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UTRCA Environmental Planning Services

Presentation for New EEPAC Members




Presentation Outline

- Background on UTRCA
- UTRCA Environmental Planning Services
 - Land Use Planning
 - Conservation Authorities Act Regulations
 - Inquiry Services
- Questions

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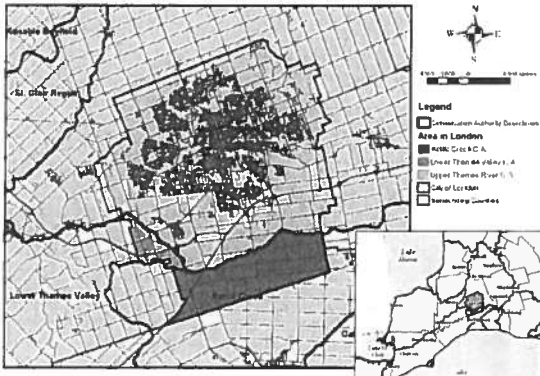
Upper Thames River Watershed

- 3,400 square km
- 515,000 + residents (2011)
- Mix of rural & urban land uses
- Drains to Lower Thames



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City of London / Conservation Authorities



Legend

- Conservation Authority Designation
- Area in London
 - North Creek & C.A.
 - Upper Thames River C.A.
 - City of London
 - Various Other Councils

Scale: 0 1000 2000 meters

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UTRCA Vision: Inspiring a Healthy Environment

Mission:

- To protect life and property from flooding and erosion
- To protect and enhance water quality
- To preserve and manage natural areas
- To provide outdoor recreation opportunities

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UTRCA Board of Directors

- Conservation Authorities are governed by a Board of Directors
- UTRCA has 15 Board Members
- Approximately half are elected the other half are citizen appointments



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UTRCA Programs & Services

- Offer a broad range of programs & services
- Hydrology & Regulatory Services
 - Flood Control
 - Environmental Planning



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UTRCA Staffing

- 76 full time staff, 80 seasonal staff
- Technical expertise:
 - Planners & GIS specialists
 - Water Resource Engineers
 - Hydrogeologist & River Morphology expertise
 - Ecologist & Biologists
 - Fisheries, Species at Risk




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Environmental Planning Services

- Land Use Planning - Planning Act
- Regulations/Permits - Conservation Authorities Act
- Inquiry Services



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Land Use Planning - Planning Act

- Work with municipalities to:
 - Manage the risk related to natural hazards
 - Identify and protect natural heritage and natural resources
- Provide municipalities with technical and planning advice to assist them as the decision maker with fulfilling their responsibilities under the Planning Act

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CA Planning Services

- Provide application review and technical peer review
- Application Review
 - Identify issues and the need for more information
 - Disclosure of information related to Drinking Water Source Protection
- Technical Review
 - Peer review technical reports

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UTRCA's Areas of Interest

- Natural Hazards
 - Flood plains
 - Hazardous steep slopes
 - Meander belts – river morphology
 - Wetlands – for their flood attenuation value

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Sources of Information

- Historic Flood Plain Studies (Urban Areas)
- Flood Plain Estimation Study (Rural Areas)
- Erosion Hazard Mapping
- Wetland Inventories (MNR & UTRCA)
- Natural Hazards Technical Guides
- Comprehensive Regulation Limit Mapping (2006)

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Areas of Interest

- Natural Heritage:
 - Wetlands – for their biological values
 - Woodlands
 - Fish Habitat
 - Wildlife Habitat
 - Natural Corridors
 - Threatened & Endangered Species Habitat



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Sources of Information

- Historic Natural Heritage Inventories
- Wetland Inventories (MNR & UTRCA)
- Natural Heritage Reference Manual (2010)
- Middlesex Natural Heritage Study (2003)
- Middlesex Natural Heritage Systems Study (2014)

<http://hamesmnr.on.ca/watershed-health/natural-heritage-studies/middlesex-natural-heritage-systems-study-2014/>

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Areas of Interest

- Natural Resources
 - Groundwater Resources




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Sources of Information

- Assessment Report for the Thames Sydenham and Region
- Municipal Drinking Water Systems Summary




http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/ar_UTRCA.html

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Areas of Interest

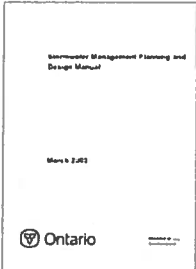
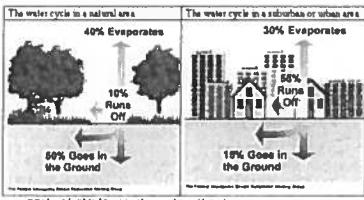
- Servicing Mitigation
 - > Stormwater Management
 - > Sediment & Erosion Control
 - > Low Impact Development



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Sources of Information

- MOE Stormwater Management Best Practices Manual (2003)
- Industry Standards



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Regulation Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act

- Permit required for:
 - > construction or placing fill in area subject to flooding or erosion
 - > for straightening, diverting, or altering the channel of a watercourse
 - > Interference with wetlands
- Limited to "hazardous lands" as defined in the Act or Regulation
- Permit fees are charged

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Why Regulate?

- Meant to be a hazard management tool
- Protect people and property from natural hazard processes
- Want to maintain functions such as:
 - Flood conveyance
 - Flood storage
 - Natural erosion processes
- Can achieve natural heritage objectives

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Mapping & Inquiry Services

- Inquiries from:
 - Legal Inquiries
 - Real Estate
 - Consultants
 - Municipalities
 - General Public
- Fees charged for letters and mapping

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Inquiries – Information Provided

- Mapping -
 - 2010 photo (2006, 2000 available also)
 - Regulated Area - Natural hazards
 - Natural heritage features
 - Drinking Water Source Protection Information
- Letters include policy information

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Summary

- UTRCA provides information to assist the City with making their decisions pursuant to the Planning Act
- London is also served by Kettle Creek and Lower Thames Valley CAs
- Provided Information is based on our areas of expertise
- Environmental Planning Service is one part of the overall UTRCA program

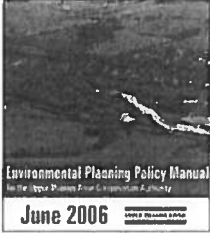
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UTRCA Environmental Planning Policies, Information and Mapping are available on-line at www.thamesriver.on.ca



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Questions?

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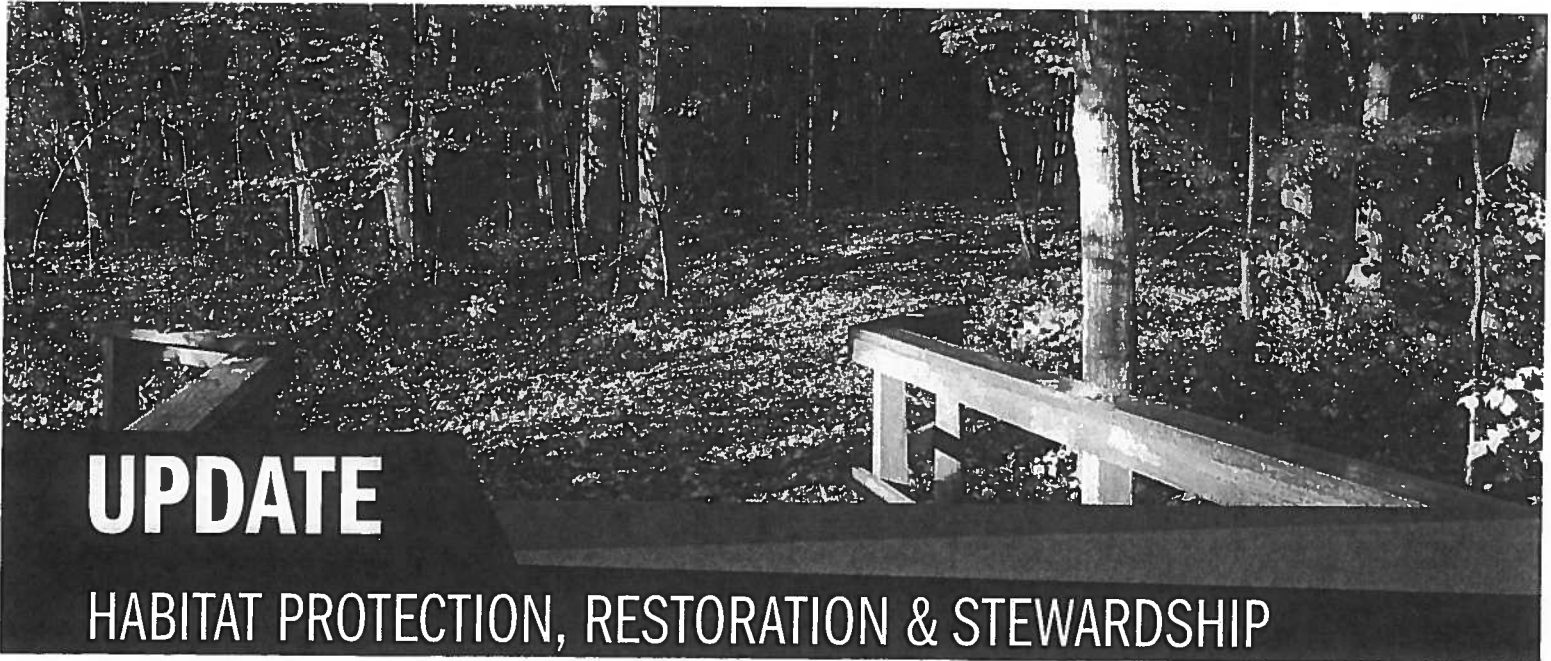
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UPPER THAMES RIVER
UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY INSPIRING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The slide features a banner at the top with a photograph of a river scene and the text "INSPIRING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT". Below the banner, the word "Questions?" is centered. Underneath, three contact persons are listed: Jeff Brick, Mark Snowsell, and Christine Creighton, each with their respective email addresses. At the bottom, there is a footer with the text "UPPER THAMES RIVER" and "UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY INSPIRING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT".

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MEDWAY VALLEY HERITAGE FOREST ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA

City of London - Habitat Protection, Restoration & Stewardship Initiatives - Information Sheet

1. SAR False Rue-anemone Protection and Goutweed Invasive-species Mitigation Project - Ontario Invasive Plant Council / Society for Ecological Restoration AGM presentation by Linda McDougall, City Ecologist/Dillon Consulting in 2014 – project continues in 2015.
2. Phragmites, Knotweed invasive species management done in 2014 & Buckthorn, Phragmites, Knotweed, management confirmed for 2015.
3. Trec-Azin Emerald Ash Borer, Bi-annual Injection Program, 74 Ash trees injected in 2012, 51 surviving Ash trees were injected in 2014, next round in 2016 – London is a leader in protecting Ash trees in natural areas.
4. Two boardwalks, a bridge & ecological restoration work completed in 2014 in north portion of Environmentally Significant Area (ESA).
5. Three groups have adopted portions of the ESA through City's Adopt an ESA program, and are active stewards of the ESA.
6. Public Buckthorn Busting events held in 2013 (video), 2014 and planned for 2015.
7. New and effective ESA signage with QR code links to maps & observation reports installed in 2014 at the ESA access points.
8. Turtle habitat nesting areas created in north in 2014 with Scott Gillingwater of UTRCA as advisor. Habitat will be weeded by Adopt an ESA groups / Friends of Medway Creek going forward to protect the sunny habitat required.
9. Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation for Conservation Master Plan. Draft Phase 1 Report is available online. Dillon's Biologist Jen Petruniak MSc. presented the study findings, provided a Q&A session for EEPAC in January 2015, and January 2014 & July 2013 at Community Meetings.

For more information on habitat protection, restoration and stewardship initiatives and opportunities, please contact the City of London Environmental & Parks Planning Section.

CONTACT

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Visit our website: www.london.ca/ESA

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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#4.

SIFTON BOG 2015 THREE SEASON VEGETATION INVENTORY

"DRAFT" TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Purpose

The Sifton Bog ESA Conservation Master Plan 2009-2019 established goals, objectives and specific recommendations and implementation actions to guide management of the Sifton Bog ESA until 2019. One of the most important goals is to conserve and enhance ecological health.

The following Terms of Reference provides an outline of the requirements for the vegetation inventory to be conducted at Sifton Bog.

The purpose of the inventory is to accurately inventory the vegetation composition at Sifton Bog and compare 2015 data with previous inventories. The data will provide further insight into the current vegetation status at Sifton Bog, identify rare or endangered species, identify changing vegetation patterns, and identify what measures may need to be taken to support vegetation health over the long term.

2.0 Scope of Work

Objectives of the study and report are to:

- 1) Confirmatory/refine ELC of all vegetation polygons throughout the Sifton Bog ESA.
- 2) Species lists for each vegetation community over the course of 3 seasons (spring, summer, and fall).
- 3) Continue monitoring the 13 permanent plots established in 1992. These plots consist of a 10m X 10m area in which four vegetation monitoring plots (1m X 1m) are used to conduct the inventory work during the summer.
- 4) Identify aquatic plant composition within Redman's Pond.
- 5) Identify the abundance and density of Common Cattail and Three-way sedge within the Bog.
- 6) Inventory (counts) of orchids and other uncommon or rare plants within the Bog.
- 7) A summary report will include a comparison of results to previous inventories. An analysis of the Floristic Quality Index (FQI). Discussion concerning the current status of Bog vegetation and trends.
- 8) Provide updated ELC Figures and locations of rare or endangered species.