THE CITY OF WINDSOR

COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

VALERIE CRITCHLEY
CITY CLERK

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER
TO OUR FILE NO.

November 27, 2013

TO: **ALL MEMBERS OF THE WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

This is to advise that the next meeting of the Windsor and Essex County Environment Committee is scheduled as follows:

Thursday, December 5, 2013
5:30 o'clock p.m.
Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant

The ***attached*** agenda will be considered. ***Please notify the undersigned at 519-255-6222, ext. 6430, if you are unable to attend.***

Yours very truly,

Karen Kadour
Committee Coordinator

350 City Hall Square West • City Hall • Windsor, Ontario • N9A 6S1
E-mail: clerks@city.windsor.on.ca • Tel: (519)255-6211 • Fax: (519)255-6868

AGENDA
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Thursday, December 5th, 2013
Meeting at 5:30p.m. At the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant (4155 Ojibway)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held November 7th, 2013 – ***emailed separately***.

5. **PRESENTATION**

5.1 Liat Podolsky, Staff Scientist, Eco Justice and Paul Drca, Manager Environment Quality, City of Windsor – Discussion regarding "The Great Lakes Sewage Report Card" – ***attached***.
5.2 Meghan Jeffery, Campaign Director, Idle Hands Ontario – Introduction to their anti-idling campaign.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 Milkweed enforcement by City of Windsor By-law
6.2 Tree by-law update

7. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – ***attached***

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1 Air
8.2 Transportation
8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands
8.4 Water Quality

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Invitation to Dr. Saad Jasim, Director, International Join Commission, to discuss the algae bloom toxins and the effects on human health as well as ways to mitigate this threat.
9.2 Administrative Item: Letters designating alternates
9.3 Next Green Speaker Series ideas

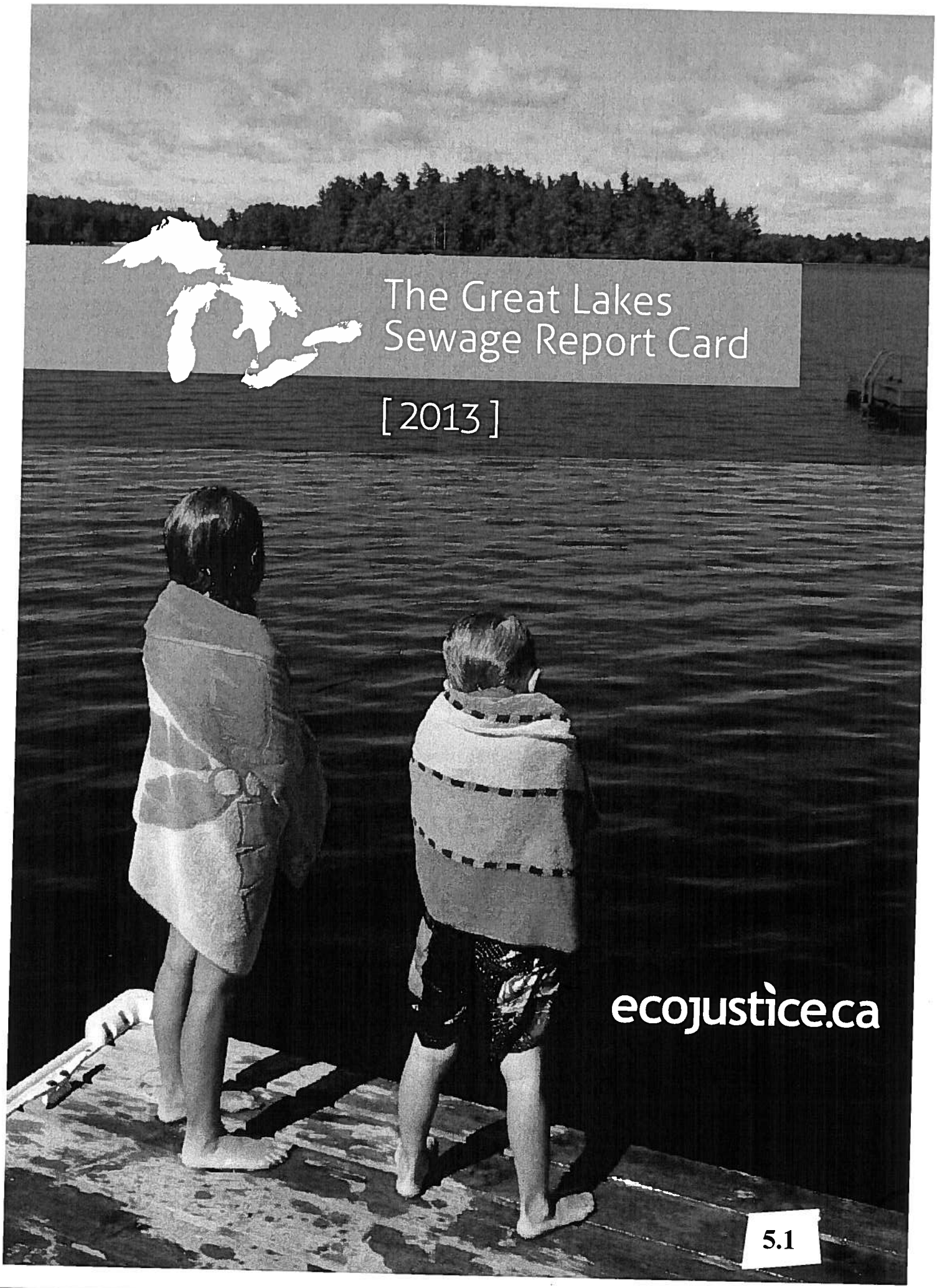
10. **COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment 6th Concession Road/North Talbot Road– ***attached.***
10.2 Great Lakes E-News, Fall 2013 – ***attached.***
10.3 WECEC letter in support of Walkerville Streetscaping – ***attached.***
10.4 The Windsor Star: *Report: Windsor needs more tree planting, less energy use, denser population* – ***attached.***
10.5 The Windsor Star: *Human activity kills birds by the millions, study finds*- ***attached.***

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be **January 9th, 2014** at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**


The Great Lakes
Sewage Report Card
[2013]
ecojustice.ca
5.1

report card research methodology

A 22-question survey was sent to 25 municipalities within the Great Lakes Basin in Ontario in June 2012. A copy of the survey questions can be found in the city summaries in Appendix A. The survey included questions such as the treatment level, number and volume of CSOs and bypasses, relevant sewer-use bylaws, current and future plans for sewage management, use of green infrastructure, and expectations for compliance with the federal regulations. Our 2006 report looked at cities in the U.S. and Canada. For this report, we decided to focus on Canadian cities to get a clearer picture of how well Ontario is performing with respect to sewage management in the Great Lakes Basin.

Numerous cities and regions did not respond to our request for information. Of the cities assessed in 2006, the following did not participate this time: Thunder Bay, Sault Ste Marie and Kingston confirmed they received our survey but they did not complete or return it to us. In Hamilton, we attempted to find the correct contact person to send the survey, but were unable to get a reply to this request and did not send the survey. Niagara Region refused to participate due to time constraints. Welland, which was not previously assessed in our 2006 report, told us that we would need to submit a Freedom of Information request to obtain their sewage treatment information. Other cities and regions not assessed in 2006 that did not provide us with information were: Barrie, Halton Region, Marathon, Owen Sound, Wawa, Oshawa, Cornwall and Belleville. These cities were not included in the report as we were unable to obtain enough information to provide the needed analysis. We did however research publicly available information for those that were included in our 2006 report to attempt to get a sense of whether these cities have made any improvements or changes.

Before the publication of this report, the information we obtained was sent to each city for verification in March 2013. Sudbury, Collingwood, Kitchener-Waterloo, Windsor, and York and Durham Region did not respond, so these five municipalities have not verified this information as accurate.

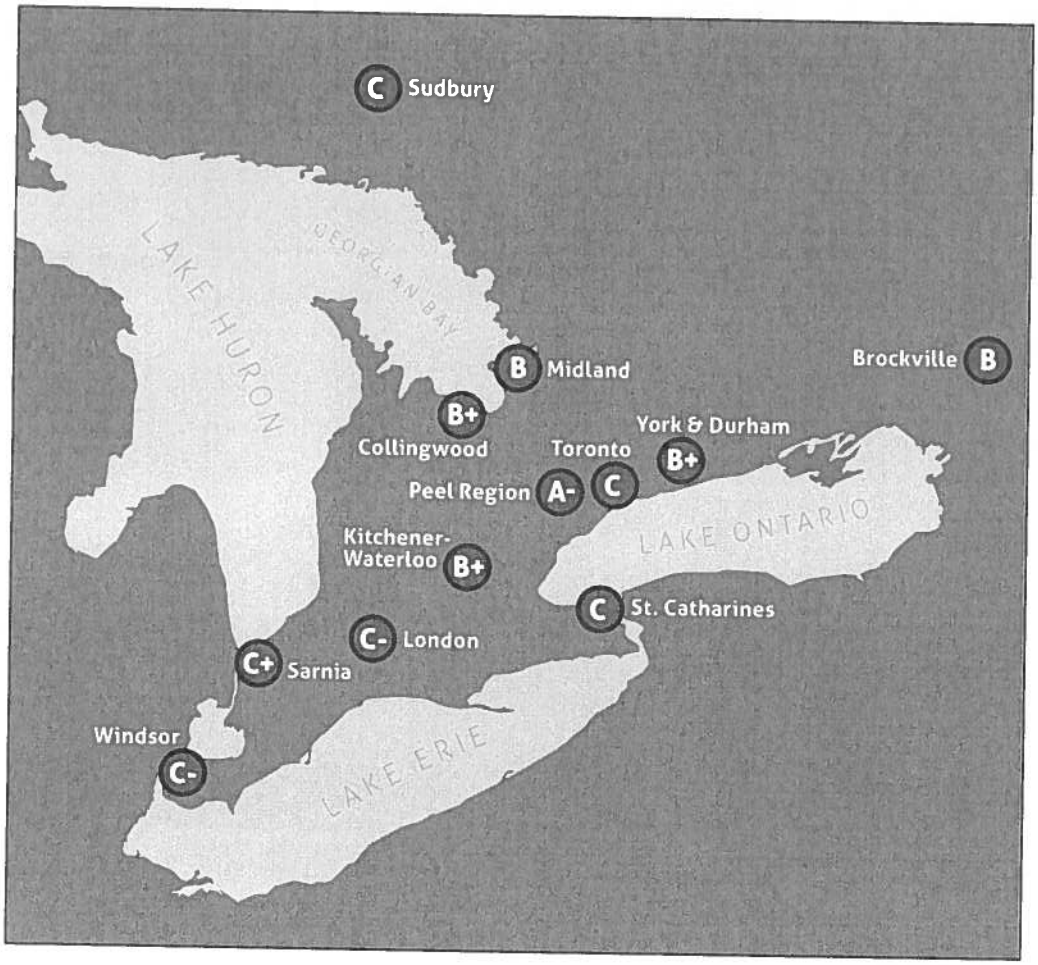
In total, we are reporting on 12 cities or regions in Ontario. The following information was surveyed and researched with respect to each city or region assessed:

- Population served by sewage treatment plants
- Receiving water
- Percentage of combined sewers
- Level of sewage treatment, treatment description
- Sewage sludge disposal
- Bypass and CSO releases—volume and number of events
- Final effluent testing
- Sewer-use bylaw
- Current and future sewage management plans
- Use of green infrastructure and renewable energy
- Public reporting
- Certificates of Approval
- Expectation for compliance with the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations
- Contact Information

Grading Methodology

We followed the same grading methodology as was used for our 2006 report. The grading methodology is based on a weighted average of the grades assigned to results of individual questions. Grades were assigned based on the following categories: level of treatment, bypasses and combined sewer overflow frequency and volumes, final effluent testing, sewer-use bylaws, current and future sewage management plans, use of green infrastructure and renewable energy, and expected compliance with the federal regulations. Greater weight was given to questions that directly relate to surface water quality, such as the level of sewage treatment provided and the quantity or volume of combined sewer overflows and bypasses. Some questions were considered informational and were not include in the grading. The final grades were averaged and presented as a letter grade for easy comparison. A summary of the grading methodology is provided in Appendix B.

For the purposes of this report, the ideal city would have tertiary treatment to remove contaminants such as phosphorus and nitrogen. It would also use non-chlorine based disinfection. In addition, it would have no CSOs or bypasses, comprehensive final effluent testing, a recently updated sewer-use bylaw, innovative sewage management plans that include the use of green infrastructure, and expect to meet the new federal standards without the need for extra time.



discussion of results

Of all the cities and regions included in this report, Windsor received the worst grade, followed by London and Toronto. The best overall grade went to Peel Region, followed by York and Durham and Kitchener-Waterloo. See Table 1 for each city or region's overall ranking and Table 2 for a summary of each city or region's grades in each category.

It is important to note that while the results of this investigation are revealing, this report fails to give a complete picture because it is based on a small sample of municipalities in the Great Lakes Basin that volunteered their information. Five municipalities that were assessed in our 2006 report are not included in this analysis, making it difficult to draw direct conclusions about changes over the past seven years.

Sewage Treatment

All the surveyed cities had secondary treatment as a minimum level of treatment except for Collingwood, which has primary as well as secondary. (At the time of our 2006 report, the cities of Kingston, Sault Ste Marie and Windsor had primary treatment at one of their sewage treatment plants. Since 2006, those cities have upgraded to secondary treatment.) London, Peel, Sarnia and Kitchener-Waterloo have said that they have at least one tertiary treatment plant or lagoon. Collingwood and Sarnia reported using UV disinfection and Toronto reported that it uses phosphorus removal and effluent disinfection. York Region reported that it uses phosphorus removal and chlorine disinfection and dechlorination.

Table 1:
Ranking of cities/regions based on the grade point average calculations

City	Rank	Grade
Peel Region	1st	A-
York & Durham	2nd	B+
Collingwood	3rd	B+
Kitchener-Waterloo	4th	B+
Midland	5th	B
Brockville	6th	B
Sarnia	7th	C+
Sudbury	8th	C
St. Catharines	9th	C
Toronto	10th	C
London	11th	C-
Windsor	12th	C-

Wet-Weather Bypasses and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)

Wet-weather bypasses and CSOs were the most distinguishing issue between the cities surveyed. The grade for these discharges is based on the percentage of the annual sewage flow that is released via bypass and CSO events, as well as the number of times per year these events occur each year. Based on our analysis of available information, it is clear that sewage dumping is still a problem that is unlikely to improve without serious investment, particularly as climate change leads to more frequent storms that overwhelm combined sewers systems. Some municipalities have more frequent sewage dumping incidents and larger amounts of sewage dumped via bypasses and CSOs. It is important to note that cities facing major CSO problems are generally older and larger, and have old combined sewer

Table 2:
Summary of city/region grades for each question

	Weight	St Catharines	York & Durham	Collingwood	Kitchener-Waterloo	Midland	Sudbury	Sarnia	Windsor	Peel	Toronto	London	Brockville
Treatment level	2	N/A	B	C-	B	C	C	B-	C	B	B-	B	C
Wet-weather bypasses	2	N/A	A	A	B	A	C	D	F	B	F	F	B
Wet-weather bypass % of total flow	2	N/A	A	A	A-	A-	D	D	F	A-	D	F	C
CSO event(s)	2	F	N/A	A	N/A	C	N/A	A	D	N/A	F	D	N/A
CSO % of total flow	2	N/A	N/A	A	N/A	A-	N/A	A	D	N/A	D	D	N/A
Up to date sewer-use bylaw	1	D	A	A	D	D	A	C	D	A	A	A	C
Expected compliance with federal regulations	1	A	A	A	X	A	B	X	B	A	B	C	A
Final effluent quality – # of different parameters tested	1	N/A	C	C	C+	B	B	C	A+	A	A	C	C+
Current and future sewage management plans	1	B	B	C	A	C	C	D	B-	B	A	B+	B
Green infrastructure	1	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	N/A	C-	A-	N/A	A+	D	N/A
Renewable energy	1	N/A	A	B-	B	B	D	D	C+	B+	B	B	B
Final Grade		C	B+	B+	B+	B	C	C+	C-	A-	C	C-	B

X – did not answer

systems that become inundated with storm water during wet weather. This causes greater amounts of raw sewage to flow out at CSO outfalls. Surveyed cities with major CSO and bypass problems include Windsor, Toronto and London. We note that London and Windsor do not measure their CSO events and thus do not know the extent of events or volumes. Toronto estimates the number of events, but does not measure the volumes. Midland had five CSO events. St. Catharines had the highest number of CSOs, based on a hydraulic model of the sewer system. However, it was difficult to get a full picture of how bad their sewage management practices are since Niagara Region manages most of their operations and refused to participate in our survey due to time constraints.

Peel Region, Brockville, Sudbury, Kitchener-Waterloo, and York and Durham do not have combined sewers and thus do not have CSO events. These cities were not graded on this question.

For wet-weather bypass volumes, Windsor received an "F" for having a high number of bypasses with volumes reaching 4.4 per cent of their total sewage volume treated. London's bypass volumes reached almost 2.5 per cent of their total sewage volume treated and they also received an "F", followed by Toronto, Sarnia and Sudbury, all with more than 1 per cent of partially treated discharges resulting in grades of "D". Because cities with aging infrastructure and combined sewer systems are more susceptible to CSO events, it is important to note that the degree of wet-weather bypasses are also dependent of the amount of rainfall and wet-weather events in any particular year. However, this is something that municipalities need to manage for by incorporating source control and alternative measures to keep as much stormwater out of the drain as possible.

Of the cities we surveyed in our 2006 report, and which are not included in this analysis, we were able to ascertain from publicly available information that they are still experiencing sewage discharge problems on the same scale as when last assessed. For example, Kingston, with over 20 combined sewer outfalls, publicly reported 16 bypasses in 2011 in the city's combined sewer system with a total vol-

ume of 518,411 m³.[40] In 2011, Hamilton appears to have had 67 CSO events with a total volume of 5,403,914 m³, as well as 23 bypasses of 1,855,000 m³.[41]

Sudbury and Kitchener-Waterloo also reported maintenance or malfunction-related bypasses such as power failure during a storm event, partial loss of air supply within a plant or filter maintenance. But we did not factor those events into the grades.

We also included public reporting within this section's grade, allowing each municipality an additional half grade if they indicated that they reported bypass and CSO events to the public in an accessible way and in a timely fashion. No city received this half grade addition. London reports to a Citizens Advisory Committee on a monthly basis but even this does not qualify as accessible public reporting.

Final Effluent Testing and Sewer-Use Bylaws

Windsor and Toronto have the most comprehensive final effluent testing programs, conducting more than 1,000 analyses per year on many parameters and pollutants. In contrast, some cities had minimal testing programs of only a few dozen tests per month, including some with less than 10 different parameters.

With respect to sewer-use bylaws, they were not analyzed for comprehensiveness or content. Instead, the city's grade was based on two factors: did they have a bylaw and how recently had the bylaw been reviewed and updated? London, Toronto, Peel, Sudbury, York and Durham, and Collingwood have recently updated or reviewed their sewer-use bylaws and received top marks on this question.

Current and Future Sewage Management Plans

Some cities have significant capital works underway or are planning significant upgrades. We highlight Toronto's leading efforts and investments to upgrade and replace aging infrastructure and optimize operations at all of their treatment plants. Kitchener-Waterloo also gets top marks for major investments in plant expansions and upgrades.

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure (such as trees, vegetation, wetlands, or engineered

systems that mimic natural landscapes) offers an innovative and sustainable approach to stormwater management source control by capturing stormwater runoff and retaining it before it reaches the sewer system. This limits the frequency of CSOs and reduces the amount of polluted stormwater runoff entering local water bodies. Green infrastructure measures can be a cost effective means of reducing CSOs, and integrating green infrastructure techniques into traditional sewage management plans is an economically viable option for municipalities struggling with aging infrastructure and CSO problems.

We received a range of replies from cities about their use of green infrastructure to complement their sewage management plans and operations. Top honours go to the city of Toronto for their extensive programs and policies related to green infrastructure, many of them specifically devised to manage stormwater and their CSO problems, and officially set out in bylaws, standards and policies. We note that Toronto was the only city to receive a grade of "A+" and encourage other cities to follow Toronto's lead in establishing programs and policies of comparative calibre.

Other cities indicated some use of green infrastructure, although few provided specifics. London indicated that they have a downspout disconnection program, but they do not believe that green infrastructure makes a noticeable difference in CSOs. If a city does not have any combined sewers, we did not grade them on this question.

Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations Compliance

Some cities and regions indicated that they already are, or expect to be, in compliance with the new federal regulations. Those cities and regions include Brockville, Peel, Windsor, Sudbury, Midland, Collingwood, York and Durham and St. Catharines. Toronto is striving to meet the new requirements and London has said that their main concern is de-nitrification. London is also considering how to optimize treatment plants. Kitchener-Waterloo and Sarnia did not answer this question.

WECEC COORDINATOR MONTHLY REPORT
AVERIL PARENT

– NOVEMBER 2013 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Smog Action Plan

The WECEC coordinator has begun conducting research of various Smog Action Plans completed by other municipalities. A draft Smog Action Plan for the City of Windsor will be completed in consultation with the City of Windsor Parks & Recreation department and presented to WECEC.

2. Milkweed discussion with City of Windsor By-law Enforcement

Discussions with the Manager of By-law Enforcement relayed the following:

> Under By-law 3-2006, *A By-law to establish standards respecting yard waste and exterior property maintenance*, weeds are defined as those items found in the Weed Control Act. The City of Windsor By-law Enforcement Unit does not interpret or enforce the Weed Control Act. We do ensure that grass is kept below 12 inches as outlined in the By-law and will require that property owners maintain this minimum standard. If there happens to be mild weed amongst the tall grass on a property, the requirement would be to have it cut down to 12 inches.

Therefore, if Milkweed is planted on a property in part of a Naturalized Area, as defined in the by-law, with a buffer strip of 2 feet to other properties, it does not need to be killed or cut down.

This information was relayed to Steve Green, Community Garden Network Coordinator.

3. Tree by-law Discussions

Discussions have been had with members of the tree by-law subcommittee, City of Windsor administration and representatives from ERCA. A previously drafted by-law was reviewed and commented on.

It was noted at the Nov 20th Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee meeting that the creation of subcommittee's of WECEC must be approved by Council. As such, the creation of the tree by-law subcommittee will go to Council for approval shortly. There will be no further work on this subject until the subcommittee has been approved by Council.

1.0

WECEC Budget – Summary

2013 Budget		
Expense	**Credit**	**Expenditure**
2013 Budget	$8,300.00	
Website domain renewal		$76.32
Conservation Campaign Ad		$1,525.39
Pat on the Back room rental		$246.00
June meeting at Ojibway		$122.50
Promotional Items		$347.92
Conservation Campaign Generator Design		$596.06
Earth Day		$40.00
David Suzuki		$1,000.00
Dan Burden		$1,000.00
Pat on the Back cheques		$2,000.00
Pat on the Back food		$123.13
Wildlife tour		$793.23
Pat on the Back plaques		$57.40
Website hosting fee		
Totals	$8,300.00	$7,927.95
TOTAL REMAINING	**$372.05**	

November 4, 2013

City of Windsor
Environmental Services
350 City Hall Square West
~~Windsor, ON N9A 6S1~~

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(519) 672-8209

Attention: Ms. Averil Parent
Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee Coordinator

City of Windsor – Municipal Class Environmental Assessment
6th Concession Road/North Talbot Road

Dear Ms. Parent:

The City of Windsor, in association with their consultant, Dillon Consulting Limited, is initiating a Schedule 'C' Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study (EA study) to provide an improved 6th Concession Road/North Talbot Road corridor that will serve the needs of the transportation system and area growth for a 20-year period. The study area is shown in the key plan, attached. The study will address impacts on the adjacent arterial/collector road network and land uses, including consideration of pedestrian connections, bikeway connections, traffic calming, and drainage issues. Please see the attached Notice of Study Commencement for additional information.

This study will be carried out in accordance with the planning and design process for Schedule 'C' projects as outlined in the Municipal Class EA document (October 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011). A public consultation program will be carried out to provide the public, interest groups, government agencies and Aboriginal communities and/or organizations with opportunities to ask questions, submit comments, identify issues and provide relevant information to the study team. The first of two planned Public Information Centres (PICs) is tentatively scheduled for the winter, 2013.

If you have comments or concerns to be noted by the project team in advance of the first PIC, or wish to be removed from our contact list, please contact John Zangari, Consultant Project Manager at (519) 948-5000, ext. 3234 or by e-mail at jzangari@dillon.ca.

Yours sincerely,

DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED

John Zangari, P.Eng.
Project Manager

PKN:lpt
Encl.

cc: Jennifer Leitzinger, City of Windsor

Our file: 13-8295

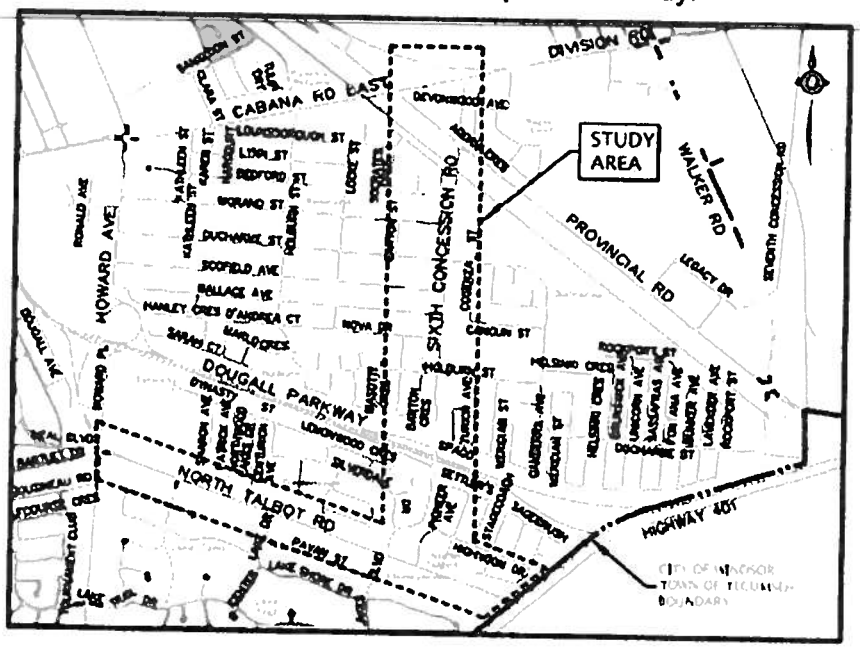
Dillon Consulting Limited

10.1

THE CITY OF WINDSOR

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT
CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
6TH CONCESSION ROAD/ NORTH TALBOT ROAD

The City of Windsor has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study (Class EA) to provide an improved 6th Concession Road/North Talbot Road corridor that will serve the needs of the transportation system and area growth for a 20-year period. The study area is shown in the key plan below. The study will address impacts on the adjacent arterial/collector road network and land uses, including consideration of pedestrian connections, bikeway connections, traffic calming, and drainage issues. Dillon Consulting Limited has been retained by the City of Windsor to complete the study.



The study is being undertaken in accordance with the planning and design process for 'Schedule C' projects of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011) under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*.

A key component of the study is consultation with interested stakeholders (public and agencies) and input during the planning process is encouraged. The first Public Information Centre (PIC) is tentatively planned for early winter, 2013. Notification of the PIC will be provided at the appropriate time via a similar advertisement. **Please direct any public concerns to be noted by the project team in advance of the first PIC to John Zangari, Consultant Project Manager (jzangari@dillon.ca).** Upon completion of the study, an Environmental Study Report documenting the process will be available for public review for a period of 30 calendar days. Under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*, unless otherwise stated in the submission, with the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record and will be released, if requested, to any person. Comments and information received will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Future consultation events, PICs, will be scheduled during the study to: review the need and justification for improvements; the existing study area conditions; an assessment of alternative solutions and design concepts; and to discuss issues related to the project.

For further information, or if you have specific comments relating to this project, please contact us directly:

Mr. John Zangari, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Dillon Consulting Limited
3200 Deziel Drive, Suite 608
Windsor, ON N8W 5K8
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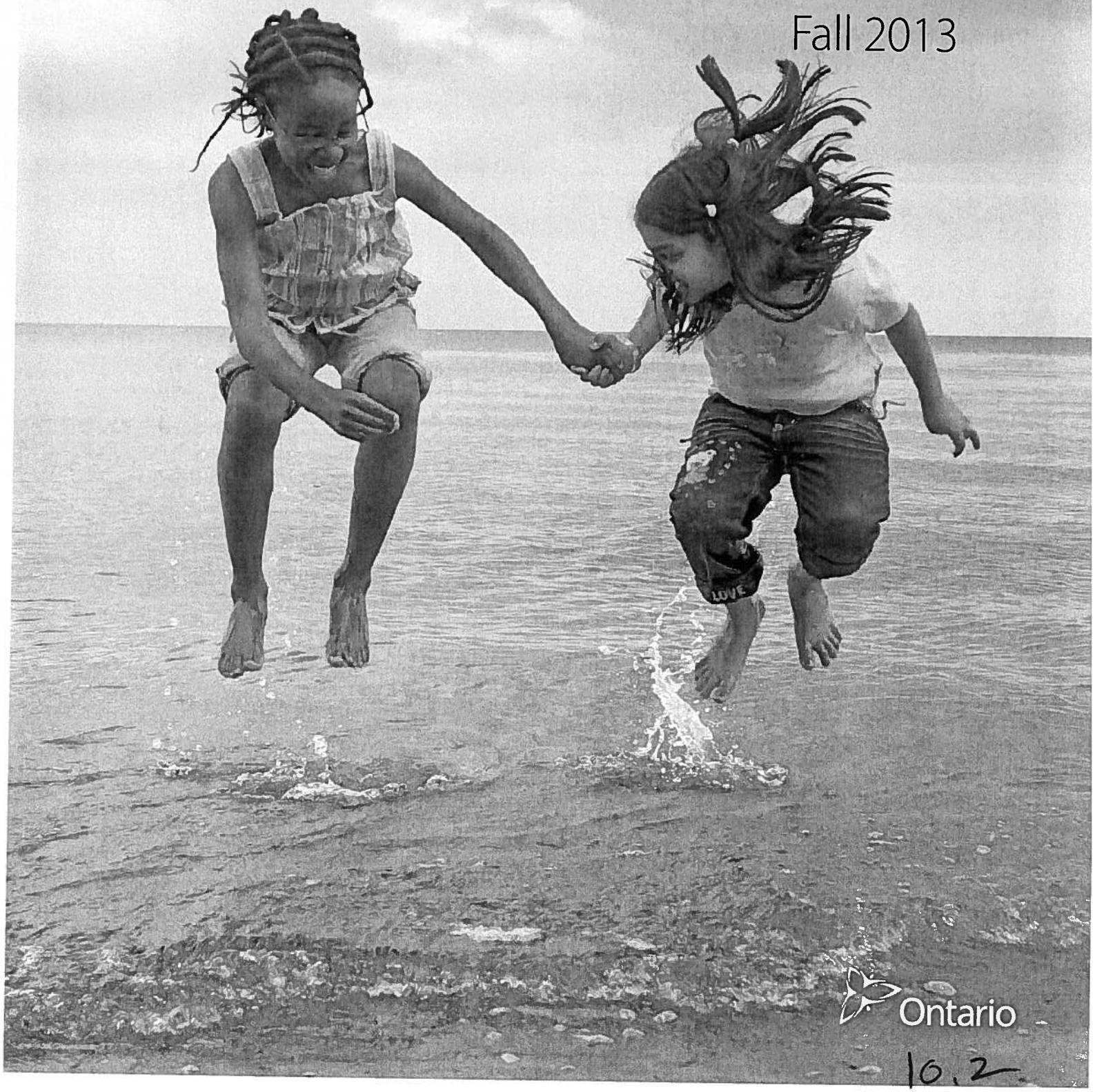
This Notice first published on November 2, 2013.

Great Lakes Protection in Ontario

What's New?

Fall 2013



Ontario

10.2

The Ontario government has been taking action to restore and protect the Great Lakes. This update talks about how Ontario is working with partners, individuals and communities to support the vision of healthy Great Lakes for a stronger Ontario – Lakes that continue to be drinkable, swimmable and fishable.

Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy was released in 2012. It maps out the various ways the Province is taking action to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

First Nations and Métis communities are key partners in the protection of the Great Lakes. Ontario is committed to building stronger relationships with First Nations and Métis communities. We recognize that First Nations have a spiritual and cultural connection to water. We will be exploring ways to strengthen Great Lakes protection through the consideration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Manitoulin Island, Lake Huron. (Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, J. Speed)

FUNDING TO IMPROVE YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Ontario's Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund is helping communities to protect and restore their corner of the Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Basin. So far, 80 projects have been funded resulting in significant local action. More projects are set to be announced soon.

The Ontario Community Environment Fund (OCEF) is available to communities where environmental penalties were collected. Previously funded Great Lakes projects include: improving habitats in waterways; shoreline tree plantings; and, preventing spills.

Finishing the job:

Cleaning up contaminated sediment at Randle Reef in Hamilton Harbour is one of the last major actions needed to finish the job for this Area of Concern plagued by historical coal tar contamination and other issues. Ontario has committed $46.3M – one-third of the total project cost – with another third coming from the federal government and the rest from municipal and industry sources.

Background: Mississagi River delta in the north channel of Georgian Bay. (Ministry of Natural Resources, W. Bakowsky)

CHAMPIONING ONTARIO'S WATER TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

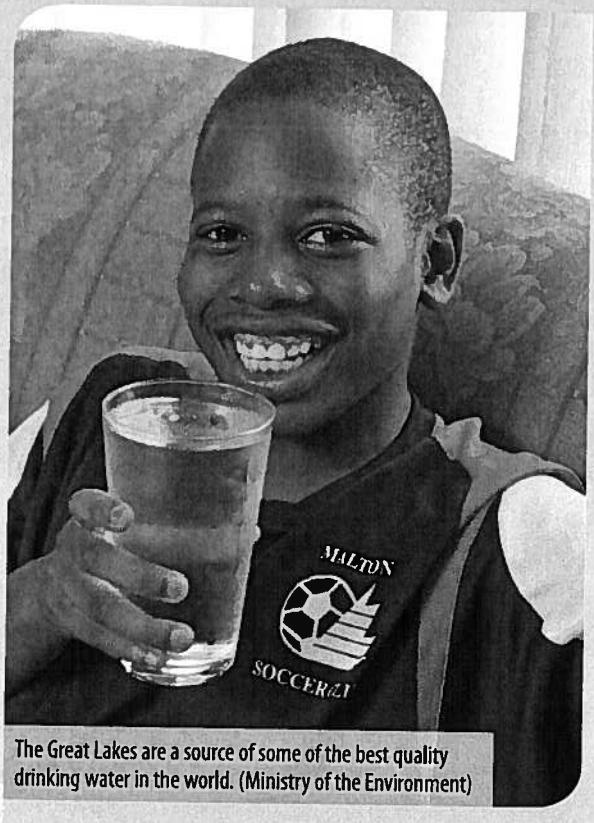
Ontario's **Water Sector Strategy** is helping local water technology companies grow domestically and compete globally.

Since its launch in 2012, the **Water Technology Acceleration Project** (WaterTAP) has championed Ontario as a world water technology hub. They brought together our water sector and governments from China, India, United Kingdom, Germany, U.S.A., and others. They work with water technology entrepreneurs, utilities and investors to make connections and find resources. In October, WaterTAP co-hosted the World Water Tech North America Summit in Toronto.

This summer, several communities experienced devastating flood damage. Urban runoff carries unwanted nutrients and harmful pollutants into the Lakes. Ontario has committed $17M to the **Showcasing Water Innovation** program that will help reduce stormwater runoff in 14 communities.

The Southern Ontario Water Consortium is creating a platform for turning water ideas into water innovations through research, development, testing and demonstration of technologies and solutions to water problems in real world environments. For more information, visit sowc.ca.

Background: Stormwater outfall to Lake Ontario, Lucas Point Park, Cobourg Ontario. (Ministry of the Environment, E. Chatten)



The Great Lakes are a source of some of the best quality drinking water in the world. (Ministry of the Environment)

Bill to Protect Great Lakes Passes Second Reading: *Proposed Great Lakes Protection Act (Bill 6) passed second reading in the Ontario Legislature. The proposed act, if passed, would provide new tools to protect the Great Lakes for future generations.*

Odorous mats of algae fouling the Lake Erie shoreline in 2006. (Ministry of the Environment)

CANADA-ONTARIO AGREEMENT

Ontario is looking forward to putting in place a new Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) that sees Ontario and Canada both doing their part to protect the Great Lakes. In the meantime, we continue to work with our partners on projects that advance Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy and help Canada meet its commitments under the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

CONSERVING OUR COASTS AND BUILDING TRAILS

Ontario is investing in partnerships to conserve and restore Great Lakes coasts, including dozens of wetland improvement projects that cover thousands of hectares.

Ontario is expanding its trails system as a legacy initiative of the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games. New trails will enhance public access and enjoyment of our Great Lakes coasts.

Fighting algae: *Ontario scientists are undertaking ambitious nutrient studies to understand links between land use, nutrient movement and excess algae in Lake Erie and other waterways.*

BRINGING BACK NATIVE FISH

Partnerships are improving habitat and water quality, and are helping to bring back:

- Lake Ontario's Atlantic salmon is Ontario's only native salmon. There are many accounts of plentiful Atlantic salmon from early settlers. Apparently farms were bought and paid for from the sale of salmon.
- Lake Sturgeon have been around for at least 200 million years, since dinosaurs roamed the earth. They have historically grown to 2.5 metres (over eight feet) and weighed in at a staggering 150 kilograms (330 pounds).

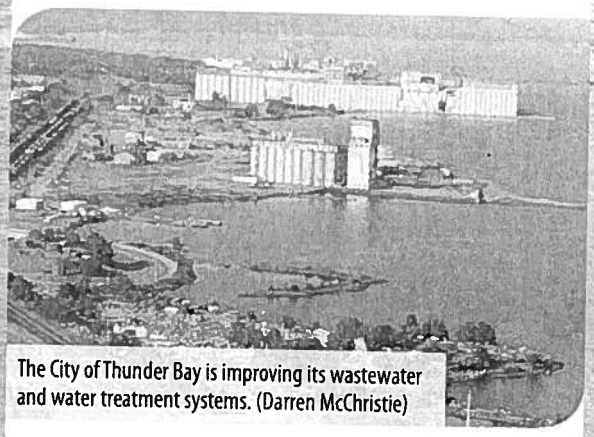
FIGHTING OFF INVASIVE SPECIES

We are working with our partners to keep invasive species, such as Asian carp, out of the Great Lakes and inland waters by:

- strengthening regulations and increasing monitoring efforts
- collaborating with researchers to understand Asian carp biology and behaviour
- focusing surveillance and prevention on high-risk areas and likely paths for invasion.

Background: A SCUBA diver explores a historic shipwreck vat Tobermory. (Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation)

HELPING MUNICIPALITIES ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE



The City of Thunder Bay is improving its wastewater and water treatment systems. (Darren McChristie)

Ontario and its partners are offering municipalities information on how to manage risks and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Some of our partners include:

- Great Lakes and St. Lakes Cities Initiative
- Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources
- Clean Air Partnership

Road flood damage and wash-out debris. (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources)

Background: Bruce Peninsula National Park, Georgian Bay. (Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation)

KEEPING SOIL AND NUTRIENTS ON FARMS AND OUT OF THE GREAT LAKES

Innovative projects are helping reduce impacts to the Great Lakes (e.g. algal blooms) and supporting competitiveness in the agriculture and rural sectors. For example:

- helping farmers test their soil and plan nutrient use that maximizes economic and environmental benefits through Healthy Soils, Healthy Farms, Healthy Environment, a partnership with the East Central Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- supporting CleanFARMS, a not-for-profit group and award-winning program that provides free, voluntary collection of plastic waste and unused pesticides.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT:

ontario.ca/environment
ontario.ca/GreatLakesFund
@environmentont
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Great Lakes Protection in Ontario

What's New?

Fall 2013

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Ontario

Windsor Essex County
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

4155 Ojibway Parkway • Windsor, Ontario N9C 4A5
Tel: 519-253-7111 ext. 290 • Email: aparent@city.windsor.on.ca

November 22nd 2013

Re: Walkerville BIA streetscaping proposal

To: City of Windsor Mayor and Members of Council;

On behalf of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee, we would like to provide this letter in support of the proposed streetscaping plans being brought forward by the Walkerville BIA to improve walkability and enhance local business in their district.

The improvements suggested promote traffic calming measures to enhance safety, and walkability measures which are good for business and human health. These principles are greatly supported by the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute. This was made clear during a presentation and walking audit of the Walkerville area by the Director of Inspiration and Innovation, Dan Burden as part of his journey to Windsor in the spring of 2013.

These principles greatly benefit the environment by encouraging active transportation therefore decreasing car traffic and emissions from fuel use. In addition, *Creating Healthy Communities* is one of the goals of the Environmental Master Plan, adopted by Council in 2006.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Halberstadt
Committee Co-chair

Charlie Wright
Committee Co-chair

Report: Windsor needs more tree-planting, less energy use, denser population

A volunteer plants a tree near the WFCU Centre on a Saturday morning in October 2008. (Dan Janisse / The Windsor Star)

Nov 22, 2013 - 10:33 PM EST
Last Updated: Nov 22, 2013 - 11:33 PM EST

Windsor needs to plant more trees, use less energy in its buildings, and increase its population density, according to a new city report on the state of our environment.

Submitted to the city's environment, transportation and public safety committee on Wednesday, the report is the first time administration has tried to track local environmental trends over time.

"Many indicators are doing very well. We're definitely seeing improvements in several areas," said the report's author, City of Windsor environmental coordinator Averil Parent.

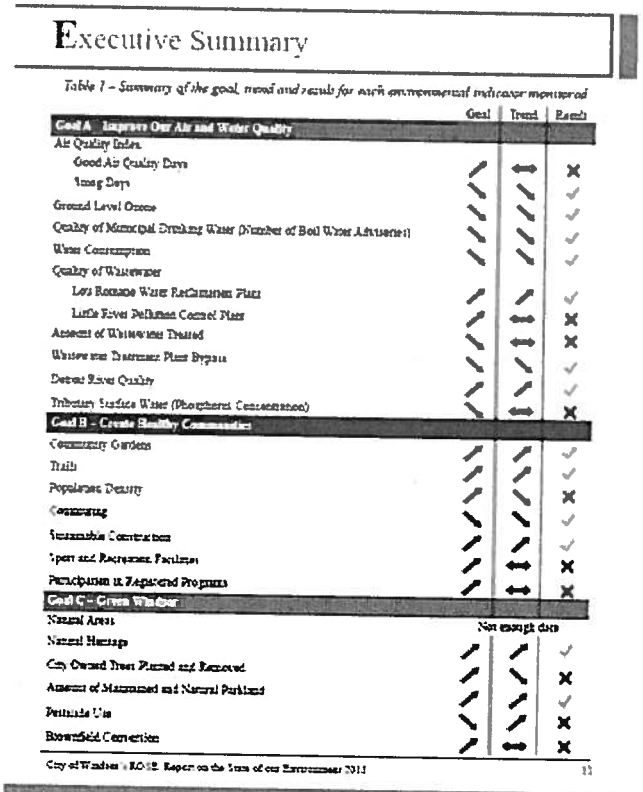
"And some indicators show an opposite trend for what we want. Those areas definitely need improvement."

The executive summary of the City of Windsor's Report On the State of our Environment 2013.

Analyzing data collected from 2007 to 2012, the report examines whether we're trending towards meeting the goals identified by council's Environmental Master Plan — or failing to do so.

Marks were assigned for more than 30 categories and sub-categories. Of those, 13 were a red 'X' — meaning the trend is not what was hoped for.

Most of those 'X' marks were for the trend simply not indicating any change. But in three sub-categories — tree-planting, the energy consumption of city-owned

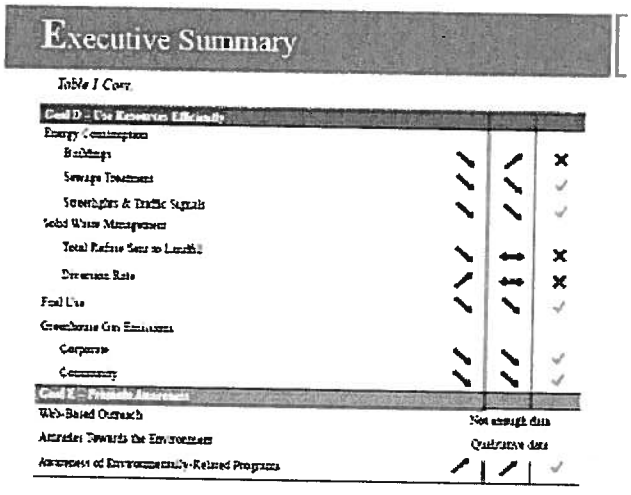


Executive Summary

Table 1 – Summary of the goal, trend and result for each environmental indicator monitored

	Goal	Trend	Result
Goal A – Improve Our Air and Water Quality			
Air Quality Index			
Good Air Quality Days	↗	↔	✗
Smog Days	↘	↘	✓
Ground Level Ozone	↘	↘	✓
Quality of Municipal Drinking Water (Number of Boil Water Advisories)	↘	↘	✓
Water Consumption	↘	↘	✓
Quality of Wastewater			
Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant	↘	↘	✓
Little River Pollution Control Plant	↘	↔	✗
Amount of Wastewater Treated	↘	↔	✗
Wastewater Treatment Plant Bypass	↘	↘	✓
Detroit River Quality	↘	↘	✓
Tributary Surface Water (Phosphorus Concentration)	↘	↔	✗
Goal B – Create Healthy Communities			
Community Gardens	↗	↗	✓
Trails	↗	↗	✓
Population Density	↗	↗	✗
Commuting	↗	↗	✓
Sustainable Construction	↗	↗	✓
Sport and Recreation Facilities	↗	↗	✗
Participation in Registered Programs	↗	↔	✗
Goal C – Green Windsor			
Natural Areas	Not enough data		
Natural Heritage	↗	↗	✓
City Owned Trees Planted and Removed	↗	↗	✗
Amount of Maintained and Natural Parkland	↗	↗	✓
Pesticide Use	↗	↗	✗
Brownfield Correction	↗	↔	✗

City of Windsor | ROSE Report on the State of our Environment 2013 11



Executive Summary

Table 1 Cont.

Goal D – Use Resources Efficiently			
Energy Consumption			
Buildings	↗	↗	✗
Sewage Treatment	↗	↗	✓
Streetlights & Traffic Signals	↗	↗	✓
Solid Waste Management			
Total Refuse Sent to Landfill	↗	↔	✗
Diversion Rate	↗	↔	✗
Fuel Use	↗	↗	✓
Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
Corporate	↗	↗	✓
Community	↗	↗	✓
Goal E – Promote Awareness			
Web-Based Outreach	Not enough data		
Attitudes Towards the Environment	Qualitative data		
Awareness of Environmentally-Related Programs	↗	↗	✓

10.4

buildings, and population density — the trend is moving contrary to the goal.

Parent said she was most surprised by the tree-planting indicator. According to the data, the city planted 4,324 trees in 2012. That's well below our numbers in the years 2008 to 2010, when the city was planting between 6,000 and 7,000 trees annually.

"I think it's misleading," Parent said. "I think we're doing very well (in that category)."

Parent said the numbers may be skewed due to there being extra tree-planting from 2008 to 2010 in order to counteract the large tree losses caused by emerald ash borer infestations.

"Since then, we've gone back to our standard practice — which is definitely a lot of tree planting," Parent said. "It's a decrease, but it's still really positive."

Regarding population density, the data indicates a drop from 1,478 people per square kilometre in Windsor in 2007 to 1,278 people per square kilometre in 2012.

"That is definitely affected by the general population of Windsor decreasing," Parent said.

According to Parent, having a denser community promotes public transit and other alternatives to automobile use, closer amenities, and less paved surfaces.

"The planning department has tried to provide incentives to get businesses and people back to the downtown core. Maybe we just haven't seen the effects of that yet," Parent said.

Under the heading of "Use resources efficiently," the report indicates total electricity use by city-owned buildings jumped by close to two million kWh in 2011.

Parent doesn't have an explanation for the spike. "Weather plays a role in this one," she reasoned. "It might be an anomaly ... I would hope that, as we continue to look at it, it stays around the 2012 level."

Other categories in which Parent would like to see improvement include brownfield conversion and diversion of solid waste.

"There is still much work to be done to continue improving our environment," the report concludes.

Human activity kills birds by the millions, study finds

Jen Dalley examines a ovenbird at the Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Amherstburg on Tuesday. A new study has found that bird deaths as a result of human activity are greater than expected.
Photograph by: Tyler Brownbridge, The Windsor Star , The Windsor Star

Craig Pearson, The Windsor Star | Oct 02, 2013 | Last Updated: Oct 02, 2013 - 8:09 UTC

Because of humans, birds are dropping like flies.

New research published Tuesday suggests the problem of birds dying because of human activity is worse than expected and accounts for 269 million bird deaths a year in Canada.

The federal government, along with various conservation groups, including Nature Canada, announced in Ottawa that about 90 per cent of the bird deaths fall under the protection of the Migratory Birds Convention Act. The major causes of human-related deaths in birds are: feral and pet cats, agriculture, oil and gas activities, and collisions with buildings.

"We are deeply troubled by the disquieting research published today on the number of birds killed every year in Canada due to human-related activities," said Ian Davidson, executive director of Nature Canada. "Fortunately, there are concrete and sensible ways that people and governments can prevent the needless death of birds, especially now during the migratory season."

Nature Canada wants municipal and other governments to enact legislation to protect our feathered friends, including requiring developers to mute reflective surfaces on windows or add awnings and overhangs, and creating legislation that forces office buildings to turn off lights at night.

"There are estimates in North America that a billion birds are killed every year by human activity," said Paul Pratt, naturalist for Windsor Parks and Facilities.

"Cats and windows are the two you hear about the most. The greatest chance birds have of dying have something to do with our activities."

The fate of birds should be of particular concern to Essex County, Pratt said, because the area sits squarely on one of the largest migration routes in Canada. "We're actually one of the hotspots in Canada for bird diversity," said Pratt, who think windows should be properly treated and pet cats should be kept indoors. "We're at the tip of the funnel for a lot of bird migration."

Pratt said in the last couple of years, some fairly common birds to this area have landed on the endangered species list, such as the barn swallow, bank swallow, common nighthawk and the chimney swift.

But Pratt touts some successes, as well, with such birds as the peregrine falcon and the cooper's hawk. He nevertheless supports the calls for laws requiring building construction to be bird-friendly.

Jen Dalley, wildlife coordinator with Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Amherstburg, said her organization receives injured birds virtually every day.

"It's hard," she said. "You don't want to see anything harmed or killed. You try to fix them, but you can't always."

Wings sees about 3,100 animals a year, 1,200 of them birds. She estimates 30 per cent of the injured birds are saved. Many more birds - notably, robins, starlings, sparrows, finches, cardinals, pigeons - are killed and never even make it to her organization.

Wings president Nancy Phillips said she is encouraged the federal government and organizations such as Nature Canada are finally highlighting the plight of birds. "It's encouraging," Phillips said. "Just the fact that people are aware of what's going on, and people are counting the numbers, is a great thing."