

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

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Christian Therrien**

Address:

**363 Princess Ave. Unit 6 London N6B 2A7**

Occupation: **Master's Candidate**

Work experience: **Since 2015, I have worked hands-on in the fields of ecology, botany, forestry and fish biology in order to garner working experience and expand my knowledge in these fields. From May–July 2015 and May–October 2016 I worked for and volunteered for the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) as a property steward where I inventoried woodlots for important species (e.g. species at risk, rare species) and threats to biodiversity as well as implemented ecological restoration activities including the planting of native species and the removal of invasive species. From September 2015–April 2016, I worked at the University of Western Ontario as an aquaculture technician where I assisted with and led research projects on the at-risk Atlantic salmon. From May 2016–June 2016, I worked at the Meadowwoods nature reserve as a steward performing biological inventories, native species plantings and invasive species removals. I then worked with ReForest London from September–October 2016 as a fall events assistant where I helped plant native trees, perform public outreach, coordinate volunteers and engage the public. Additionally, since September 2016, I have worked at the University of Western Ontario as a teaching assistant, where I have taught first year biology lab sessions, scientific methods and statistics. I was also a teaching assistant for the restoration ecology course where I helped students with their flora and fauna identification as well as helped teach ecological restoration techniques.**

Education: **My background is in biology, specifically ecology, evolution and fish biology. In 2016, I completed my Honours Bachelor of Science with a specialization in biology. My undergraduate thesis, titled: “The effect of rearing temperature on juvenile survival and growth metrics in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)” was supervised by Dr. Yolanda Morbey and Dr. Bryan Neff and presented at Ontario Biology in March 2016 and Western Biology Research Day in April 2016. Currently, I am a master’s candidate at the University of Western Ontario pursuing my Masters of Science in biology with my thesis, titled: “the effect of shelter availability on the activity timing of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)”. I am also currently taking a course from the University of Victoria Wellington in Antarctic geology and history. Professionally, I am certified in larval fish sampling and identification from the United States Geological Survey. I am also certified in sensitive data use and confidentiality from the Natural History Information Center under the Ontario ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Furthermore, I am certified in brook trout spawning habitat surveying under the American Fisheries Society.**

Skills: **I have an excellent working knowledge in ecology, flora and fauna identification and fish biology, particularly fish biology. This is exemplified through my work with the Thames Talbot Land Trust and the Meadowwoods nature reserve as a property steward where I performed ecological restoration and helped with property management planning. This knowledge will assist this body in identify any issues that may arise from site plans and help to mitigate them. Furthermore, I have excellent communication skills, as exemplified from my teaching experience and my presentations at conferences.**

**Communication is critical in planning and will be a valuable asset to this body during meetings and when making amendments to site plans. Most importantly, I have an excellent knowledge in fish biology, especially of stream fishes, and believe this knowledge will be a valuable asset to this body. Fish are often neglected when performing environmental planning, and my excellent knowledge in fish biology will be an asset to this body when making decisions on projects that could potentially harm our valuable fish communities.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in serving the City of London because I am passionate about wildlife, the environment and want to do everything I can to make sure the urban needs of the City and nature can cooperate successfully. I also feel that fish are often neglected in environmental planning and want to bring my knowledge of fish biology to help make**

**decisions regarding their future within the City of London. Also, as a new London resident, I want to do everything I can to get involved in this great city and help it flourish.**

**Contributions: I believe I can contribute my wealth of knowledge and communication skills to this body. Furthermore, as someone who is constantly reading up on the latest scientific literature and someone who is involved in ecological and species restoration, I believe I can contribute new and excited ideas during discussions. Also, as someone who has worked with/on property management planning and helped implement restoration plans, I believe I can use that experience to help input on discussions and provide advice on the management and enhancement of Natural areas and other policies.**

**Past contributions: While working at the Thames Talbot Land Trust, I've helped plan restoration projects on a number of properties. Furthermore, during my time in academia I've planned a number of research projects. Planning these projects required evaluating trade-offs, taking into account logistical constraint and problem solving. These experiences will help me succeed as a member of this body and help me provide valuable input.**

**Interpersonal: In academia, the exchange of knowledge including supporting and opposing views is critical for learning and improvement as both a student and a scientist. As a graduate student, I am constantly exchanging ideas and views to develop and improve my research. Respecting the skills, abilities and knowledge of others is critical in my success as a student and there is always something I can learn from other researchers. Additionally, my experiences exchanging views with others are exemplified in my time as a teaching assistant. In teaching, exchanging information in a way others can understand is critical to success. Furthermore, as a property steward, I had to exchange the results of my inventories and findings to directors to guide management decisions. All of these experiences exchanging my views and respecting others will be contribute my success on this body.**

**Interview interest: Yes**