



MINUTES

Minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting held **Thursday, January 23, 2020**, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Essex County Civic Centre, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON.

Members Present

Tania Jobin (Vice-Chair)	Kieran McKenzie	Joe Bachetti
Chris Vander Doelen	Ed Sleiman	John Jacobs
Morley Bowman	Drew Dilkens	Larry Verbeke
Laura Lucier	Jim Morrison	Sue Desjarlais
Dayne Malloch	Len Janisse	Mark Carrick
		Peter Courtney

Member Regrets

Marolyn Morrison	Tracey Bailey	Larry Patterson
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Members Absent None

Staff Present

Richard Wyma, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Executive Assistant
Tim Byrne, Director, Watershed Management Services
Shelley McMullen, Director, Finance & Corporate Services
Kevin Money, Director, Conservation Services
Danielle Stuebing, Director, Community Outreach Services

Guests

Assorted Media
James Bryant, Water Resources Engineer
Cynthia Casagrande, Regulations Coordinator
Dan Jenner, Regulations Analyst
Sydney Clackett, Surveyor/Technical Assistant
Tom Gutpell, Engineering Technologist
Amy McMillan, Administrative Associate, Corporate Services
Lisa Pavan Administrative Associate, Watershed Management Services
Kris Ives, Curator/Education Coordinator
Jacqueline Serran, Detroit River Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
Sam Dundas, Water Quality Technician
Mackenzie Porter, Water Quality Technician
Claire Sanders, Climate Change Specialist
Corinne Chiasson, Resource Planner
Cynthia and Lino Casagrande, Regulations Coordinator
Tom Dufour, Geomatics Technician
Michael Dick, Agricultural Technician
Duncan Wright, Interpreter
Laura Monforton, Risk Management Official/Inspector

David and Nicole D'Hondt, WECD SB
Robert Boose, Friends of Cedar, Mill and Wigle Creeks
Alan Batke, Friends of Cedar, Mill and Wigle Creeks
Claire Wales, ERCF
Eric Naylor, ERCF
Mary-Ann Keefner, Shibley Righton LLP
Ray and Gerald Paquette, Paquette Farms of Malden Ltd.
Liz McDavell
Timothy Shortridge
Paula O'Rourke
Derek Coronado, Citizens Environment Alliance
Cherryl Breault, Meredith and Connor Stuebing
Pamela Breault, Habitat for Humanity
Julianna Bonnett, Essex Free Press
Percy Hatfield, MPP
Taras Natyshak, MPP
Joe Milicia, Town of LaSalle
Tom Henderson, Public Advisory Council, DRCC
Abby, Glen and Charmaine Meloche, Tecumseh Vista Academy
Mark Peacock, LTVCA
Marty & Ken Aala
Jodi Nolin, Anderdon School
Reed Surisdee
Amy Ara and Mike Soucie, Anderdon School
Lisa Dick, Chase Family
Jeanette Chase
Antonella Isabelle, Anderdon School
Sonia Scott, Anderdon School
Deanna Gigliotti, Anderdon School
Addison Walker, Anderdon School
Brian and Sandy McDougall, SCRCA
Gary McNamara, Town of Tecumseh
Marg Misk-Evans, Tecumseh
Xander Campbell, Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary
Chris Hart
Gordon Orr, TWEPI
Karina Richter, City of Windsor
Henrick Hoyer, Retired ERCA
Linda Andrejicka

1. Call to Order

2. Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie <pa-te-wa-temi:> Peoples.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island - North America.

3. Comments from the Vice Chair

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to our Annual General Meeting. Thanks to everyone for joining us this evening, especially to our Conservation Award Winners and their guests, who will be more suitably introduced later this evening.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome our elected officials, members of the Essex Region Conservation Foundation, and ERCA staff members. Welcome, everyone!

At this time, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Taras Natyshak, MPP for the riding of Essex, to bring greetings.

We have regrets tonight from: Marolyn Morrison and Councillors Tracey Bailey and Larry Patterson.

Before I vacate this Chair so that we can elect our new Chairperson this evening, I would like to express to each of you what a privilege it has been to serve as Acting Chair for these last few months since MP Kusmierczyk's election to Parliament.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None

5. Approval of Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Thursday, January 23, 2020 Meeting of the Board of Directors be approved.

Resolution 01/2020 Moved by John Jacobs

Seconded by Larry Verbeke

-CARRIED

6. Adoption of Minutes

(a) ERCA Board of Directors

THAT the Minutes of the Thursday, December 12, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed.

Resolution 02/2020 Moved by Len Janisse

Seconded by Sue Desjarlais **-CARRIED**

(b) Conservation Ontario Council (CO)

THAT the Minutes of December 9, 2019, Conservation Ontario Council Meeting* be received.

* distributed via email per report BD 37.09

Resolution 03/2020 Moved by Laura Lucier

Seconded by Morley Bowman **-CARRIED**

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None

8. Election of ERCA's Chair

(a) Election of Chair

Elections will be conducted by the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer in accordance to the Essex Region Conservation Authority – Administrative By-Laws Appendix 3 – Procedures for Election of Officers (attached)

THAT the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) be authorized to act as Chair for the election of Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority for a one year period from January 2020 to January 2021.

Resolution 04/2020 Moved by Len Janisse

Seconded by Sue Desjarlais **-CARRIED**

(b) Chair Occupies the Chair

- i. I would like to thank Tania again for filling in as Chair during an important time with discussions with the Minister's office around conservation Authority programs and services.

We will continue to look to the strong support in your Vice-Chair capacity as well.

On to the elections.

I will begin by reminding members and the audience that our elections are conducted in accordance with Administrative Procedures By-Law pursuant to Section 19.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

ii. **Appointment of Scrutineers**

First, I'd like to ask for a motion to appoint two (2) persons, who are not Members or employees of the Authority, to act as Scrutineers for the purposes of distributing and counting ballots should an election be required.

I have asked Mary-Ann Keefner, ERCA Legal Counsel, and Claire Wales, the Vice-President of the Essex Region Conservation Foundation if they would take on the role of Scrutineers this evening.

THAT Mary-Ann Keefner and Claire Wales be appointed to act as Scrutineers for the election of Chair, if needed

Resolution 05/2020 Moved by Joe Bachetti

Seconded by Peter Courtney **-CARRIED**

(b) **Election of Chair**

In keeping with our By-Laws, the Chair and Vice-Chair positions alternate between City and non-City municipalities for two year terms.

So, tonight we are looking to fill the position of Chair with a Member from the City of Windsor for a one-year term, to complete the City's two year term as Chair of ERCA. Our Vice-Chair, Councillor Jobin from Tecumseh, continues to sit as Vice-Chair of ERCA.

Elections requires a nomination, followed by a vote if required.

The Member nominated must be present to accept the nomination unless the Member has advised the Secretary-Treasurer in writing or by email in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination. *I can confirm that I have not received any correspondence from any member advising of their willingness to accept a nomination.*

So, in keeping with our procedures, I will call three times for nominations for the position of Chair. We do not require a seconder for any of the nominations:

So, I would invite any nominations for the position of Chair.

communities and conducting our daily actions in the same old way is no longer an option.

As the Climate Emergency Declarations made by the City of Windsor, County of Essex, and many others stated, 'permanent and robust changes' must be made.

Through this Board, and at this time, we must move forward, together, to implement with urgency the climate actions required to create a future of sustainability for our region. I am looking forward to working with all of you to achieve these important goals.c

10. Presentation

The Dennis Chase Smile Walk Cheque Presentation to the Essex Region Conservation Authority and Foundation.

It's my pleasure at this time to invite Mrs. Jeannette Chase and her family to make a special presentation this evening.

I'd also like to invite Claire Wales, Vice-President of the Essex Region Conservation Foundation, to join me for the presentation from the Chase family.

Chase family presented a cheque from Dennis Chase Smile Walk for Optimism and Conservation in the amount of \$12,500.

Announcement from Claire Wales regarding the naming of the Dennis & Jeannette Chase Family Community Entrance along the Cypher Systems Group Greenway.

11. Actions

(a) Appointment of ERCA Auditor, Financial Institutions, Solicitor and Insurance Company for 2020

(i) Auditor

THAT the firm of Hicks, MacPherson, latonna and Driedger LLP be appointed as the Authority's Auditor for 2020.

Resolution 07/2020 Moved by Ed Sleiman

Seconded by Peter Courtney **-CARRIED**

(ii) Financial Institution

THAT the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Windsor Family Credit Union be appointed as the ERCA financial institutions and utilized for banking, including borrowing and short-term investments, for 2020.

Resolution 08/2020 Moved by Larry Verbeke

Seconded by Laura Lucier **-CARRIED**

to the Authority of any grants and of sums to be paid to the Authority by participating municipalities.

Resolution 11/2020 Moved by Morley Bowman

Seconded by Joe Bachetti **-CARRIED**

(c) Designation of Signing Officers for 2020

THAT the Chair, Vice Chair, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, and Director of Finance and Corporate Services be designated as ERCA's Signing Officers for 2020.

Resolution 12/2020 Moved by Ed Sleiman

Seconded by Chris Vander Doelen **-CARRIED**

12 **2020 ERCA Annual Report**

Each year, we endeavour to provide a snapshot of the past year.

As our Vice Chair mentioned, this year was challenging in many ways. Our staff were on guard around the clock, monitoring for flood conditions in this year of extreme high water levels, and provincial funding for this important service we provide was cut by 50%. Staff also reviewed a record number of permit applications to ensure applicants were protected from the dangers of flooding and erosion.

The wettest spring on record impacted a number of our program areas, including our ability to plant trees. Numerous severe storm events required us to close Conservation Areas, had our small team removing downed trees along our 80kilometres of greenway trail, and created more damage at Holiday Beach than we had ever witnessed. More than 300 trees were destroyed, and we were extremely thankful that no one was injured during the September storm.

Yet, in spite of these many significant challenges, there were still many environmental achievements, including the creation of new habit completion of new boardwalks in our Conservation Areas, and implementation of 80 water quality improvement projects.

You will find a printed copy of this year's report at your desks, and I invite you to please enjoy this brief video of highlights from the past year.

13. **ERCA Staff Service Awards**

Thank you to Danielle and Aaron for that great video, and the printed report.

The accomplishments we celebrate here tonight would not have been possible without the dedicated team of staff who implement them.

We are so fortunate to have staff who, over many years, continue to contribute to the sustainability of the region. These people are among the most dedicated staff members I have had the pleasure of working with.

To them, the protection of our environment is not just a job, but a way of life. We have undertaken the practice of recognizing special milestones, and planting a tree to signify years of service. At this time, I invite Richard to introduce those staff members.

Tom Gutzell, Engineering Technologist 5 years

Tom Gutzell is now more than 5 years into his second round with ERCA. Following a decade with a private engineering firm, Tom returned to ERCA and is currently serving as our Engineering Technologist.

Reviews of development submissions specifically for stormwater management for Industrial and Commercial submissions and Greenhouse developments are Tom's main focus. He actively maintains the Authority's Flood Forecasting System sites and assists with field reconnaissance during flooding events. Tom continues his important work on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure projects, completing annual inspections and assisting with filing applications for provincial grants for maintenance work to ensure those protection structures continue to function and keep the people they protect safe. Tom has very recently become a Grandfather and looks forward to doting on his grandson, Tatum. Congratulations on your five-year milestone.

Dan Jenner, Regulations Analyst - 5 years

Dan Jenner has now completed 5 years of service with the ERCA. We first experienced Dan's skills, intelligence and work ethic when he completed several contracts as our Surveyor and the Risk Management Officer through the Source Water Protection program. With increasing demand in the Watershed Management Services Department, Dan was then hired in that capacity, and is currently serving as our Regulation Analyst.

In this role, Dan meets with property owners to guide and advise on the ERCA Section 28 program. Dan accepts applications for permit, reviews for completion, recommends approval of the application and then prepares the permit. Dan is very adept at holding meetings and informing residents of all matters relating to development proposals within our region's hazard lands. Dan has earned his designation as a Provincial Offences Officer and has assumed a leadership role in this regard. During this specialized training, he scored the second highest in the province. Dan is an avid outdoorsman and volunteers regularly on the Colchester Guardian undertaking water rescues on Lake Erie. We are very fortunate to have him as part of the team, and congratulate Dan on his first five years with ERCA.

Mike Nelson, Watershed Planner - 5 years

While Mike Nelson has now been providing stellar service to the ERCA in his role as the Watershed Planner, for more than five years, his service to the Authority dates back much further, with Mike fulfilling roles related to biology and habitat restoration for more than a decade previously.

In his position of Watershed Planner, Mike fills a crucial role in planning for the sustainability of our region. He is the information conduit to our municipal partners, and provides advice and direction on long-range planning matters such as Official Plans. He further supervises all ERCA responses on operational planning such as consents and minor variances, and manages responses to Environmental Assessments and development

Mike's previous role with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry adds to his expertise in advising municipalities on Natural Heritage matters. Mike was instrumental in the preparation of the region's Environment Impact Assessment guidelines being implemented across the region, and with the development of our Place for Life Policies. We are thankful to Mike for his more than five years of service in ensuring a future of sustainability for our region.

Mackenzie Porter, Water Quality Technician - 5 years

Mackenzie began as a volunteer at ERCA in February 2013, and officially began her career here later that year. As one of our Water Quality Technicians, Mackenzie has been steadfast and consistent, helping to train volunteers and work partners on our many projects. In her role, Mackenzie takes upwards of 2,500 water samples from our creeks, rivers and drains every year for a whopping total of over 15,000 samples from more than 60 locations in the region!

During rain events, Mackenzie is on the move to collect water samples and flow measurements – sometimes even on weekends and Boxing Day, because mother nature doesn't take vacations! The Water Quality program at ERCA is ever changing with available funding and active partners, and always requires a great deal of flexibility and organization. Through it all, Mackenzie can be found with a smile on her face and a can-do attitude that keeps the whole team motivated.

We are very grateful to Mackenzie for more than five years of service in helping to monitor the health of our region's rivers and streams.

Claire Sanders, Climate Change Specialist - 5 years

Claire Sanders began her role as Climate Change Specialist in fall of 2018. Prior to that, for 5 years, she was the Remedial Action Plan Coordinator for the Detroit River. In both of these roles, Claire coordinates very technical information and communicates to varied audiences. She has a proven ability to develop and implement strategies to turn that

technical knowledge into action on the ground, bringing partners together to collaborate and facilitate change.

One of Claire's greatest strengths is her ability to build relationships across sectors, organizations, and with people. Claire has built partnerships with municipalities, engaged agriculture, energy, health, planning and other local sectors and brought in experts from other regions across Canada. Through these partnerships, she has developed an ambitious workplan that recognizes the urgency to take action. Last fall, she appeared in front of multiple Councils to urge the approval of Climate Emergency Declarations that identify a 'permanent and robust need to change the way we do things'.

Claire is passionate about science and urgent action toward behavioural changes. She is an integral part of our internal Green Team to help constantly move the yardstick in improving our own operations. She is also kind and sensitive to both the personal and professional needs of her fellow colleagues, and we have been very lucky to call her our colleague for the past five years.

Dr. Katie Stammler, Water Quality Scientist – 5 years

Dr. Katie Stammler came to ERCA with a great deal of enthusiasm which has never diminished. Her scientific understanding of Great Lakes Water Quality issues have made a bi-national impact as her expertise is sought on both sides of the border. Her job as ERCA's Water Quality Scientist is a great match for her passion for science and her desire to help improve our local environment.

She also wears a dual hat as the manager of the region's Source Protection Program, ensuring the protection of our sources of drinking water. In this role, she writes the policies required to manage any associated risks, and is responsible to the Ministry of the Environment, the Source Protection Committee and Source Protection Authority, as well as the residents of Windsor and Essex County.

Katie takes on new tasks and challenges with enthusiasm and is able to find a positive spin on almost everything, including horrible weather conditions, equipment breakdowns, field work challenges and the sometimes daunting nature of her work.

Katie is an incredible mentor to other young scientists. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Windsor, and despite her extremely busy schedule, is always delighted for the opportunity to share her knowledge of the Great Lakes with students at the elementary and secondary levels as well. Katie's hard work and charismatic personality are hard to match and we want to thank her for her 5 years of dedicated service.

Lisa Pavan, Administrative Associate, Watershed Management Services – 15 years

Every organization needs an individual capable of greeting all who approach with a smile and welcoming comments. For the past 15 years, Lisa Pavan has been the first point of

contact for most of the thousands of customers who enter our office annually, providing diligent and professional customer service.

Lisa helpfully provides information and guidance, connecting customers with the right staff people. She fields thousands of phone calls annually, and professionally guides even the most random (and sometimes peculiar) of inquiries.

Over last 5 years, as we have been striving to become a paperless organization, Lisa has been the individual most responsible with translating paper products into a digital format. In addition to excelling in customer service and digital information management, Lisa is an integral member of the Health and Safety Committee. Lisa has been the volunteer leader for social initiatives within our office, such as staff picnics, and is often the coordinator for ERCA's involvement in other charitable activities, such as Hats on for Healthcare, organizing our staff contribution to the Children's Aid Holiday Giving program, and participation in activities like the Heartbreaker Challenge. Lisa is an extremely caring, professional and hardworking asset to the Authority, and we thank her for her 15 years of dedicated, professional, and kind service.

Cynthia Casagrande, Regulations Coordinator – 30 years

For 30 years, Cynthia has anchored the Section 28 regulations program of the Authority. First as Regulations Technician, Cynthia quickly demonstrated her adeptness in managing technical and legal matters and communicating these issues with our clients. During her early years, Cynthia also provided comments on planning matters that were circulated to the Authority.

Cynthia was one of the first three women in Ontario designated as Provincial Offenses Officers for administration of Regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act in 1993. In 1998, Cynthia was designated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs as an officer to administer Part VIII of the Ontario Building Code. In 2000, Cynthia was designated as a Public Lands Officer to administer Section 14 of the Public Lands Act.

For the last decade, Cynthia has shouldered the role of Regulations Coordinator and has very capably and responsibly organized the workflow for the Regulations Analyst and Regulation Technician. She issues over 1300 permits in a timely fashion and ensures that the permits she approves keep people safe from the dangers of flooding and erosion. Cynthia's remarkable memory has earned her the title of "The Librarian" – you can always count on Cynthia to recall the details of an application.

The Authority will have big shoes to fill this spring, when Cynthia retires after 30 years of incredible hard work, dedication, and vigilance. We thank her for these past three decades of service, and recognize the incredible diligence and commitment she has put into her role. At the same time, we know Cynthia will enjoy all that extra time to be a full time grandmother to Oliver, a future ERCA staffer who is here tonight.

Danielle Breault Stuebing – Director, Communications and Community Outreach - 20 years

We'll also get a chance to celebrate Danielle's 20th year here at ERCA a little later in the program.

In closing, these staff members, collectively, represent over 100 years of outstanding service to this region and that is truly something to celebrate.

Back to you Mr. Chair.

[Kieran McKenzie] There is one additional milestone to recognize today, and that is that is Richard's decade of service as General Manager.

Richard Wyma, CAO/Secretary Treasurer – 10 years

Richard Wyma became the General Manager of the Essex Region Conservation Authority on February 1, 2010, but his service to ERCA actually dates back much further. Richard had previously served as the Coordinator of Conservation Areas from 1995 until 1998, and he had worked even prior to that as a student tree planter and developed the Greenway Master Plan.

Over the past decade, Richard has been a dedicated and enthusiastic leader. One of his first contributions included advancing the concept of 'place' which has really become the impetus of what ERCA stands for – enriching and sustaining our region as the **Place for Life**.

In 2013, Richard launched *The Way Forward*, ERCA's first sustainability plan, with a five-year timeline to address infrastructure deficits and implement financial reserves. He made significant changes to our organizational structure and provided a path forward for succession planning.

Richard led the greening of ERCA's vehicle fleet and introduced our Green Team to reduce the carbon footprint associated with our operations. He helped ERCA to become the first Conservation Authority in Ontario to implement Smoke Free Conservation Areas. He implemented processes to improve our accountability and reporting for customer service, underscoring always the importance of consistency and collaboration with our partners and the community.

In his role as the Foundation's Executive Director, Richard was able to significantly advance our fundraising efforts and streamline processes and become one of only 300 organizations in Canada to achieve Imagine Canada Accreditation. Together with partners, he successfully negotiated the generous donations which allowed the Cypher Systems Group Greenway and the Rotary (1918) Community Entrance to be built, ensuring that every municipality in our region is now connected by trails.

While there are many, many more examples of his accomplishments over the past decade, I also wanted to share some reflections that his staff had to offer:

"I feel like I owe Richard a lot. He's been instrumental in helping advance my career and saw potential in me. I truly appreciate his vision for the organization, his enthusiasm for the vision, and the bridges and relationships he's built in the community so we can advance that vision. As a boss, he's empathetic, supportive and encouraging, and respects our work-life balance. He is thoughtful, creative, knowledgeable and insightful when it comes to problem solving. He may not always have the solution but always has suggestions on how to move forward. I'm really proud to work for him and for this organization," said one staff member.

"In addition to leading the organization with creativity and intelligence, he also leads with consideration and kindness for every member of the ERCA team, recognizing demanding workloads but prioritizing the well-being of his staff," added another.

"In a few sentences I would describe Richard as a stalwart leader with a strong sense of identity, an unwavering moral compass, and multiple competencies, who is able to effectively lead and guide his team with confidence, compassion and humour."

Thank you Richard, on behalf of your staff and the Board of Directors, for ten years of dedicated leadership.

[Richard Wyma] Thank you Mr. Chair.

From my 10 years, and my earlier life with ERCA, I know that there are few, if any, agencies anywhere that match the positive impact Conservation Authorities have in our watersheds.

I did a quick calculation, and over the last 10 years, we have:

- issued almost 8,000 permits to protect people from flooding and erosion
- invested \$8 million in water and erosion control infrastructure projects
- issued over 150 Flood warnings
- collected 25,000 water quality samples
- completed over 400 water quality improvement projects and BMPs
- held over 400 outreach events throughout Windsor Essex,
- taught almost 100,000 in one of our outdoor education programs,
- worked with over 20,000 volunteers,
- acquired and protected over 685 acres of land
- planted over 1.2 million trees,
- restored over 1,275 acres of our region's landscape and
- We also built 25 new kilometers of Greenways, and resurfaced 50 km of existing Greenways, rebuilt washrooms, boardwalks, trails and other infrastructure at our Conservation Areas.

There are countless other things we do that can't be quantified in the same way – we initiated the Windsor Essex Climate Change Collaborative to plan for community resiliency, we've created regional stormwater guidelines, we've partnered with universities around phosphorous innovation and senior levels of government on phosphorous management, finalized the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report for Essex Region ... the list truly is endless, as is the list of things we need to do as we work to build a more resilient, more sustainable community.

But, we are making a difference.

And, though I've been fortunate enough to be GM over the last 10 years, I can take little credit for any of this. I can state, unequivocally, that no other agency can even come close to the dedicated, passionate and incredible team at ERCA that make all that happen.

Thank you to them, thank you to the Windsor Essex Community, and I look forward to the next ten years and beyond as we continue to create the Place for Life.

These staff members, collectively, represent over 100 years of outstanding service to this region and that is truly something to celebrate

12. ERCA Conservation Awards Presentation

Taking the time to honour those organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to protecting and improving our region's natural environment is one of the most exciting elements of each year's annual meeting.

At this time, I'd like to invite Tania Jobin, our Vice Chair, and Danielle Breault Stuebing, ERCA's Director of Communications and Outreach Services, to assist in recognizing this year's award winners.

[Danielle Breault-Stuebing] Good evening. Conservation Awards have been presented annually since 1992, and once again, we are delighted to recognize organizations and individuals who have made a difference in enriching and sustaining our region as the Place for Life.

Renowned anthropologist Jane Goodall reminds us: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make."

Tonight we honour those who have chosen to make a positive impact on our region's environment and future.

Youth

Abby Meloche is a Grade 11 student at Tecumseh Vista Academy. She is an integral member of the school's Eco Team, and holds the position of Minister of the Environment on their Student Council. Wanting to share her knowledge and passion for the

environment with her peers, she provides weekly eco tips as part of her role on the morning announcement team.

Through her environmental stewardship and leadership, she supports many initiatives including the Community Fridge program where students can share extra food with others in an accessible fridge. After the third day, if the food is not consumed, it is composted or sent to the garbage stream. This program supports students who are hungry, while reducing waste. Not only is this an important environmental accomplishment, but also an act of generosity and kindness for her fellow students.

Other programs Abby has been helped implement a school wide battery drive, a community E-waste event, and litter cleanups as well as nurturing, planting and maintaining the community garden. In 2019, Tecumseh Vista Academy collected used writing utensils from classrooms to divert from the landfill.

Abby is dedicated to creating a more sustainable school for current and future students at Tecumseh Vista and leads by example. Her passion for protecting the environment has inspired the school community to follow suit to show that everyone can truly make a difference in sustaining our future, and we are delighted to honour her with the Conservation Award for Youth.

Conservation Farm Award

The Conservation Farm Award is jointly presented by ERCA and the Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association to the farming operation which best displays conservation minded farming practices. The farms are graded on tillage practices, crop rotation, chemical use and storage, knowledge of fertility programs, Best Management Practices and overall farm maintenance.

The winner of this year's Conservation Farm Award is **Paquette Farms of Malden Ltd.** This farming operation includes use of red clover for a cover crop – and cover crops are known to have a significant environmental benefit when it comes to protecting the health of soil and reducing phosphorus runoff. Paquette Farms also implements minimum till and no-till cropping; precision soil sampling; and variable rate fertilizer application. Buffer strips along watercourses, water and sediment control structures and rock chutes reduce soil erosion.

The Paquettes have planted thousands of white cedar trees in windbreaks on many of their farms in the Amherstburg area. Robert farms together with sons Richard, Gerald and Bradley. They have participated in the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan program, and the Essex Region Conservation Authority's Clean Water ~ Green spaces program. They have used these programs to implement many of the Best Management Practices on their farms.

For their ongoing commitment to sustainable farming practices, we are delighted to recognize Paquette Farms of Malden Ltd.

John R. Park Homestead Award

The John R. Park Homestead Award recognizes those who have shown exemplary work in the preservation of the human and/or natural history of the Essex Region. This year's recipient is **Dr. John C. Carter**.

Dr. Carter is a widely published Ontario museologist, author and historian. He was the first Curator to be hired for the John R. Park Homestead in 1977. Since that time, he has had a keen interest in the Park family and its involvement in shipping and Great Lakes maritime commerce. Dr. Carter has written and published many papers, scholarly articles, and a book on the Park Family's life and businesses in Essex County.

For 29 years, Dr. Carter served as a Provincial Advisor to the Ontario Ministry of Culture. He is active with the Ontario Historical Society, and most recently is a research associate with the University of Tasmania. Since 1977, Dr. Carter has made a continued effort to support and promote the John R. Park Homestead, and other human and natural history sites throughout the province.

In 2019, Dr. Carter's newest book - *The Perils and Pitfalls of the Steamer Ploughboy: A Story of Its Construction to Destruction* was published, detailing the intriguing history of one of the merchant ships belonging to the Park brothers as a part of their 19th century business.

Although the Park brothers' ships have not sailed the Great Lakes in nearly 150 years, Dr. Carter's work ensures that they are not forgotten. Today, the stories of these enterprising 'Yankee' gentlemen and their diverse business interests live on at both our own John R. Park Homestead and The Park House in Amherstburg.

Dr. Carter's commitment did not end with the printing of the book, and he has generously donated all proceeds from sales to benefit the ongoing preservation of the John R. Park Homestead.

For 4 decades of dedication to the preservation of the history of our region, and specifically that of the Park Family, Dr. John Carter is recognized this evening as the deserving recipient of the 2019 John R. Park Homestead Award. Unfortunately, Dr. Carter was unable to travel from his home in Toronto tonight, but sends these words:

While circumstances prevent me from joining you in Essex tonight, I am writing to thank ERCA, and the John R. Park Homestead Advisory Board, Staff and volunteers of Friends of the John R. Park Homestead for choosing me as the recipient of the John R. Park Homestead Award.

In my 43 year connection with the JRPH, I have been blessed with many wonderful experiences. Receiving this award, qualifies as one of the highest honours I've been

privileged to be considered for. I'm very appreciative. I look forward to actually being presented with the John R. Park Homestead Award at the site, sometime later in the spring. Thanks so much! Dr. John C. Carter.

Volunteer

Tim Shortridge is an avid volunteer who is passionate about community restoration initiatives across Windsor-Essex. He joined ERCA's How To Crew to help support much needed restoration work in our region in an elevated way. In his role as a How-To Crew member, Tim provides planning support, and advances long term growth and survival through quality control measures at planting events.

He has planted many trees at the Earth Day Windsor, Caldwell First Nation restoration site, and various other locations across the region. He also participates in the citizen science tree surveys to collect tree health and growth data that help inform future restoration decisions.

He is enthusiastic about restoration and always has a positive attitude, even when the weather isn't cooperating.

Tim is also a member of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club and has adopted an amphibian route within the Marsh Monitoring Program. He enjoys the projects that ERCA offers and always is enthusiastic, in his words 'about how much more there is to know about 'all this stuff.'

Tim is described by his nominator as "a great community member who loves to discuss trees, restoration and ways to protect the environment". We are delighted to recognize Tim Shortridge as this year's Volunteer Conservation Award.

Education

David D'Hondt has been a teacher with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board at St. Peter Elementary for sixteen years. He involved in the original SEEDS Green School Program, and the Eco Schools Canada program. He also helps lead the St. Peter EcoPanthers through many recycling initiatives, including a Terracycle initiative to recycle plastic sandwich bags. Pencil shavings are collected from classrooms and organic waste from lunches are composted in the school yard. Students also participate in schoolyard cleanups and venture to McAuliffe woods as well, under Mr. D'Hondt's leadership.

David has been the enthusiastic lead on many school ground greening projects. In fact, through a multi-year planting program, St. Peter has planted over 100 native trees and shrubs in the schoolyard. Students learn about wildlife and collect and submit their findings through the Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and Project Nestwatch. Nest boxes in the schoolyard that attract Tree Swallows for students learn about, and they have also recorded data about reptiles and amphibians located around

the schoolyard, the community and McAuliffe Woods for submission to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. In 2019, a Monarch waystation was planted.

During the month of May, David heads out to Fighting Island where he is responsible for running the education program there. He teaches students about the restoration efforts taking place and the importance of plants and animals that live there. Students participate in planting projects, GPS activities, plant identification surveys and more.

David inspires passion for the natural world with students, teachers, staff and the community, and we are delighted to present him with this year's Conservation Award for Education.

Education (organization)

Anderdon Public School, led by teacher Jodi Nolin and a very engaged Ecoteam, have undertaken significant efforts in environmental education and advocacy in their school community and beyond.

Ms. Nolan has been involved in environmental conservation for decades and has represented her school as the "Eco-rep" since she began teaching 20 years ago. Anderdon Public School has earned platinum status (the highest level possible) for the past several years in a row.

The Ecoteam has run in-school education and awareness campaigns that promote litter-less lunches, and a boomerang lunch campaign to send home any garbage that comes to school so families can see the daily garbage they're producing. They have reduced plastic bottle use at the school by 99%.

In this past year, students have taken up the initiative to rid single use plastics. Addisyn Walker and Darragh Aston spoke to Amherstburg councillors about the environmental impacts of single-use plastic, called for a town ban on plastic bags and straws, and launched a petition to garner support.

Showing great leadership, Amherstburg Council unanimously approved the decision to eliminate plastic straws and stir sticks at the Libro Centre. Further to this immediate action, town council has requested administration review the possibility of a town-wide ban on single use plastics.

Following this success, the students from Anderdon Public School called upon the Greater Essex County District School Board to ban single use plastic, for which the trustees have asked administration to determine a plan for implementation. The students are continuing to take their message across the region, and we wish them every success.

In addition to these initiatives, Anderdon Public School has increased shade and habitat in their schoolyard by planting over 25 trees while learning about watersheds, and have

conducted tree health assessment to collect important data on how well the trees were establishing in the schoolyard.

For all of these accomplishments, we are delighted to award Anderdon Public School and Ms. Nolin this year's award for Conservation Education.

Environmental Achievement

This past year, the Windsor-Essex region lost one of the pioneers of the environmental movement. For more than three decades, **Ric Coronado** was a tireless citizen advocate for environmental and labour issues in our region and beyond. In the 1980s, Ric established and chaired the environment committee at Local 444. In 1990, he was responsible for pushing for the first environmental contract language between Chrysler and the CAW that established a joint National environment committee. This became the model for joint workplace environment committees that were later established in all Canadian big three manufacturing facilities.

Ric was also instrumental in the formation of the Windsor Environmental Advisory Committee and the formation of the Labour caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network. He was on the frontlines of protests against local air and water pollution and the Detroit garbage incinerator. He fought to end sewage dumping in the Detroit River, and lobbied for recycling in the 1980s.

Simultaneously, he spent years working on Detroit River issues through the Binational Public Advisory Committee. Ric was a spirited mentor to countless environmental activists in the Windsor area and beyond.

In 1985, he founded the Windsor and District Clean Water Alliance, later renamed the Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario (CEA). This established a diligent and powerful international voice for environmental issues in the Great Lakes watershed.

Dr. David Suzuki has referred to Ric as a "silverback" among environmentalists and an 'Eco-hero', admiring his dedication, commitment and effectiveness. In describing Ric, Dr. Suzuki said: "Ric Coronado didn't want to make a lot of money or to become famous, he was fighting for something far more profound. I'm honoured that he would consider me his friend."

Longtime naturalist Phil Roberts said *"For those of us in the environmental community, Ric was really one of the founders of the environmental movement in Essex County, and he was very passionate"*.

Alan McKinnon, vice-president of the Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario (CEA) said: *"The most important thing I think Ric did was mentor generations of citizen advocates. Ric showed that, with tenacity, patience [and] courage, ordinary citizens can make a difference."*

Though Ric and ERCA did not agree on everything, there was never a question of Ric's passion for the region, and for the region's environment." He inspired generations of citizen advocates, and his legacy will live on not only in his family, but in the passion that he inspired in so many. For his many contributions, it is an honour to recognize Ric Coronado with the Conservation Award for Environmental Achievement, which will be accepted by his son, Derek.

Robert Pulleyblank Award for Environmental Achievement

The Robert Pulleyblank Award for Municipal Environmental Achievement recognizes a municipality which has made outstanding contributions to environmental sustainability. This year, the resounding winner is the **City of Windsor**.

In 2012, Windsor was the second city in all of Canada to adopt a climate Adaptation Plan. In 2019, it launched its second Adaptation Plan to provide guidance to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

This fall, the City's efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change were recognized by the Climate Disclosure Project, a global environmental impact organization. Windsor received an A for its adaptation efforts and a B for its mitigation efforts, and was one of only 41 cities in North America to achieve an A grade, while the average score was C.

Windsor was also selected as one of only 25 Canadian municipalities to join the first Showcase Cities, launched by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Canada. In addition to demonstrating leadership in climate action, the City has been generous in sharing important lessons learned with other municipalities as they work toward establishing their own processes toward climate action.

The City of Windsor was a leader in adopting a Climate Emergency Declaration, recognizing that permanent and robust changes must be made to the way we plan and develop our communities.

The City has undertaken a Sewer Master Plan to guide decision-making for municipal storm and sanitary sewer servicing. This Master Plan will take a system-wide approach to improve efficiency and reduce the risk of flooding. As part of this effort, the City launched *Weathering the Storm*, a website to centralize information for community members.

The City has also undertaken significant engineering studies to protect the Riverside area from flooding. As well, the City's rainfall station network has been harmonized with the ERCA Flood Forecasting network, dramatically expanding geographical coverage for the region.

The City of Windsor launched a tree inventory and Windsor City Council identified increasing Windsor's tree canopy as one of council's top two priorities. As well, the City committed \$2.5 million to protect Pêche Island from erosion while significantly improving

fish habitat. This project will be the largest habitat restoration project on the Canadian side of the Detroit River to date.

As environmental solutions are interconnected, the City also completed its Active Transportation Master Plan– Walk Wheel Windsor, approving a bold and ambitious strategy and substantial investment on non-motorized modes of transportation.

Over the next 20 years, infrastructure additions will improve active transportation such as walking, biking, skateboarding and use of mobility aids, and urging more Windsorites to take transit. Implementing these changes will encourage healthy living, reduce emissions and provide economic benefits for citizens, while ensuring safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

For these reasons and more, we are honoured to recognize the City of Windsor with the Robert Pulleyblank Award for Municipal Environmental Achievement.

Special Recognition for Environmental Leadership

Ray Renaud was first elected to Town of LaSalle Council in 1996, and appointed to the ERCA Board of Directors in 2001. He served as our Chair in 2006 and 2007, but his history of environmentalism dates back much further. Always an outdoorsman, he taught his kids to fish, hike, boat and camp. He was one of the first members of the Friends of Turkey Creek, always participating in tree planting and clean-up events. From his first days on Council, he always advocated for the Town's protection of LaSalle Woods and other natural areas.

ERCA celebrated many successes under Ray's leadership during his years as our Chair. The Clean Water Act was passed into legislation, and Ray was the first Chair of the region's Source Protection Authority. Ray led the Authority during one of the most successful tree planting seasons ever in 2006, with more than 205,000 trees being planted or distributed. He was also Chair as ownership of the John R. Park Homestead was officially transferred to ERCA in 2007. Ray was also at the helm when we celebrated the grand opening of the first section of the Cypher Systems Group Greenway at Sadler's Pond.

Ray was instrumental in the effort to create a publicly accessible Conservation Area in the Town of LaSalle, and thanks in large part to his efforts, Petite Cote in was opened in 2008 with a boardwalk, interpretive signage and a viewing tower overlooking the Detroit River marshes. He also demonstrated incredible leadership during the very difficult time when ERCA and partners were striving to find a sustainable solution for the ongoing flooding and erosion issues that have long plagued Southeast Leamington. His patience, diplomacy and leadership were much appreciated by staff as we navigated this difficult matter.

One of Ray's most notable accomplishments that has created a legacy of a cleaner and healthier environment was his incredible leadership, passion and advocacy in the development of the Clean Water~Green Spaces initiative.

In 2002, our first comprehensive Water Quality Report Card identified that water quality was poor. As well, only 7.5% of our region consisted of natural areas coverage. At the same time, ERCA and the community were engaged in a challenging effort to protect Marshfield Woods, located in a Provincially Significant Wetland.

In response to these issues and with tremendous support from Ray and other members of the Board which included current members Mark Carrick, Joe Bachetti, Morley Bowman and Len Janisse; the Clean Water~Green Spaces program was initiated to provide new local funding to leverage support to strategically acquire important natural areas, to restore and enhance habitat, and to improve water quality.

Under this program, there have been many successes toward creating a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future for our region. Clean Water~Green Spaces has supported the acquisition of over 650 acres of natural areas. It provided \$4.5 million toward the protection the Spring Garden Natural Area. More than 180 agricultural Best Management Practices have been undertaken with its support, and over 1,600 acres of forest, prairie, and wetland landscapes have been restored.

We are so grateful to Ray, the Board of Directors of the day, and in fact, all of the municipal councillors and leaders in this community who had the vision and took leadership action to support this innovative program, demonstrating that the Windsor, Essex and Pelee Island region is a community dedicated to creating a future of environmental sustainability.

For these reasons and more, it is our privilege to recognize Ray Renaud with the Conservation Award for Environmental Leadership.

Dennis Chase Staff Award – Danielle Breault Stuebing

We heard about Dennis Chase earlier tonight. In 2013, we created the Dennis Chase Staff Award to honour Dennis, and recognizes those who demonstrate the traits that he upheld: dedication, commitment, conscientiousness, kindness to colleagues, enthusiasm, pride in a job well done, and good humour.

Tonight, we are recognizing Danielle Breault Stuebing with both the Dennis Chase Award AND recognizing her 20+ years of exception service with ERCA.

Danielle began her career with Essex Region Conservation on June 3, 1999. Though she will tell you she was initially unclear as to what role she had, she has been excelling in it ever since and has lead ERCA's marketing and communications, public information, and education programs ever since.

During this time, hundreds of thousands of students have participated in an education program, tens of thousands of volunteers have taken part in a clean-up or tree planting, countless people have attended an event at one of our Conservation Areas. She's likely written over 2,000 media releases and through her work with the Foundation, helped raise millions of dollars. She is a skilled ambassador for ERCA and is instrumental in helping the public see us accurately and in the best light.

That's only part of the story, though.

When asked, everyone who has had the pleasure of working with Danielle over these last 20 years all share a few of the same thoughts to describe her: a warm smile, positive attitude, a helping hand, compassionate, professional, her amazing ability to get things done with limited resources, and as someone who strives to see the best in everyone.

Even when corralling thousands of grade 3s in the rain at a Water Fest, assembling thousands of volunteers to plant thousands of trees at an Earth Day event, hauling canoes at 4:00 AM for a SCAR race, or in a spirited management team meeting!

Here's what a few of her colleagues had to say:

"Danielle is the type of co-worker that this world needs. She leads with her heart, but her intelligence and work ethic truly make her a force to be reckoned with."

"She is a great example to look up to when navigating challenges. There is always a message of hope for now and the future and it is inspiring, especially as we are the staff that deliver these messages and interact with the public on some of these issues. She is professional, personable, approachable, down to earth, fun, funny and relatable."

"While she is dedicated to her work and challenges our team to improve and contribute in new ways each day, she has taken the time to learn and understand her colleagues on a personal level. Finding the balance between care and compassion, and gaining results in the workplace can be difficult, but she has found a way to do that every day."

"Danielle is our silver lining champion! No matter the weather, come sleet snow or rain, she will bring sunshine through with her spirited energy, positivity, and resilient drive to move onwards and upwards! She delights in challenges, because she can see through to the rewards they are, accomplishments that we have tackled together as a team!"

That perspective is also shared with ERCA's partners who Danielle also works with. Gordon Orr, CEO of TWEPI noted that her "... laser focus of making sure this region is the place for life is a testament to her pride of place and appreciation for those she works with striving towards that same mission".

He went on to say that she "... has a way of cutting through the clutter, understand the core issue(s) and uses her exceptional communication skills, with a refined sense of humour, to gain people's trust. It is a gift she has and ERCA is lucky she has chosen to share that gift at

a workplace she loves almost as much as the people she works with and the industry she serves."

Susan Stockwell-Andrews, the President of our Foundation, also shared that "*...Danielle has this special way of making everyone feel comfortable, welcome, and needed. She is a true professional dedicated to her craft and cause. She doesn't miss an opportunity to support an ERCA and Foundation activity and event – as well as being the energy and brains behind organizing and promoting it. I still keep trying to figure out how she is able to do it all. We are blessed with Danielle and her desire to make our region a better place.*"

And finally, all of those I spoke to were relieved that the meeting tonight was here at the Civic Centre so she could be here to receive it, noting that Danielle might have gotten lost if the meeting was to be held anywhere else in Windsor Essex! For all the road markers and directional signs Danielle has put up for Bike Tour, SCAR races, or otherwise, it is actually surprising we haven't lost anyone yet!

In short, Danielle always knows exactly what the ERCA team needs – whether a warm smile across the room on busy days, a late day text congratulating someone after a major event or a big day, or providing a needed laugh in the office. She not only leads her team and directs ERCA's communications needs exceptionally well, she does so kindly, with empathy, and appreciation for others, conjuring the great wizard Albus Dumbledore who said "*Words are, in my not so humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic, capable of both inflicting injury and remedying it*".

So, congratulations to ERCA's great wizard of words, Danielle Breault Stuebing. ERCA's 2019 Dennis Chase Award Winner, and for everything you've done over your 20 years at ERCA.

A reception for Board Members, Staff and others present will be held immediately following the meeting.

14. Other Business

- (a) The next meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020 starting at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Essex County Civic Centre, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON.

15. Adjournment

Congratulations to all Award Winners, and a final reminder that immediately following the conclusion of our meeting, please gather in the centre of Council Chambers for a group photograph.

We hope all guests will join us for a reception in the lobby, and would like to especially thank Pelee Island Winery for their generous donation of all of the wine for tonight's celebration.

Again, thanks to everyone for joining us tonight on this special occasion, and for your contributions toward making our region the Place for Life.

THAT the January 23, 2020 Meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned.

Resolution BD 13/2020 Moved by

Laura Lucier

Seconded by

Drew Dilkens

-CARRIED



Kieran McKenzie
Chair



Richard J.H. Wyma CSLA
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| January 28, 2020 | Winter Owl Prowl , Holiday Beach Conservation Area |
| February 6, 2020 | Volunteer Fair Open House , Essex Civic Centre |
| February 13, 2020 | Board of Directors Meeting Essex Civic Centre |
| February 20, 2020 | How To Crew Orientation , Essex Civic Centre |
| March 7 & 8, 2020 | Maple Syrup Festival , John R. Park Homestead |
| March 12, 2020 | Marsh Monitoring Workshop , Ojibway Nature Centre |
| March 17 & 20, 2020 | Maple March Break for Families , John R. Park Homestead |
| March 17, 2020 | Maple Moon , John R. Park Homestead |
| April 16, 2020 | Board of Directors Meeting Essex Civic Centre |
| April 25, 2020 | Great Global Cleanup , various locations |
| April 26, 2020 | Earth Day Community Tree Planting , Ganatchio Trail, Windsor |
| May 1-21, 2020 | Shorebird Celebration , Hillman Marsh Conservation Area |
| May 3, 2020 | Friends of the Homestead Yard Sale , John R. Park Homestead |