unit. For more information, [visit our website](#).

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Information Protection Act. If you receive this transmission in error, please notify me immediately by telephone at the number listed above and do not print, copy, distribute or disclose it further.

**Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health****RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION REPORT – Digital Dependence Support and Prevention
in Pre-School and School Aged Children****2026-02-05****BACKGROUND**

Digital technology is an integral part of the daily lives of children and youth making it vital for them to learn safe and healthy ways to engage with technology. Digital technology has significantly impacted Canadian youth's mental health, with both positive and negative effects. Positive use of digital platforms provides opportunities for social connection, access to information, and educational resources for mental well-being. Conversely, research on digital technology use by children and youth shows a link to negative effects on mental health such as depression, anxiety, chronic stress, and low self-esteem.

According to the Canadian Paediatric Society (2022), several trends related to young children are reported with increased technology use including decreased levels of physical activity, sleep, and an increase in sedentary behaviour. Evidence does not support that the use of technology at a young age improves learning. Children under 5 years old learn best by interacting with family members and caregivers.

Problem technology use (PTU) is a general term for using digital technology such as video games and social media, in ways that can negatively affect a person's health and well-being related to their physical health, mental health, and social relationships (CAMH, 2024). Locally, most youth in grades 7 to 12 spend at least 3 hours a day on screens, with over half reporting 5 or more hours. Social media use is also high: 90.3% of youth spend at least 2 hours per day and 23.9% reporting spending 5 or more hours, which is similar to the provincial rate of 23.4%. Usage is highest among students in Grades 9 and 10. Further, only 32% are meeting physical activity guidelines and 62% report not getting enough sleep on school nights (OSDUS, 2023).

Public health has a role in the promotion of healthy development and prevention of harm by supporting digital literacy, resilience, and safe online environments. By educating youth about healthy online behaviors, critical thinking, and digital citizenship, they can navigate digital spaces more safely and responsibly. Parents/caregivers who model healthy screen use and strategies such as family media plans and screen-free times can help families to prevent and address PTU (Lahti et. al., 2024). A coordinated, community wide approach involving families, educators, service providers, municipalities and community organizations strengthens prevention efforts and supports consistent messaging across environments where children and youth live and learn.

PROPOSED MOTION

Whereas, nearly all children in Canada are exposed to screens by the age of 2, and limiting technology at a young age is important as early screens use can impact language and cognitive development as well as social emotional health; and

Whereas, locally in Windsor-Essex County, 82% of youth in grades 7 to 12 report spending 3 hours or more a day on screens; displacing important health behaviours like being active, adequate sleep, outdoor play, and in-person social interactions; and

Whereas, promoting digital literacy is essential in mitigating negative social, emotional, developmental, and overall health effects of technology use; and

Whereas, parents, caregivers, and educators play a critical role in modeling positive technology habits and supporting digital literacy; and

Whereas, addressing problematic technology use requires a comprehensive, community-driven approach involving collaboration between childcare centers, schools, families, healthcare providers, and policymakers to create supportive environments and interventions; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health encourages community partners working with pre-school and school aged children to collaborate on the co-development of strategies that help build healthy technology habits and manage digital use; and

FURTHER THAT, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health will lead collaborative efforts with schools, childcare centres, and community partners to provide consistent messaging and strategies to reduce problematic technology use and its effects on emotional regulation, mental health, sleep, physical activity, and relationships; and

FURTHER THAT, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health calls on local healthcare providers to integrate conversations about technology use and its effects on development and well-being into well-baby visits and annual checkups; and

FURTHER THAT, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health recommends that healthcare providers and community organizations provide parents/caregivers tools and resources to identify signs of problematic technology use and guidance on how to seek appropriate support.

Key References

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3. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health [CAMH]. (2024). *Youth, Smartphones and Social Media Use*. Retrieved from <https://kmb.camh.ca/uploads/0b9d214a-e13a-4f9c-8240-3dc057bb81f4.pdf>
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	PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Jordan Banninga, Manager, Health Promotion
REVIEWED BY:	Stephen Turner, Chief, Emergency Medical Services Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 2, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	2025 Service Area Update: Strengthening the Health Promotion Operational Model

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide Lambton’s Board of Health (County Council) with an update on work undertaken in 2025 to strengthen the Health Promotion Service Area operational model. This update focuses on initiatives that improve how the Service Area organizes, plans, aligns, and reports on its work in support of the Ontario Public Health Standards and broader organizational priorities.

This work was driven by practical challenges common in public health. One challenge is the seemingly infinite scope and mandate of public health units. Many issues can rightly be framed as public health issues, such as poverty, substance use, social isolation, racism, mental wellbeing, food insecurity. While this breadth reflects the importance of public health, it can also make health promotion interventions difficult to define and to measure effectiveness at achieving desired outcomes.

Another challenge can be the translation of broad provincial standards into clear service area and team-level planning structures. The Ontario Public Health Standards provide an essential framework for program requirements and expectations; however, these standards do not prescribe specific health promotion interventions. Operationalizing these standards within day-to-day service planning can be complex as many activities are cross-cutting, support multiple standards simultaneously, or function to create supportive environments that are necessary for impact but not always easily visible in conventional reporting.

Throughout 2025, the Health Promotion Service Area worked to update its operational model to better reflect the complexity and cross-cutting nature of our work. Key milestones included the development of a clearer functional architecture for the Service Area, including the establishment of common public health intervention types and related planning, accountability, and information management tools. Together, these initiatives

support more consistent operational planning, clearer alignment to standards and population health outcomes, stronger internal role clarity, and a more sustainable foundation for future service delivery, reporting, and quality improvement. More simply, this work helps clarify what the Health Promotion Service Area does and how that contributes to a healthier community.

DISCUSSION

Public Health Intervention Framework

A significant initiative in 2025 was the establishment of a public health interventions framework, which included identification of the intervention types most relevant to work delivered by the Health Promotion Service Area. The intervention types were informed by *Summers et al.*'s framework, published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, which developed a classification of common interventions used to describe the work of local public health agencies. This framework provides a shared functional taxonomy for describing *how* public health work is carried out, rather than describing work only by topic, issue, or individual activity. The intervention types delivered by the Health Promotion Service Area include:

- Communication and Social Marketing
- Community and Partner Mobilization
- Education, Skill, and Capacity Building
- Healthy Public Policy
- Population Health Assessment and Surveillance

This is an important foundation for a modernized operating model. It creates a consistent way to define and organize work across teams and priorities, supports a clearer understanding of the Service Area's contribution to population health outcomes, and strengthens alignment between operational activities and the broader goals of Lambton Public Health. By providing a common language for intervention delivery, the framework improves consistency in planning, resource allocation, staff development, reporting, and quality improvement.

Creating Stronger Alignment between Strategy, Planning, and Service Delivery

The public health interventions framework also serves as a foundational structure for improving alignment across a range of organizational tools and processes. In 2025, this approach informed and supported work related to operational planning, budgeting, time tracking, indicator development, reporting, updated position descriptions, and professional development. It also provides a more consistent structure for mapping activities, outputs, and indicators to Ontario Public Health Standards requirements, while remaining flexible as provincial standards and local priorities evolve.

By using a shared framework, the Service Area is better positioned to understand not only what work is being delivered, but how resources and staff time are being distributed

across core public health interventions, outcomes, and populations. This supports stronger decision-making related to capacity, priority setting, workload, and service design. It also creates a more consistent basis for identifying meaningful outputs and linking those outputs to short, medium, and long-term population health outcomes.

Over time, this approach is expected to improve the organization's ability to assess the balance of effort across intervention types, identify service gaps or pressures, support workforce development, and strengthen reporting to leadership and governance bodies. It also improves alignment with the broader public health sector by using a structure that is function-based, adaptable, and relevant across changing program and policy contexts.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with strengthening the Health Promotion operational model described in this report were part of LPH's approved 2025 budget. No additional direct financial implications arise from receipt of this report at this time.

Over the longer term, stronger alignment between intervention types, operational planning, budgeting, and reporting is expected to support more informed decision-making regarding service design, staff capacity, and priority setting.

CONSULTATIONS

In the development of this report, staff drew from internal planning processes, leadership discussions, and ongoing efforts to improve alignment between service area operations, organizational planning tools, and public health outcome frameworks.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The work in this report is consistent with the County's vision for a caring community, Mission and Principles identified in the County's Strategic Plan and supports Lambton County's Strategic Area of Effort #3 *Community Development, Health, and Wellness*. It also aligns with Lambton Public Health's strategic directions of Community Confidence and Engagement, and Workforce Development and Well-Being by supporting clearer service planning, improved accountability, stronger workforce alignment, and better communication of the value of public health to partners, decision-makers, and the public.

CONCLUSION

While much of this work is foundational and does not always produce immediate visible changes in the same way as program activity metrics, it is critical to long-term service quality and accountability. Public health work is increasingly complex, cross-cutting, and interdependent. As a result, clear planning structures, common definitions, and a coherent

2025 Service Area Update: Strengthening (page 4)
the Health Promotion Operational Model

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information architecture are necessary to support sustainable service delivery, meaningful performance measurement, and effective governance oversight.

The Health Promotion Service Area will continue to build on this work by further embedding the intervention framework and related taxonomy into service planning, operational tools, workforce development, and reporting processes. This will include continued refinement of the Service Area operational model, stronger integration with outcome and indicator frameworks, and clearer mapping to standards requirements, priority setting, and accountability.

Just as importantly, this work strengthens Lambton Public Health's ability to clearly communicate its role and value to staff, partners, decision-makers, and the public. A more defined and consistent operational model helps explain who we are, what we do, and how our work contributes to healthier communities, which in turn supports greater awareness, confidence, and trust in local public health.

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Crystal Palleschi, Manager, Clinical and Family Services Krista Gosselin, Supervisor, Clinical and Family Services
REVIEWED BY:	Stephen Turner, Chief, Emergency Medical Services Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 2, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Public Health Dental Program Update

BACKGROUND

April marks National Oral Health Month and is intended to raise awareness that oral health is an important part of overall health and well-being. Untreated oral diseases can result in a wide range of physical, social, and mental consequences (**Figure 1**).¹

Figure 1: Select impacts of oral diseases.



Source: [Global oral health status report: towards universal health coverage for oral health by 2030](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. License: [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](#).

Emergency department visits for non-traumatic oral health conditions are a critical indicator of unmet oral health needs and systemic barriers to dental care.

In 2024, there were 688 visits to the emergency department by Lambton County residents with non-traumatic oral health conditions.² While Lambton's local rate of emergency department visits for these conditions has decreased by nearly 50% over the past 10 years, it remains higher than the provincial average (2024: 508 per 100,000 population, locally versus 380 per 100,000 population, provincially).² There is a strong association between socioeconomic status and the prevalence and severity of oral diseases. For example, in Lambton, people living in areas with the highest poverty levels visited the emergency department for non-traumatic related oral health problems **three times more often** than those living in the most affluent areas.³

Through the Ontario Public Health Standards ("OPHS"), Lambton Public Health ("LPH") has a mandate to embed health equity approaches into all areas of our work.⁴ LPH programs aim to improve oral health in the entire population while also decreasing health inequities. Clinical and Family Services does this by providing universal screening in schools, preventive clinical services for eligible children and youth, system navigation and enrolment support for publicly funded dental programs, and comprehensive health promotion.

The purpose of this report is to highlight public health interventions that aim to improve oral health outcomes in Lambton County. Staff last reported to Lambton's Board of Health (County Council) on dental programs through the *Review of the Canadian Dental Care Plan and Ontario Public Health Dental Programs* report dated June 4, 2025.

DISCUSSION

Screening in Schools

Through LPH's school-based screening program, the dental team screens children for urgent dental needs and refers them to participating dental providers for treatment. Children with non-urgent dental needs are referred to their local dental provider or to the LPH Dental Clinic for preventive services. Parents/guardians may opt out of in-school screening and/or choose to bring their child(ren) to the LPH Dental Clinic for screening if preferred.

LPH visits each elementary school annually and starts by screening students in grade two (2). Based on the screening results for grade two (2), all schools are classified as low, medium, or high screening intensity as per Ontario's Oral Health Protocol, 2021.⁵ The intensity level determines how many additional grades are screened, as follows:

- i) JK, SK, and grade two (2) in low screening intensity schools;
- ii) JK, SK, grades two (2), and seven (7) in medium screening intensity schools; and
- iii) JK, SK, grades two (2), four (4), and seven (7) in high screening intensity schools.

During the 2024-2025 school year, 3,578 students were screened in 46 elementary schools in Lambton County. There were 40 schools classified as low intensity, four (4) as medium intensity, and two (2) as high intensity. Overall, about 22% of students screened at school were found to need preventive services and 4.5% had urgent needs identified. These numbers were similar to the previous school year (2023-2024).

Public Health Dental Clinic

LPH provides free preventive dental clinical services for eligible children and youth 17 years of age and under. Services are provided by LPH dental staff (Registered Dental Hygienist and Certified Dental Assistant) and include cleaning (scaling/polishing), fluoride treatments, sealants, and dental care education.

In 2025, 165 children were screened in the LPH dental clinic, including 83 who received preventive services and 71 who were referred to a participating dental provider for urgent treatment needs.

System Navigation and Enrolment Support

LPH aims to ensure all Lambton County residents know that publicly funded dental care programs are available and that a lack of financial resources should not deter anyone from seeking care for themselves or their children. Regularly accessing preventive care can help individuals and families avoid more costly urgent care in the future. There are options for obtaining dental care and LPH staff are available to help determine eligibility and provide support for enrolment in the appropriate program(s). Appendix 1 provides a summary of publicly funded dental programs.

According to the OPHS, LPH is required to provide, or ensure the provision, of two (2) provincially funded dental programs to help eligible children and seniors access dental care.⁴ Healthy Smiles Ontario (“**HSO**”) offers free dental care for eligible children and youth, 17 years of age and younger. The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (“**OSDCP**”) covers dental care for eligible seniors 65 years of age and older and is delivered in partnership with participating local dentists and denturists. LPH also collaborates with County of Lambton Social Services Department to administer the Ontario Works (“**OW**”) dental program.

The federal Canadian Dental Care Plan (“**CDCP**”) is now available to eligible Canadians of all ages who have an adjusted family net income below \$90,000, have filed their income taxes, and do not have access to private dental insurance.⁶ The CDCP reimburses a portion of the cost of dental services, but clients may have to pay additional charges. While eligible clients can enrol in both the CDCP and the above-mentioned provincial programs, coordination of benefits varies by program.⁷ LPH’s dental team continues to provide information to clients about the federal CDCP and encourages those who are eligible to apply to the CDCP through Service Canada.

Comprehensive Health Promotion

The dental team provides education about the importance of oral hygiene behaviours and access to dental care. April is Oral Health Month and LPH has planned the following activities:

- Digital media campaign
- School health newsletter insert available on LPH's [Education Professional Portal – Administrator Resources](#)
- Direct promotion of HSO, OSDCP, and CDCP at events and through relevant organizations
- Direct communication to dental providers about enrolling patients in publicly funded dental care programs

Oral diseases share key modifiable risk factors with other noncommunicable diseases.¹ LPH's Health Promotion Service Area provides interventions that target common risk factors such as tobacco use, vaping, alcohol consumption, and nutrition.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The OSDCP is 100% funded by the province of Ontario. HSO is provincial and municipal cost-share funded, as included in the approved 2026 LPH budget. The OW dental program is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services through the County of Lambton's Ontario Works Department as a discretionary benefit. The CDCP is funded by the Government of Canada.

CONSULTATIONS

In the delivery of the OSDCP and HSO, LPH continues to consult and share information with local dental and denture providers. LPH consults with the County of Lambton OW department and LPH's Dental Consultant regarding OW dental claims. LPH's Medical Officer of Health was also consulted in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Delivery of the oral health programs contribute to the County of Lambton Strategic Plan 2024-2027, Area of Effort #3 *Community Development, Health and Wellness - Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities*. These programs are delivered in partnership with local dental providers, fulfilling Area of Effort #5 *Partnerships*.

CONCLUSION

Affordable and accessible dental care provides benefits across the lifespan that can significantly improve one's quality of life and overall health. LPH will continue to deliver

provincial dental programs to eligible residents in partnership with local dental providers. Additionally, the CDCP will increase access to dental care for eligible residents of all ages.

References

1. Global oral health status report: towards universal health coverage for oral health by 2030. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 [cited 2026 Mar]. License: [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/). Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240061484>.
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: emergency department visits for oral health conditions snapshot: Emergency department visits for non-traumatic oral health conditions >> Age-standardized rate (both sexes) >> 2015-2024 [Internet]. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2024 [modified 2026 Feb 23; cited 2026 Mar 17]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/health-behaviours/oral-health-ed>.
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6. Health Canada. Canadian Dental Care Plan [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada. [modified 2026 Mar 3; cited 2026 Mar 17]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html>.
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Appendix 1: The following table provides a comparison between OSDCP, HSO, OW, and the federal CDCP.

	Ontario			Federal
	OSDCP	HSO	OW	CDCP
Age	65 years and older	17 years and under	18 years and older	All ages
Annual Income	Single less than \$25,000; couples combined less than \$41,500	Automatically enrolled if family receives OW, ODSP or other eligible assistance; can apply if family net income less than <u>cutoffs</u>	Meet financial eligibility criteria for Ontario Works	Less than \$90,000 adjusted family net income Must have filed taxes annually and be a Canadian resident for tax purposes. Cannot have access to private dental insurance.
Coordination of benefits	Can enroll in both CDCP and OSDCP, but do not work together to pay the same bill.	Coordination between HSO and CDCP allowed.	Coordination between OW and CDCP allowed.	No coordination of benefits for OSDCP. Coordination with HSO and OW allowed.
Co-Payment	Cannot be charged any additional costs (except \$80 co-pay for dentures)	Cannot be charged additional costs.	Cannot be charged additional costs (except for dentures).	Can be charged additional costs depending on income and if dentist charges more than what CDCP covers (unless coordinating with HSO).
Program Delivery Model	Services provided by local providers in Lambton (public health clinics may offer directly in other areas)	Preventive services in public health clinics and core/emergency services provided by local providers	Services provided by local providers.	Services provided by local providers.
Fee structure	Providers paid at a reduced rate compared to private insurance.	Providers paid at a reduced rate compared to private insurance.	Providers paid at a reduced rate compared to private insurance.	Providers paid at a reduced rate compared to private insurance, but rates are higher than provincial programs.
Administered by	Public health units	Accerta	Ontario Works offices	Sunlife

 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection Lori Lucas, Supervisor, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Stephen Turner, Chief, Emergency Medical Services Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 2, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Rabies Prevention and Control Program Update

BACKGROUND

Human rabies is an extremely rare disease in Canada due to effective public health prevention and control measures. The Ontario Public Health Standards establish requirements for the rabies prevention and control program by standardizing the response of local public health units to animal-to-human contacts that could lead to rabies.

For the first time since 1967, a human case of rabies was identified in Ontario at the beginning of September 2024. The human case was identified outside Lambton County, as the result of direct exposure to a bat in northern Ontario. Since 1924, there have been a total of 27 human cases in Canada, all of which were fatal.

This report serves to provide Lambton County Board of Health (County Council) with an update on the current status of rabies in Lambton County, and to highlight the work of Lambton Public Health (“LPH”) in the Rabies Prevention and Control Program. Staff last reported to County Council on this subject matter on November 5, 2025, in the Rabies Prevention and Control update report.

DISCUSSION

Rabies is a viral infection that causes brain and spinal cord inflammation. It is typically spread to humans through direct contact with saliva or mucous membranes of an infected animal, such as through a bite or a scratch. Without prompt investigation and treatment, rabies is almost always fatal. Skunks, foxes, racoons, and bats are the most common animals to have rabies in Canada; however, most warm-blooded animals can become infected.

Rabies Prevention and Control Measures

The Canadian incidence of rabies in humans remains very low due to well-established and effective public health prevention and control measures. These measures involve the collaborative work of multiple agencies at the federal, provincial, and local levels, along with professionals including veterinarians, physicians, and Public Health Inspectors (“PHIs”) among others.

The success of the rabies prevention and control program is bolstered by the availability of safe and effective post-exposure prophylaxis (“PEP”). This involves timely administration of rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccines in cases where humans come into contact with animals that are suspected of being rabid or when the animal’s health cannot be determined. Pre-exposure immunization is also available for individuals at high risk of close contact with rabid animals or the rabies virus (e.g., occupational exposures, laboratory workers, certain travelers, and for those engaging in specific high-risk activities such as hunters or trappers in rabies-endemic areas).¹

PHIs are responsible to enforce provincial legislation that requires all cats and dogs over three (3) months of age to be vaccinated for rabies. To support access to these vaccinations, there were six (6) low-cost rabies clinics held throughout Lambton County in 2025 with 394 dogs and 119 cats receiving rabies vaccine. For 2026, a total of nine (9) low-cost clinics are scheduled between April and November.

PHIs, upon receiving notification of a potential rabies exposure, initiate an investigation of the incident within 24 hours of notification. During the investigation, the PHI gathers information on the person exposed, the exposure incident, the animal owner (if owned), and the animal information. The PHI will conduct a risk assessment of the incident and provide a recommendation regarding the need for PEP, and direction on the isolation or testing of the animal. In 2025, Lambton PHIs conducted 369 rabies investigations with 69 individuals receiving post-exposure prophylaxis.

Local Public Health Units play a critical role in the prevention and control of rabies, including public awareness campaigns, animal bite/scratch investigations, risk assessments, monitoring and arranging testing of animals suspected of rabies, and facilitating the distribution of rabies PEP when warranted.

Epidemiology of Animal Rabies in Lambton County

Positive cases of animal rabies remain low in Lambton County with nine (9) rabies positive animals being identified since 2013. All nine (9) of these instances were identified in bats. Three (3) rabies positive animals (bats) were identified in Lambton County in 2025. See Appendix A for a summary of Lambton County animal rabies data from 2013 to present.

¹ Canadian Immunization Guide. Rabies vaccines. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-18-rabies-vaccine.html>

In 2025, 120 animals tested positive for rabies across Ontario. Of these, 114 cases were identified in bats, and six (6) were red foxes. The red foxes were all located in far Northern Ontario in the James Bay area. Arctic fox strain rabies is endemic in the Arctic and sub-Arctic areas of Canada, including the areas around James Bay. See Appendix B for animal rabies cases in Ontario in 2024 (Note: 2025 data with this level of breakdown has not yet been published by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR))

Bats can pose a unique risk for rabies due to their ability to easily evade capture after human contact and because their bites and scratches can appear very small and difficult to detect. Since 2019 approximately 35% of all human PEP for rabies vaccinations in Lambton County have been the result of exposure to bats. During years when there is increased incidence of rabid bats identified in Lambton County, the percentage of rabies PEP distribution related to bat exposures has also increased. This trend was observed in 2021 and 2025 (48.9% and 50.7% respectively). During these two years, multiple rabies positive bats were identified in Lambton. See Appendix C for rabies PEP for bat exposures in Lambton County from 2019-2025.

Prevention of Rabies Exposure

LPH provides education regarding rabies prevention to Health Care Providers and the public on LPH's [website](#). Information includes routine precautions to reduce the risk of exposure to the rabies virus, including to:

- Stay away from and do not touch unfamiliar animals,
- Supervise children when around animals,
- Keep pets and livestock fully immunized against rabies,
- Do not approach animals that appear to be aggressive or sick, and
- Maintain your residence in good repair to prevent the entrance of bats.

If an individual is exposed or in direct contact with a bat, or if an individual is bitten or scratched by any other animal known to carry rabies, they are advised to immediately wash the affected area with soap and water. The individual should subsequently seek medical attention promptly to be assessed for required treatment, which may include the need for rabies PEP.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Rabies Prevention and Control Program is cost-share funded between the province and municipality, as approved within LPH's 2026 Health Protection budget.

CONSULTATIONS

In the preparation of this report, the County of Lambton's Medical Officer of Health was consulted.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Rabies Prevention and Control Program is consistent with the principles, values, and areas of effort identified in the County's strategic plan. The program supports Area of Effort #3 *Community Development, Health and Wellness*, Area of Effort #2 *Service and Communications* and Area of Effort #5 *Partnerships*.

CONCLUSION

Rabies is a rare but serious disease that can be spread by infected animals to humans. The disease requires ongoing public health vigilance to prevent human cases. LPH plays a significant role working closely with provincial and federal agencies to educate the public to the risks posed by rabies and monitor/investigate instances of human interactions with animals that could lead to rabies.

Appendix A

Summary of Rabies Positive Animals in Lambton County 2013-present

Year	# of Positive Animal Rabies
2013	3 bats
2014	0
2015	0
2016	1 bat
2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0
2021	2 bats
2022	0
2023	0
2024	0
2025	3 bats

Appendix B

Animal Rabies Cases in Ontario by region in 2024
(with data from the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#))

Municipality	Species	Bat strain
City of Belleville	Big brown bat	1
City of Brantford	Big brown bat	2
City of Hamilton	Big brown bat	5
City of Kawartha Lakes	Silver-haired bat	1
City of Kingston	Big brown bat	1
City of London	Big brown bat	2
City of Ottawa	Big brown bat	2
City of Peterborough	Big brown bat	2
City of Peterborough	Silver-haired bat	1
City of St. Thomas	Big brown bat	1
City of Stratford	Big brown bat	1
City of Toronto	Big brown bat	12
City of Toronto	Hoary bat	1
City of Toronto	Silver-haired bat	1
City of Windsor	Big brown bat	1
County of Brant	Big brown bat	1
County of Brant	Human	1
County of Bruce	Big brown bat	3
County of Bruce	Little brown bat	1
County of Elgin	Big brown bat	4
County of Elgin	Hoary bat	1
County of Essex	Big brown bat	1
County of Grey	Big brown bat	1
County of Huron	Big brown bat	1
County of Lanark	Big brown bat	2
County of Lennox and Addington	Big brown bat	1
County of Lennox and Addington	Silver-haired bat	1
County of Northumberland	Big brown bat	2
County of Oxford	Big brown bat	1
County of Perth	Big brown bat	2
County of Peterborough	Big brown bat	1
County of Peterborough	Silver-haired bat	1
County of Renfrew	Big brown bat	1
County of Simcoe	Big brown bat	4
County of Simcoe	Little brown bat	1

Municipality	Species	Bat strain
County of Wellington	Big brown bat	2
Regional Municipality of Durham	Big brown bat	5
Regional Municipality of Durham	Little brown bat	1
Regional Municipality of Halton	Big brown bat	2
Regional Municipality of Halton	Little brown bat	1
Regional Municipality of Niagara	Big brown bat	5
Regional Municipality of Peel	Big brown bat	2
Regional Municipality of York	Big brown bat	5
Regional Municipality of York	Silver-haired bat	1
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Big brown bat	1
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	Big brown bat	1
Total	N/A	91

Appendix C

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Distributed in Lambton County 2019-present

Year	Total PEP	PEP due to Bats	Percentage of PEP due to bats
2019	34	11	32.4
2020	21	6	28.6
2021	49	24	48.9
2022	32	9	28.1
2023	49	13	26.5
2024	56	18	32.1
2025	69	35	50.7



**CHRISTIAN FARMERS
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO**
ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

CC 04-02-26

CFFO Lambton

c/o John Zekveld

4622 London Line,

Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

Dear County of Lambton, City of Sarnia and Village of Point Edward:

I am writing to you regarding the MZO order filed by Cargill Grain Terminal. We understand how much the waterfront means to all of Lambton and the desire to develop those lands in the vicinity of the Cargill Elevators. With much interest we have read articles pertaining to this issue.

Cargill Grain terminal has been operating here for many years serving the agriculture industry; agriculture is a vital part of the local economy. If Cargill would close its doors, it would be detrimental to not just our ag community but to all of us.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that residential and tourism zones cannot easily co-exist alongside commercial industry; elevators produce noise, dust and hours of operation that may be disruptive to residential enjoyment especially in the fall season.

We (Lambton CFFO farmers) see the need for Cargill to stay and residential development close by will hinder its viability. If it takes an MZO to protect its existence, then we would support that. If there are other ways where Cargill could continue to operate with some development, we would be interested in a proposal on how this could happen without ever being detrimental to this elevator.

We urge the council to protect the operation of this elevator in our community. Feel free to contact us should you have any questions to cffolambton@gmail.com. Representatives from our board are also available for an in person meeting to discuss this issue if desired by any councillors.

Regards,

John Zekveld, president

On behalf of Lambton Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

CC 04-05-26



J. Paul Dubé, Ombudsman

BY E-MAIL

March 23, 2026

Council for the County of Lambton
c/o Kevin Marriott, Warden
789 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

Dear members of Council for the County of Lambton:

Re: Closed meeting complaint

My Office received a complaint that a closed meeting held by council for the County of Lambton (the “County”) on May 7, 2025 contravened the open meeting rules. The complaint alleged that a proposal to donate County-owned land in the City of Sarnia was improperly discussed during this closed meeting.

I am writing to advise that following my Office’s review, I have determined that the meeting did not contravene the open meeting rules.

Ombudsman’s role and authority

The *Municipal Act, 2001* (“the Act”)¹ gives anyone the right to request an investigation into whether a municipality has complied with the Act in closing a meeting to the public. Municipalities may appoint their own investigator, but the Act designates the Ombudsman as the default investigator for municipalities that have not appointed their own. My Office is the closed meeting investigator for the County of Lambton.

My Office has investigated hundreds of closed meetings. To assist municipal councils, staff, and the public, we have developed an online digest of open meeting cases. This searchable repository was created to provide easy access to the Ombudsman’s

¹ SO 2001, c 25.

483 Bay Street, 10th Floor, South Tower / 483, rue Bay, 10^e étage, Tour sud
Toronto, ON M5G 2C9
Tel./Tél. : 416-586-3300 Facsimile/Télécopieur : 416-586-3485 TTY/ATS : 1-866-411-4211
www.ombudsman.on.ca

Facebook : facebook.com/OntarioOmbudsman X : x.com/Ont_Ombudsman YouTube : youtube.com/OntarioOmbudsman



decisions on, and interpretations of, the open meeting rules. Council members and staff can consult the digest to inform their discussions and decisions on whether certain matters can or should be discussed in closed session, as well as issues related to open meeting procedures. Summaries of the Ombudsman's previous decisions can be found in the digest: www.ombudsman.on.ca/en/info-public-bodies-and-officials/municipal-government/municipal-meeting-digest.

The Ontario Ombudsman also has the authority to conduct impartial reviews and investigations of hundreds of public sector bodies. This includes municipalities, local boards, and municipally-controlled corporations, as well as provincial government organizations, publicly funded universities, and school boards. In addition, the Ombudsman's mandate includes reviewing complaints about the services provided by children's aid societies and residential licensees, and the provision of French language services under the *French Language Services Act*. Read more about the bodies within our jurisdiction here: www.ombudsman.on.ca/en/make-complaint/what-we-can-help-you/organizations-you-can-complain-about.

Review

My Office reviewed relevant meeting records, including the agenda, minutes, and closed meeting report. My Office also spoke with the Acting Clerk and Warden regarding the concerns raised by the complaint.

The May 7, 2025 meeting

Council met in chambers on May 7, 2025, at 9:01 a.m.

At 9:03 a.m., council resolved to move *in camera* to consider six items, of which one – a potential disposition of a County-owned piece of land located in the City of Sarnia – was the subject of the complaint to my Office. This item was closed under the exception for acquisition or disposition of land.

The closed meeting minutes contained minimal description of the discussions that occurred in closed session. The Warden and Clerk explained to my Office that, in closed session, council discussed a staff report about the disposition of a County-owned piece of land, as well as the terms and conditions of a draft agreement disposing of the land, and the County's interests in the agreement. We were told that council's discussion was about specific commercial elements of the draft agreement and that one member raised a question to staff about one of these elements. Council provided direction to staff in relation to the disposition of the piece of land discussed.

Council returned to open session at 9:44 a.m., and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Analysis

Council relied on the open meeting exception for acquisition or disposition of land to move *in camera* on May 7, 2025. This exception allows closed session discussions about a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by a municipality.² The purpose of the exception is to protect a municipality's bargaining position during negotiations for a land transaction, and for the exception to apply, a municipality must be either acquiring or disposing of the land.³ The exception does not apply to speculative discussions about land transactions.⁴

The complainant told my Office that, in their understanding, the County went on to dispose of the piece of land discussed at the May 7, 2025 meeting for a nominal amount. The complainant said they believed that the exception for acquisition or disposition of land would not apply to land donated for a nominal amount, as the municipality would have no bargaining position to protect.

A municipality's bargaining position in the context of a land transaction is not limited to cost considerations for the land. In addition to cost considerations in a land transaction, I have consistently found that the exception for acquisition or disposition of land also applies to discussions about other terms and conditions of the sale.⁵ For example, in a report to the City of Port Colborne, my Office found that a discussion about the effects of a specific condition of an agreement of purchase and sale of land was permissible in closed session under this exception.⁶

In this case, council's closed meeting discussion concerned specific terms and conditions of a proposed land transaction for a specific property owned by the County. Council had a bargaining position to protect in its negotiations to dispose of the land and this position could have been adversely affected by public disclosure of the details discussed during the closed session. Accordingly, the closed session discussion about the disposition of the piece of County-owned land fits within the exception for acquisition or disposition of land.

² Letter from Ombudsman to the Town of Orangeville (24 January 2014), online:

<<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/en/our-work/municipal-meetings/township-russell-march-6-2025>>.

³ *Burk's Falls / Armour (Village of / Township)*, 2015 ONOMBUD 26, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/gtp6w>>.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Temagami (Municipality of) (Re)*, 2024 ONOMBUD 6 (CanLII), online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/k4j1b>>; *Jocelyn (Township of) (Re)*, 2024 ONOMBUD 12 (CanLII), online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/k6vgw>>; *Essex (Town of) (Re)*, 2025 ONOMBUD 7 (CanLII), <<https://canlii.ca/t/kg8bd>>.

⁶ *Port Colborne (City of)*, 2015 ONOMBUD 32 (CanLII), online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/gtp7c>>.

Records of the meeting

In this case, the minutes for the May 7, 2025 meeting lacked details about the discussions that took place. As a best practice, I encourage council to keep complete and comprehensive minutes of closed sessions in the future. Minutes should include a detailed description of the substantive and procedural matters discussed. Keeping comprehensive minutes helps members of the public feel confident that matters dealt with in closed session are appropriate for *in camera* discussion and that the requirements of the Act have been followed.

My Office also confirmed that there was no audio recording of the closed session. As a best practice, I have consistently recommended that all municipalities make audio or video recordings of all meetings, both open and closed.⁷ Audio or video recordings of closed sessions provide the clearest and most accessible record for closed meeting investigators to review and assist in ensuring that officials do not stray from the legal requirements during the closed session.

Conclusion

Council for the County of Lambton did not contravene the *Municipal Act, 2001* on May 7, 2025 when it moved *in camera* to discuss the potential disposition of a piece of County-owned land located in the City of Sarnia.

I thank the County for its co-operation during my review. The Clerk has confirmed that this letter will be included as correspondence at an upcoming council meeting.

Sincerely,



Paul Dubé
Ombudsman of Ontario

Cc: Ryan Beauchamp, Acting Clerk, County of Lambton

⁷ *Bruce (County of) (Re)*, 2022 ONOMBUD 7 (CanLII), online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/jpbf9>>.

CC 04-01-26



St. Clair Civic Centre 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ontario N0N 1M0
Phone 519-867-2021 • www.stclairtownship.ca

January 14, 2025

MMAH Minister Fleck
17th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

Re: Protection for the long-term prosperity of Cargill Sarnia Grain Terminal

During the regular meeting held on January 12, 2026, Council for the Township of St. Clair passed a motion to send a letter of strong support to ensure the continued prosperity of Cargill's Sarnia Grain Terminal which plays a vital role in our local and regional economy.

The Sarnia Grain Terminal contributes significantly to diverse economic activity through transportation, marine shipping, and supply-chain services that many local and regional farmers rely upon. Preserving this terminal and not limiting its viability in the area is essential.

At the same time, the Township recognizes and supports the importance of community growth with an emphasis on mixed-density local housing. Expanding housing options is vital for affordability, and economic growth.

The Township believes these priorities can advance together. With strategic planning, the Cargill Sarnia Grain Terminal can continue to support the local and regional farmers and economic development, while also enabling well-designed mixed-density housing that aligns with the identified Provincial priorities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts to balance economic strength with sustainable community development.

Sincerely,



Jeff Agar, Mayor
Township of St. Clair

CC:
MPP Bob Bailey
MP Marilyn Gladu

 <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND SOCIAL PLANNING
PREPARED BY:	Ian Hanney, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 2, 2026
INFORMATION ITEM:	Overflow Shelter Update

BACKGROUND

At the July 5, 2023 meeting, County Council established shelter as part of its number one priority.

#3: Bradley/White: That County Council publicly endorse making affordable housing and shelter the number one priority of County Council.

Carried.

At the May 7, 2025 meeting, County Council reaffirmed shelter as part of its number one priority, notably adding supportive housing.

#8: McRoberts/Cook: That County Council publicly endorse making affordable and supportive housing and shelter the number one priority of County Council.

Carried.

On November 5, 2025, in [a report entitled “Out of the Cold Overflow Shelter”](#), County Council received an overview of shelter demand, partnerships and contingencies related to shelter operations, and the Overflow Shelter closure outlook. The report explained that a projected timeline for the closure of the Overflow Shelter was uncertain as that timeline must be evaluated based on several evolving factors, some of which are outside of the County’s control. Subject to the community need for shelter spaces, the County committed to the goal of reviewing the Overflow Shelter closure in the spring of 2026. This report seeks to provide County Council with that review, using current shelter demand and local homelessness data.

DISCUSSION

Available shelter beds, and very strong local housing outcomes are the primary reasons for the very low number of encampments in the County of Lambton. While the County remains committed to closing the Overflow Shelter as soon as feasible, timing for that closure must be guided by local demand for emergency shelter services in order to avoid increased encampments locally. The County monitors this demand closely and continues to frequently receive referrals from the community, including Sarnia Police Services, social service partners, and member municipalities, inquiring about available shelter beds. Accordingly, the Overflow Shelter program has continued to see steady demand. This demand for and utilization of the Overflow Shelter allows Divisional staff to more easily facilitate permanent housing placements and reduces the rates of unsheltered homelessness in Lambton County, with fewer than 20 individuals identified as being unsheltered on any given night.

Current Service Demand

There continues to be elevated demand for shelter services, with a modest decrease in recent weeks. The Overflow Shelter program has had an average occupancy rate of 80% since the last report in November. This demand was very high across the several instances of particularly cold weather in the winter, and modestly lower in February 2026. In recent weeks, it is typical to have approximately 10 male beds available between the Overflow Shelter and the Good Shepherds Lodge.

Since fall 2025, the By-Name List has experienced record high inflow, with approximately 60 individuals being added per month. In late 2025 and early 2026, on average, more than one individual has newly experienced homelessness¹ every day in Lambton County. Most of these individuals are Sarnia residents, and demand for shelter services during this period has been significantly higher than in previous years, including during peak pandemic levels.

Below is an illustration for February 2026, where 58 individuals entered homelessness in Lambton County. However, within that same month, 19 households progressed into permanent housing from homelessness. In addition, 11 young children also progressed into permanent housing from homelessness. This data is reflective of the highly dynamic nature of local homelessness rates, including extremely high demand for services, alongside strong local housing outcomes.

¹ This refers to any type of homelessness, not specifically unsheltered homelessness.

LAMBTON'S MONTHLY
Homelessness Data

Total Homelessness
(Individuals per Month)

305 **325** **339***
Dec. Jan. Feb.



*This includes everyone in shelters, transitional housing, living unsheltered, or precariously housed (e.g., couch surfing), tracked through a [comprehensive, real-time list](#). It is compiled using HIFIS, in strong collaboration with local agencies, and verified by information known to Social Services through our delivery of Ontario Works.

www.lambtononline.ca/bepartofthesolution

#BePartoftheSolutionLambton

Housing Outcomes

Moving individuals from homelessness into permanent housing remains difficult due to barriers such as high cost of rents, low vacancy rates, documentation gaps, complex needs, and upfront costs. For individuals receiving Ontario Works, the maximum shelter allowance of \$390 per month is far below typical one-bedroom rents of over \$1,300, creating a gap that requires subsidies. Landlord hesitancy toward tenants with low income, credit issues, or housing instability further limits options and prolongs experiences of homelessness.

Despite these challenges, all available resources are being used to move people, especially shelter residents, into permanent housing. Between November 2025, when 30 individuals were in the Overflow Shelter, and the end of February 2026, the homelessness prevention team secured housing for more than 100 individuals experiencing homelessness, totaling over three times the original occupancy of the Overflow Shelter. This level of production is exceptionally strong compared to many comparator communities; it is a record high for Lambton County, and it has been facilitated largely using private market housing and scatter site supports. For many experiencing chronic homelessness and regularly relying on shelter services, fixed site supportive housing with intensive supports is required to achieve permanent stable housing, however, this is currently not available in our community.

Impacts of Early Closure

Ensuring adequate emergency housing capacity is necessary to avoid the level of significant encampments experienced in many other Ontario communities, including their negative impacts on neighbourhoods, increased burden on various local services, and significantly increased harm to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Drastically heightened numbers of encampments across the province are why many communities and most service system managers are expanding emergency housing programming, despite its high cost. Comparatively, the County's existing emergency housing programming is experiencing a steady inflow and outflow of individuals, indicating that the County emergency housing capacity is adequate to meet current demand.

Closing the Overflow Shelter would increase unsheltered homelessness, with more than 20 individuals likely moving into encampments across Sarnia. This would place added strain on police, EMS, by-law enforcement, hospitals, and outreach services, while worsening health outcomes and stability for those affected, most of whom are Sarnia residents.

It would also reduce the ability of local member municipalities to enforce encampment protocols due to the loss of approximately half of available shelter beds. Beyond human impacts, unsheltered homelessness significantly increases municipal costs, including healthcare, emergency services, policing, and enforcement, further straining local budgets.

Contingencies and Site Usage

Since opening, the Overflow Shelter has responded to strong public and municipal demand for increased capacity. County staff have implemented [numerous mitigation strategies](#) and multidisciplinary partnerships to improve operations and reduce community impacts. Moreover, as of November 3, 2025, co-located day programming ended with the launch of the HART Hub, significantly reducing traffic at the site.

The County of Lambton, The Inn of the Good Shepherd, Sarnia Police Services, and the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church continue to meet regularly with representatives from the surrounding Melrose Community Group to offer updates and respond to evolving concerns. County of Lambton outreach teams and third-party security services have supported adherence to new site restrictions and monitored nearby activity during the transition.

Steps taken to reduce traffic on site, in addition to extensive mitigation strategies, have led to positive outcomes. There is concurrence from recent meetings with the Melrose Community Group that traffic and related incidents surrounding the Overflow Shelter have decreased since our last report in early November. This shared understanding between the community group, security, and the shelter provider (The Inn of the Good Shepherd), is strongly supported by data.

Site visits by clients are closely tracked through the delivery of our social services. There has been a reduction of client visits by more than 50% since closing the day programming

in November 2025. As reported below, overall site visits are also a fraction of their totals since before November 2025. This data shows that there has been a dramatic reduction in emergency services to the site, or even events tagged as associated with the site along the entire Exmouth St corridor.

- Since November 2025, there has been a reduction in Sarnia Police Service occurrences tagged to the site by more than 80%. Of those recent occurrences, the majority are pro-active patrols.
- This trend is also reflected in Lambton EMS data that demonstrates a notable decrease in calls regarding behavioral concerns, including those related to alcohol or drugs. There was a further 30% reduction in such calls in the first quarter of 2026, compared to the last quarter of 2025. This follows a 60% reduction in the first three quarters of 2025 compared to 2024.

This shows a meaningful and ongoing reduction in overall presence and use of emergency services at this site. The EMS CHIC team also frequently conducts proactive engagement at the Overflow Shelter, to reduce harm for clients, and reduce reliance on emergency services.

Closure

The timeline to close the Overflow Shelter is uncertain and depends on several factors, many of which are beyond the County's control, particularly demand for shelter services. The County has and will continue to take steps toward closure, including ending day programming and pursuing affordable and supportive housing options. Supportive housing projects that provide high needs support at a level not currently available in the community are needed to truly address the homelessness crisis.

While the Overflow Shelter remains necessary, the County is committed to closing it as soon as it is feasible and responsible to do so. Although full closure is not recommended at this time, current utilization rates do see an average of 10 male beds being under-utilized between the Overflow Shelter and the Good Shepherd's Lodge, supporting a reduced capacity at the Overflow Shelter from 35 to 25 beds. This step has been taken proactively to reduce Overflow Shelter operations based on shelter demand. Staff will continue to monitor usage closely and report to Council on a bi-monthly basis any changes affecting capacity.

Further, staff continue to assess potential alternative locations to replace the Overflow Shelter operation. One potential alternative location has been identified, in partnership with the Inn of the Good Shepherd. Preliminary discussions are focused on assessing feasibility, including operational requirements and associated costs, in collaboration with the organization's executive leadership and board. If the location is deemed viable, staff will report back to Council accordingly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with the Inn of the Good Shepherd, Sarnia Police Services, Manager, Lambton County Emergency Medical Services, Manager, Homelessness Prevention and Social Planning, Manager, Housing Services, General Manager, Social Services, County Solicitor/Deputy Clerk, and the C.A.O.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Delivering emergency 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 and the Inn of the Good Shepherd have implemented extensive mitigation measures for the Overflow Shelter operations, in addition to site use changes that have resulted in a substantial decrease in traffic and related incidents surrounding the Overflow Shelter.

Overflow Shelter Update (page 7)

April 2, 2026

The County remains firmly committed to closing the Overflow Shelter program at the earliest responsible opportunity. The timeline for this closure is dependent largely on local demand for emergency shelter services. The County continues to monitor this demand closely and will provide bi-monthly reports to council regarding shelter demand. Recent overall demand for homelessness services is at record highs, despite concurrent markedly high housing outcomes. Within this elevated overall system demand, recent shelter demand has modestly decreased, resulting in a recent reduction in capacity at the Overflow Shelter from 35 to 25 beds. Staff will report to Council on any alternative sites for emergency housing that are assessed as potentially viable.

MINUTES
COUNTY OF LAMBTON AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 05, 2026

A meeting was held at Committee Room #1 in the County of Lambton Administration Building at 10:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair Mr. G. Atkinson, Councillor, County of Lambton and Members, Ms. J. Rombouts, Mr. J. Zekveld. Ms. J. Ball, Mr. R. Core, Mr. M. Rombouts, Mr. B. Podolinsky, Mr. B. Williamson. Staff members were present, including Mr. K. Marriott, Warden, County of Lambton, Mr. J. Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, Ms. C. Nauta, Manager, Development Services, Mr. W. Nywening, Senior Planning Official, Development Services, Ms. L. Klompstra, Executive Assistant, Office of the CAO. Mr. B. Boyle, Facilitator was also in attendance.

Regrets

Mr. C. Anderson, Ms. J. Maw, Mr. H. van Wieren, Mr. D. Bryson and Mr. E. Willemse.

Guests

Ms. J. Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Coordinator, St. Clair Conservation Authority.

Welcome

Mr. G. Atkinson welcomed the group to the meeting. congratulations extended to Blair Williamson on his appointment as Chair of the Agriculture Hall of Fame.

CLAAC members can communicate with staff by emailing claac@county-lambton.on.ca.

Approval of Minutes

The County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes dated November 27, 2025 were presented.

#1: J.Rombouts/M. Rombouts: That the County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes dated November 27, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

CLAAC March 05, 2026 (page 2)

Approval of Agenda

The County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda dated March 05, 2026 be accepted as presented.

#2: J. Ball/M. Rombouts: That the County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda dated November 27, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Additions

There were no additions to the agenda.

Items for Discussion

A) International Plowing Match

Mr. J. Cole shared updates, provided by the organizing committee, on the 2027 International Plowing Match, including recent advocacy efforts and promotion activities, along with details of the upcoming Volunteer Information Night on March 26, 2026, and the continued need for volunteers, particularly those with emergency management experience.

B) Cargill Request for Minister's Zoning Order

Members discussed Cargill's request for a Minister's Zoning Order, reviewing potential impacts on government authority, development pressures, agricultural exports, rural/urban land use conflicts, environmental and safety considerations, and long-term implications for farmers and local municipalities.

CLAAC noted a unified position in support Cargill's request for Minister's Zoning Order and considered possible advocacy actions for CLAAC, County Council, farm groups, and Cargill.

C) Land Stewardship Program Update

Mr. J. Cole and Ms. J. Van Zwol shared an update on the Lambton County Stewardship Program highlighted 2025 achievements, including well decommissioning, livestock fencing projects, successful grant leverage, and the importance of stable long-term funding.

Future priorities discussed included the need for windbreaks, educational outreach on soil and drainage impacts, and challenges related to woodlot preservation under development pressure.

CLAAC March 05, 2026 (page 3)

Warden Marriott joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

D) Lambton County Official Plan and Planning Issues

Mr. W. Nywening provided an overview of planning matters, including requirements under the County Official Plan review, updated Land Needs Assessments based on projected population growth, new Provincial Policy Statement obligations such as Agricultural Impact Assessments, and changes permitting additional accessory dwelling units on farms, with discussions focusing on balancing growth with the preservation of prime agricultural land.

E) Agricultural Hall of Fame

Mr. B. Williamson share that the Lambton Agricultural Hall of Fame accepts nominations for individuals or organizations that have contributed to and beyond the agricultural community until March 31st.

Nominations can be submitted at any time of the year, and before that date to www.lambtonfederation.ca.

Adjournment

#3: B. Podolinsky/J. Ball: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned.

Carried.

Time: 12:10 p.m.

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON

BY-LAW NO. 10 OF 2026

"A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council, which were adopted up to and including April 2, 2026"

WHEREAS it has been expedient that from time to time, the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton should enact the resolutions or motions of Council;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed advisable that all such actions which have been adopted by resolution or motion of Council only, should be authorized by By-Law;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of The Corporation of the County of Lambton enacts as follows:

1. That all actions of Council which have been authorized by a resolution or motion of Council and adopted in open Council and that were recorded in the minutes of Council or the minutes of a Committee of Council and accepted by Council up to and including April 2, 2026, be hereby confirmed.

THIS BY-LAW read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 2nd day of April, 2026.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Olivia Leger
Clerk