

Committee: **Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Michael Thorn**

Address:

**210-645 Village Green Avenue
London, Ontario
N6K1G6**

Occupation: **PhD Candidate - Western University**

Work experience: **I have worked in a variety of positions, including as a teaching assistant (Western University), landscaper, and warehouse employee. I have also worked as a forester for York Region, which is my most relevant work experience for the EEPAC. As a forester, I was exposed to the design and practical application of conservation and forest management initiatives within natural/urban environments.**

Education: **I have an Honours Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (History and Science) and a Honours Bachelor of Science (Biology) from Lakehead University I am currently a PhD candidate at Western University in the department of biology, where I study the ecology and evolution of Great Lakes Chinook salmon. I am also enrolled in an Environment and Sustainability enrichment course at Western University.**

Skills: **I have a vast knowledge of fisheries biology and fish ecology. I understand the complex interactions between landscapes, riverscapes, and stream organisms as well as how development can impact an aquatic ecosystem. I also have knowledge of conservation biology, hydrology, mammal ecology, wetlands, and statistics.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in serving the City of London because I would like to actively participate in the planning of London's future. I want to ensure we have a healthy city environment for myself, my children, and my community. I want to help find the right balance between development and environmental protection.**

Contributions: **I believe my experience as a forester and diverse knowledge of biological systems would make me an asset on EEPAC. I am particularly well versed in aquatic ecosystems and have practical experience working with river fish communities. I am passionate about the environment and will bring a high level of enthusiasm to every committee meeting. I am also an open-minded person who appreciates and respects others opinions.**

Past contributions: **I have worked with local conservation groups, conservation authorities and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources while conducting my PhD research. For example, I am currently working in collaboration with the Nottawasaga Steelheaders and the Nottawasaga Conservation Authority to develop a river monitoring program to study the impact of a wastewater treatment system on a productive salmon/trout river. I have also given research talks and provided data to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.**

Interpersonal: **I have been actively involved in a variety of committees at Western University, including the Biology Graduate Research Forum Planning Committee, the Earth Day Colloquium Planning Committee, and the Environment and Sustainability Discussion Panel Planning Committee. All these committees required that I work with people from diverse backgrounds and respect their points of view.**

Interview interest: **Yes**