

*"Inspiring a Healthy Environment"*

April 20, 2018

London City Hall  
Suite 214-300 Dufferin Ave  
London, ON N6B 1Z2

**Attention: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council**

**RE: Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area  
- Conservation Master Plan**

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) is under contract with the City of London to manage the City's Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs). An ESA Team was formed a number of years ago and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the ESAs including risk management, enforcement, maintaining built structures and trails, and invasive species control.

The ESA Team was asked to participate in the Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area Conservation Master Plan process. The Team's role was to provide expertise and comments related to the day-to-day operational management and implementation of the recommendations in the Conservation Master Plan. The London Free Press article dated April 15, 2018 "Medway Valley Plan riles environmentalists" quotes comments from the ESA Team, as per their role during the master plan process. The Team has always recognized the challenges of finding a balance between environmental and community needs.

To-date, the draft Medway Valley Heritage Forest Environmentally Significant Area Conservation Master Plan has not been reviewed by the UTRCA Board of Directors or other staff departments; therefore the UTRCA does not have a formal position on the Master Plan at this time.

Yours truly  
UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Ian Wilcox  
General Manager