



LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

714 Murray Street, R.R. 1, Trenton, Ontario K8V 0N1

■ Tel: 613-394-4829 ■ Fax: 613-394-5226 ■ Website: www.ltc.on.ca ■ Email: information@ltc.on.ca

Registered Charitable Organization No. 107646598RR0001

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors refers to the General Membership as set out in the Lower Trent Conservation Administrative By-Law No. 2023-01

Administration Office, 714 Murray Street, Trenton
Virtually [Join Meeting HERE](#)

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

4. Approval of the Agenda

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

5. Delegations

There are no requests for delegations received for this meeting.

6. Public Input (3 minutes per speaker)

7. Adoption of the Minutes:

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2025 be adopted; and

THAT the Hearing Board Meeting and Closed Session Hearing Board Meeting Minutes for application RP-25-011 be adopted.

Page # 4

8. Business arising from these minutes

CORRESPONDENCE

9. Correspondence – Rhonda Bateman, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

None received

STAFF REPORTS

10. **Monthly Payments Issued** – Chitra Gowda, Manager, Corporate Services Page # 14
 RECOMMENDED:
 THAT the list of payments issued in the total amount of \$302,500.70 for the month of April 2025 be received as information.

11. **Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Reports** – Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Page # 15
 a. Summary of Permits for Period March 29 – April 25, 2025
 b. Planning and Regulations
 c. Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) and Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR)
 RECOMMENDED:
 THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Reports be received as information.

12. **Annual Monitoring Program Report Report** – Gage Comeau Page # 21
 a. Lower Trent Conservation 2024 Annual Watershed Monitoring Program Report
 RECOMMENDED:
 THAT the Lower Trent Conservation's 2025 Annual Monitoring Program Report be received as information and distributed to our municipal partners.

13. **Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template** – Rhonda Bateman Page # 66
 a. Conservation Ontario Council Memo March 5, 2025
 b. Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template
 RECOMMENDED:
 THAT the Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template be adopted for use.

14. **Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Program** – Anne Anderson Page # 79
 April 2025 Newsletter
 RECOMMENDED:
 THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Newsletter for April 2025 be received as information.

15. **CAO's Report** – Rhonda Bateman Page # 82
 RECOMMENDED:
 THAT the CAO's Report be received as information.

16. **Closed Session**
 RECOMMENDED:
 THAT the Lower Trent Conservation Board of Directors move into closed session to

discuss Litigation or potential litigation under Municipal Act (s. 239(2)(e)); and
Matters about an identifiable individual and labour relations or employee negotiations under
Municipal Act (s. 239(2)(b) and (d)).

17. Members Inquiries/Other Business

18. Adjournment

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

Chitra Gowda 613-394-3915 ext. #215

chitra.gowda@ltc.on.ca



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors refers to the General Membership as set out in the Lower Trent Conservation Administrative By-Law No. 2023-01

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING # 2025-03

DATE: April 10, 2025

TIME: 2:12 PM

LOCATION: Administration Office, 714 Murray Street, Trenton / Virtually

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

ON SITE		REMOTE SITE
Eugene (Gene) Brahaney (Chair)	Rick English	Lynda Reid
Sherry Hamilton (Vice-Chair)	Bob Mullin	Eric Sandford
Mike Ainsworth	Jeff Wheeldon	

ABSENT: Jim Alyea, Bobbi Wright

STAFF: Rhonda Bateman, Chitra Gowda, Gage Comeau, Anne Anderson, Chris McLeod, Massimo Narini

GUESTS: None

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brahaney at 2:12 p.m.

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

"This land is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnabek, Huron-Wendat, and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) peoples. We acknowledge our shared responsibilities and obligations to preserve and protect the land, air and water. We are grateful to have the privilege to meet, explore, and connect here on these shared lands. In the spirit of friendship, peace and respect, we extend our thanks to all the generations that came before us and cared for these lands - for time immemorial."

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

4. Approval of the Agenda as amendedRES: G32/25

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations received for this meeting.

6. Public Input (3 minutes per speaker)

There was no public input at this meeting.

7. Adoption of the Minutes:

Board Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025 and March 17, 2025

RES: G33/25

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Mike Ainsworth

THAT the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025 be adopted; and

THAT the Hearing Board Meeting and Closed Session Hearing Board Meeting Minutes for application RP-25-022 to RP-25-024 from March 13, 2025 be adopted; and

THAT the Hearing Board Meetings and Closed Session Hearing Board Meetings Minutes for applications RP-24-232 and RP-25-002 from March 17, 2025 be adopted.

Carried**8. Business arising from these minutes**

None.

CORRESPONDENCE**9. Correspondence**

- a. Congratulatory letter to MPP Piccini
- b. Congratulatory letter to MPP Bresee
- c. Congratulatory letter to MPP Allsopp

RES: G34/25

Moved by: Sherry Hamilton

Seconded by: Lynda Reid

THAT the correspondence be received as information.

Carried**STAFF REPORTS****10. List of Monthly Payments Issued**RES: G35/25

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the list of payments issued in the total amount of \$226,190.86 for the month of March 2025 be received as information.

Carried**11. 2024 Surplus Allocation**

Rhonda Bateman explained the proposed use of surplus as outlined in the staff report. She added that Canada Summer Jobs federal funding was confirmed on that day for two positions including a Category 3 position that supports LTC education and communication activities.

RES: G36/25

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the 2024 Category 1 operating surplus be allocated to the following Category 1 expenses:

\$35,500 be allocated for a six-month contract for the Conservation Lands Maintenance Assistant position; and

Funding be allocated for the organizational and salary review.

THAT the 2024 Category 2 operating surplus of \$16,493 remain with the source protection risk management and education and outreach for 2025.

THAT the 2024 Category 3 operating surplus of \$51,902 be allocated to the following Category 3 reserves and expenses:

\$13,382 to the Category 3 Community Stewardship Reserve; and

\$25,000 to the Category 3 Youth Education; and

\$13,520 be used for local monitoring.

Carried

12. Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Reports

Director Rick English noted the significantly lower number of permits compared to similar timeframes in previous years. Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations, explained that the winter season slowed down development activities; however staff continued to manage a large number of inquiries, inspections and enforcement activities.

Director Lynda Reid noted a concern about creek banks being dug out in the vicinity of 1538 Frankford Stirling Road for which a permit was issued. She noted a similar observation on the west side of Frankford Stirling Road. Gage Comeau replied that tiling is being done at 1538 Frankford Stirling Road. A house is being rebuilt at the other property. The drainage contractor had dug out the roadside ditch in that location in close proximity to the creek. He added that LTC is in contact with each of the property owners regarding the respective projects.

- a. Summary of Permits for Period March 1 – March 28, 2025
- b. Planning and Regulations
- c. Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) and Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR)

RES: G37/25

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton

THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Reports be received as information.

Carried

13. Watershed Health Assessment and Brook Trout Monitoring Project

Massimo Narini, Watershed Services Specialist, presented on the project per the detailed staff report in the agenda package. Director Lynda Reid noted a minor edit to be made to the brook trout report. Director Mike Ainsworth asked for reasons for the decline in brook trout. Massimo Narini replied that there could be several factors such as competing salmon spawning, sea lamprey weirs, and sedimentation. Gage Comeau added that there is a wider variation in water temperature now than a decade ago. Higher than average water temperatures affect brook trout. Director Mike Ainsworth asked if rainbow trout are prone to more diseases and Massimo Narini replied that overall, there are higher rates of diseases observed in fishes.

RES: G38/25

Moved by: Lynda Reid

Seconded by: Eric Sandford

THAT the Lower Trent Conservation's Watershed Health Assessment and Brook Trout Monitoring Pilot Project report and presentation be received as information.

Carried

14. Conservation Lands Report - March 31, 2025

RES: G39/25

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Lynda Reid

THAT the Conservation Lands Report for the period January 1 – March 31, 2025 be received as information.

Carried

15. Education and Outreach Activities Report – March 31, 2025

RES: G40/25

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton

THAT the Summary of Education and Outreach Activities Report for the period January 1 – March 31, 2025 be received as information.

Carried

16. Summary of Risk Management Official Activity Report – April 1, 2025

RES: G41/25

Moved by: Eric Sandford

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the Risk Management Official Activity Report pursuant to Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* report for the period of January 1 to April 1, 2025 be received as information.

Carried

17. Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Program

a. March 2025 Newsletter

b. BQRAP Annual Report Year Ending March 31, 2025

RES: G42/25

Moved by: Mike Ainsworth

Seconded by: Sherry Hamilton

THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Newsletter for March 2025; and

THAT the BQRAP Annual Report for year ending March 31, 2025 be received as information.

Carried

18. CAO's Report

Rhonda Bateman thanked all of the member municipalities for the allocation payments received for 2025.

RES: G43/25

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Bob Mullin

THAT the CAO's Report be received as information.

Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

19. Members Inquiries/Other Business

Director Jeff Wheeldon asked if Lower Trent received confirmation on the participants from Brighton Council for the Proctor Park Pavilion committee. Rhonda Bateman replied that participants are confirmed.

As discussed at the March 13, 2025 LTC regular Board meeting, the Ontario Headwaters Institute discussion paper was circulated by Rhonda Bateman to member municipalities after the meeting.

Director Sherry Hamilton provided an update to the members. She said that the Township of Cramahe reviewed the Ontario Headwaters Institute discussion paper at the March 25, 2025 Council meeting and passed a resolution stating "BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Cramahe expresses its support for the Ontario Headwaters Institute's discussion paper, "We Need to Talk About Watershed Security", and commits to engaging in further dialogue and actions that support the protection and management of watersheds within our region".

20. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RES: G44/25

Moved by: Sherry Hamilton

Seconded by: Rick English

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Time: 3:03 p.m.

Gene Brahaney, Chair

Rhonda Bateman, CAO/ST



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

**LOWER TRENT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HEARING BOARD
for
O. Reg. 41/24 PERMIT APPLICATION #RP-25-011**

MINUTES

DATE: April 10, 2025

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Administration Office, 714 Murray Street, Trenton / Virtually

PRESENT:

ON SITE		REMOTE SITE
Eugene (Gene) Brahaney (Chair)	Rick English	Lynda Reid
Sherry Hamilton (Vice-Chair)	Bob Mullin	Bobbi Wright
Jeff Wheeldon	Mike Ainsworth	Eric Sandford

ABSENT: Jim Alyea

STAFF: Rhonda Bateman, Chitra Gowda, Gage Comeau, Scott Robertson, Kim Stephens

APPLICANTS: Property Owner – James Brouwer

Agent – Brad Graham

GUESTS: None

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brahaney at 1:00 p.m.

2. Motion for the Board of Directors to sit as the Hearing Board

RES: HC16/25

Moved by: Sherry Hamilton

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the Board of Directors sit as the Lower Trent Conservation Hearing Board.

Carried

3. Opening Remarks by Chair for RP-25-011

Chair Brahaney made the following remarks:

We are now going to conduct a hearing under Section 28.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act in respect of an application by James Brouwer, for permission for construction of a two-storey habitable 2500ft² clubhouse structure with deck, within the Shelter Valley floodplain and within 30 metres of a wetland at 1225 Shelter Valley Road, Township of Alnwick/Haldimand, Northumberland County Geographic Township of Haldimand, Concession A, Part of Lot 18-19.

The Authority has adopted regulations under section 28.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act which requires the permission of the Authority for development within an area regulated by the Authority in order to ensure no adverse effect on the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, unstable soils or bedrock, or to permit alteration to a shoreline or watercourse or interference with a wetland. This Hearing is about granting permission to develop under the Authority regulations; a separate matter from approvals under the Planning Act.

The Staff has reviewed this proposed work and a copy of the staff report has been given to the applicant.

The Conservation Authorities Act (Section 28.1 [5]) provides that:

“(5) An authority shall not refuse an application for a permit or attach conditions to a permit unless the applicant for the permit has been given an opportunity to be heard by the authority.”

While holding this hearing, the Hearing Board is to determine whether or not a permit is to be issued, with or without conditions. In doing so, we can only consider the application in the form that is before us, the staff report, such evidence as may be given and the submissions to be made on behalf of the applicant. Only information disclosed prior to the hearing is to be presented at the hearing. It is not our place to suggest alternative development methods.

It is to be noted that if the Hearing Board decision is “to refuse” or not support the proposed work within the permit submission, the Chair or Acting Chair shall notify the owner/applicant of his/her right to appeal the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunals.

The proceedings will be conducted according to the Statutory Powers Procedure Act. Under Section 5 of the Canada Evidence Act, a witness may refuse to answer any question. The procedure in general shall be informal without the evidence before it being given under oath or affirmation. If the applicant has any questions to ask of the Hearing Board or of the Authority representative, they must be directed to the Chair of the Board.

At this time, if any member of this Board has intervened on behalf of the Applicant with regards to this matter, they should recuse themselves so there is no apprehension of bias and that a fair and impartial Hearing may be conducted.

4. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

There was no disclosure of pecuniary interests for this Hearing.

5. Staff Report and Presentation

Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations presented the comprehensive staff report to the Hearing Board as provided in the agenda package.

Director Jeff Wheeldon asked about the rate of flow of Shelter Valley Creek. Gage Comeau responded that the flow is approximately 63.6 cubic meters per second during a 1 in 100 year event; the velocity is around 3 cubic meters per second; and the water depth is 10 to 20 centimeters. The proposed building is a considerable distance away from the stable top of bank.

Director Rick English asked about impact to egress/ingress. Gage Comeau responded that there is safe access from Shelter Valley Road to the proposed structure.

Director Mike Ainsworth noted that he has seen flooding in the general area, but not within the subject property which is approximately 20 feet away from Shelter Valley Creek. He added that he has seen ice jams occur in the Creek. Gage Comeau said that the bridge on the Creek acts as a berm, creating backflow conditions because the size of the bridge cannot accommodate higher flows.

6. Applicant Presentation

The property owner James Brouwer presented the proposal as provided in the agenda package. He added that he took over the operations of the golf course from his mother in March 2025 and explained that the property has been in the family for a long time. James Brouwer said that the proposal, if approved, will help cover the operating costs and provide high-class recreation for the region at a reasonable cost.

Director Bob Mullin asked if it is intended for the operations to be seasonal. James Brouwer responded that it is intended for the operations to be year-round, including potential winter activities such as snow shoeing. He added that the clubhouse needs to be updated and could be used to host weddings in the future.

Brad Graham, the property owner's agent, added that the proposal would provide the area with a play and stay location; and that currently it is a 9-hole golf course that can offer much more with the proposed development.

Director Lynda Reid asked if the property owner has observed flooding on the property. James Brouwer responded that his mother has not had flooding issues at the clubhouse.

7. Additional Information Sharing

a. Additional Questions from the Board

There were no additional questions from the Board.

b. Comments or Questions from the Applicant

There were no additional comments or questions from the Applicant.

c. Comments or Questions from Staff

There were no additional comments or questions from Staff.

8. Deliberation (In-Camera/Closed Session)

RES: HC17/25

Moved by: Eric Sandford

Seconded by: Rick English

THAT the Hearing Board move to closed session.

Carried

Guests and Staff left the meeting for the Hearing Board to carry out deliberation in closed session.
Time 1:26 pm.

RES: HC18/25

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the Hearing Board move out of closed session.

Carried

Time 1:36 pm.

Guests and Staff returned to the Hearing Board meeting.

9. Motion on the Hearing Board Decision for RP-25-011

The Board will approve the permit with the following conditions:

- *Permit be valid for a period of 5 years to allow for the proposed development within the identified work area noted in the grading plan and flood assessment report (Jewell Engineering, dated February 28, 2025);*
- *Final grades of the filled and graded area are to be surveyed and provided to LTC confirming any floodplain changes;*
- *Side slopes of all fill material are to be graded to a 3:1 (horizontal: vertical) slope ratio;*
- *Development activities are limited to the area identified in the plans, and development activities are prohibited within the wetland features identified by Cambium Inc. (February 14, 2025 EIS);*
- *Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures are to be implemented prior to construction, maintained in good repair during the construction phase, and remain in place until all disturbed soil surfaces have become stabilized and/or revegetated to prevent the movement of sediment away from the construction site;*
- *All disturbed areas are to be revegetated (e.g., reseeded using a native seed mix) upon completion of the permitted works as soon as planting conditions permit;*
- *Local drainage is to be maintained; and,*
- *LTC staff are to be contacted and advised of when the work is being undertaken.*

RES: HC19/25

Moved by: Lynda Reid

Seconded by: Eric Sandford

THAT the permit application RP-25-011 be approved with conditions as provided by staff.

Carried

10. Motion to adjourn the Hearing Board

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RES: HC20/25

Moved by: Sherry Hamilton

Seconded by: Bob Mullin

THAT the Hearing Board meeting for permit application RP-25-011 be adjourned.

Carried

Time: 1:41 pm


Gene Brahaney, Chair

Rhonda Bateman, CAO/ST

Lower Trent Conservation
Payments LOG - APRIL 2025

CHEQUE # / EFT #	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
	Staff Payroll	Apr/25 Payroll Period #7 and #8	128,794.61
EFT 76642952	OMERS	Apr/25 Pension Contributions	23,646.80
EFT 76643040	Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB)	Apr/25 WSIB Premium	3,980.41
EFT 76642893	Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada	May/25 Group Benefits Premium	8,627.16
EFT 76643163	Nesda Technologies Ltd	Monthly IT services, project and tickets fees	2,343.06
EFT 76643078	CIBC VISA	Apr/25 Payment	2,843.66
EFT 76643197	Staff	Staff Expenses - Reimbursed	176.78
17089	Massimo Narini	Staff Expenses - office supplies - Reimbursed	78.12
17090	Keith Taylor	Staff Expenses - travel - Reimbursed	40.00
17091	Anne Anderson	Staff Recognition - years of service	200.00
17092	Enbridge	Utilities - gas - Admin bldg	385.05
17093	Templeman LLP	Assistance with CRA account update	1,339.05
17094	Pitney Bowes Leasing	Postage machine refill	22.12
17095	407 ETR	407 highway toll	198.60
17096	Hydro One Networks Inc.	Utilities - electricity - Goodrich Loomis	91.04
17097	Brighton Springs	Drinking water for Admin bldg	58.50
17098	Uline Canada Corporation	Office supplies	98.12
17099	Purolator Inc.	Courier	11.12
17100	OT Group - DCB Business Systems Group Inc	Monthly Photocopier Usage Service fees	345.42
17101	Trenton Home Hardware Building Centre	Property/building maintenance, equipment, janitorial	255.35
17102	Sandra Field	Return of Ontario Lands surveyor deposit for RP-22-287	500.00
17103	Donald Lawrence	Return of Ontario Lands surveyor deposit for RP-22-231	500.00
17104	Janeen Zweerink	Return of Ontario Lands surveyor deposit for RP-22-269	500.00
17105	Peterborough Fire Extinguishers Inc.	Annual fire extinguisher inspections	332.62
17106	Flynn Forestry and Tree Services	Hazard tree removal - Trenton Escarpment NHA	678.00
17107	Marsh Canada Limited	LTC Insurance Invoice 1 (2025-26)	63,659.92
17108	Practica	Dog waste station at Seymour CA, dog waste bags	1,161.75
17109	Staples Commercial	Office stationary supplies	323.20
17110	Emerald Cleaners	Admin bldg and Workshop cleaning	1,378.60
17111	B&T Sales	Janitorial supplies	203.01
17112	Caduceon Enterprises Inc.	Water analysis lab costs	1,847.22
17113	Quinte Conservation	2025 SODA Wiski hosting fee	3,254.55
17114	Welch LLP	Audit 2024 Year end balance	3,955.00
17115	City of Quinte West	Utilities - water/sewer - workshop	79.94
17116	Waste Management of Canada Corporation	Waste Services - Workshop	118.32
17117	River Institute	BQRAP - interim report	1,050.00
17118	Alanna Boulton	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	225.60
17119	Alexander Hukowich	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	247.20
17120	Cecil Ryall	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	286.40
17121	Dave Workman	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	248.00
17122	Faye Langmaid	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	257.60
17123	George Offshack	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	280.80
17124	Glenn Milne	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	225.60
17125	Mike Gibbs	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	230.00
17126	Philip Niblett	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	257.60
17127	Richard Straka	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	216.80
17128	Robert Lake	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	216.80
17129	Terry Rees	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	200.00
17130	Tracey Taylor	Mar27/25 Source Prot. Comm. per diem and mileage	245.60
17131	CDW Canada Corp.	Printer Ink	436.22
17132	Marsh Canada Limited	LTC Insurance Invoice 2 (2025-26) - cyber security	2,600.55
17133	Battlefield Equipment Rentals	Small equipment maintenance - chainsaw parts	32.91
17134	Louis Alan Limited	Dump trailer - galvanized 5 ton with combo gate	15,849.88
17135	Telizon Inc	Monthly Telephone Lines	514.56
17136	Hydro One Networks Inc.	Utilities - electricity - admin bldg, workshop, GLCC	960.84
17137	Cogeco Connexion Inc.	Monthly Internet Services - workshop	135.54
17138	Brighton Springs	Drinking water for Admin bldg	48.75
17139	Free Flow Petroleum	Monthly Vehicle and Equipment Fuel	667.39
17140	Emerald Cleaners	Admin bldg and Workshop cleaning	2,757.20
17141	Staples Commercial	Office stationary supplies	582.79
17142	Toby Farrell	Staff Expenses - Training travel - Reimbursed	652.57
17143	Jack Smith	BQRAP rural stewardship - cover crop	1,350.00
17144	Enbridge	Utilities - gas - workshop	353.23
17145	Bell Mobility Inc.	Monthly Cellular Phones - Service	225.08
17146	407 ETR	407 highway toll	53.63
17147	Obsentia	Vehicle maintenance	79.04
17148	Quinte Conservation	BQRAP stewardship program	18,000.00
17149	PitneyWorks	Postage costs	0.42
17150	Danka Brewer	2025 Water Festival honorarium - Indigenous blessing	650.00
17151	Canadian Ski Patrol - Fronteanc Zone	2025 Water Festival honorarium - First Aid services	335.00
Total of Payments			302,500.70

Agenda Item #11a

<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of Permits Approved by Staff <i>Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits</i> Prepared by: Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations For Period: March 29, 2025 to April 25, 2025</p>								
								
Permit #	Municipality	Ward	Geographic Township	Concession	Lot	Street Address	Regulated Area	Permitted Activity
P-24-232 (Board Approved)	Brighton	Brighton Town	Cramahe	1	1	Cedar Street	Butler Creek floodplain; Arena Creek floodplain; Field Verified Wetland (allowance)	To undergo the required site preparation to support future development including the placement of approximately 31,000 m3 of engineered fill material, excavation of an existing deteriorated berm and construction of a drainage channel to convey the potential Arena Creek spill
P-25-009	Trent Hills	Seymour	Seymour	14	14	408 Lake Road	Trent River floodplain (allowance); unevaluated wetland (allowance)	To construct a 24' x 32' garage on concrete slab
P-25-022 (Board Approved)	Quinte West	Frankford	Sidney	6	3-4	260 North Trent Street	Trent River floodplain	To undergo the required site preparation and fill placement to support a future dwelling structure
P-25-023 (Board Approved)	Quinte West	Frankford	Sidney	6	3-4	260 North Trent Street	Trent River floodplain	To undergo the required site preparation and fill placement to support a future dwelling structure
P-25-024 (Board Approved)	Quinte West	Frankford	Sidney	6	3-4	260 North Trent Street	Trent River floodplain	To undergo the required site preparation and fill placement to support a future dwelling structure
P-25-049 (Minor)	Alnwick/Haldimand	Haldimand	Haldimand	1	14-15	1806 Shelter Valley Road	Shelter Valley Creek, Shelter Valley Creek floodplain; unevaluated wetland (allowance)	To remove gravel deposits from within Shelter Valley Creek
P-25-050 (Minor)	Cramahe	Colborne Village	Cramahe	2	29	Durham Street North	Field verified wetlands; tributary of Colborne Creek (allowance)	Install 1251 metres of 2" plastic pipe along with 76 3/4" services
P-25-052 (Minor)	Alnwick/Haldimand	Haldimand	Haldimand	A	27	624 Lakeshore Road	Unevaluated wetland (allowance)	Install a new 3/4" PR gas service
P-25-053	Quinte West	Murray	Murray	CPL	4	31 East Vista Terrace	Lake Ontario tributary; unevaluated wetland; Wellers Bay Complex Wetland (allowance)	To undergo the construction of a single-family dwelling and site grading
P-25-054 (Minor)	Brighton	Brighton Town	Murray	B	32-34	Prince Edward Street	Proctors Creek; Proctors Creek floodplain; Arena Creek floodplain; tributaries of Lake Ontario and Presqu'ile Bay Marsh (allowance)	Install fibre optic cable under Harbour Street and along Prince Edward Street
P-25-056	Trent Hills	Percy;Seymour	Percy;Seymour	(P): 9-10, (S): 6-7	(P): 22-24, (S): 1-6	County Road 35	Various wetlands, watercourses and hazard lands (allowance)	Install fibre optic lines throughout Trent Hills area in Northumberland County along the existing roadways
P-25-057	Quinte West	Sidney	Sidney	BF	27	1812 Old Highway 2	Bay of Quinte flood & erosion hazards (allowance); unevaluated wetland (allowance)	To construct a single-family dwelling and conduct grading works for a landscape pool area
P-25-059	Quinte West	Murray	Murray	10	4	170 Wickens Road	Trent River floodplain (allowance)	To construct a 42' x 24' park model trailer on a crushed gravel base
P-25-060	Trent Hills	Seymour	Seymour	14	7	128 Lucky Strike Road	Trent River floodplain	Raise and relocate the existing dwelling, and to construct a crawlspace beneath the dwelling
P-25-062	Trent Hills	Seymour	Seymour	12	14	150 Woodland Estate Road	Trent River floodplain (allowance)	To demolish the existing cabins and to install a new septic system
P-25-063	Quinte West	Murray	Murray	A	7	26 Parkland Circle	York Creek floodplain (allowance)	To construct a single-family dwelling
P-25-064	Quinte West	Murray	Murray	A	7	28 Parkland Circle	York Creek floodplain (allowance)	To construct a single-family dwelling
P-25-065	Quinte West	Murray	Murray	A	7	30 Parkland Circle	York Creek floodplain (allowance)	To construct a single-family dwelling
P-25-066	Quinte West	Murray	Murray	A	7	32 Parkland Circle	York Creek floodplain (allowance)	To construct a single-family dwelling
P-25-067	Quinte West	Murray	Murray	A	7	34 Parkland Circle	York Creek floodplain (allowance)	To construct a single-family dwelling
P-25-069 (Minor)	Brighton	Brighton Town	Cramahe	BF	5	5 Turtle Court	Lake Ontario flood hazard (allowance); Presqu'ile Bay Marsh PSW (allowance)	To construct a covered deck extension

Agenda Item #11b.



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 25, 2025
To: LTC Board of Directors
Re: Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations UPDATE
Prepared by: Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations update be accepted as information.

BY THE NUMBERS:

Here are the numbers for new files and deliverables in 2025 and compared to similar numbers for previous years. Highlighted boxes indicate that 2025 has MORE files to date than previous years.

Table 1. File review – New files and deliverables in 2025 versus previous years

	# Files for 2025 (as of April 25, 2025)	Dates for Similar Number for Previous Years (Total for Year)			
		2024	2023	2022	2021
Permits	74	Mar 27 (283)	Mar 23 (320)	Mar 29 (398)	Apr 6 (383)
Planning	66	Apr 9 (204)	May 3 (213)	Apr 5 (310)	Mar 24 (259)
Complaints	24	May 8 (96)	Jun 13 (74)	May 31 (66)	May 20 (65)
Enforcement	8	Feb 14 (39)	Feb 9 (39)	Feb 22 (63)	Mar 29 (45)
Online Inquiries	344	Apr 2 (1435)	Jun 22 (1003)	May 16 (738)	Mar 25 (1132)
Legal Requests	8	Jan 8 (49)	May 2 (58)	Apr 6 (36)	Apr 8 (48)
Clearance Letters	24	May 17 (102)	Jun 20 (52)	Dec 1 (25)	n/a
Site Visits	72	May 15 (303)	Jun 29 (246)	Apr 27 (363)	May 28 (282)

Watershed Management

- LTC Planning and Regulations staff attended the Quinte Home and Cottage Show between April 4 to April 6, 2025. Staff interacted with over 150 people over the weekend and consulted with several local builders and developers. We provided information to members of the public on our various programs including but not limited to: planning and regulations, Flood Forecasting and Warning, native plant sale, Source Water Protection and our local conservation area trails.
- LTC staff attended the Eastern Ontario Planning and Regulations Regional meeting to discuss common issues and legislative changes. The scope of the meeting was to determine ways for the Eastern Ontario Conservation Authorities to bring out consistency when implementing Ontario Regulation 41/24.
- LTC staff presented to the South Central Ontario Conservation Authority (SCOCA) working group on the Wetland Offsetting policies, specifically the evolution of the policies and improvements made by staff over the past couple of years. It was requested that LTC present on our wetland offsetting policies to

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assist other Authorities that do not currently offsetting policies in place. Staff will be meeting with other Conservation Authorities to help develop similar policies in June.

- Update - LTC staff have assisted Trent Hills with the required legislative requirements for the Trout Creek Dredging project. Design plans and rationale descriptions were provided as part of the project plan. The project documents have been submitted to Trent Hills for review and LTC staff will continue to work with Trent Hills on the permitting submissions.
- Staff are reviewing the Wetland Assessment Waiting list for 2025 and will be scheduling assessments for the middle to end of May.
- LTC Flood Forecasting and Warning staff are participating in a beta test from March 2, 2025 to April 30, 2025 that provides forecasted streamflow and water levels for our local creeks/streams. Staff are using the program daily and it has provided a set of tools that were not previously available. A move to purchase the software in the future could be warranted where it could provide a valuable service.

Online Inquiries

For the month of April, inquiry submissions are continuing at a steady rate with an observable increase towards the end of the month following the ice storm. Staff continue to work on inquiry files that require a greater amount of staff time to properly educate landowners and proponents due to highly complex proposals and site conditions. Many of these files have required site visits or additional staff time to assist with the preparation of technical documents or project plans. This trend appears to be increasing as historical sites that were easy to develop have been built up and developed while the remaining vacant properties or newly severed lots may contain features or site conditions that are more difficult to develop. As usual, to ensure a timely response time, we are asking that people continue to use our online inquiry service and avoid directly contacting staff unless they are following up on a pre-existing file.

Permitting & Regulations:

The month of April saw an increase of permit submissions following a decline in submission rate during the month of March. This trend continued with an increase in the number of complaints received as well (10 since the last report). Although the number of permits received so far this year is on the lower end, a review of the permit numbers over the past decade shows that we are still above average. When compared to the past 4 years, it is important to note that permit numbers saw drastic increases during and immediately after COVID where permit submissions were far greater than previous years. Lower interest rates and surplus of funds for groups of individuals led to a vast increase in development projects between 2020 to 2023. Based on the economic conditions, market uncertainty, legislation changes and other various factors, a decline in permit numbers was expected for 2024 and beyond. For 2025, staff are expecting that the volume of permit files will start to equalize, but with the market uncertainty it is difficult to predict at this time. Lastly, enforcement files are down compared to previous years and below the average. Staff are hopeful that we will continue to see a low enforcement number and that the education and outreach opportunities utilized by Regulations staff are driving landowners to be in compliance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*. We also contribute this low number to the great working relationships LTC staff have with our Municipal partners, which ensure landowners reach out to us to discuss all development related projects.

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Ongoing Permit files:

- Staff have prepared and presented for **1** Permit Hearing, issued **21** permits since the previous reporting period with **0** permit amendments issued.
- Staff are currently reviewing and commenting on **19** open 2025 permit files and **34** files from previous years (includes requested permit amendments and Hearing files that require conditions to be met).
- Staff met with the Developer for Spencer Street (VOSKAMP) to discuss next steps following the permit denial by the Board. The meeting was incredibly successful, and staff believe that the project will move forward in a direction that can be supported by the Board Approved policies and procedures.
- Staff have initiated the process of updating the Regulatory Policy document and hope for the document to be completed by the end of the second quarter in 2025. Various stakeholders have been contacted regarding this update, and we are hoping to get positive feedback for the update.
- Staff will be presenting to the Quinte Home Builders Association on May 20, 2025 and will be looking to obtain further feedback following the presentation.

Planning:

- LTC Staff reviewed and commented on **17** Subdivision and Condominium Files in 2025 (new and ongoing). Since the last reporting period, LTC Staff reviewed and/or commented on **10** Subdivision and Condominium files. Many of these files are ongoing and staff expect to work on these continuously throughout the year.
- Since the last reporting period, LTC Staff reviewed and commented on **18** Planning Act Applications (Severances, Zoning By-law amendments, Official Plan amendments, Site Plan Control applications and/or Minor Variances). Additionally, we are reviewing several technical reports for pre-consultation files including but not limited to; **1** site plan and **5** Environmental Impact Studies.

Lastly, a friendly reminder to let your Municipal staff know that LTC is here to assist our Municipal partners where possible. LTC Staff can walk landowners through our permitting process, the planning process and other procedures/processes that may be applicable to their proposal or inquiries. LTC Staff are incredibly knowledgeable and we are here to help the residents of our Watershed on LTC programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Staff recommends to the Board of Directors that the Planning and Regulations Update be accepted as information.

Agenda Item #11c.



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 25, 2025
To: LTC Board of Directors
Re: Flood Forecasting and Warning UPDATE
Prepared by: Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Flood Forecasting and Warning Update be accepted as information.

BY THE NUMBERS:

Here are the number of flood communications issued and compared to the total number of statements issued in previous years.

Table 1. Number of flood communications issued by Staff.

Statements	Flood Communications Issued (as of April 25, 2025)	Total Number for Previous Years						
		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019*	2018
Water Safety	1	5	4	2	2	3	8	2
Flood Outlook	3	2	8	4	4	5	5	5
Flood Watch	3	2	2	0	0	3	6	7
Flood Warning	4	0	2	0	0	0	13	0
Total (System)	11	9	15	6	6	11	32	14

*Lake Ontario water levels were highly elevated during 2019, which led to a high volume of flood warning statements and updates.

Summary of Current Conditions (since last report)

February to April has been filled with several small to moderate precipitation events, which has led to an eventful Spring freshet season (see Table 2). Through the month of April, staff have issued and released 5 flood statements due to high flows and water levels through the Trent River. On April 2, 2025, a Flood Watch was issued as the water levels and flows increased drastically due to snowmelt and the large volumes of precipitation received through March. High flows and water levels continued through the month of April and are still high to date; however, steady declines have been observed since the system peaked on April 12, 2025. An assessment of the Spring Freshet data shows that the upper reach of the Trent River experienced 10-year flows while the lower reach experienced a 5-year flow during this event. Over the month of April, stream flows were slightly above average and representative of the spring season. As we continue to progress through Spring, it is expected that stream flows and water levels will be higher than normal as the systems receive runoff from snowmelt and seasonal rainfall.

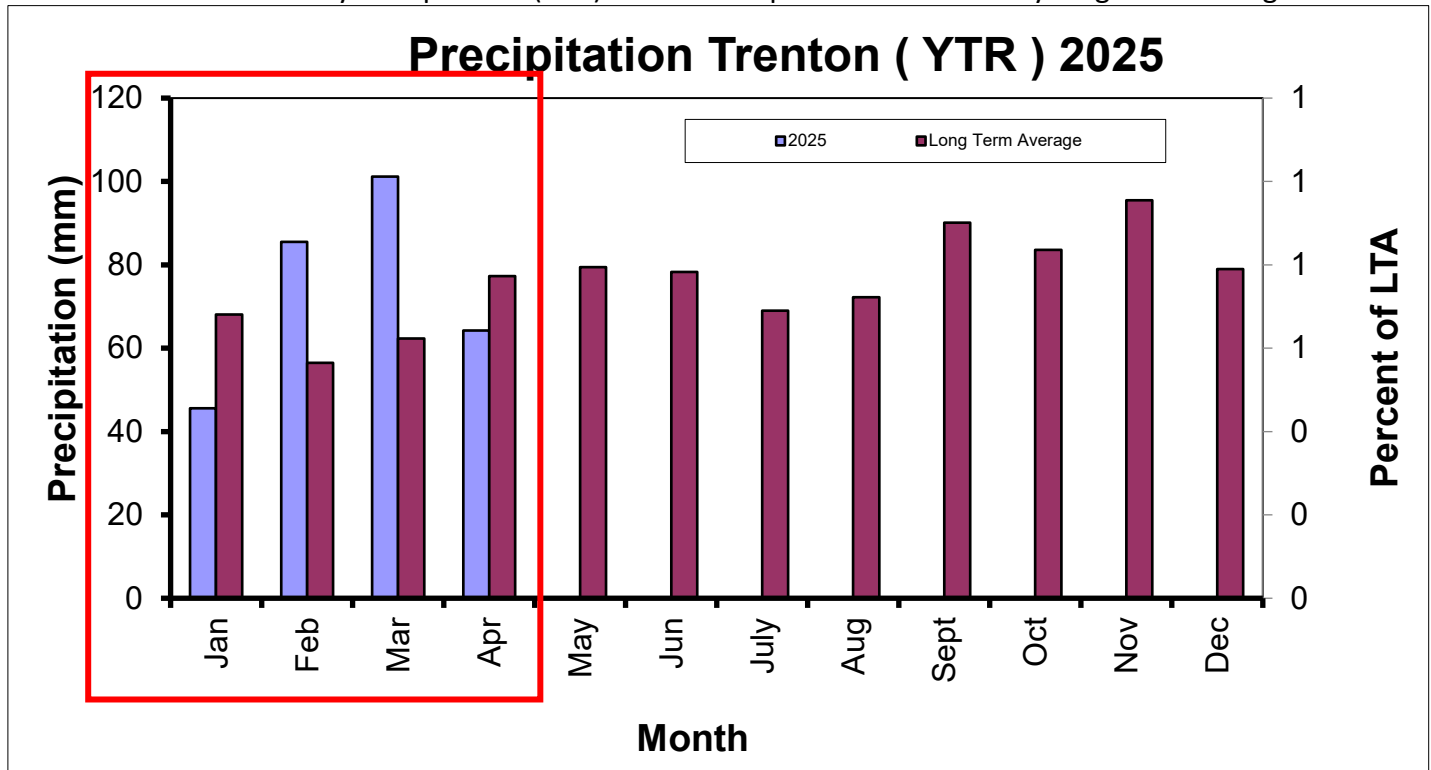
LTC staff will continue to review the weather and stream conditions and will report further if there appears to be any potential flood or worsened drought issues.

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Local Creeks

The local creeks and streams are currently experiencing seasonal averages for streamflow and water level. Some of the local systems are seeing slightly higher than average streamflow and water level, and this is due to receiving higher rainfall volumes than other areas. Staff will be continuing to review the conditions and forecast for updates.

Table 2. Observed Monthly Precipitation (mm) in 2025 compared to the monthly long-term average.



Trent River

The Trent River system is experiencing above-seasonal average flow and water levels as it continues to receive run-off from the Upper Trent River watershed. As we continue through the Spring Freshet, higher flows and water levels are expected over the next few weeks as water continues to move through the system. LTC is working with Parks Canada to ensure that appropriate messaging is out in a timely manner as water levels fluctuate. If there are any concerns or issues with the water levels on the Trent River system, owners are advised to contact Parks Canada-Trent Severn Waterway. Water levels and flows are expected to return to normal (i.e., summer navigation levels) for the opening of the navigation season in May.

Lake Ontario

Currently, water levels are **below** average (approximately 12 cm below average) for this time of year. Staff are continuing to review weather conditions for any high wind events that may result in storm surges with waves exceeding 1 meter; however, with the lower than normal water levels, staff are not expecting any issues at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Flood Forecasting and Warning Update be received as information.

Agenda Item #12



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 25, 2025
To: Board of Directors
Re: LTC 2024 Annual Monitoring Program Report
Prepared by: Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management,
Planning and Regulations

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) 2024 Annual Monitoring Program report be received as information.

BACKGROUND:

The Annual Monitoring Program report has been a stable product at LTC for several years and it provides a detailed summary of the results collected from the various monitoring programs. Specifically, this report provides an annual summary of the watershed conditions on an annual basis and provides staff reference information for initiating stewardship, monitoring or pilot projects.

Many external agencies and individuals rely on our annual report for various initiatives including universities and research bodies, and it provides a detailed look at the overall health of our watershed on a year-to-year basis. Furthermore, it helps provides the groundwork for our Watershed Report Card that is issued every 5-years.

Attached is the summary of the Annual Monitoring Program report that outlines the current programs and watershed conditions that are undertaken each year to monitor the health of the LTC Watershed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends to the Board of Directors that the LTC 2024 Annual Monitoring Program report be received as information.



Lower Trent Conservation

2024 Annual Watershed Monitoring Program Report

May 2025



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

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Introduction

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) has established a suite of aquatic monitoring programs to monitor the health of our watershed over time. These monitoring programs include both LTC funded programs, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) funded programs. LTC programs are Benthic invertebrate monitoring, Baseflow monitoring, long-term water Temperature monitoring, and LTC Surface Water Monitoring. The provincial programs are: Surface Water Quality Monitoring through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) and the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). The monitoring programs help establish a background of information that is needed to understand the health of our region and inform program development to protect and improve water quality.

LTC prepares a Watershed Report Card every 5 years in conjunction with Conservation Ontario following their guidelines and participates in working groups. The information found within this report will help support the information published in our 2026 Report Card, which will include data for 2022-2026.

2024 was the first complete season that the Watershed Services Specialist oversaw the monitoring programs. Incremental changes were noted from the 2023 sampling season and implemented where possible for 2024, allowing for the monitoring programs to run smoothly and collect data efficiently.

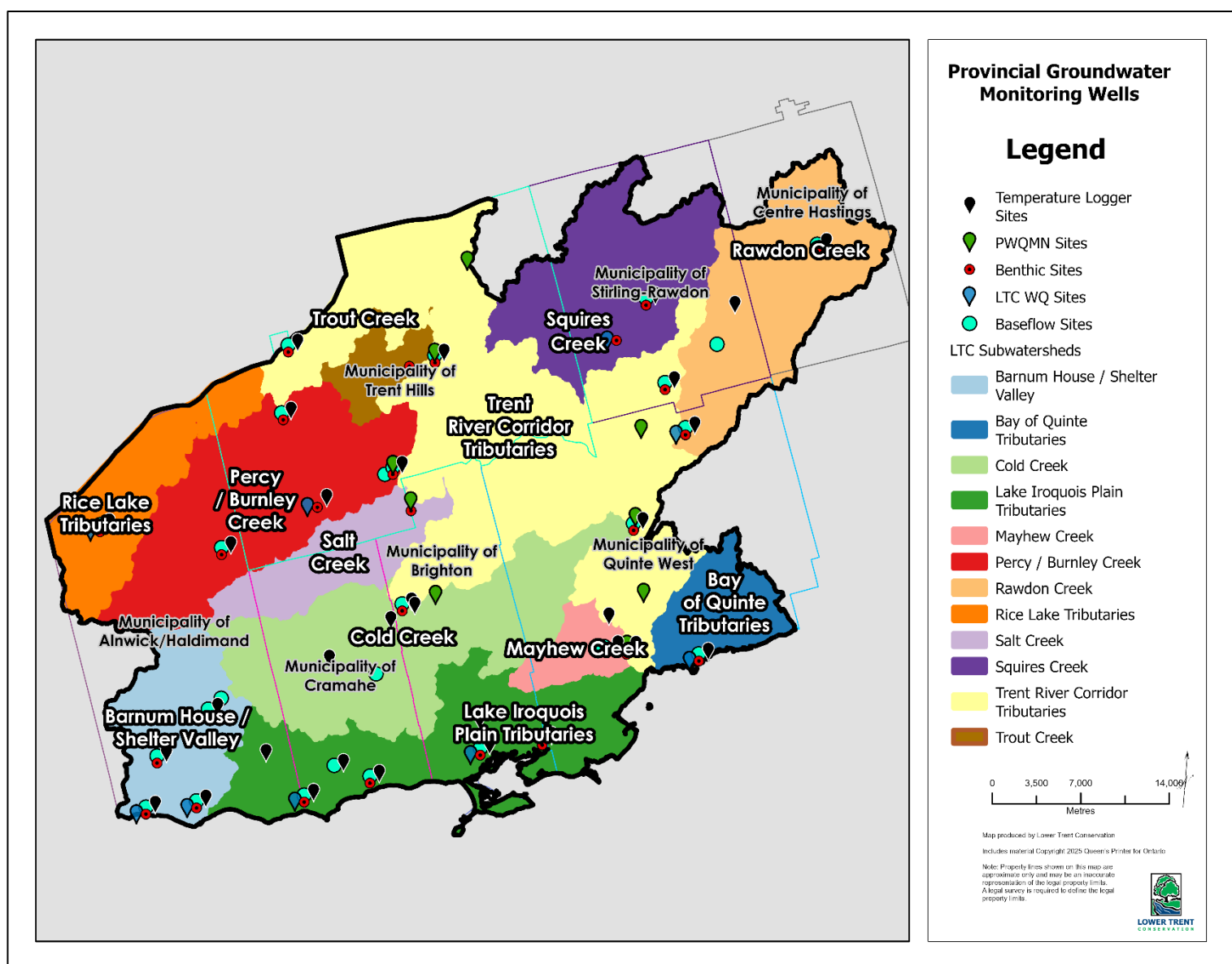


Figure 1: 2024 LTC Monitoring Sites

Purpose

This report is an update of LTC's aquatic monitoring programs for the year of 2024. Each monitoring program will go through the highlights of this year's data, site conditions, and recommendations for the 2025 sampling season and beyond. The goal of this report is to highlight any components of our monitoring programs that may need to be updated, altered or improved for the future success of LTCs monitoring goals.

Benthic Invertebrate Monitoring Program

Introduction and methods

LTC first initiated a benthic invertebrate monitoring program in the spring of 2003 in association with the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN). The OBBN program is an Ontario wide network of sampling sites that have a standardized method of data and sample collection, which allows comparisons across watersheds and across the province. Benthic invertebrates are also an important part of LTCs monitoring programs as they can be indicators of longer-term trends in water quality and potential impairment in comparison to monthly water quality monitoring, where grab samples are simply an instantaneous measurement at a single point in time in a watercourse, benthic invertebrates inhabit a location for longer periods of time.

The results are comprised of the species composition at each site and insight into the degree of organic pollution and possible stream impairment can be determined with high levels of confidence. Multiple parameters and metrics can be calculated using the benthic invertebrate data collected, allowing for a more comprehensive picture than collecting water samples on their own.

The Watershed Report Card utilizes the benthic invertebrates that Conservation Authorities collect annually and illustrate key issues related to water quality and ecological concern within their watershed. The report itself is a simple document that grades the health of individual subwatersheds based on 5 years of data from benthic communities and surface water quality indicators such as, phosphorus and *E. Coli*. The report card is a simplistic tool that helps document watershed health and can be used as part of a comprehensive watershed monitoring program to identify future focus areas for monitoring initiatives and restoration/ stewardship projects.

2024 Benthic Invertebrate Monitoring Season in Perspective

Benthic monitoring was carried out by two summer technicians during the month of June, until the unexpected departure of one of the technicians. Thereafter the Watershed Services Specialist was required to support the remaining staff member to complete sampling in July. Of the 26 annual monitoring sites, 24 were successfully sampled and 2 sites were found to be "unsamplable" due to various conditions (see Table 1).

A variety of community metrics (H' diversity, %EPT, Shannon Weiner Index, Hilsenhoff Index) were used to analyse the 2024 benthic monitoring sites. Starting in 2017, LTC calculates 4 metrics for the benthic invertebrate data collected at each site and this will be the established protocol for LTC until the OBBN program is updated. The Hilsenhoff Index is the only index used for reporting watershed health within the Watershed Report Card. The Hilsenhoff value is associated with a letter grade similar to what would be seen on a student's report card. The index values and information can be viewed in Table 2, while the general conditions and grades for the sites can be viewed in Table 3.

Overall, the majority of the benthic sampling sites have been graded the same or improved from 2023 to 2024, with the exception of 4 sites (see Table 3). The largest change was at BC02, where the grade dropped from an A to a C, which may be that 2023 was an outlier year, with 2 of the last 5 sampling years also scoring a C. With the implementation of more consistent sampling timing to early summer, rather than early to mid summer for 2025 and beyond, this consistency will help eliminate outlier sampling years, allowing for a better understanding of the overall health of the watercourses sampled within the benthic program.

Table 1. 2024 Benthic Sampling Locations (Greyed out sites were unsamplable)

Subwatershed	Site	Coordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude
Barnum House Creek & Shelter Valley	BH01	43.9692787	-78.055378
	BH02	44.00611064	-78.04852955
	SVC01	43.9765702	-78.0061602
	SVC03	44.04228879	-78.00190396
Percy-Burnley Mill Creek	BM02	44.1967677	-77.91120155
	BM03	44.15764773	-78.00197991
	PC01	44.22441128	-77.83931598
	PC02	44.25680878	-77.95194261
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	CLC01	43.9869896	-77.9007222
	BC02	44.03024482	-77.73116962
	SC01	44.00415203	-77.83755564
	SMC01	44.04087289	-77.67091451
Cold Creek	CC01	44.19812403	-77.59731852
	CC02	44.12813863	-77.81933157
Trent River Corridor	KC01	44.30516612	-77.95239709
	MC01	44.29968329	-77.57684698
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	MYC01	44.109042	-77.5229587
Mayhew Creek	MAC01	44.10985477	-77.59467346
Rawdon Creek	RC01	44.26877931	-77.55324277
	RC02	44.4060605	-77.43668541
Rice Lake Tributary	RLT01	44.1667325	-78.1237706
Salt Creek	SAC01	44.199623	-77.818467
Squires-Hoards Creek	SH01	44.35857195	-77.60210868
	SH02	44.33195	-77.628719
Trout Creek	TC01	44.30604886	-77.80640886
	TC02	44.302018	-77.83153
Total Sampled	24		

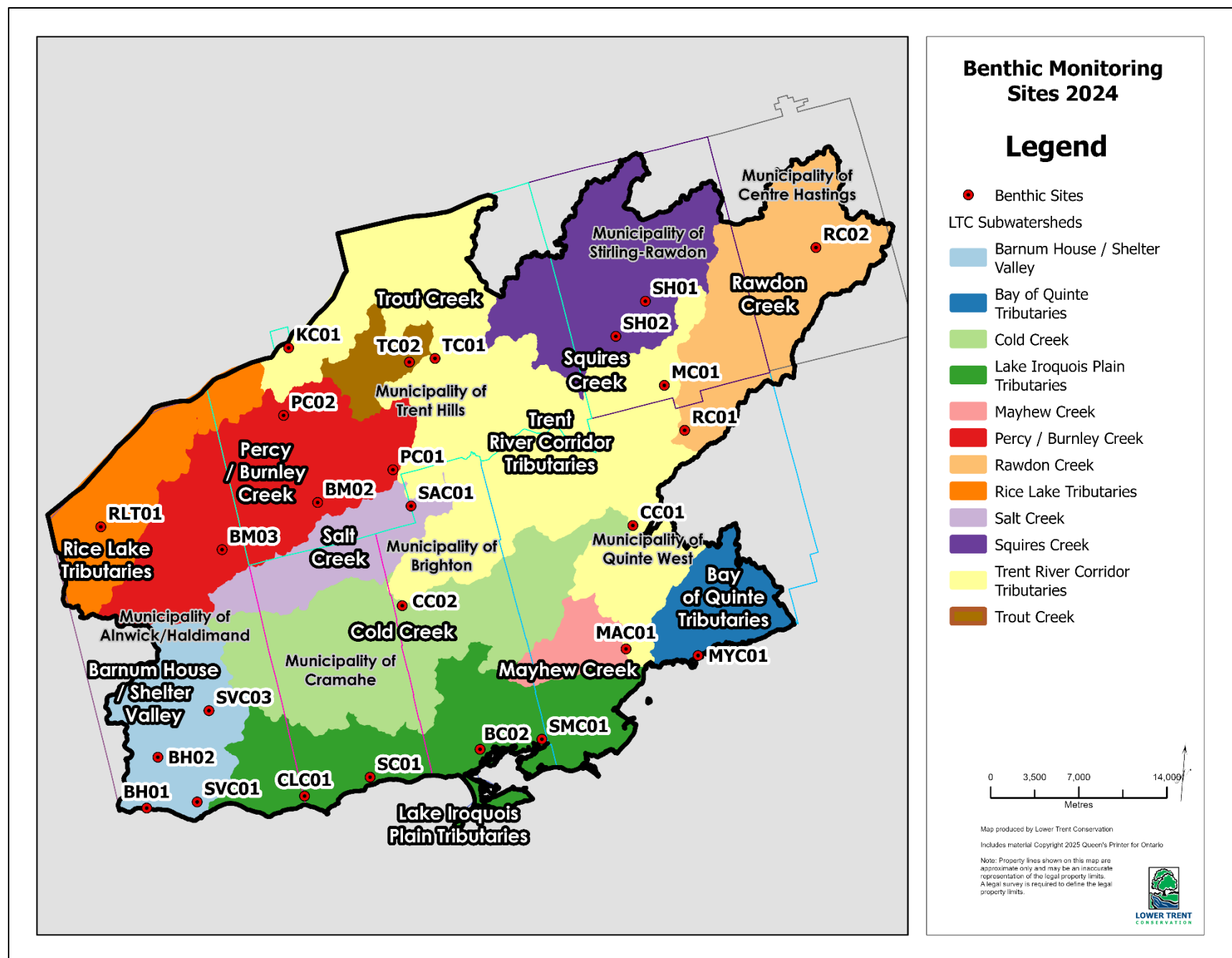


Figure 2. 2024 LTC Benthic Invertebrate Monitoring Sites

Table 2. Index Values for all Benthic monitoring sites. H' Index= Shannon Wiener Index, MD= Missing data. Higher values are indicators of healthier systems for all 3 metrics.

Subwatershed	Watercourse	Site Code	Species Richness	H' Index	%EPT
Barnum House-Shelter Valley Creek	Barnum House Creek	BH01	15	1.60	80.71
		BH02	11	0.49	2.23
	Shelter Valley Creek	SVC01	23	2.35	29.97
		SVC03	24	2.22	30.27
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	Meyer's Creek	MYC01	13	2.02	6.13
Cold Creek	Cold Creek	CC01	17	2.07	28.97
		CC02	32	2.57	34.55
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	Colborne-Lakeport Creek	CLC01	14	1.24	16.32
	Butler (Proctor) Creek	BC02	15	1.56	25.00
	Salem Creek	SC01	20	2.13	53.73
	Smithfield Creek	SMC01			
Mayhew Creek	Mayhew Creek	MAC01	21	1.77	19.95
Percy/ Burnley Creek	Burnley (Mill) Creek	BMC02	27	2.55	59.94
		BMC03	25	2.27	41.20
	Percy Creek	PC01	19	1.98	45.20
		PC02	29	2.38	48.89
Rawdon Creek	Rawdon Creek	RC01	20	1.94	12.30
		RC02	28	2.18	50.00
Rice Lake Tributaries	Rice Lake Tributaries	RLT01	29	2.46	26.24
Salt Creek	Salt Creek	SAC01			
Squire-Hoards Creek	Squire-Hoards Creek	SH01	22	2.28	22.35
		SH02	19	1.98	44.41
Trent River Tributaries	Kiloran Creek	KC01	21	1.73	18.53
	Marsh Creek	MC01	16	1.68	0.94
Trout Creek	Trout Creek	TC01	20	2.23	25.69
		TC02	16	1.49	6.90

Table 3. Hilsenhoff values and site grades for the 26 sites over the past 5 sampling years, 2024 is highlighted in light blue to represent the current year. MD= Missing data. 2020 and 2021 were not sampled.

Subwatershed Name	Site ID	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024
Barnum House/Shelter Valley	BH01	MD	C	D	D	B
	BH02	C	C	MD	MD	D
	SVC01	C	C	C	C	C
	SVC03	A	D	C	C	B
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	MYC01	D	F	D	D	C
Cold Creek	CC01	C	C	C	C	C
	CC02	C	B	A	C	B
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	CLC01	D	D	D	C	C
	BC02	C	C	B	A	C
	SC01	C	C	C	B	C
	SMC01	MD	C	C	D	MD
Mayhew Creek	MAC01	C	C	B	C	A
Percy/Burnley Creek	BMC02	C	C	MD	B	A
	BMC03	D	C	MD	B	B
	PC01	C	C	C	C	C
	PC02	MD	C	MD	MD	B
Rawdon Creek	RC01	D	D	C	C	B
	RC02	D	B	C	B	B
Rice Lake Tributaries	RLT01	A	B	B	B	B
Salt Creek	SAC01	A	C	C	MD	MD
Squires-Hoards Creek	SH01	C	C	D	D	C
	SH02	D	D	B	D	B
Trent River Corridor Tributaries	KC01	C	D	D	MD	D
	MC01	D	C	D	A	B
Trout Creek	TC01	C	D	B	C	C
	TC02	D	D	D	C	D

Issues, Recommendations and Improvements

1. Site **PC02** was identified in the 2023 Annual report as being unsampleable for the 2022-2023 field seasons. The site was successfully moved upstream onto an adjacent landowner's property, who has provided written permission to access the property when needed for LTC monitoring programs. The new PC02 location has been changed for all monitoring programs that utilize this location and LTC staff feel that it is acceptable to compare historical information to the information for 2024 and beyond as the updated site is within the same stream reach as the previous location.
2. Site **SMC01** was deemed unsampleable in 2024 due to an ongoing beaver dam that has been maintained at the sampling site, which has only impeded sampling in 2024. Landowner access will be explored for the 2025 sampling season, shifting the site up or downstream slightly to reduce the impacts seen from the beaver dam.
3. Sites **BH02**, **KC01** and **SAC01** were deemed unsampleable in 2023. In 2024, alternative methods outlined in the OBBN methodology were used for sampling at BH02 and KC01 to fit site conditions and will be utilized moving forward at these locations. **SAC01** was to be sampled in 2024, but access to the site was unsafe due to a large amount of noxious invasive plants, including giant hogweed and wild parsnip. The site will be prioritized in 2025 to be sampled early in the season to avoid the area being overgrown and preventing access.
4. As identified in the 2023 Annual report, samples collected in 2022 were not of high quality due to sampling collection methods. The methodology was improved for 2023, with positive results. This reduction in the amount of sediment in the samples continued in the 2024 samples, allowing for proper identification of the samples.

Future improvements to the benthic invertebrate monitoring program have been identified and are to be implemented on a rolling basis, such as:

- Standardization of the timing window for sampling (May-Early June) for stronger year-over-year comparability. Early sampling will allow for the highest benthic invertebrate diversity to be present, reducing the chances that lower diversity can be attributed to poor water quality/ pollutants. Due to many benthic invertebrates being the juvenile form of many insects, it is difficult to completely capture their diversity before they become adults, but early sampling is the best way to address this. This improvement will be implemented for the 2025 sampling season.
- Additional metrics to be calculated, such as functional feeding groups, for better identification of future focused monitoring within areas where site degradation may be occurring.
- With the intention of changing the program when the next Watershed Report Card cycle starts in 2027 for consistency, LTC is exploring a rotating watershed approach be utilized for site selection, similar to what was established in 2016. The intention would be that the total number of sites sampled each year remains the same, but

more locations throughout each subwatershed can be sampled multiple times over a 5-year period.

Long-Term Temperature Monitoring Program

Introduction/ Methods

The temperature of a stream has a considerable influence on the health of aquatic organisms and is often a deterministic factor in a species presence. The collection of temperature data allows staff to observe changes in thermal regimes over time and assist in assessing the health of local watercourses in conjunction with other LTC monitoring programs. Although, LTC does not have a fish monitoring program, measuring temperature changes over time can help assess the health of a watercourse and the presence of specific freshwater fish, mainly important cold-water fisheries species.

The LTC long-term temperature monitoring program is completed on an annual basis where temperature is recorded every hour from the deployment date in May until the retrieval date in October. A total of 32 sites were assessed and temperature probes deployed (Figure 2). LTC deploys HOBO branded temperature loggers at all 32 sites.

2024 Temperature Monitoring Season in Perspective

In 2024, only 5 sites are missing data, with 4 loggers presumed lost (i.e. presumed buried in sediment, washed away, vandalized etc.) and 1 logger retrieved, but missing data. The loggers that were lost were deployed in locations where the stream bed was sandy, preventing the rebar from remaining stable in the substrate, in a “high traffic” location where people are known to congregate, suggestion theft of the logger and the logger placed at TC01 was removed from its installation on a cinder block, which was unclear whether it was tampered with or damaged through natural stream processes. The addition of a Bathyscope (purchased through external funding for the *Watershed Habitat Assessment and Brook Trout Monitoring Initiative Pilot Project* in 2024), which is an underwater viewer that allows for better visualisation of the stream bed through the water column, was imperative for the effective recovery of the loggers in 2024. Multiple loggers had shifted and were not within the noted areas of deployment, making them more difficult to find. Traditionally, LTC staff must mainly go by feel to attempt to find the loggers, which in many cases can prevent their recovery, especially in areas where there is high sediment within the water column. The Bathyscope allowed for efficient collection of the loggers, reducing staff time devoted to their recovery and allowing for the recovery of more loggers in comparison to using traditional methods. Additional improvements will be made for 2025 to further ensure the recovery of the temperature loggers at the end of the sampling season.

With the reduction in the number of lost loggers in 2023, 2 spare loggers were deployed within the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area (CA lands) at new locations, CC02-HW (HW denoting the headwaters of the property) and CC02-DS (DS denoting the downstream location) to gather information on the potential improvements that the CA lands could be having on the water temperature, with the CC02-HW site location at the furthest upstream area of the Goodrich-Loomis CA property and the CC02-DS site located at the furthest downstream area of the main branch of Cold Creek, before Little Cold Creek enters the main channel, which is where the

annual CC02 site is located. Goodrich-Loomis CA lands have anecdotally been important for cold water fish species (such as Brook Trout) within Cold Creek, but LTC staff felt it was important to support this idea with data specific to water temperature. Analysis of the data shows a reduction in the maximum temperature, minimum temperature and cooling in the thermal regime classification from *cool-warmwater* to *coolwater* in the downstream site vs. the upstream site, showing the positive impacts that protected lands can have on stream temperature regime.

The Cold Creek Fly Fishers, a local fly fishing and conservation club that has access to waters immediately downstream of Goodrich-Loomis CA lands, were consulted in early 2024 about their interest in stream temperature information. They provided anecdotal evidence of the importance of the CA lands, as well as their plan to install additional temperature loggers in their club waters. The data was not analysed as part of this report, but it does not appear that there is a significant change in water temperature averages or temperature regime classification of Cold Creek in this location.

2024 Temperature Monitoring Data Analysis

The 2024 temperature monitoring program was a success due to the limited number of locations missing data, as well as the consistent data collection over the 2023-2024 season, allowing for comparisons to be made at the majority of the sampling sites. All sites that had data collected in both 2023 and 2024 had a consistent temperature regime classification, except for BM03 and BH02, which both were classified in 2024 as a colder regime than in 2023 (moving from a *cool* to *cold-coolwater* classification). The majority of the temperature profiles were found to be in the cool to cold temperature regimes. It is also of note that although temperature regime classification has remained consistent and there is the presence of many cool or cold water classified streams, similar to 2023, there are 10 temperature logger sites with maximum water temperatures that exceed 25°, a known threshold that can be detrimental for even a few days of maintained temperature for aquatic species, such as fish and benthic invertebrates.

Issues and Recommendations

With the improvements that the temperature monitoring program saw for the 2023 and 2024 seasons, the following recommendations will be utilized in 2025 and future years:

- With the loss of 4 loggers in 2024, additional documentation and recommendations will be provided to summer staff on specific locations at each site, methods of securing the loggers and previous issues to best use the year-over-year knowledge that has been gathered about each location to recover more loggers at the end of the 2025 season.
- The 2024 temperature loggers were installed using improved documentation practices, including flagging along the stream banks where loggers were deployed, installing loggers further up or downstream of previous locations where loggers have gone missing due to suspected vandalism/theft and improvements in photo documentation,

in the hopes that there will be a higher percentage of retrieved loggers in the Fall. This will continue to be refined for the 2025 logger deployment.

- O-Rings have been purchased to maintain the temperature loggers, which is thought to be the main area of past failures. Maintenance will be completed on all loggers before the 2025 deployment to prevent data loss due to damage.
- Due to the consistency in temperature regimes at the current locations, it is recommended to create a rotating subwatershed site list similar to the recommendation for the benthic invertebrate program, so that more of the watershed has data, while also getting multiple years of data in a 5-year cycle. Implementation is proposed for the 2026 temperature monitoring program.

Table 4. Thermal Regimes at LTC Temperature Sites from 2018-2024. (Note: 2020 and 2021 are not included as temperature loggers were not able to be deployed)

Site Code	Subwatershed	Watercourse	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024
BH01	Barnum House- Shelter Valley Creek	Barnum House Creek	Warm		Cool-Warm	Cool-Warm	
BH02					Cold-Cool	Cool	Cold-Coolwater
SVC01		Shelter Valley Creek		Cool		Cool	
SVC03						Cool	Cool-Warmwater
BM02	Percy/ Burnley Creek	Burnley (Mill) Creek	Cool-warm	Cool-warm	Cool-Warm		Cool-Warmwater
BM03						Cool	Cold-coolwater
PC01		Percy Creek	Warm	Warm	Warm	Warm	Warmwater
PC02						Cool-Warm	Cool-warmwater
CLC01	Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	Colborne-Lakeport Creek	Cool-warm	Cool-warm	Cool-Warm	Cool-Warm	Cool-warmwater
CLC02					Cold	Cold-Cool	Cold-Coolwater
CLC03					Cool	Cool	Coolwater
BC01		Butler (Proctor) Creek	Cool	Cold		Cold-Cool	Cold-coolwater
BC02						Cool	Coolwater
SC01		Salem Creek			Cool	Cool	Coolwater
SMC01		Smithfield Creek		Cool-warm	Warm	Cool-Warm	Cool-warmwater
CC01	Cold Creek	Cold Creek			Warm	Warm	Warmwater
CC02			Cool-warm	Cool-warm	Cool-Warm	Cool	Coolwater
CC02-HW							Cool-warmwater
CC02-DS							Coolwater
CC04				Warm	Cool-Warm	Cool-Warm	
MC01	Trent River Tributaries	Marsh Creek	Cool, Cool-Warm		Cool	Cool	Coolwater
KC01		Kiloran Creek	Cool-warm	Warm	Cool-Warm		Cool-warmwater
MYC01	Bay of Quinte Tributaries	Meyer's Creek		Warm			Cool-warmwater
MAC01	Mayhew Creek	Mayhew Creek	Warm	Warm	Warm	Warm	
MAC04			Warm	Cool		Cool	Coolwater
MAC05				Warm			Warmwater
RC01	Rawdon Creek	Rawdon Creek	Warm		Cool-Warm	Cool-Warm	Cool-warmwater
RC02			Cool	Cold-cool		Cool	Coolwater
RC04						Cool-Warm	Cool-warmwater
RLT01	Rice Lake Tributaries	Rice Lake Tributaries		Cold		Cold-Cool	Cold-coolwater
SH01	Squire-Hoards Creek	Squire-Hoards Creek	Cool-warm		Cool-Warm	Cool-Warm	Cool-warmwater
TC01	Trout Creek	Trout Creek	Warm				

	Missing Data
	Cold, cold-cool
	Cool, cool-warm
	Warm
	Logger Lost

Table 5. 2024 Temperature monitoring sites, thermal regimes and seasonal (July-August) maximums/ minimums. (The highest maximum is highlighted in red and the lowest maximum is highlighted in green.)

Site Code	Subwatershed	Watercourse	Max (°C)	Min (°C)	Thermal Regime (July-August)
BH01	Barnum House- Shelter Valley Creek	Barnum House Creek			
BH02			18.711	13.654	Cold-Coolwater
SVC01		Shelter Valley Creek			
SVC03			23.1	16.808	Cool-Warmwater
BM02	Percy/ Burnley Creek	Burnley (Mill) Creek	25.416	16.618	Cool-Warmwater
BM03			20.901	14.804	Cold-coolwater
PC01		Percy Creek	27.961	18.711	Warmwater
PC02			24.641	17.284	Cool-warmwater
CLC01	Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	Colborne-Lakeport Creek	25.61	16.903	Cool-warmwater
CLC02			20.71	12.883	Cold-Coolwater
CLC03			22.812	16.713	Coolwater
BC01		Butler (Proctor) Creek	19.73	13.98	Cold-coolwater
BC02			22.56	15.44	Coolwater
SC01		Salem Creek	22.429	15.855	Coolwater
SMC01		Smithfield Creek	25.78	17.16	Cool-warmwater
CC01	Cold Creek	Cold Creek	28.953	20.043	Warmwater
CC02			23.1	15.187	Coolwater
CC02-HW			26.6	16.73	Cool-warmwater
CC02-DS			24.15	15.96	Coolwater
CC04					
MC01	Trent River Tributaries	Marsh Creek	22.525	14.804	Coolwater
KC01		Kiloran Creek	26	15.187	Cool-warmwater
MYC01	Bay of Quinte Tributaries	Meyer's Creek	23.196	15.187	Cool-warmwater
MAC01	Mayhew Creek	Mayhew Creek			
MAC04			21.378	15.282	Coolwater
MAC05			29.652	21.282	Warmwater
RC01	Rawdon Creek	Rawdon Creek	26.781	17.57	Cool-warmwater
RC02			20.615	17.094	Coolwater
RC04			26.292	16.332	Cool-warmwater
RLT01	Rice Lake Tributaries	Rice Lake Tributaries	18.996	13.269	Cold-coolwater
SH01	Squire-Hoards Creek	Squire-Hoards Creek	24.738	17.284	Cool-warmwater
TC01	Trout Creek	Trout Creek			

Missing Data

Cold, cold-cool

Cool, cool-warm

Warm

Logger Lost

Baseflow Monitoring Program

Introduction/ Methods

The baseflow of a stream is a measure of the groundwater recharge contributing to the overall flow. During the summer months it is baseflow that sustains a stream, preventing it from drying up. The constant supply of groundwater is also typically cold and clean which contributes to a steady thermal regime and overall stream health.

At LTC, baseflow has historically been measured on an annual basis in order to characterize the streams under a variety of conditions (e.g., wet vs dry years) and to track any changes that occur. A typical trend found through such monitoring is that development near a watercourse will decrease the relative contribution of baseflow vs surface water runoff, increase the flashiness of the stream (the time it takes to respond to rainfall events), decrease water quality, and increase temperature fluctuations/variability within the stream.

2024 Baseflow Monitoring Season in Perspective

The 2024 baseflow monitoring was improved over the 2023 season with regards to equipment, as the more accurate Pygmy Meter was repaired, calibrated and utilized for the sampling of water flow, rather than the less accurate and/or uncalibrated equipment used in 2023. Unfortunately, as noted previously, one of the Assistant Watershed Monitoring Technicians left their position with LTC at the end of June, which prevented LTC staff from completing 2 sampling events at each site throughout the later summer months with limited staff time available.

The summer of 2024 was the 20th year that LTC had carried out baseflow monitoring. A total of 29 sites were assessed (Figure 4) with stream flow measurements collected at 25 sites. Unfortunately, 2024 was a difficult year for baseflow monitoring, as the months of July and August, when sampling typically occurs and the creek flows are at their lowest, saw above average precipitation, making the sampling that occur potentially inaccurate to determine the baseflows of the creeks.

Issues, recommendations and improvements

The following issues occurred in 2024, preventing sampling to occur at the following sites:

- **SVC02** was not sampled due to the water level increasing from 2023-2024 from a beaver dam on private property downstream of the sampling location.
- **MC01** was not sampled due to limited flow and unsafe access due to wild parsnip limiting access.
- **CC01** and **PC02** were not sampled due to high flow occurring during the time of sampling, making it impossible to read the Pygmy Meter when sampling. This was also indicative of the lack of a baseflow condition during the later summer months.

The location of site **CC03** was moved approximately 400m upstream from its 2023 location, which was left unsampled for the previous few years due to an ongoing beaver dam that was causing a

severe increase in the water level that made it unwadeable, as well as causing a significant reduction in stream flow. This will continue to be the new monitoring location and LTC staff believe that this is a comparable site to the historical site due to its proximity to the previous location.

After the 2024 sampling season, the baseflow equipment was thoroughly inspected and maintained to ensure that there would be no equipment issues when starting the 2025 sampling season. It is recommended that the base flow monitoring program also be moved to a rotating subwatershed site selection protocol to improve the distribution of sites that are assessed each year. There is limited information in the LTC watershed about groundwater recharge and by rotating the sampling sites to encompass a more diverse set of sites, groundwater recharge /inputs to the streams may be identified better over multiple years of sampling. As with 2023, the 2024 sampling season saw the data collection moved to a fully digital sampling survey, with some issues related to updating the digital data collection sheet on an annual basis occurring that will need to be remedied before sampling in 2025 occurs. Redundancies and duplications in the digital data collection methodology will be continued to be improved in years moving forward, for ease of data collection, ease of data upload and for analysis purposes.

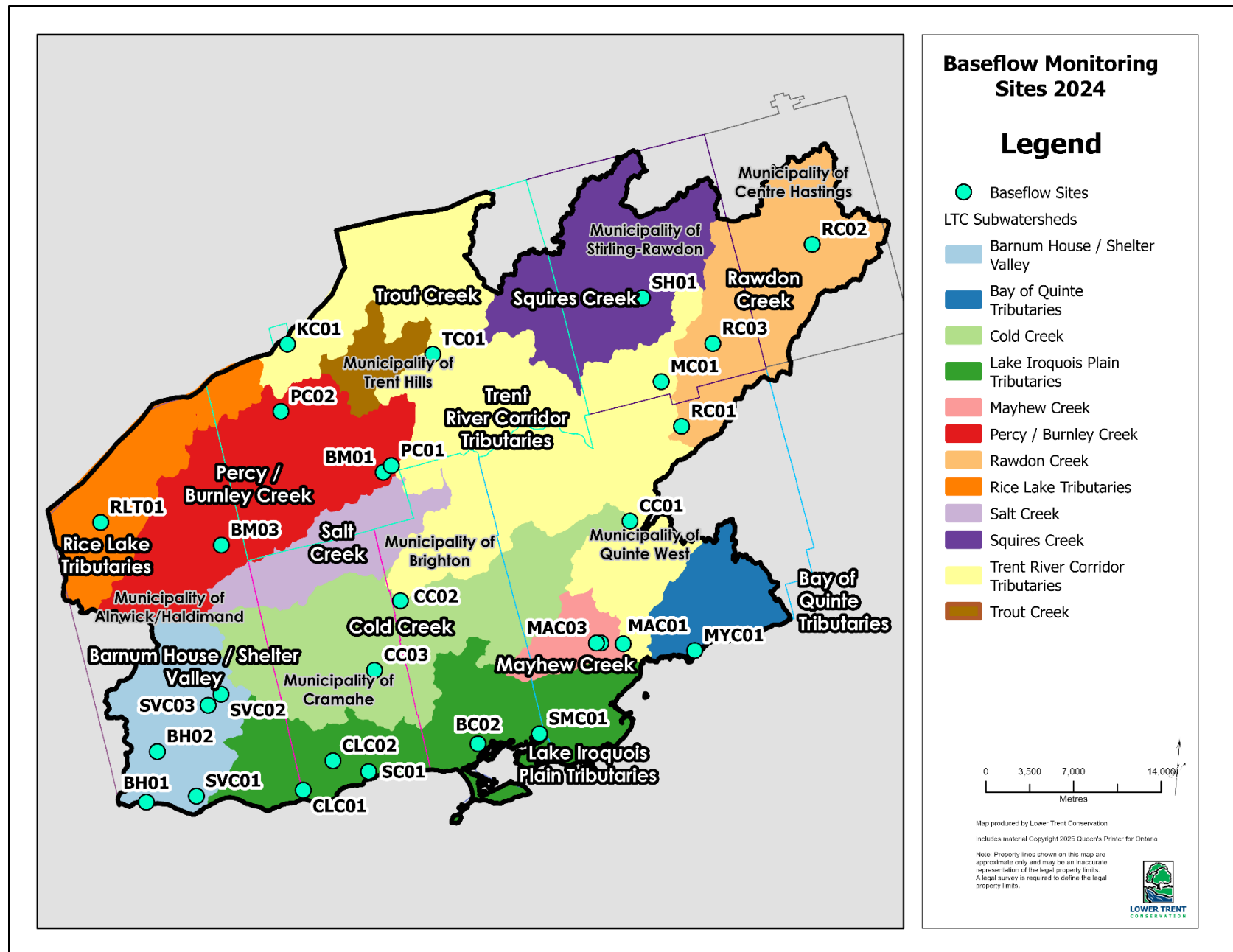


Figure 4. 2024 LTC Baseflow Monitoring Sites

Table 6. 2024 Average discharge measurements at LTC Baseflow monitoring sites.

Subwatershed	Stream Name	Site Codes	Sampling Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Discharge (m3/s)	Average Discharge (m3/s)	Average Depth (m)
Barnum House Creek & Shelter Valley	Barnum House Creek	BH01	30-07-2024	20.01	20.01	0.14
		BH02	30-07-2024	2.60		
	Shelter Valley Creek	SVC01	22-07-2024	93.55	93.55	0.16
		SVC02				
		SVC03	30-07-2024	17.48	17.48	0.23
Percy-Burnley (Mill) Creek	Burnley Mill Creek	BM01	08-08-2024	58.88	58.88	0.37
		BM03	07-08-2024	77.92		
	Percy Creek	PC01	07-08-2024	234.93	234.93	0.15
		PC02				
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	Colborne-Lakeport Creek	CLC01	02-08-2024	49.34	49.34	0.18
		CLC02	02-08-2024	23.35		
	Butler (Proctor) Creek	BC02	08-08-2024	16.54	16.54	0.09
	Salem Creek	SC01	02-08-2024	49.34		
	Smithfield Creek	SMC01	08-08-2024	13.65	13.65	0.12
Cold Creek	Cold Creek	CC01				
		CC02	08-08-2024	47.06	47.06	0.09
		CC03	08-08-2024	16.64		
Trent River Corridor	Marsh Creek	MC01				
	Kiloran Creek	KC01	07-08-2024	3.45		
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	Meyers Creek	MYC01	26-07-2024	14.95	14.95	0.14
Mayhew Creek	Mayhew Creek	MAC01	24-07-2024	52.14		
		MAC02	24-07-2024	4.39	4.39	0.33
		MAC03	01-08-2024	6.33		
Rawdon Creek	Rawdon Creek	RC01	24-07-2024	143.16	143.16	0.19
		RC02	01-08-2024	6.36		
		RC03	01-08-2024	0.08	0.08	0.14
Rice Lake Tributary	Rice Lake Tributary	RLT01	07-08-2024	12.50		
Squire Hoards Creek	Squires-Hoards Creek	SH01	01-08-2024	12.01	12.01	0.16
Trout Creek	Trout Creek	TC01	07-08-2024	16.83		

Surface Water Quality Program- Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) and Lower Trent Conservation Water Quality

Introduction/ Methods

The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) is an Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) program in which Conservation Authorities provide water quality information across Ontario. The Conservation Authorities conduct the field work and collect samples monthly, sending all samples to the MECP laboratory in Etobicoke, Ontario for analysis. Once the lab samples are analyzed, all data is sent to LTC for data exploration and analysis, as well as integrated into the provincial water quality data set.

2024 Water Quality Monitoring Season in Perspective

Water quality samples for the PWQMN sampling program occurred from April - November 2024, with the sampling shifted a month later than historically due to staffing issues impacting the March sampling. All PWQMN sample locations can be viewed in Figure 4. In 2024, a total of 5 samples were taken at each sampling location including: 2 general chemistry, 1 phosphorus, 1 metal sample and 1 *E. Coli* sample. Samples were collected using in-stream “grab” techniques following the MECP PWQMN protocol and in-situ measurements using a hand-held water quality probe (In-situ Aqua TROLL 600) to collect parameters such as, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Field Turbidity, pH, Conductivity, and Temperature. All information was recorded, and copies sent to the MECP once sampling was completed.

The MECP laboratory analyzes a suite of nutrients, metals and other conventional water quality parameters (see Table 7). As of 2018, LTC is obtaining *E. Coli* data, which is paid for by the Conservation Authority to obtain the appropriate information needed for a complete Watershed Report Card, having representative water quality samples from each subwatershed. A comprehensive review of these parameters allows LTC to determine natural or anthropogenic sources of pollution within the watershed.

As per the Watershed Report Card, **Phosphorus and *E. Coli*** are two of three components that are used to calculate a subwatershed grade.

2024 Water Quality Monitoring Data Analysis

Out of the 18 sites, 4 sites (Mayhew Creek, MYC01, BC02, CLC01) showed *E. Coli* concentrations above the Recreational Water Quality guidelines for both 50th percentile and average *E. coli* concentrations, while the *Cold Creek at County Road 33* site was above the guideline for average only. The first set of 4 sites are all within urban areas, including Trenton and Frankford, which can lead to increased *E. coli* concentrations. In 2024, the averages calculated for the 18 monitoring locations were highly influenced by outliers that were observed in the monitoring season. For this reason, the 50th percentile is a better and more reliable calculation since it is not as heavily influenced by individual outliers. Further investigation should be completed to

determine potential influences to rural sites to ensure there are not any non-point sources of fecal contamination.

Out of the 18 water quality sites, 9 sites (Cold Creek at County Road 33, Trout Creek, Salt Creek, MYC01, CLC01, BH01, RLT01, SH02 and RC01) had Total Phosphorus concentrations (using the 75th percentile) that exceeded the Provincial Water Quality Objective (see Table 9). Of the 144 individual samples that were collected in 2024, 39 (27%) of them also exceeded the PWQO. With the level of current and historical agricultural activity across the LTC watershed, it is not surprising to see higher phosphorus levels, as runoff from agricultural lands can easily enter the water. This is evident in the trend seen previously within the Trout Creek subwatershed, which is one of the heavily agricultural dominated subwatersheds, which has scored low and continues in 2024 to be scored low with a grade of D in 2024.

Issues and recommendations

As these programs are continuing for 2025 and the future, good sampling practices will be continued to be followed. Short bursts of heavy rainfall have been observed through the LTC watershed more frequently in recent years and sampling events attempt to avoid the ensuing “flushing” of the aquatic systems to not capture contaminants present found in the flows.

Additional safeguards have been put in place to prevent sample spoilage, as delays in shipping samples had occurred on numerous occasions in 2023. Priority shipping was used for all sample shipping in 2024 and there were no delays significant enough to cause spoilage of samples. The increased shipping costs will need to be taken into account for future budgets for the water quality monitoring program.

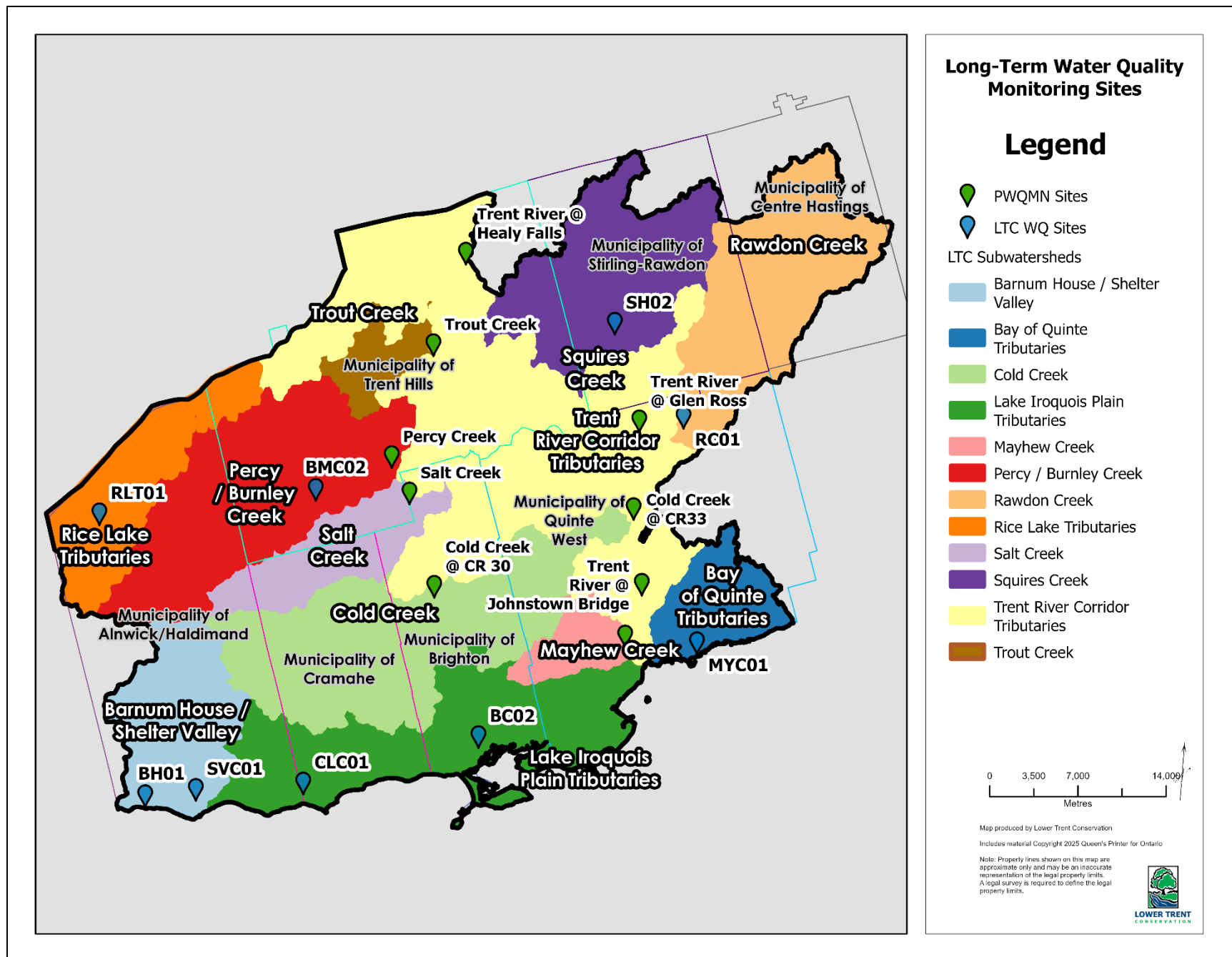


Table 6. Standard suite of water quality parameters analyzed by the MECP laboratories (left table) and Caduceon Laboratories (right). Black bolded parameters are the parameters that are included within the Watershed Report card. Red bolded parameters are important parameters that should be observed within our watershed.

General Chemistry	Nutrients & Microbiological	Metals	General Chemistry	Microbiological
Alkalinity	Total Ammonia	Aluminum	Alkalinity	<i>E. Coli</i>
Chloride	Nitrate	Arsenic	Total Ammonia	
Conductivity	Nitrite	Barium	Chloride	
Dissolved Oxygen	Phosphate	Beryllium	Conductivity	
Hardness	Total Nitrogen	Cadmium	Nitrate	
Magnesium	Total Phosphorus	Cobalt	Nitrite	
pH	<i>E. Coli</i>	Copper	pH	
Potassium		Iron	Total Phosphorus	
Sodium		Lead	Total Suspended Solids	
Total Dissolved Solids		Manganese	Total Nitrogen	
Total Suspended Solids		Molybdenum		
Turbidity		Nickel		
Water Temperature		Strontium		
		Vanadium		
		Zinc		

Table 8. 2024 E. Coli (CFU/100 mL) point data, average and 50th percentiles for the PWQMN monitoring sites. Letter grades are given based on the Watershed Report Card Guidelines. *Note: Sampling started in April due to staff paternity leave impacting the March sampling.

Date	Site								
	Mayhew Creek	Trent River at Johnstown Bridge	Cold Creek at County Road 33	Trent River at Glen Ross	Trent River at Healy Falls	Trout Creek	Percy Creek	Salt Creek	Cold Creek at County Road 30
March									
April	6	3	17	0	1	NDOGT	NDOGT	3	4
May	400	18	60	6	5	187	153	185	117
June	142	22	220	38	3	112	141	91	98
July	152	11	64	17	14	109	22	25	32
August	72	20	15	10	19	78	73	64	53
September	102	37	900	6	14	50	73	164	147
October	149	2	23	3	3	17	40	14	13
November	33	3	28	1	1	98	77	28	38
Average	112	16	101	8	8	87	71	67	47
Standard Deviation	88	17	182	9	11	66	49	59	41
50th Percentile	108	12	55	5	3	78	73	57	34
Recreational Water Quality Guideline	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Letter Grade	C	A	B	A	A	B	B	B	B

Table 7. 2024 E. Coli (CFU/100 mL) point data, average and 50th percentiles for the LTC surface water monitoring sites. Letter grades are given based on the Watershed Report Card Guidelines.

Date	Site								
	MYC01	BC02	CLC01	SVC01	BH01	RLT01	BMC02	SH02	RC01
March									
April	25	1	11	11	9	1	80	7	5
May	165	131	136	14	57	23	13	44	90
June	142	730	120	27	36	20	37	32	137
July	119	98	114	32	83	28	44	23	135
August	175	102	118	34	62	12	35	27	81
September	174	163	132	88	70	30	60	123	-
October	89	94	63	30	32	11	29	85	119
November	78	69	26	3	12	2	11	60	22
Average	212	200	153	38	61	27	31	83	62
Standard Deviation	303	229	180	33	60	23	22	215	44
50th Percentile	120	108	119	29	35	22	29	33	47
Recreational Water Quality Guideline	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Letter Grade	C	C	C	A	B	A	A	B	B

Figure 6. Comparison between Average *E. Coli* (CFU/ 100mL) and the 50th percentile of *E. Coli* at each site using information from 2022-2024. (Recreational WQ Guideline: 100 CFU/ 100mL).

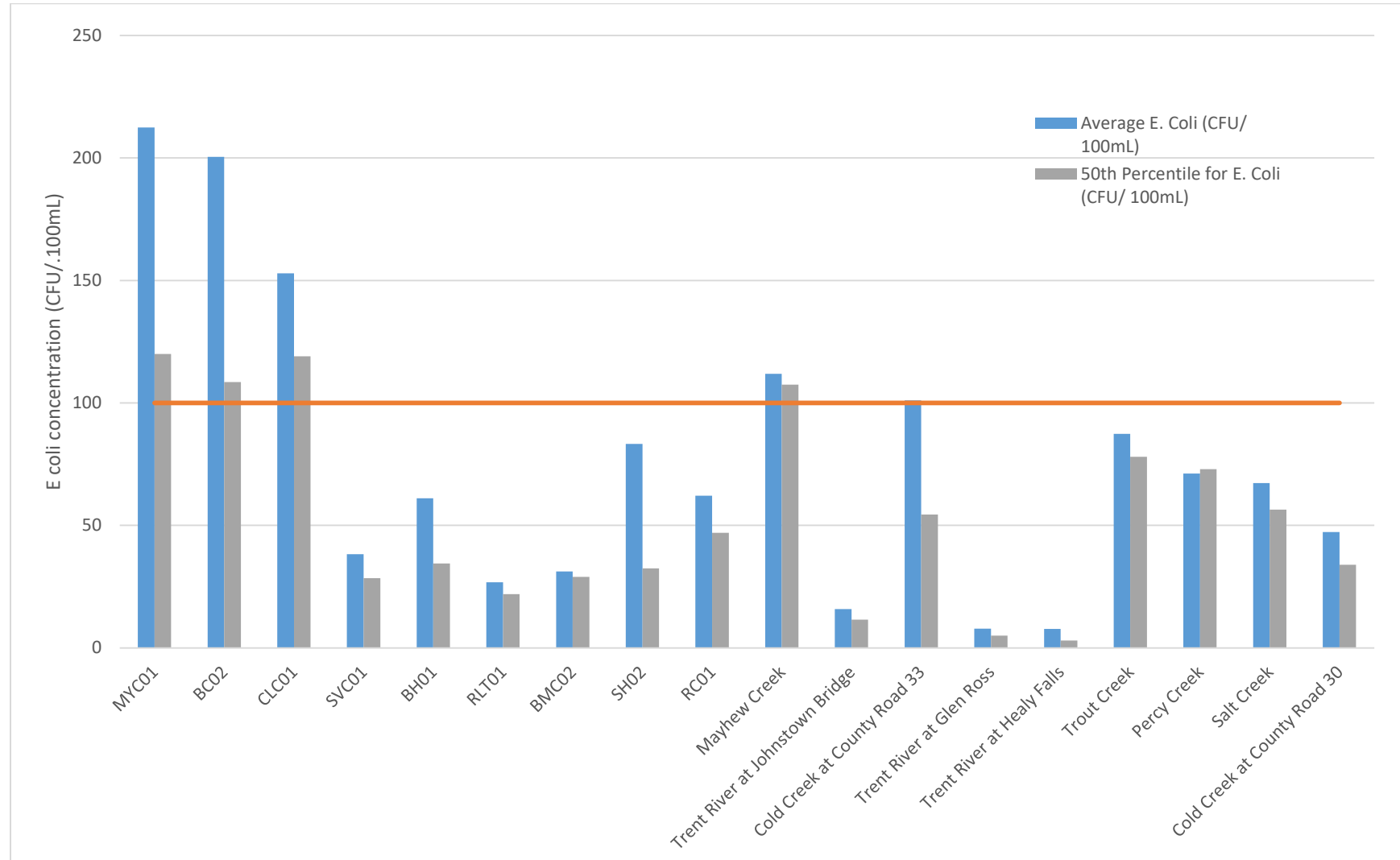


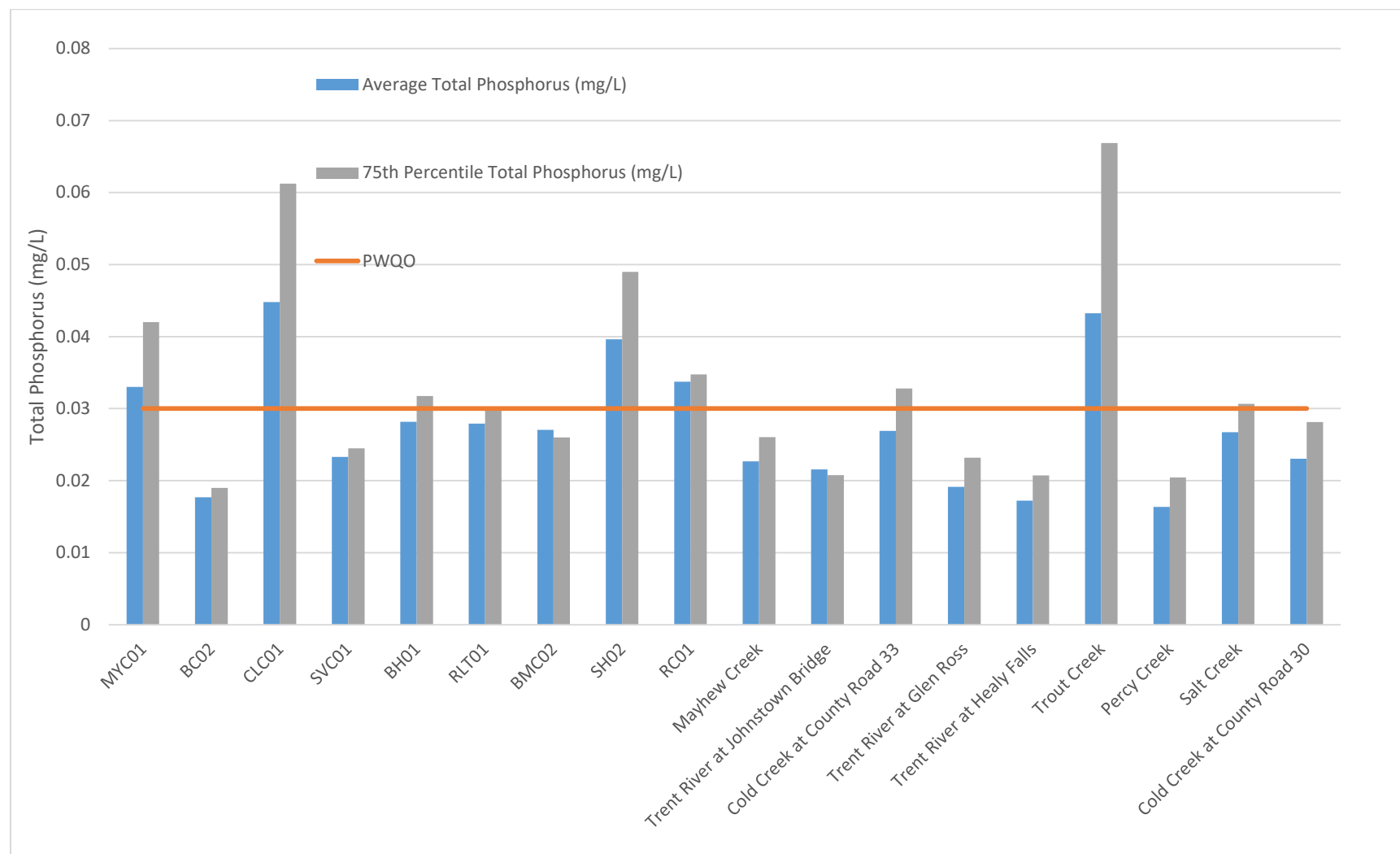
Table 8. 2024 Total Phosphorus (mg/L) point data, average and 75th percentiles for PWQMN sites. Letter grades are given based on the Watershed Report Card Guidelines. Highlighted red data exceeds the PWQO.

Date	Site								
	Mayhew Creek	Trent River at Johnstown Bridge	Cold Creek at County Road 33	Trent River at Glen Ross	Trent River at Healy Falls	Trout Creek	Percy Creek	Salt Creek	Cold Creek at County Road 30
March									
April	0.0147	0.0136	0.0271	0.0158	0.0072	0.0208	0.0261	0.0272	0.0319
May	0.027	0.018	0.0579		0.0156	0.0662	0.0202	0.0293	0.0595
June	0.0257	0.0277	0.0739	0.024	0.0202	0.0883	0.0325	0.0547	0.0632
July	0.019	0.0257	0.0287	0.0246	0.0203	0.0493	0.0238	0.023	0.0251
August	0.0174	0.0157	0.0192	0.0151	0.0164	0.0549	0.0126	0.0177	0.0152
September	0.0163	0.016	0.0238	0.0147	0.0145	0.0298	0.0113	0.0205	0.021
October	0.0159	0.0151	0.0084	0.0082	0.0118	0.0144	0.0068	0.0092	0.0094
November	0.0017	0.007	0.0011	0.0062	0.0071	0.001	0.0004	0.0005	0.0043
Average	0.023	0.022	0.027	0.019	0.017	0.043	0.016	0.027	0.023
Standard Deviation	0.013	0.015	0.016	0.012	0.007	0.030	0.007	0.014	0.014
75th Percentile	0.026	0.021	0.033	0.023	0.021	0.067	0.020	0.031	0.028
Provincial Water Quality Guideline	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030
Letter Grade	B	B	C	B	B	D	B	C	B

Table 9. 2024 Total Phosphorus (mg/L) point data, average and 75th percentiles for the LTC surface water monitoring sites. Letter grades are given based on the Watershed Report Card Guidelines.

Date	Site								
	MYC01	BC02	CLC01	SVC01	BH01	RLT01	BMC02	SH02	RC01
March									
April	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.06
May	0.019	0.006	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.012	0.014	0.015	0.034
June	0.035	0.018	0.039	0.019	0.02	0.023	0.025	0.03	0.04
July	0.037	0.016	0.032	0.012	0.021	0.024	0.026	0.033	0.033
August	0.027	0.012	0.056	0.031	0.037	0.025	0.014	0.032	0.025
September	0.038	0.019	0.062	0.059	0.055	0.022	0.046	0.145	0.029
October	0.02	0.014	0.043	0.024	0.023	0.029	0.014	0.061	0.018
November	0.023	0.002	0.019	0.006	0.008	0.008	0.013	0.026	0.005
Average	0.033	0.018	0.045	0.023	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.040	0.034
Standard Deviation	0.018	0.013	0.019	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.022	0.031	0.020
75th Percentile	0.037	0.018	0.060	0.026	0.032	0.032	0.026	0.042	0.036
Provincial Water Quality Guideline	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Letter Grade	C	A	D	B	C	C	B	C	C

Figure 7. Comparison between Average Total Phosphorus (mg/L) and the 75th percentile of Total Phosphorus at each site using 2022-2024 data. (Provincial WQ Objective: 0.03 mg/L).



Groundwater Monitoring Program

Introduction/ Methods

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) is a MECP program, a partnership between the Province and Conservation Authorities. The MECP is responsible for the direction of the program, data analysis and costs of the equipment. LTC collects data on ambient groundwater levels and water quality for 9 sites with 11 wells throughout our watershed (Figure 8.). The PGMN program has moved to an alternating water quality sampling period, with rotations through certain sites on an “odd-even” schedule to reduce the sampling effort for those wells that do not see large changes year over year. The data collected from the PGMN program is not currently used for Ontario Low Water Response for LTC; however, it would be beneficial to look at the long-term analysis. Furthermore, insufficient data replicates were collected for groundwater quality for the Watershed Report Card previously, but it may be used for the current 2022-2026 Watershed Report card for the 7 subwatersheds that have wells within them. This will be assessed closer to the completion of the 5-year reporting period, although the minimal number of wells and samples that will occur over the reporting period may hinder this analysis.

2024 Water Quality Monitoring Season in Perspective

The 75th percentile is the suggested calculation for Nitrite + Nitrate and chloride data and is the recommended calculation for the watershed report card. As such, Table 13 shows the 75th percentile for Chloride, Nitrite + Nitrate and Sodium concentrations from 2022-2024. One concern that has been brought up regarding the Groundwater monitoring program and the watershed report card is the lack of data from year to year. A grade should not be calculated using such a small portion of data since it would be misleading to anyone who reads the report card. Table 11 shows the data collected from 2022-2024. The Spring 2024 sampling schedule has been provided by the MECP and it includes W122-1, W123-1, W212-1, W213-1 and W214-1. This will continue to leave 3 of the sites and 5 of the wells without any water quality data in the 5 year watershed report card period to date and it is unclear whether sampling will occur before 2026.

Table 10. 75th percentile for Chloride, Nitrite + Nitrogen and Sodium concentrations from 2022-2024 data.

Site Code	No. of Samples	Chloride (mg/L)	Nitrate+ Nitrite (mg/L)	Sodium (mg/L)
W122-1	2	5.325	N/A (Below test resolution)	3.49
W123-1	3	30.6	5.01	11.9
W212-1	2	25.075	0.3775	13.2
W213-1	1	2.21	N/A	2.91
W214-1	4	119.5	1.29	56.725
W411-2	2	N/A	N/A	2.65

Table 11. Water quality data sampled for each well from 2022-2024. Sampling effort is directed by the MECP.

Site Code	Site name	2022	2023	2024
W122-1	Castleton		X	X
W123-1	Rice Lake	X	X	X
W172-1	Stirling			
W173-1	Ingram			
W174-1	Brighton			
W212-1	Douglas Springs	X	X	
W213-1	Sager	X		
W214-1	Goodrich Loomis	X	X	X (incl. duplicate)
W411-2	Northumberland Forest (A)	X		X
W411-3	Northumberland Forest (B)			
W412-1	Northumberland Forest			

Issues and recommendations

Maintenance and equipment issues have long been an issue with the PGMN program, as aging equipment and limited staff time to allocate towards troubleshooting have been continual issues. The telemetry equipment at W214-1 has been repaired and replaced in 2024, allowing for the MECP to have constant ground water level monitoring at this location. During the Fall 2024 water quality sampling, there were multiple wells with equipment, such as data read cables, that needed to be replaced, but due to the requirement of a certified well installer for any maintenance work, LTC staff have yet to find a local contractor to help with these repairs. LTC Staff will work to complete needed repairs in 2025 to ensure continual data collection for the PGMN program.

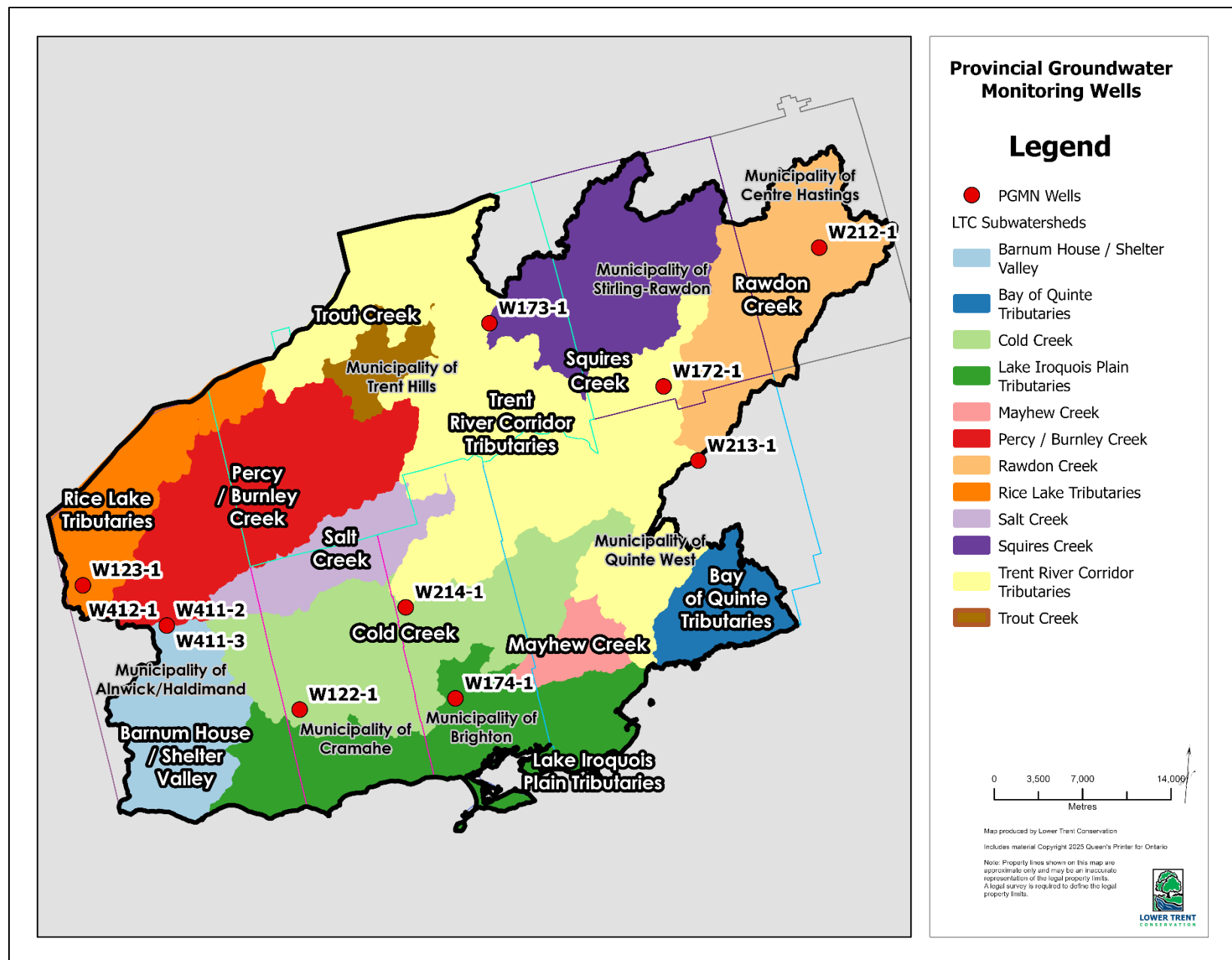


Figure 8. 2024 Groundwater Monitoring Well Sites

Watershed Report Card Status as of 2024

Introduction and Methods

The Watershed Report Card is a tool used by Conservation Authorities in Ontario to report on watershed health through the use of environmental indicators. In short, it is a tool used to better target specific monitoring programs and measure environmental change over time. The report card is an ongoing product that is created every 5 years using data the Conservation Authority collects throughout the 5-year reporting period.

The report card shows watershed health on a subwatershed scale, which allows the conservation authorities to target specific subwatersheds when choosing to undergo further monitoring efforts or potential rehabilitation projects. Subwatershed scale was also chosen as the number of subwatersheds within an individual conservation authority should be practical to monitor long term. Generally, the number of subwatersheds in each conservation authority ranges from 10 to 20.

Watershed health indicators fall into 3 categories: surface water quality, forest conditions and groundwater quality. Of those three categories, LTC reports on two of these within the report card as our office only samples 5 wells for groundwater quality and this sampling occurs only once a year through the PGMN program. This report is only focusing on the information that is part of the monitoring programs and forest conditions is not included.

From the health indicator categories there are individual indicators within each category that are used to create a score and a grade. The individual indicators were chosen based on their relevance, understanding, responsiveness, applicability and long-term monitoring feasibility for each conservation authority. These indicators are total phosphorus, *E. coli* and benthic invertebrates for surface water quality, and nitrite + nitrate and chloride for groundwater quality. Each indicator has a methodology on how to calculate the indicator score and grade. The grading for the report card is something the public is familiar with since it is similar to the grading system seen within the public education system. The grades are defined from A- F, with A is excellent, B is good, C is fair, D is poor and F is very poor.

The surface water quality indicators that were chosen for the watershed report card are acceptable; however, they need to be updated and more indicators should be used to give a final subwatershed grade. The surface water quality working group for the report cards should discuss including more parameters such as chloride and total suspended solids as these parameters are seen in urban and disturbed sites more often.

Monitoring subwatersheds on a long-term basis is an important endeavor; however, without analysis and reporting it is pointless to collect. This section will report on the current scores and grades of the subwatersheds so far and our organization will continue to show these changes over time to see how the grades vary from year to year. This will allow LTC to work on the 2026 Watershed Report Card more easily and potentially integrate more information deemed important.

Watershed Report Card Data Analysis 2022-2024

Data obtained through the aquatic monitoring programs showed some interesting trends from 2022-2024. The benthic invertebrate data for each subwatershed varied from good to fair, with no subwatersheds scoring higher than a grade of B (see Table 12). Some subwatersheds are still yet to have multiple samples collected over the Watershed Report Card cycle (BH02 and PC02), which makes it difficult to get a complete picture of the health of these subwatersheds, limiting the power of the analysis. In comparison, the subwatersheds scored approximately equal in Total Phosphorus (see Table 13), with the Trout Creek subwatershed scoring the worst with a grade of D. This grade is not surprising due to the high agricultural pressure placed on the watercourses within this subwatershed. Subwatershed *E. Coli* scores (see Table 14) were slightly better on average across all subwatersheds, with both the Rice Lake and Trent River Corridor Tributaries both scoring a grade of A.

The final grade of a subwatershed is obtained by calculating the average of the three grade values (benthic invertebrates, phosphorus and *E coli* scores) for each site within the subwatershed. According to the data LTC has collected so far (2022, 2023 & 2024), the subwatersheds scored between a grade of B and C. This indicates that the subwatersheds within LTC's jurisdiction are classified as having fair to good overall health. It is important to remember that this evaluation only uses 3 years of data, and these grades could change over the next 2 years. Additionally, 6 of the 12 subwatersheds within the LTC watershed as a whole are evaluated using a single sampling location within the subwatershed and LTC staff are calculating subwatershed health scores using this data, which may not be truly reflective of the overall health of the subwatershed as a whole. LTC staff are researching using a rotating sampling site methodology, which would maintain the same number of sampling sites for each year but rotate through a larger overall number of sampling sites, with replicate samples occurring for each site over the 5 year Watershed Report Card cycle. This would allow for a more accurate representation of the subwatershed health as a whole, while also maintaining the same staff time and resources required for each sampling season.

Table 12. Watershed Report Card values for Benthic invertebrates from 2022-2024. This table will be updated every year to show the progression of the subwatershed. N/A= Not sampled or missing data.

Subwatershed Name	Site ID	Hilsenhoff Biotic Index			Subwatershed Average	Current Grade	Previous Grade
		2022	2023	2024			
Barnum House/Shelter Valley	Barnum House Creek				5.47	C	C
	BH01	6.09	5.86	4.97			
	BH02	N/A	N/A	5.94			
	Shelter Valley Creek						
	SVC01	5.61	5.359487	5.05587			
	SVC03	5.715049	5.2055	4.927952			
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	Meyers Creek				5.74	C	D
	MYC01	6.170716	6.05	5.01			
Cold Creek	Cold Creek				5.08	C	B
	CC01	5.330465	5.16	5.69			
	CC02	4.224349	5.10	4.98			
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	Colborne-Lakeport Creek				5.29	C	C
	CLC01	5.846	5.71	5.68			
	Proctor Creek						
	BC02	4.842472	3.97	5.23			
	Salem Creek						
	SC01	5.042673	4.98136	5.18			
	Smithfield Creek						
SMC01	5.733146	5.920854	N/A				
Mayhew Creek	Mayhew Creek				4.79	B	C
	MAC01	4.939567	5.47	3.97			
Percy/Burnley Creek	Burnley-Mill Creek				4.86	B	B
	BMC02	N/A	4.55	4.04			
	BMC03	N/A	4.844674	4.924584			
	Percy Creek						
	PC01	5.186343	5.231006	5.248149			
	PC02	N/A	N/A	4.86			
Rawdon Creek	Rawdon Creek				4.95	B	C
	RC01	5.354737	5.266117	4.776288			
	RC02	5.435784	4.50	4.39			
Rice Lake Tributaries	Rice Lake Tributary				4.93	B	B
	RLT01	4.920948	4.96	4.91			
Salt Creek	Salt Creek				5.34	C	C

	SAC01	5.341887	N/A	N/A			
Squires-Hoards Creek	Squires-Hoards Creek				5.43	C	C
	SH01	5.90212	5.83	5.23			
	SH02	4.80154	5.85	4.97			
Trent River Corridor Tributaries	Kiloran Creek				5.37	C	C
	KC01	5.958941	N/A	6.44			
	Marsh Creek						
	MC01	6.170716	3.583278	4.693928			
Trout Creek	Trout Creek				5.58	C	C
	TC01	4.82168	5.56	5.57			
	TC02	6.060514	5.57	5.88			

Table 13. Table of the 75th Percentile concentrations of Phosphorus and associated grades for data from 2022-2024.

Subwatershed	Site	75th Percentile	Grade	Point Value	Watershed Grade
Barnum House/Shelter Valley	BH01	0.031	C	3	B (3.5)
	SVC01	0.025	B	4	
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	MYC01	0.042	C	3	C (3)
Cold Creek	Cold Creek at Frankford	0.033	C	3	B (3.5)
	Cold Creek at Orland	0.028	B	4	
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	CLC01	0.061	D	2	C (3)
	BC02	0.019	B	4	
Mayhew Creek	Mayhew Creek at Front Street	0.026	B	4	B (4)
Percy/Burnley Creek	Percy Creek at Skinkle Road	0.020	B	4	B (4)
	BMC02	0.026	B	4	
Rawdon Creek	RC01	0.035	C	3	C (3)
Rice Lake Tributaries	RLT01	0.030	B	4	B (4)
Salt Creek	Salt Creek at County Road 30	0.031	C	3	C (3)
Squires Creek	SH02	0.049	C	3	C (3)
Trent River Corridor Tributaries	Trent River at Johnstown Bridge	0.021	B	4	B (4)
	Trent River at Glen Ross	0.023	B	4	
	Trent River at Healy Falls	0.021	B	4	
Trout Creek	Trout Creek at Simpson Street	0.067	D	2	D (2)

Table 14. Table of the 50th Percentile Concentrations of E. coli and associated grades for 2022-2024.

Subwatershed	Site	50th Percentile	Grade	Point Value	Watershed Grade
Barnum House/Shelter Valley	BH01	35	B	4	B (4)
	SVC01	29	B	4	
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	MYC01	120	C	3	C (3)
Cold Creek	Cold Creek at Frankford	55	B	4	B (4)
	Cold Creek at Orland	34	B	4	
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	CLC01	119	C	3	C (3)
	BC02	109	C	3	
Mayhew Creek	Mayhew Creek at Front Street	108	C	3	C (3)
Percy/Burnley Creek	Percy Creek at Skinkle Road	73	B	4	B (4.5)
	BMC02	29	A	5	
Rawdon Creek	RC01	47	B	4	B (4)
Rice Lake Tributaries	RLT01	22	A	5	A (5)
Salt Creek	Salt Creek at County Road 30	57	B	4	B (4)
Squires Creek	SH02	33	B	4	B (4)
Trent River Corridor Tributaries	Trent River at Johnstown Bridge	12	A	5	A (5)
	Trent River at Glen Ross	5	A	5	
	Trent River at Healy Falls	3	A	5	
Trout Creek	Trout Creek at Simpson Street	78	B	4	B (4)

Table 18. Final Watershed Scores using data accumulated from 2022-2024

Subwatershed	Benthic Points	Overall Water Quality Points	Overall Final Points	Overall Final Score
Barnum House/Shelter Valley	3	4	3.5	B
Bay of Quinte Tributaries	3	3	3	C
Cold Creek	3	4	3.5	B
Lake Iroquois Plain Tributaries	3	3	3	C
Mayhew Creek	4	4	4	B
Percy/Burnley Creek	4	4.25	4.2	B
Rawdon Creek	4	3.5	3.25	C
Rice Lake Tributaries	4	4.5	4.25	B
Salt Creek	3	3.5	3.3	B
Squires Creek	3	3.5	3.3	B
Trent River Corridor Tributaries	3	4.5	3.75	B
Trout Creek	3	3	3	C

Final Recommendations

The 2024 monitoring season showed great success and should continue to incrementally improve in future years with the oversight of the Watershed Services Specialist. Yearly modifications to the programs should follow the direction of the recommendations outlined in this report, with large scale changes being brought forward to the Board as separate reports, such as those that would require additional funding outside the scope of the current program. To continue to improve LTCs monitoring programs as a whole and to improve the knowledge that LTC has about the health of the watershed, additional projects and programs will be explored to determine how to best fill the knowledge gaps that exist. One example was the *Watershed Health Assessment and Brook Trout Monitoring Pilot Project* completed in 2024. Using the existing long-term monitoring data available allows LTC staff to determine where potential issues exist and how to better address issues on a subwatershed scale. Grants and external funding opportunities will continue to be explored and brought forward to management and the Board when they can be leveraged to address key watershed issues.

Agenda Item 13



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 24, 2025
To: LTC Board of Directors
Re: Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority
Access Agreement Template
Prepared by: Rhonda Bateman, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template be adopted for use.

BACKGROUND:

There are many occasions when the Ministry of Natural Resources requests access to Conservation Lands to conduct research. The research varies from simple non-invasive projects such as bird inventories to more intrusive projects such as conducting soil sampling. To date, we have openly welcomed research on our properties with the caveat that any data or reports generated are supplied back to Lower Trent for our own knowledge base and potential use.

DISCUSSION:

Attached is a memo from Conservation Ontario that was included in the agenda at the Annual General Meeting discussing the development of the template agreement with MNR. Also attached is the final agreement template.

This agreement template is a good starting point which should result in a degree of uniformity between conservation authorities in dealing with MNR projects and more importantly clearly outlines expectations.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the use of the template for research completed on LTC properties.



120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3
905-895-0716 | info@conservationontario.ca | www.conservationontario.ca

To: Conservation Ontario Council
From: Angela Coleman, General Manager, and Nicholas Fischer, Policy and Planning Liaison
Date: March 5, 2025
Subject: Request for Approval: Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report as information;

AND THAT Council approves the attached Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template for distribution to all Conservation Authorities for consideration of local use and adoption.

SUMMARY:

Under Ontario Regulation 688/21, a permit is required from a Conservation Authority (CA) for specified activities within conservation areas (e.g., entering and remaining in a “day-use” permit area, camping, making excavations, etc.) Conservation Ontario was approached by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in August 2024 to discuss a standard template agreement for accessing CA lands to undertake research and monitoring activities. Pending approval, the template agreement would be provided to each CA to consider adoption locally. Use of a standard template agreement is intended to reduce legal and administrative burden for both CAs and MNR, while supporting longstanding monitoring and research relationships between both agencies.

DISCUSSION:

The Ministry of Natural Resources’ Science and Research Branch regularly engages and collaborates with Conservation Authorities in Southern Ontario to conduct research and monitoring work on CA lands. These activities generally include research, survey and monitoring related to fish and wildlife health and habitat, and ecosystem functions.

MNR encounters a range of legal, permitting and insurance requirements from partner CAs. To reduce legal and administrative burden, the Ministry proposed a standard template legal agreement for use when undertaking such works.

The proposed “MNR-CA Access Agreement Template” establishes a standard legal agreement for use when MNR is seeking to undertake research and monitoring works on CA lands. The template agreement provides terms for the MNR and signatory CA and specifies details regarding insurance and liability. For greater certainty, the template agreement requires the MNR to maintain general liability insurance to cover third party

claims for property damage, bodily injury and personal injury in an amount of not less than five million dollars, and automobile liability insurance in the amount of not less than two million dollars. The template agreement specifies that the MNR shall indemnify and hold harmless the Authority from and against any injury, losses or damages. Upon completion of each project, the MNR will prepare a summary to share with the CA, providing insight into fish and wildlife health and habitat on CA properties.

The template agreement does not provide universal approval for the MNR to access CA lands for research and monitoring purposes. When requesting access, the MNR will approach the CA and provide project maps (identifying work areas and access points) and details for the specific project (description of work to be conducted, use of specialized equipment, participants, timing, etc.). CAs will use these details to determine if access can be provided in each circumstance.

Conservation Ontario met with staff from the MNR on December 10, 2024 and January 14, 2025 to discuss and refine the draft template agreement (initially drafted by MNR legal counsel). CO staff met with legal counsel at South Nation and Toronto and Region Conservation Authorities for additional discussion and refinement. Pending approval, the template agreement will be provided to all CAs to consider adoption and use locally.

Angela Coleman **Nicholas Fischer**

Angela Coleman
General Manager

Nicholas Fischer
Policy and Planning Liaison

Attachment #X: Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template

THIS AGREEMENT made this ____ day of _____, 202__

BETWEEN:

hereinafter called the “**Authority**”

-and-

**His Majesty the King in right of Ontario
as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources**

hereinafter called the “**Ministry**”

WHEREAS the Ministry desires a temporary non-exclusive permit to access areas of Authority-owned land outlined in **Schedule “A”** to this Agreement (the “**Property**”) so that the Ministry can undertake a research and/or monitoring project as outlined in **Schedule “B”** to this Agreement (the “**Project**”);

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Grant of Permit & Term

- a) **Grant of Permit:** The Authority hereby grants the Ministry a temporary non-exclusive permit (the “**Permit**”) for it and its employees, agents, contractors, volunteers and invitees, including the individuals listed in **Schedule “B”** to this Agreement (the “**Participants**”) to access the Property for purposes of conducting, supervising, observing and participating in the Project. The Permit granted hereby is non-exclusive and in common with the rights of the Authority and its invitees and any existing easements or incumbrances to the Property. Subject only to the express limitations imposed upon the Authority under this Agreement, the Authority, and any other party having rights or interests in the Property, shall have full charge, administration, management and right of sale or disposition of the Property as well as the right to fully use and enjoy the same.
- b) **Term of the Permit:** The Permit shall be effective from _____ to _____ (the “**Term**”). The Term of the Permit may be extended through mutual agreement by the Authority and the Ministry.

2. The Authority agrees, subject to the terms of this Agreement:

- a) to provide the Ministry and the Participants, provided they are supervised by Ministry staff, access to the Property through designated entry points during the Term for the purpose of conducting, supervising, observing and participating in the Project;

3. The Ministry agrees:

- a) to comply and to take all necessary steps to ensure that they and all Participants comply with all rules and regulations and all requests or orders issued by the Authority in respect of the Property;
- b) to ensure Participants only access the Property through the designated entry points.
- c) not to bring or use specialized tools, equipment or vehicles (outside of designated parking areas) onto the Property except as specifically agreed upon and as described in Schedule B;
- d) to comply and ensure that all Participants comply with and follow all industry standard safety practices in a manner that ensures the safety of all individuals accessing the Property, including the Ministry, the Participants, the Authority's employees and staff, and the general public;
- e) to comply and ensure that all Participants comply with all applicable municipal, provincial and/or federal statutes, laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, orders, policies and guidelines as may be applicable to the Ministry, the Participants and/or their use of the Property, including O. Reg. 688/21 (Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas);
- f) to secure all necessary permits and permissions from government agencies having the proper authority or jurisdiction and to comply with those permits, approvals or permissions (such approvals which may include those related to pipelines, hydro lines or other utilities, and the conducting of locates for the same);
- g) not to do or to allow to be done any action which would damage, waste or disfigure or injure anything in, under or on the Property or otherwise cause a nuisance;

- h) to remove all equipment and, to the reasonable satisfaction of Authority, restore the site to the condition that existed prior to access, other than minor changes that would be reasonably expected from the Project activities or changes as agreed to by the Authority. Upon completion of removal and site restoration, the Ministry shall notify the Authority to arrange a final inspection to ensure the site has been restored to the satisfaction of the Authority.
- i) that the Authority makes no representation or warranty whatsoever, express or implied, respecting the state of repair or condition of the Property or the fitness, suitability or quality of the Property for the Ministry's intended use or for any other purpose, and that the Ministry is using the Property on an as is, where is basis, and solely at its own risk and expense;
- j) that some areas of the Property may be closed, not accessible or off limits intermittently during the Term for hazards, special events or other reasons, and the Authority will not be responsible or in any way liable for such interruptions or inaccessibility. In such circumstances, the Ministry will not attempt to access the Property;
- k) that the Authority may, at any time acting reasonably and with at least 24 hours prior notice to the Ministry, close the Property to the Ministry and the Participants, and the Authority will not be responsible or in any way liable for such restrictions or unavailability;
- l) to be responsible for the conduct and actions of all Participants while on Authority property and to ensure that the rights of other users of the Property are respected;
- m) to take all necessary steps and precautions to ensure that no Authority property, nor any adjoining or surrounding property, including all real property, fixtures and chattels, is vandalized, damaged or destroyed by the Participants, the Ministry or the Project;
- n) that the Authority is a Conservation Authority organized and operating under the provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 27, and amendments thereto, and this Agreement and the Permit granted hereby shall be subject to all provisions of the said Act;
- o) to submit a report, following completion of the Project, including a summary of

the Project, its objectives, materials, methods, and results, and share with the Authority other project reports or published papers when they are completed or published; and

p) to notify the Authority at least one week prior to accessing the Property at:

_____.

4. Authority Rights:

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement, the Property shall be under the exclusive control and management of the Authority. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Authority shall have the right, at any time and from time to time:

- i. to operate, manage and/or otherwise deal with the Property as the Authority, in its sole and unfettered discretion, deems necessary;
- ii. to make additions to, subtractions from, or to change, alter, or relocate any part of the Property;
- iii. to enter into the Property to undertake any work or alterations that the Authority, at its sole and unfettered discretion, deems necessary; or,
- iv. to inspect or otherwise review the Project carried out, or being carried out, under the Agreement;

5. Termination:

The Authority may, at its sole opinion and discretion, and without liability, penalty or costs, cancel or terminate this Agreement and the Permit granted hereby if:

- i. the Ministry fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement or the Permit granted hereby; or
- ii. the Authority sells, transfers or disposes of the Property; and,
- iii. the Authority gives _____ days' notice to the Ministry

6. Insurance and Limitation of Liability

- a) The Ministry shall maintain general liability insurance to cover third party claims for property damage, bodily injury and personal injury through its self-funded general liability insurance program (known as the General and Road Liability Protection Program (the “**GRLPP**”)) in an amount of not less than five million

dollars (\$5,000,000.00) per occurrence. If the Ministry or the Participants will be operating vehicles on the Property outside of designated parking areas, the Ministry shall also maintain automobile liability insurance coverage in an amount of not less than two million (\$2,000,000.00) dollars per occurrence. The Ministry shall, upon the request of the Authority, provide proof of such insurance and cause the Authority to be named as an additional insured under the GRLPP.

- b) The Authority and its officers, directors, employees, agents, and/or representatives shall not be liable for any costs, claims, damages or claims for restitution suffered or incurred by the Ministry for any suspension of the Project or non-availability of the Property, or any part thereof, as the result of any utility failure, inclement weather, road works, act(s) of God, fire damage, water damage, electrical damage, acts of war, protests, civil insurrection or unrest, Government Orders, pandemic(s), epidemic(s) or any other event(s) or occurrence(s) beyond the reasonable control of the Authority.
- c) The Ministry shall indemnify and hold harmless the Authority from and against any injury or loss or damage to Property suffered or sustained by the Ministry or any of its employees, servants, agents or contractors, or by any other person connected with Ministry's activities under this Agreement or anything done as a result of it and hereby waives, as against the Authority all such actions, claims or demands.

7. General:

- a) This Agreement contains the entire agreement and understanding among the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements, understandings, inducements and conditions, express or implied, oral or written, of any nature whatsoever with respect to the subject matter hereof.
- b) No alteration or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless expressly made in writing and signed by both parties. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of any other provisions hereof nor shall a waiver of any provision of this Agreement constitute a continuing waiver unless otherwise expressly provided.
- c) The Ministry shall not assign any rights granted or obligations imposed under this Agreement or the Permit, or any part or aspect thereof, without the prior express written consent of the Authority.

- d) All notices, requests, demands or other communications (collectively, "**Notices**") required by the terms of this Agreement or permitted to be given by one party to the other shall be given in writing by personal delivery or by registered mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail transmission to such other party as follows:

For the Ministry:

[insert Ministry contact info and address]

For the Authority:

[insert Authority contact info and address]

- or at such other addresses as may be given by the parties hereto in writing from time to time. Any notice or document so given shall be deemed to have been received on the third business day following the date of mailing, on the following business day if transmitted by electronic mail, and on the day that it is personally delivered or sent by courier. Any party may from time to time, by notice given as provided above, change its address for the purpose of this clause.
- e) This Agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns.
- f) For the purpose of this Agreement and the Permit, time shall be of the essence.
- g) If any provision or covenant in this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall only apply to such provision and covenant only to the extent of that invalidity or unenforceability and shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision or covenant contained in this Agreement.
- h) Unless the context requires otherwise, wherever used herein the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, and the use of one gender shall also denote the others. The word "include" and words of similar meanings shall not be interpreted to denote an exhaustive list.
- i) This Agreement and the Permit shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.
- j) The Authority, this Agreement and all schedules are subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56,

and the Ministry if subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31*.

- k) Any provision in this Agreement that may reasonably be interpreted as being intended by the parties to survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive any such termination or expiration.
- l) This Agreement may be executed in counterparts in writing or by electronic signature and delivered by mail, electronic mail, facsimile or other electronic means, including in PDF format, no one copy of which need be executed by all of the parties, and all such counterparts together shall constitute an agreement and shall be a valid and binding agreement among the parties hereto as of the date first written above.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

The Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the latter of the two signing dates set out below.

XX Conservation Authority	His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario as Represented by the Minister of Natural Resources
Per:	Per:
Name: Position: I have the authority to bind the Authority	Name: Position: I have the authority to bind the Ministry
Date:	Date:

Schedule "A"
The Property

[Insert maps of the property or properties being accessed, identifying areas of work and access points.]

Schedule "B"
The Project

Project description and timing:

Description of work to be conducted on the Property:

Specialized equipment/provisions to be used:

Participants:

A scenic view of the Bay of Quinte, showing calm blue water, a distant shoreline with trees, and green foliage in the foreground. A green banner with a dark blue border is centered over the water.

Waterlogs - April 2025

Today, the Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.
Now, we must focus on keeping it this way

IT'S SPREADING?

Water Soldier is now established in and spreading throughout the Bay of Quinte. This is going to cause problems, because it will have devastating consequences for the Bay's ecosystem, fishery, and recreational activities. Potentially, causing hefty financial implications for municipalities and tourism operators.

In 2021, Water Soldier was found in the Bay of Quinte, it was treated with a herbicide in an effort to stop its dispersal throughout the bay. Unfortunately, during the 2022 summer monitoring season, it was discovered the spread of water Soldier was more extensive than first thought. It was found in several locations along the bay's north shore. In 2023, the plant was found further down the bay near Long Reach. In 2024, more populations of Water Soldier were found throughout the bay. Management options have included applying a herbicide to larger populations along the bay's North shore and hand pulling for smaller populations. However, now, it's an ongoing management issue.

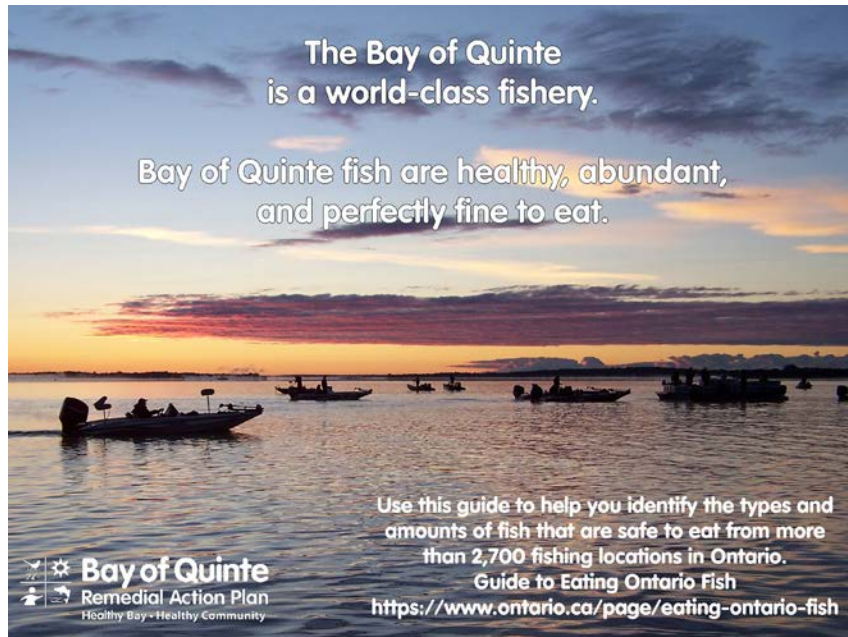
Again, this field season several agencies will be on the water monitoring for Water Soldier populations. However, there is limited manpower and resources available, so public input is vital to identifying additional populations of Water Soldier. If you are out on the water and think you have seen Water Soldier, Please Report It. The more eyes looking for this plant the better the chance of finding populations and removing them.

Everyone is asked to report any sightings of Water Soldier to **1-800-563-7711** or visit [EDDMaps Ontario](https://www.EDDMapsOntario.com), or search for the 'Invasive Species in Ontario' project on [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) to report a sighting.

You can find out more about [Water Soldier](#).



WALLEYE SEASON IS COMING UP!

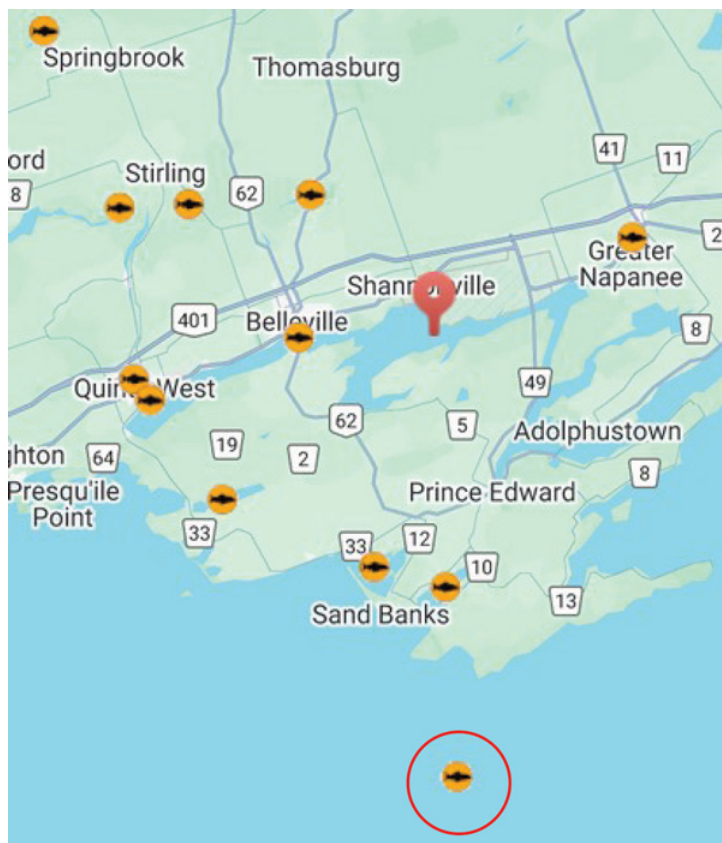


You can use the Guide to Eating Ontario Fish and its interactive map to help you identify the types and amounts of fish that are safe to eat from more than 2,700 fishing locations in Ontario including the Bay of Quinte. The guide was updated in 2024.

Fish can be an important part of a balanced diet. They are a great source of high-quality protein, beneficial omega-3 fats, and other nutrients. At the same time, there is a risk of exposing ourselves and our families to harmful contaminants in fish. Based on their size, type, and location, certain fish may be more suitable to eat than others.

The [Guide to Eating Ontario Fish](#) provides easy-to-use information to help you choose fish species that will minimize exposure to toxins. Consumption advice in the guide is based on guidelines provided by Health Canada.

FISHING ZONES HAVE CHANGED



Last year, when the new guide was published. One of the major changes for the Bay of Quinte was the merger of fishing zones. The Bay used to include zones 9 (Upper Bay), 9a (Trenton Nearshore), 9b (Belleville Nearshore), and 10 (Middle Bay). Now, zones 9a and 9b remain identified in the bay, as they are areas with historical industrial activities. Zones 9 and 10 are now included in the Lake Ontario (Eastern Basin zone). The zone includes an area from east of Colborne to Kingston (including Bay of Quinte).

The rationale for the merging of zones is the movements of migratory fish makes them resident of all these zones at different points throughout the year. Fish consumption advisories for Lake Ontario (Eastern Basin) are based on the most restrictive advisory applicable to all the former zones.

The advisory link for the Lake Ontario (Eastern Basin) zone is located in Lake Ontario. See image.

Marginal Land Buffer Strips

Grant Rate - 75%

Maximum Grant - up to \$7500.00

- Got marginal land along a watercourse, establish a riparian buffer strip.

Riparian buffer strips on marginal lands create healthier ecosystems by

- attracting pollinators for your crops,
- offering habitats for a diversity of species,
- enhancing soil and water conservation.

www.bqrap.ca

Sarah Midlane-Jones
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Lower Trent Conservation
P: 613-394-3915 ext 214
E: smidlanejones@bqrap.ca

Kaitlin Maurer
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Quinte Conservation
P: 613-968-3434 ext 107
E: KMaurer@quinteconservation.ca



Bay of Quinte
Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

Do you have some land near a wetland or watercourse that's not producing high enough crop yields? Why not plant a riparian buffer strip on these marginal lands. It will create an overall healthier ecosystem by attracting pollinators for your crops, offering habitat for a diversity of species and enhancing soil and water conservation. We have a grant that can help.

Book your complimentary site visit, Today.

[Rural Stewardship Grants](#)

Agenda Item #15



CAO REPORT

Date: April 30, 2025
To: Board of Directors
Prepared by: Rhonda Bateman, Chief Administrative Officer

STAFFING

Ashley Anastasio, Environmental Planner, accepted a planning position with Northumberland County. Her last day was April 24th.

Anne Anderson celebrated her 20th year at Lower Trent Conservation in April. Her anniversary was recognized with a gift from LTC.

The anticipated start date for our summer staff members is May 5th. LTC received funding from Canada Summer Jobs for two positions; we had requested funding for five students.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

The Throne Speech indicated that there will be changes coming to provincial and municipal permitting processes. *"Over the course of its mandate, your government will further streamline the province's environmental assessment process and bring common-sense conservation principles to the role of Conservation Authorities and species-at-risk requirements."*

Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 has passed first reading and has been sent for second reading. This Act amends the *Endangered Species Act*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Species Conservation Act* and others.

In reviewing the Special Economic Zones Act, it is dependent on the government to define the economic zones, the "trusted proponents", the "designated projects" and establish regulations under the Act.

The Environmental Registry of Ontario has the following proposals posted:

1. [Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025](#)
2. [Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025](#)
3. [Special Economic Zones Act, 2025](#)

CONSERVATION ONTARIO (CO)

The Annual General Meeting of Conservation Ontario was held on Monday April 14 in Richmond Hill. The new governance board for Conservation Ontario is:

Chair, Dave Barton	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Vice Chair, Ed McGugan	Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Vice Chair, Pat Warren	Kawartha Conservation
Director, Rob Baldwin	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Director, Brad McNevin	Quinte Conservation
Director, Chandra Sharma	Conservation Halton

Conservation Ontario presented their Annual Report at the meeting and below is the link to the document:

https://conservationontario.ca/fileadmin/images/reports/CO_AnnualReport_2024_SinglePage.pdf

There was a General Manager/CAO meeting on April 28th to discuss the potential ramifications of the Throne Speech and Bill 5. CO will be coordinating comments on the Bill. As the regulations have not been written to fulfil the Acts, CO and all of the CAs will be preparing to meet any potential scenario that may arise.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

The annual native plant sale got underway with seedling pickup on May 1st and May 2nd. The pickup time for the saplings, wildflowers and Little Forest Kits is scheduled for June.