



**The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines
GENERAL COMMITTEE AGENDA
Regular, Monday, July 13, 2020
Electronic Participation**

This Meeting of Regular Council will be held through Electronic Participation in accordance with Bill 187, the Municipal Emergency Act, which was passed by the Province of Ontario on March 19, 2020.

This Meeting may be viewed online at www.stcatharines.ca/youtube

Public Comments: The public may submit comments regarding agenda matters to the Office of the City Clerk by contacting clerks@stcatharines.ca by Monday, July 13, 2020 before Noon. Comments submitted will be considered as public information and entered into public record.

His Worship Mayor Walter Sendzik takes the Chair and opens the meeting following Items Number 5 and 8 on the Council Agenda

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1. Motion to Move Reports on Consent

2. Consent Reports

Following Consent Reports, Council will proceed to Council Agenda Item 6 (Public Meetings Pursuant to Public Notice By-Law)

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| 3 - 8 | 2.1 | Corporate Support Services
Naloxone in the Workplace – Additional Information |
| 9 - 15 | 2.2 | Financial Management Services, Billing
COVID-19 Property Tax Penalty and Interest Relief Program |
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Recommendations – Culture Days Activity Program
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- 142 - 148 2.4 Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Remote Public Engagement
- 149 - 325 2.5 Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
Council Correspondence
- 326 - 334 2.6 Financial Management Services, Billing
Amendment to Administrative Penalties for Parking of Vehicles By-law – Beach Areas
(Approval of this report will set a Public Meeting for the next meeting of Council regarding Amendment to Administrative Penalties for Parking of Vehicles By-law – Beach Areas)
[Addenda]

3. Discussion Reports

- 335 - 353 3.1 Economic Development and Tourism Services and
Community, Recreation and Cultural Services
Revised Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Fee for Service Agreement
Presentation from Dorian Anderson, Executive Director, Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, will precede discussion of the report.
- 354 - 355 3.2 Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
Motion regarding Body Cameras for Police Officers – comments from Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
- 356 - 406 3.3 Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
COVID-19 Update Report - July 13, 2020
[Addenda]

4. In-Camera Session (General Committee)

Council will meet In-Camera for the following purposes:

5. Adjournment

Following Adjournment, Council will proceed to Council Agenda Item 9 (Motion to Ratify Forthwith Recommendations).




Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Corporate Support Services

Report Date: June 22, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: CSS-096-2020 **File:** 10.10.12

Subject: Naloxone in the Workplace – Additional Information

Strategic Pillar: 

Recommendation

That Report CSS-096-2020, regarding Naloxone in the Workplace – Additional Information, be received for information purposes; and

That staff be directed to develop materials to educate employees about the signs of overdose, what to do if staff suspect an overdose and information on how employees can secure a naloxone kit, if interested. FORTHWITH

Summary

Based on the costs associated with the program, and the likelihood naloxone kits in City facilities would be used, staff suggest the best course of action to respond to an overdose is to direct staff to call 911. First responders are equipped to deal with overdoses, have access to life-saving equipment and are experts in responding to emergency situations. Individuals interested in securing naloxone kits can still do so independently through local pharmacies and harm-reduction agencies.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

The availability of naloxone in our community supports the principle of Social Well-Being.

Background

At the Council meeting of [September 9, 2019](#), Councillor Townsend requested a report from City staff regarding Naloxone training for City staff and councillors, the availability of naloxone kits in the trunks of City vehicles and councillors' personal vehicles, and information on the current availability of kits at City's facilities.

A report with the information requested, [Report CSS-024-2020](#), was presented to City Council at its meeting held [February 10, 2020](#). At that meeting, Council requested that the report be referred back to staff for additional information related to placing Naloxone kits in City facilities for public use.

Report

Naloxone can temporarily reverse overdoses

Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily reverse overdoses of opioid drugs including morphine, heroin, methadone, fentanyl and oxycodone. It works by counteracting the depression of the central nervous system and respiratory system caused by opioids, allowing the person to breathe normally.

Naloxone does not reverse the effects or counter an overdose from other drugs such as alcohol, benzodiazepines, such as Valium and Xanax, or psychostimulants such as cocaine or amphetamines. However, administering naloxone to someone who is not experiencing an opioid overdose will not cause that person harm.

Although it was originally administered through a needle, naloxone is now available as a nasal spray (brand name Narcan), which has increased the ease of use.

Use focused on those with frequent contact with drug users

Originally developed for people who were using opioids but were afraid to call 911, naloxone is available for free through pharmacies and harm-reduction agencies to individuals who use opioid drugs or interact with people who do.

Given its effectiveness, community agencies and first responders who have frequent contact with people who use opioids have begun equipping their employees with naloxone. Currently, both the Niagara Regional Police and St. Catharines Fire Services equip frontline staff with naloxone.

The ease of administering the drug, combined with the low risk of harm if it is administered incorrectly, have made it an important part of efforts to combat opioid overdoses.

According to statistics from Niagara Region Public Health, in 2019 there were over 4,700 naloxone kits distributed in Niagara through the Ontario Naloxone Program. Kits were reportedly used nearly 960 times in Niagara in 2019

From January to March 2020, there were over 1150 naloxone kits distributed in Niagara through the Ontario Naloxone Program, with 250 kits reportedly used during this time.

Naloxone in municipal facilities

The pervasiveness of the opioid epidemic and the diverse group of people who use opioids and may suffer from an overdose, combined with the ease of use of naloxone, have lead some municipalities to keep kits on site, for use by the general public.

In 2018, the City of Kingston placed kits in 14 different City-owned facilities. Two kits (four doses in total) are kept in AED (Automated External Defibrillator) cabinets which any member of the public or staff can access. The cabinets have an alarm (buzzer) which alerts staff to the fact it has been opened, so they can call 911. The kits have not been used since being placed in City facilities. Staff in Kingston are not required to administer naloxone; however, some staff were trained on how to do it. Signage is posted to instruct the public on how to administer it.

In 2019, London City Council approved a pilot project where naloxone kits were to be placed in 29 City-owned building where AEDs were located, including arenas and community centres.

Earlier this year, Niagara Falls City Council directed staff to place Naloxone in City facilities. While the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed implementation, staff plan to place the drug adjacent to AED cabinets at City Hall, the MacBain Community Centre and the Gale Centre. Staff who volunteer will receive training on how to administer naloxone.

The Niagara Falls Public Library has included naloxone in AED and First Aid kits at all four branches since 2017. All staff have been trained on how to administer it. Unlike in the other examples, the location of the naloxone is not accessible to the public. Since having it on site, staff have administered naloxone once.

Naloxone is not currently available at branches of the St. Catharines Public Library, although there is interest in pursuing the idea.

Providing naloxone at City of St. Catharines facilities

In 2019, there were 498 suspected opioid overdoses responded to by Niagara Emergency Medical Service. Of those calls, 49% were in St. Catharines.

Given this, there is growing interest in having the City take a more active role in preventing overdoses in the community, especially in facilities that are frequented by members of the public. There are several things that should be considered before moving forward with this type of initiative.

Risks to employees administering naloxone

The development of a nasal spray application has reduced the risk of accidental needle pricks for people who administer naloxone. However, there remains the possibility of employees being injured after administering naloxone.

As the substance immediately halts the effects of opioids, it's possible the person receiving it may experience an acute opioid withdrawal, bringing with it pain, distress and agitation. This can put individuals in the immediate area at risk for physical harm. Other withdrawal symptoms such as nausea and vomiting, can create a biological exposure for employees.

Naloxone itself may also have side effects, such as aggressive behavior, convulsions and diarrhea, providing greater chances of exposure.

Potential physical harm aside, the experience of administering the drug and dealing with the ensuing response may be traumatic to the employees.

For this reason, no employee should be required to administer to any member of the public.

Learning to administer naloxone

Employees willing to administer naloxone to members of the public must be provided training in how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose, how to administer the drug, and what to do if the person does not start breathing or stops again once naloxone has been administered. It is also necessary that training include how to respond to a potentially violent person. It is recommended that these individuals also have training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Locations suitable for naloxone

Naloxone is temperature sensitive. Health Canada recommends that it be stored between 15C and 25C, and that it not be kept in vehicles on hot summer days or during the winter. Exposure to temperatures outside of this range would reduce the effectiveness and require replacement.

The City has approximately 200 vehicles, which are used in all types of weather conditions for long periods of time. Given this, storing naloxone in the trunks of City vehicles would be impractical.

Other municipalities have opted to place kits with AED units.

Representatives of Niagara Region Public Health's Harm Reduction Program suggest the placement of naloxone kits with the AED units makes sense as anyone calling 911 for a non-responsive person will be asked if there is an AED on site, and to get the AED. Niagara dispatchers have been trained on how to walk a caller through the assessment and administration of naloxone, if necessary.

The City currently has 44 AED units. Of these, 13 are in seasonal locations such as equipment sheds at parks and sports fields, and buildings adjacent to outdoor pools. As a result, these units would only be available while staff were working on site. Each of these locations would need to be evaluated to ensure the temperature inside does not exceed the recommended conditions for storing naloxone.

The kits kept in AED units can be inventoried and inspected at the same time as AED inspections to ensure the kits are intact and have not expired.

As the kits are intended for public use, signage would need to be placed in the area of each AED indicating the presence of a naloxone kit and instructions on how to use it.

Costs of naloxone at City facilities

The City would not be able to access naloxone for free.

The Niagara Region Public Health manages the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP) expansion for Niagara and follows the eligibility criteria laid out by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Organizations eligible to access free naloxone kits under the ONP include AIDS service organizations, community health centres, outreach programs, aboriginal health centres, withdrawal management programs and shelters. First responders, including fire services, St. John Ambulance, hospital emergency department and police, may also access naloxone for free.

Although Niagara and other jurisdictions have asked about expanding eligibility criteria as to include City staff and facilities, there is no indication that will happen.

Narcan (Naloxone in a nasal spray form) can be purchased for \$92, which includes two doses. An individual experiencing an overdose can require multiple doses to halt the effects and regain consciousness. This price is only for the drug. There would be additional costs associated with providing personal protective equipment, gloves, a bag or container for storage, etc. Additional replacement drugs would need to be purchased on an ongoing basis as it expires, approximately 18 months after delivery. The City should also keep a supply on hand to replace those that are used or that are taken from the AED cabinets.

Additional supports available in City of St. Catharines.

Since [Report CSS-024-2020](#), the City has engaged directly with Gateway Residential and Community Support Services of Niagara Inc. and Niagara Resource Service for Youth (The RAFT) to provide outreach support to our staff when dealing with issues requiring social service support. Through direct engagement, City staff will be able to rely on three trained workers who can respond directly and immediately to a person's needs by bringing coordinated services from across the Homeless-Serving System and encouraging and supporting clients to access shelter, housing and other social supports.

Financial Implications

Based on a cost of \$92 each, the cost to provide naloxone with all AED units is \$4,048. Additional doses of the drug would need to be purchased in case it is used or taken from the units. Assuming the City would keep half as many doses on hand as it had units, the total cost to purchase the drug would be \$6,072. The drugs would all need to be replaced when expired, meaning an ongoing cost every other year.

These costs can be reduced by reducing the number of locations to:

- Kits for only non-seasonal AED locations: 31 locations x \$92 = \$2,852, plus \$1,380 to have 15 replacement packs on hand.
- One kit only per non-seasonal City facility with an AED: 17 locations x \$92 = \$1,564, plus \$735 to have eight replacement packs on hand.

The City could also look at placing kits in facilities in or near neighbourhoods with a high percentage of EMS calls for suspected overdoses. However, this direction risks stigmatizing specific neighbourhoods, as opioid users span a wide spectrum of backgrounds, ages and income brackets.

Regardless of the number of locations selected, there will be additional costs for personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, a suitable bag or container to store the drug and PPE, informational and instructional signage, and materials to affix the kits to the outside of the AED cabinet. These costs will vary based on the number of locations selected. Training on how to use the kits can be provided free-of-charge by Positive Living Niagara.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that naloxone is an important tool in preventing opioid drug overdoses in our community. Having kits available at City facilities does signal to the community that the prevention of drug overdoses is important. However, it comes with many challenges.

As an organization without free access to kits, there is an ongoing cost to the organization to provide them initially and to replace them on an ongoing basis. Additionally, information from other jurisdictions indicates that kits placed in facilities for public use are not used often.

As a result, based on the considerations included in the report, staff believe the most appropriate action for the City to take is to direct employees who suspect an opioid overdose to immediately call 911. Not only are first responders equipped with naloxone, but they are knowledgeable in what to do in the case of overdoses from various substances and have access to other life-saving equipment. This action will bring assistance to anyone suspected of a drug overdose, while also reducing the potential risk to employees posed from administering naloxone.

Any employee, member of council or facility patron who would like access to naloxone while in a City facility can access it independently through local pharmacies and harm-reduction agencies, and keep it on hand in the event of an emergency.

Frontline staff will continue to work closely with local agencies to connect individuals who are experiencing drug addiction, homelessness and mental health challenges with supports in the community.

Prepared by

Cindy Pfeffer, Organizational Development Consultant

Submitted by

Jeanette Pillitteri, Director Corporate Support Services

Approved by

David Oakes, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Financial Management Services, Billing

Report Date: June 26, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: FMS-094-2020 **File:** 10.57.99, 10.4.19

Subject: COVID-19 Property Tax Penalty and Interest Relief Program

Strategic Pillar:



Recommendation

That City Council approve the property tax penalty and interest relief program, as set out in Report FMS-094-2020, to allow eligible residential properties and eligible owners to request relief from late payment penalties or interest charges during the five-month period between July 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020; and

That the Director Financial Management Services / City Treasurer or designate be given delegated authority to administer the program based on the eligibility criteria set out in Report FMS-094-2020; and

That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary by-laws. FORTHWITH

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to establish a COVID-19 Property Tax Penalty and Interest Relief Program. The report recommends the adoption of an application based residential property tax penalty and interest relief program for 2020 property taxes to allow residents who have no other financial options and are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with more time to pay their remaining 2020 property taxes without incurring additional penalty and interest charges for the period of July 1 to November 30, 2020. This program will further assist residential property owners faced with severe financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic beyond the 90-day grace period for property taxes originally approved by City Council at the March 27, 2020 meeting.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

This program supports the general overall objectives of the economic prosperity and social well-being pillars of the City's Strategic Plan.

Background

At the meeting of March 27, 2020, City Council approved [Report FMS-60-2020](#), COVID-19 Pandemic - Municipal Tax and Service Charge Deferral, which recommended Council approve waiving penalty and interest charges on property tax until June 30 and authorize amendments to necessary bylaws. This report also deferred the second interim tax installment due date by 60 days and amended the two final tax installment dates by 30 days each to July 31 and October 30, respectively. The amendments were a result of the property tax relief measure implemented to assist residents impacted by COVID-19.

As the Province, the Niagara Region and the City are re-opening, and with the majority of the Province moved into phase two of recovery, so to must the City's property tax penalty and interest relief program evolve to be more targeted to those who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Report

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, municipalities across the country introduced penalty and interest relief programs as a response to the state of emergency that was being declared to support residents and property owners. To mitigate economic impacts on residents, various measures were announced in order to provide immediate relief for taxpayers. These measures included a 60-day extension to second interim property tax instalment due date, 30-day extension to both final property tax installment due dates, as well as a 90-day grace period wherein late payment penalties and interest charges were not applied to property tax accounts with outstanding balances during the period between April 1 and June 30. All of these measures were approved by City Council at its meeting of March 27, 2020. Although these measures provided property taxpayers with much needed relief during this unprecedented time, it is clear that the economic uncertainty that many residential property owners are faced with may extend well beyond the end date of the current grace period of June 30, 2020.

This report recommends City Council's approval of a property tax penalty and interest relief program that will offer assistance for residential property owners who have no other financial options and who continue to experience severe financial impacts once the current grace period has ended. In order to qualify, all property taxes must be paid in full up to and including the February 2020 Interim installment. Property owners must submit an application and supporting documentation to establish that they have experienced severe financial impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that other eligibility criteria are met. Once approved, property owners are eligible to have late payment penalties and interest amounts waived for a period of up to five months, from July 1 to November 30, 2020.

City staff will be able to administer and manage the property tax penalty and interest relief program using existing staff resources and processes already established for the existing property tax adjustment program with no current year budgetary impacts related to program administration.

Interest and late payment penalties are normally charged at 1.25% of the outstanding overdue balance, with a penalty being applied the day after the due date and interest applied on the first day of each month thereafter. The recommended program would allow eligible property owners to apply for a waiver of interest and late payment penalties on overdue amounts for a period of up to five months from July 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020. Interest and late payment penalties are added automatically to the tax accounts where amounts are overdue - this will continue during this period. At the end of this period, if all current taxes are paid in full the applicable penalty and interest will be removed. Where any portion of property taxes remain unpaid after November 30, 2020, any late payment penalty or interest charges which has accrued on payments not made during the period between July 1 and November 30 will remain due and payable on the account.

In order to be approved for the program, a property owner will need to apply online or submit an application to the Treasurer or designate and provide documents that demonstrate extreme financial hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Types of acceptable documentation include a notice of layoff, notice of temporary suspension of pay, forced closure notice and revenue losses in comparison to a similar period in a previous year (see Schedule 1 in Appendix 1). The application form will be provided as an alternative for those who may have barriers preventing participation in the online application process. These applications will be mailed out upon request.

Eligibility Criteria for the Property Tax Penalty and Interest Relief Program

1. The property owner must have experienced financial hardship directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of a temporary or permanent loss of employment or a decrease in income of greater than 70%.
2. The property must be in the taxable residential property class with a residential structure, with no portions of the property classified in any non-residential tax class (e.g. commercial, multi-residential, industrial, large industrial or pipeline) and be the official primary residence of the property owner.
3. Applications must be accompanied by documentation or proof to demonstrate severe financial hardship, as set out in Schedule 1 in Appendix 1, or as otherwise deemed acceptable proof in the sole discretion of the Treasurer.
4. All property taxes have been **paid in full** (i.e. no amounts outstanding) up to and including the February 2020 Interim Installment, (i.e. date prior to the COVID-19 related closures).
5. Property owners must apply for the relief by August 31, 2020.
6. Late payment penalties and interest charges will only be waived where payment in full for all property taxes owing for the year has been received by November 30, 2020. Where any portion of property taxes remain unpaid after November 30, 2020 (excluding any supplementary or omitted taxes that may have been levied for the year and which are not yet due), any late payment penalty or interest charges incurred will remain due and payable on the account.
7. All applications must be made on the Municipality's form and must include documentation that reasonably and sufficiently establishes eligibility under the relief program.

8. Applications will automatically be denied if false, inaccurate or insufficient information is provided. Eligibility for inclusion in the program will be determined at the time the application is first approved and changes in financial circumstances before November 30, 2020 will not affect eligibility.
9. The Treasurer's determinations with respect to eligibility shall be final.

This program is for taxable residential properties that are the primary residence of the applicant. Under the Municipal Act, the only method to provide targeted penalty and interest relief on property taxes is through the municipality's general authority to make grants. Section 106 of the Municipal Act prohibits the making of grants or the waiving of levies or fees for any commercial or industrial enterprise. This is interpreted to be the commercial or industrial property tax classes and is also taken as a more general reference to an entity that is operating in the business realm. Therefore, a business could own a residential home. Consequently, the relief program further requires that the applicant identify the property as their primary residence.

The City's Economic Development Department has done an excellent job supporting local businesses through various programs and informing them of the criteria and procedures for responsible reopening while keeping in line with measures to enable proper physical distancing that protects residents, customers and frontline staff. Staff continue to offer webinar training to support the reopening efforts and help businesses adjust to the changing conditions. In late March, City staff also launched **PickUPSTC.ca**, which provides links to local businesses that remain open through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, with Council support, a team of City staff recently launched an expedited temporary patio application process that provides a streamlined approach to helping restaurants bring back their customers in a safe manner. More than 35 applications were received from businesses across the city looking to install a patio. Staff have also secured the URL **PatioSTC.ca** to help drive more traffic to patios that will be open under stage two.

Businesses in St. Catharines are still learning and adapting to the fluidity of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff will continue to offer support and guidance to businesses to ensure their success.

Financial Implications

The financial impact associated with the implementation of the COVID-19 property tax penalty and interest relief program is estimated to be between \$269,128 and \$672,933 depending on the number of property owners who apply for and are approved for the program. The application-based residential property tax penalty and interest relief program would further increase the forecasted 2020 yearend deficit.

The previous estimated cost of the waiving of penalty and interest up to June 30 was \$604,000. The total estimated costs for both penalty and interest relief programs is between \$783,000 and \$1.28 million. Details for these estimated amounts are shown in Tables 1 to 3 below.

This reduces the 2020 budgeted revenues of \$2.476 million for interest and late payment penalties.

Table 1: Estimated Benefit to Property Owner of Waived Interest / Penalty Amounts

Property Type	Annual Property Taxes	Average Instalments	Monthly Penalty	Maximum Benefit from a 5 month Late Payment
Residential CVA= \$254,000	\$3,637.71	\$909.43	\$11.37	\$56.85

Table 2: Potential Applicants and Total Program Cost for Payment Deferral Program

Property Type	Number of Properties	Applicants at 10% Take Up	Applicants at 25% Take Up	Total Program Cost at 10% Uptake	Total Program Cost at 25% Uptake
Residential	47,349	4,734	11,837	\$269,128	\$672,933

Table 3: Total Estimated Cost of Deferrals

Description	Waiving Penalty and Interest June 30 plus 10% Uptake	Waiving Penalty and Interest June 30 plus 25% Uptake
Penalty Interest Grace Period April 1 to June 30, 2020	\$604,000	\$604,000
Interest Relief July 1 to November 30, 2020	\$269,128	\$672,933
ESTIMATED TOTAL AMOUNT of INTEREST RELIEF PROGRAMS	\$783,128	\$1,276,933

Conclusion

While there is no reduction to the property taxes levied, the recommended application-based program will provide eligible property owners most financially affected by the pandemic with more time pay their 2020 property taxes and to manage their finances without incurring late payment penalties or interest charges, as part of the City's recovery and rebuild strategy. Depending on usage of this penalty and interest relief program, there will be a further impact on the forecasted 2020 yearend deficit of \$269,000 to \$673,000.

Prepared and Submitted by:

Lisa Read,
Manager of Revenue

Approved by:

Kristine Douglas, CPA, CMA
Director, Financial Management Services / City Treasurer

Appendices

1. Schedule 1 – Examples of Acceptable Documents / Evidence of Severe Financial Hardship Related to COVID-19

1

Schedule 1

Examples of Acceptable Documents / Evidence of Severe Financial Hardship Related to COVID-19

1. Documents that establish disruption of employment beginning in March 2020 or later: Record of Employment form, Notice of lay-off, Notice of termination, etc.
2. Evidence of application/acceptance to receive benefits under federal/provincial COVID-19-related relief programs, e.g., Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB); Emergency Leave, or similar programs.
3. Documents that establish severely reduced household income for the period beginning March 1, 2020, in relation to a similar period in the immediately preceding year (pay or income statements, T4 forms, letter from employer).
4. Any other document, form or evidence that establishes severe demonstrable financial impacts, as determined in the sole discretion of the Treasurer.



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Community, Recreation and Culture Services, Programs and Cultural Services

Report Date: June 30, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: CRCS-101-2020 **File:** 35.65.12

Subject: 2020 St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program Funding Recommendations – Culture Days Activity Program

Strategic Pillar:



Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendations for investment through the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program for the Culture Days Activity Program in the amount of \$15,000 to be implemented during Culture Days, September 25 to October 25, 2020, as outlined in Table A; and

That staff be directed to make the necessary notifications. FORTHWITH

Summary

City Council approval is required for funding of the Culture Days Activity Program portion of the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP). Nineteen applications were received on March 27, 2020, and a total of \$18,164.77 was requested. The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) has reviewed the applications. Based on the criteria outlined in the [St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy](#) (linked here and attached as Appendix 2) the ACAC is recommending funding in the amount of \$15,000 to 17 applicants for this round of SCCIP funding.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

This initiative specifically supports the Cultural Renaissance Section of the Strategic Plan in the following ways, which are currently articulated in section 4.1 of the City's [Culture Plan 2020](#) (linked here and attached as Appendix 3):

- Support of the creative cluster and promotion of cultural talent, festivals, events and venues.
- Stable sustainable cultural support and funding.

SCCIP investment supports all four sustainability pillars. Applicants generate economic impact through job creation, tourism attraction, revenue generation in partnership with the local business community and from sources outside of St. Catharines, and they provide access to many free and low-cost activities for families, youth and older adults.

Background

The St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy (Policy) was first approved in 2004 and was subsequently revised and approved by Council on May 2, 2016. The Policy was further amended on September 11, 2017, to expand eligibility for arts organizations that have been in existence for at least five years and are owned and operated by an educational institution providing clarity around the eligibility of Rodman Hall, which is owned and operated by Brock University.

The St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy aims to serve long-term community sustainability by strengthening cultural vitality, economic diversity, environmental awareness and social inclusion with the following investment priorities:

- Cultivate the growth and development of a dynamic and robust creative sector;
- Support original, made-in-Niagara arts creation;
- Foster a range of cultural experiences for all of St. Catharines residents, including educational, participatory and audience-based programs;
- Stimulate innovation and creative enterprise;
- Celebrate and encourage cultural, social and artistic diversity.

The Policy provides a framework for SCCIP through its purpose and priorities:

“Stable municipal cultural investment in the arts stimulates growth, innovation and cultural vitality. It ensures a wide range of cultural experiences, activities, events, facilities, programs and services that serve all of St. Catharines’ citizens regardless of age, ethnicity or income. The St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy is **designed to strengthen local arts creation, cultural distribution and engagement** in order to improve the spirit and quality of life for its residents.”

SCCIP contains six programs within two streams, through which artists, not-for-profits and arts and cultural organizations can submit requests for municipal funding. The program streams are detailed within the policy and are summarized below:

Sustaining Funding Stream – Grants for core and midsize arts organizations, and festival producers. Program streams include:

1. **Sustaining Core** – for St. Catharines-based, established professional non-profit arts organizations with a mission to develop, create, produce, present and disseminate artistic work in any artistic discipline. Organizations have been incorporated for at least five years and have a clear and relevant mission guided by long-term goals and strategies.
2. **Sustaining Midsized** – for St. Catharines-based, professional non-profit arts organizations that have a mission to develop, create, produce, present and disseminate artistic work in any artistic discipline. They have been incorporated for at least two years, have impactful annual programs or services that are delivered with consistency and are artistically strong.

3. **Sustaining Festivals** – for professional festivals that generate cultural tourism and/or significant economic impact, and contribute to the cultural vitality and diversity of St. Catharines. The festival has been produced at least two times and offers unique programming.

In 2020, the Sustaining Funding program has been expedited for clients of that program. A streamlined application process was developed and released and applications were received with a deadline of June 22, 2020. Funding allocations for this program were approved by council on June 3, 2020 as a part of [Report CAO-083-2020](#).

Development Funding Stream – Grants for small and emerging arts organizations, and culture-related projects:

4. **Arts Development** – for emerging arts organizations and artist ad-hoc groups, or arts organizations that work on a project to project basis, as well as for new arts festivals. This program supports a range of cultural activities, art forms, and art practices, with priority given to Niagara-based arts creation and diverse cultural traditions.
5. **Culture Builds Community** – for projects that engage residents through community art experiences, neighbourhood cultural activities and/or experiences that encourage participation, creativity and innovation. The program is open to artists, cultural organizations and other not-for-profit organizations that have the ability to engage residents at a local community level.
6. **Culture Days Activity** – for artists, businesses or organizations who wish to run a Culture Days activity in St. Catharines. Activities must respond to the mandate of Culture Days and create public participation in cultural experiences, with the aim of inspiring future involvement in the cultural life of the community.

At its June 3, 2020 meeting, Council made the following motion regarding SCCIP funding:

“That unspent money be used to create a temporary COVID fund for music, arts and cultural activities that support downtown revitalization and enhance public life during the recovery;”

As per this direction, priority for the Arts & Culture Community Revitalization Program will be given to arts and culture initiatives that support downtown revitalization and/or seek to enhance public life during recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Culture Builds Community and Arts Development streams will be replaced with the Arts & Culture Community Revitalization Program for 2020 only. This program has as its purpose to support projects that engage residents through performances, community art experiences, neighbourhood cultural activities and/or experiences that encourage participation, creativity and innovation. Projects may encompass a range of cultural activities, art forms and art practices with priority given to Niagara-based arts creation and diverse cultural traditions. The program is open to artists, arts organizations, artist ad hoc groups/collectives, arts festivals, cultural organizations and other not-for-profit organizations that have the ability to engage residents at a local community level.

This program will follow the normal jurying process for SCCIP and funding will be allocated by the end of summer 2020. After the approval of Culture Days funding, the funding allocation for the program will be \$93,095.

Report

This report provides recommendations for funding through the Culture Days Activity Program.

Evaluation Process

As per the Council-approved St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy, the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) established a Review Committee to evaluate the applications using the pre-approved evaluation criteria. The process is in line with standard practices in Canada for arts funding. The gold standard in the management of arts funding is arms-length, peer-review juries. The Policy provides a system of review that has been accepted by the local arts community as the best approach to cultural funding in a community of this size.

A Summary of Recommendations (Appendix 1) provides brief descriptions of the applicant organizations' activities and projects, as well as a summary of Review Committee conclusions. This document was provided to ACAC for their review and final approval of the recommendations. The final approval of the recommendations was made by motion at the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting held on June 29, 2020.

Culture Days Activity Program

The Culture Days Activity Program (CDAP) is designed to support activities created for the Culture Days, which is a nation-wide event that takes place from September 25 to October 25, 2020. Culture Days promotes free access to arts, heritage and cultural experiences across the city, province and country, and is supported by marketing from a provincial organization as well as from the City. Culture Days has as its purpose to raise the awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities.

St. Catharines' 2019 Culture Days activities drew more than 1,500 people to the three-day weekend (September 27 to 29, 2019). Twenty-four activity leaders were funded through SCCIP, and these leaders generated more than 33 family-friendly activities. Outcomes included engaged community members, partnerships between artists and non-traditional venues and a greater understanding of the value of creativity and self-expression amongst all ages of participants. The event also helped foster awareness of cultural opportunities for the remainder of the year. This year, with a focus on applicants' ability to transition all or part of their program onto a virtual program, participation in all Culture Days activities has the potential to be much higher than the in-person programming in 2019.

Nineteen applications were received at the March 27 deadline, requesting a total of \$18,164.77. Of the applications received, 17 applicants are recommended for funding for a total allocation of \$15,000.

In general, applications that were not recommended for funding did not serve the Culture Days mandate because the activity was not sufficiently interactive, or access to the activity was restricted. The Review Committee prioritized activities that maximized participation and offered diverse experiences in a variety of locations across St. Catharines while at the same time maintaining awareness of the funding envelope for the entire SCCIP program. For 2020, the Review Committee also took into consideration the ability of the applicants to carry out their activity in a way that considered COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place in the community at present.

Funding can be accessed by applicants in other SCCIP programs

The Culture Days Activity Program is open to individual artists, arts organizations, not-for-profit organizations and businesses, including organizations that receive funding through other SCCIP programs. This was recommended by the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee to maximize participation in Culture Days.

Table A – Culture Days Activity Program Applicants - Summary

Culture Days Activity Program Applicant	First Time Applicant	2019 Funding Amount	2020 Request Amount	Recommended
Carousel Players		\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,000
Deena Colling Gelentso		\$650	\$606.44	\$606
Renu D'Cunha	✓		\$785	\$785
Essential Collective Theatre		\$1,000	\$1,004.98	\$800
David Figueroa		\$770	\$1,260	\$605
Kevin Hobbs		\$700	\$900	\$0
Improv Niagara		\$350	\$599	\$599
Tanya Jackson	✓		\$515	\$515
Janice Low		\$500	\$525	\$525
Mexicans in Niagara	✓		\$883	\$883
OPIRG Brock*			\$1,000	\$0
OUTniagara	✓		\$1,000	\$1,000
PK Hummingbird Steel Drum Orchestra			\$1,160	\$1,160
Steve Plews		\$700	\$602.99	\$602
Neivin Shalabi	✓		\$1,103	\$700
Jon Shaw	✓		\$765.36	\$765
Silver Spire United Church**			\$920	\$920
St. Catharines Downtown Association***			\$2,000	\$2,000
Waterwood Theatre Projects		\$600	\$1,535	\$1,535
Total			\$18,164.77	\$15,000

*OPIRG Brock applied for funding in 2018 but did not apply in 2019.

**Silver Spire United Church applied for funding in 2016, 2017 and 2018 but did not apply in 2019.

***St. Catharines Downtown Association applied to a different funding program in the past but has not applied to CDAP for funding.

Financial Implications

Funding recommendations are within the approved 2020 operating budget of \$400,000 for the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program. Funding for the Culture Days Activity Program totals \$15,000.

Funding is currently being released to the Sustaining Core, Midsized and Festival applicants through the council-approved expedited process. This funding totals \$291,905.

The remaining balance in the approved 2020 SCCIP budget – a total of \$93,095 – will support applications for the Arts and Culture Community Revitalization Program.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

SCCIP Policy provides many ways in which the City can invest in the arts and cultural sector, generating a combination of economic and cultural vitality as well as grass roots experiences and events that are meaningful to a broad range of residents. If funding is approved, this first round of 2020 SCCIP applicants will serve a broad range of our community including: children, youth, families, adults, older adults, people with disabilities, new Canadians, the financially disadvantaged and more.

Investment in culture often pays dividends for generations: a child whose imagination is inspired by an artist-led workshop or a play can be influenced by the experience for decades. Ultimately, an investment in the creative sector is an investment in our residents, their quality and way of life, and their understanding of what it is to live, work, play, learn and grow as a citizen of St. Catharines.

Notifications

Staff to notify SCCIP recipients accordingly.

Prepared by

Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services and Acting Supervisor of Cultural Services

Submitted by

Lori Mambella, Manager of Programs and Culture Services

Approved by

Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services

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Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SCCIP Applicant Recommendations
- Appendix 2 – SCCIP Investment Policy
- Appendix 3 – Culture Plan 2020

SCCIP - APPLICANT RECOMMENDATIONS 2020 **Appendix 1**

1

CULTURE DAYS ACTIVITY PROGRAM (CDAP)

#	APPLICANT	Activity	Amount Req.	Culture Days Project	First Time App.	Recommendations & Comments
1	Carousel Players	Giant Puppet! Party	\$1,000	The Giant Puppet! party is an outdoor, large space activity. Carousel Players will work with a puppeteer artist to create a pattern for a Giant Puppet! as well as a video on how to create your own puppet design. Date: Sept.26 & 27 Location: TBD / Online		\$1,000 – Activity works well with Culture Days Mission. Committee recommended funding the full amount as the proposed level of engagement is very high.
2	Dena Colling Gelentso	Ready, Set, Paint!	\$606.44	Get creative as you take a brush for a walk across your canvas. Dab, stroke, twirl, and twist your brush as we explore acrylic painting. Date: Sept. 27 Location: TBD		\$606 – Activity works well with the Culture Days Mission. A very hands-on activity where participants can take home a piece of art.
3	Renu D'Cunha	Intro to Watercolour Painting	\$785	The activity involves learning various watercolor techniques and then applying them to a finished work of art. Each participant will be provided with an 8.5 x 11" watercolor paper and all the supplies necessary to practice the techniques. Date: Sept.26 or 27 Location: Work Action Centre (SMUN)	✓	\$785 – A good activity that aligns with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request as this is a new applicant.
4	Essential Collective Theatre	Community Playwriting Project - Mad Lib Style	\$1,004.98	Engaging the community in a playwriting exercise by creating a Niagara themed story and having Culture Days participants fill in the blanks like in the game Mad Libs. Date: Sept.26 or 27 Location: TBD / Online		\$800 – Activity works well with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended a reduction in funds to accommodate other requests.

5	David Figueroa	Photo Transfer Yourself Into Art!	\$1,260	Turn a printed photo of yourself into a piece of art by using an embossing drawing process. The artist will capture you in a photo to use while you explore creating your very own self-portrait. Date: Sept.26 & 27 Location: TBD		\$605 – Activity works well with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended funding one day of activity instead of proposed two days.
6	Kevin Hobbs	Poetry at PAC	\$900	Public participants have a brief conversation with a St. Catharines poet. The participant leaves to visit other Culture Day events, then returns to receive the gift of a poem based on the conversation. The Audience Participant is asked to read their poem aloud and contemplate its meaning. The readings will be posted online supporting both ST. Catharines and Culture Days. Date: Sept.27 Location: TBD / FirstOntario PAC		\$0 – The committee has seen the same project from this applicant for the past 3 years and felt that he didn't articulate clearly enough why this same activity should be funded for a 4 th year. They recommend the applicant apply again next year with a different poetry-based project.
7	Improv Niagara	Improv for Everybody	\$599	Improv Niagara presents a free improv comedy workshop open to EVERYBODY (all levels of experience, all-ages, EVERYBODY) as part of Culture Days. Participants will learn about improv by joining in fun scenes and games with some of Improv Niagara's best improv performers and educators. Date: Sept.27 Location: TBD / Online		\$599 – Good application, aligns with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request.
8	Tanya Jackson	Interactive Mosaic Blanket Project	\$515	Each participant will be given different colored wool and necessary tools to knit the patches. Tanya will teach each person how to cast on, create rows and cast off/finish each piece. The pieces will then be arranged by the artist and stitched together to make the final multi coloured blanket with all of the various patches. Date: Sept.26/27 Location: Work Action Centre (SMUN)	✓	\$515 – A good activity that aligns with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request as this is a new applicant.

9	Janice Low	Intersecting Mediums	\$525	Participants will choose a partial paper image, attach it to a canvas and create an acrylic painting around it that incorporates the image. There will be two options, the first, a more challenging art activity requiring more time, the second option, easier, fun and can be completed in about 20 minutes, accommodating children and families. Limited seating. Date: Sept.27 Location: TBD		\$525 – Activity works well with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request.
10	Mexicans in Niagara	Day of the Dead "Ofrenda Muertos" Arts and Crafts	\$883	Are you interested in Mexican cultural traditions? Do you like the movies "CoCo or The Book of Life?" The Mexicans in Niagara group invite you to share our Mexican Cultural Heritage "Ofrenda de Muertos" an Arts and Crafts workshops on how to make an offering for the day of the dead "Dia de Muertos" during St. Catharines Culture Days. Date: Sept.27 Location: TBD / Online	✓	\$883 – The Committee agreed this was an excellent activity that aligns very well with the Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request as this is a new applicant.
11	OPIRG Brock	Where Art Meets Activism	\$1,000	"When Art Meets Activism" is a series of 1-hour skillsharing, interactive, craft-based workshops featuring activities commonly used across activism events and groups. 'Craftivism' comes up in all forms of community organizing and social change: Crocheting, Button-making & rally signs, Zine-Making, Upcycling Food Scraps, and Felting & Cross Stitch. Date: Sept.26/27 Location: TBD		\$0 – The Committee agreed that there were other activities that were more in-line with the Culture Days mission. The competition for funding this year was such that this project was not deemed a priority.

12	OUTniagara	In Our Shoes	\$1,000	In Our Shoes will tell the fresh, unconventional stories of Niagara's sexual- and gender-diverse community through various artistic media. Join OUTniagara and beautifully diverse 2SLGBTQ+ community members for interactive storytelling, painting, music, and other creative forms. Date: Sept.25/27 Location: TBD / Online	✓	\$1,000 – Good application, aligns with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request as this is a new applicant.
13	PK Hummingbird Steel Drum Orchestra	Carnival and Live Steel Drum Music	\$1,160	Join an exciting environment of sights and sounds from the Caribbean Carnival: live steel drum music and colourful costumes. Try out the steel drum and play a simple tune. Be adventurous! The steel drums are so easy to learn. Join us: listen, learn, jump up! Date: Sept.27 Location: TBD		\$1,160 – Activity works well with Culture Days Mission. Committee recommended funding the full amount as the proposed level of engagement is very high.
14	Steve Plews	Mono Printing with Geli Plate	\$602.99	Participants will engage in a mixed-media printing process with natural elements such as leaves as well as paint and stencils to make their own one-of-a-kind designs. Date: Sept.26/27 Location: Work Action Centre (SMUN)		\$602 – Activity aligns with Culture Days Mission. Committee recommended funding the full amount.
15	Neivin Shalabi	St. Catharines Envisions Inclusion	\$1,103	St. Catharines Envisions Inclusion is an art-based event that encourages our people to reflect on the current changing demographics of our city. Participants will have opportunities to both express their thoughts and aspirations for diversity and inclusion through artwork as well as view others' illustrations. Join us to have fun and help shape a better future for St. Catharines rooted in our Canadian values. Date: Sept.27 Location: TBD	✓	\$700 – Activity aligns with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended a reduction in fees to accommodate other funding requests.

16	Jon Shaw	Ink and Watercolour Illustrations with Jon Shaw	\$765.36	<p>I will guide participants through creation of take-away illustrations made with ink markers and watercolour paints. Using carbon tracing paper and 4 image options prepared in advance, participants will create basic line drawings onto watercolour paper. Then, I will guide them through the painting process, resulting in a finished piece of art.</p> <p>Date: Sept. 26/27 Location: TBD / Online</p>	✓	\$765 – Great application, works very well with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request as this is a new applicant.
17	Silver Spire United Church	Art Hive	\$920	<p>A free, pop-up art hive experience grounded in community, welcoming all to experience an open space for people to gather and exchange through visual and dramatic arts. People are invited to visit an equipped studio to create collaborative and individual work or participate in drama games under the guidance of professional artists.</p> <p>Date: Sept.26 Location: Silver Spire United Church</p>		\$920 – Activity aligns with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request.
18	St. Catharines Downtown Association	Downtown Community Outdoor Mural	\$2,000	<p>The outdoor community mural will be an interactive activity providing opportunity for participants of all ages. This will involve helping create a permanent visual outdoor mural with paint that will reflect the downtown urban landscape. Professional artist will have provided a rough layout of the approved design that will be filled in by the participants using various applications.</p> <p>Date: Sept.26 & 27 Location: Downtown St. Catharines (exact location TBD)</p>		\$2,000 – Activity works well with Culture Days Mission. Committee recommended funding the full amount as the proposed level of engagement is very high.

19	Waterwood Theatre	Shadow Puppets Earth, Sea, Sky - Puppet Creation Videos	\$1,535	Waterwood Theatre will create 3 ten-minute videos: Intro to shadow puppet stages; Making shadow puppets; and, Presenting a shadow puppet show. These videos will be prepared by Dan Wood and Karen Waterman and filmed and edited by Mike Enns. They will use Aesop's Fables as a focus. Date: Sept.27 Location: Online		\$1,535 – Great application, works very well with Culture Days mission. The Committee recommended the full amount of the request.
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SUMMARY

Program	# of Applicants	Requests for 2020	# of Recipients	Recommended Investments
Culture Days Activity Program (CDAP)	19	\$18,164.77	17	\$15,000



ST. CATHARINES CULTURAL INVESTMENT POLICY

Sept 11, 2017

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VISION STATEMENT

A vibrant arts and culture scene is important to a livable city. St. Catharines' creative sector is a foundation for community transformation and sustainability: artists and not-for-profit arts organizations are at the heart of this sector.

PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES

Stable municipal cultural investment in the arts stimulates growth, innovation and cultural vitality. It ensures a wide range of cultural experiences, activities, events, facilities, programs and services that serve all of St. Catharines' citizens regardless of age, ethnicity or income. The St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy is **designed to strengthen local arts creation, cultural distribution and engagement** in order to improve the spirit and quality of life for its residents.

The St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy aims to serve long term community sustainability by strengthening cultural vitality, economic diversity, environmental awareness and social inclusion with the following investment priorities:

- cultivate the growth and development of a dynamic and robust creative sector;
- support original, made-in-Niagara arts creation;
- foster a range of cultural experiences for all of St. Catharines residents, including educational, participatory and audience-based programs;
- stimulate innovation and creative enterprise;
- celebrate and encourage cultural, social and artistic diversity.

PROGRAM STREAMS

The program designed to facilitate this policy will be known as SCCIP – the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program. Within SCCIP are three (3) program streams which each offer more than one (1) grant. These serve distinct segments of the creative sector and thus strengthen the overall cultural ecosystem within St. Catharines. The program streams and grant types are:

- **Sustaining Funding** – Grants for core and mid-sized arts organizations, and festival producers.
- **Development Funding** – Grants for small and emerging arts organizations, and culture-related projects.
- **Individual Artists Funding** – To be developed.

Each program stream has different eligibility and evaluation criteria.

Sustaining Funding

Sustaining funding has three (3) grant programs, designed for established organizations that are Core and Midsized as well as Festival producers. Applicants are eligible for multi-year funding for a maximum of three (3) years, at which time a renewal of funding will be considered.

Core Program

Intended for St. Catharines-based, established professional non-profit arts organizations with a mission to develop, create, produce, present and disseminate artistic work in any artistic discipline.

The program is for organizations that have a clear and relevant mission guided by long-term goals and strategies. They have been incorporated for at least five (5) years, have well-established programs and services, developed and delivered with consistency. They are artistically strong with proven impact in the community. There is full-time paid professional leadership (artistic and/or administrative), well-developed administrative structures, stable financial resources and planning, and an active Board of Directors with a clear governance role.

Recipients are ineligible for any other SCCIP program stream, with the exception of the Culture Days Activity Program. Capital requirements or festival activities may be considered for additional investment through this program.

Midsized Program

Intended for St. Catharines-based, professional non-profit arts organizations that have a mission to develop, create, produce, present and disseminate artistic work in any artistic discipline. They have been incorporated for at least two (2) years, have impactful annual programs or services that are delivered with consistency and are artistically strong. There is paid professional leadership, developing and/or stabilizing administrative structures and financial resources, emerging long-term planning, and an engaged Board of Directors.

Festival Program

Intended for professional festivals that generate cultural tourism and/or significant economic impact, and contribute to the cultural vitality and diversity of St. Catharines. The festival has been produced at least two (2) times and offers unique programming which includes a significant component that takes place in St. Catharines. The festival attracts audiences from within and beyond Niagara, and engages local artists and businesses in festival activities. Festival operations are professionally managed with paid staff resources and/or a dedicated volunteer management team. There is evidence of effective marketing and business planning, stabilizing administrative structures and financial resources, grant support from other government sources and an engaged Board of Directors.

Development Funding

Development funding has three (3) grant programs, designed for small and emerging arts organizations and artist ad-hoc groups, non-profit organizations leading culture-related projects and businesses and individuals leading community-engagement activities. Repeat applicants must show evidence of organizational evolution, program innovation, creative partnerships and/or growth in community engagement.

Arts Development Program

Intended for emerging arts organizations and artist ad-hoc groups, or arts organizations that work on a project to project basis, as well as for new arts festivals. This program supports a range of cultural activities, art forms, and art practices, with priority given to Niagara-based arts creation and diverse cultural traditions. Applicants will have been active and/or in existence for at least one (1) year. Equipment and small capital costs will be considered under this program if it is demonstrated that this investment will directly serve the priorities of the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy.

Culture Builds Community Program

Intended to support projects that engage residents through community art experiences, neighbourhood cultural activities and/or experiences that encourage participation, creativity and innovation. The program is open to artists, cultural organizations and other not-for-profit organizations that have the ability to engage residents at a local community level. Projects will culminate in a work of art or a public event. Projects that engage under-served local communities will be given priority.

Culture Days Activity Program

Intended for artists, businesses or organizations who wish to run a Culture Days activity in St. Catharines. Activities must respond to the mandate of Culture Days and create public participation in cultural experiences, with the aim of inspiring future involvement in the cultural life of the community. Culture Days is a 3-day national event at the end of September to raise the awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities.

Individual Artists Funding

To be developed.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The City of St. Catharines seeks to ensure a transparent and accountable application, selection and reporting process for all eligible applicants. The process shall be relevant to the nature and expectations of the sector, and ensure the City has sufficient information to evaluate applications. All applicants are required to provide completed applications, must sign Terms and Conditions at the time of application, and abide by them if funding is approved.

Cultural Services staff undertake the administration of the program and related communications with SCCIP applicants, clients and Review Committees. Staff are responsible for creating application materials and final report forms and procedures, and have the authority to make changes to program materials at any time, to maximize success of the program. Staff will consult with the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee should changes be deemed of a significant nature.

The City of St. Catharines aims to promote social diversity and inclusiveness in all areas related to SCCIP. This includes providing, to the best of its abilities, barrier-free access to information and services for organizations, ad-hoc groups and collectives applying to SCCIP for funding, and striving to ensure members of the Review Committees reflect the social diversity of the community.

Reporting

The City of St. Catharines requires accountability from all organizations and individuals in receipt of public funding. Successful applicants are required to submit a final report in the format provided by the City no more than three (3) months after the completion of their project. Organizations approved for multi-year funding will be required to submit interim reports. Any organization or individual that fails to submit reports within the time allotted **will not be eligible for future funding** until completed reports are submitted. Where applicable, the 10% of funding held back at time of approval will be forfeited.

EVALUATION

Evaluation Criteria

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) applicants must demonstrate that they meet the evaluation criteria of the program stream to which they are applying, which fall under the following categories:

- community impact;
- cultural interest;
- activities and services (Sustaining – Core and Festival Programs only);
- organizational competence / project leadership;
- marketing and outreach (Festival Program only);
- St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy Purpose and Priorities.

This criteria will be used by the Review Committees to develop detailed breakdowns of each category, to be approved by the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, and made publicly available at the time of program application release.

Evaluation Process

The City's Cultural Services staff facilitate the work of the Review Committees, coordinating materials, meetings and minutes. City staff function as liaison between applicants and reviewers. The Review Committees will undertake an evaluation of all applications and work together to make recommendations for funding. These will be presented to the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for approval, and then presented to City Council for final approval through a Corporate Report from Parks, Recreation and Culture Services.

Members of the Review Committees are subject to the Conflict of Interest section of this policy.

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program Review Committee

The St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) Review Committee shall be comprised of community members that reflect, as best as possible, a diversity of knowledge, experience and perspective in the areas of arts and culture and, ideally, both professional and community practice. It is a subcommittee of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC), with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5), ACAC members. To maximize diversity, ACAC may invite up to two (2) additional community members to participate on the Review Committee. The SCCIP Review Committee will evaluate five (5) of the six (6) SCCIP program streams, and make recommendations for funding.

Festival Program Review Committee

For the Festival Program only, applications will be reviewed by a Review Committee made up of the following representatives:

- one (1) staff member from the City of St. Catharines' Tourism Services;
- two (2) tourism industry representatives;
- two (2) members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

The Festival Review Committee will make recommendations for funding to City Council through the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

Conflict of Interest

Review Committee members will abide by Conflict of Interest procedures as outlined herein. As per the Simplified Meeting Procedures for Advisory Committees of Council, all members should disclose any personal financial interest in an application, and should avoid taking part in any discussion of the matter or voting on the related recommendation, if their interest is of a significant and personal nature that could influence their participation.

A personal financial interest is reasonably assumed significant if the Review Committee member is connected to a SCCIP applicant through:

- board membership;
- a contract for services;
- rental of facilities or equipment, to or from, an applicant;
- a bartering of services/equipment with an applicant; and
- if they have occurred within the previous twelve (12) months, or are reasonably anticipated within the next twelve (12) months.

This list is not exhaustive.

It is the responsibility of all Review Committee members to declare their own conflicts of interest. Members will be asked to declare conflicts of interest prior to applications being distributed for review. In the event conflict of interest is declared, a committee member will not review that application, and will remove him/herself from the room during discussion of that application. On return, he or she will refrain from any future discussion related to that applicant or related recommendations.

No Review Committee members will be paid staff of any SCCIP applicant. Should a committee member accept a paid position with any current applicant or active client, he/she will resign from the Review Committee immediately, return all application materials, and respect application information as confidential.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

General Eligibility

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) funds are available to not-for-profit arts organizations engaged in ongoing creation, production, presentation and dissemination activities related to the performing, visual, literary and media arts.

All applicants must:

- be active in St. Catharines;
- provide programming or services that are open to the public and publicized city-wide;
- have a diversified revenue base, which can include memberships, significant earned revenue, funding from other levels of government, and support from the private sector through fund-raising activities, donations and sponsorships.

Additional eligibility requirements apply for each grant program. Some programs provide exceptions to General Eligibility.

Arts organizations and artist ad-hoc groups that operate on a not-for-profit basis but are not incorporated, may apply to some programs. First-time applicants that are not incorporated are eligible for a maximum of \$3,000 in funding.

Ineligible Activities and Organizations

Some activities are beyond the scope of this program, regardless of their merit. No activities will be funded retroactively.

Grants are not available for:

- civic departments, boards, commissions or advisory committees, City programs or projects (i.e. libraries, community centres);
- social service, religious, or sports organizations;
- educational institutions (schools, colleges etc.);
- club or community centre programs;
- conferences, conventions or banquets;
- scholarships, prizes and awards;
- as donations (including the waiving of fees and charges);
- for groups raising funds for non-cultural causes;
- for uniforms or personal equipment;
- for deficit reduction.

Exceptions

- Non-cultural organizations that are incorporated and individual artists may be eligible for the Culture Builds Community Program. Businesses and individual artists may be eligible for the Culture Days Activity Program. Projects that are political or religious in nature, or that further related doctrine, are not eligible to apply.
- If an arts organization that is based and active in St. Catharines has been in existence for at least five (5) years, is owned and operated by an educational institution, but meets **all** other existing SCCIP criteria, and:
 - It's mandate or mission focuses on artistic endeavor (either creation or presentation) as the primary objective of the organization;
 - It's activities are consistent with the artistic focus of the mandate or mission;
 - It has not-for-profit status through its owner or independently;
 - And shows evidence of being a distinct and discrete arts organization, other than an academic unit of an educational institution;

It will be deemed eligible to apply to SCCIP programs according to program eligibility. Funding to educational institutions may only be used for cultural programming purposes.

Additional Eligibility per Program Stream

Sustaining Funding

Core Program

In addition to the General Eligibility requirements, applicants must:

- be in existence for at least five (5) years, must operate on a year-round basis and be a Federally or Provincially incorporated not-for-profit;
- have full-time paid professional artistic, curatorial and/or administrative staff;
- have operating revenues of no less than \$250,000 per year;
- produce a full season of programming as per industry standards;
- have significant resources that serve the local arts sector (ie. facility, equipment, and people);
- pay principal artistic contributors for their services in accordance with professional industry standards.

Midsized Program

In addition to the General Eligibility requirements, applicants must:

- be in existence for at least two (2) years and be a Federally or Provincially incorporated not-for-profit;
- have ongoing paid professional artistic, curatorial and/or administrative staff;
- produce a minimum of three (3) public activities per year;
- have operating revenues of no less than \$30,000 per year;
- pay principal artistic contributors for their services in accordance with professional industry standards.

Festival Program

In addition to the General Eligibility requirements, applicants must:

- be in existence for a minimum of two (2) years and be a federally or provincially incorporated not-for-profit organization or; a non-incorporated organization that confirms it operates on a not-for-profit basis;
- meet the definition of a festival (see Glossary of Terms) and provide programming or services that are continuous, open and or otherwise accessible to the public;
- Have paid staff and/or a contracted festival coordinator and/or a dedicated volunteer management team;
- have completed two (2) successful festivals prior to application;
- pay principal artistic contributors for their services in accordance with professional industry standards;
- have a revenue base of no less than \$30,000 and be an applicant for festival funding from other government sources such as Niagara Investment in Culture, Celebrate Ontario or the Department of Canadian Heritage Festival Program.

Eligibility Exception to Festival Program

Should a club, community centre, social service, religious or sports organization have a significant festival that substantially engages broader audiences and meets all other program eligibility criteria, they may be eligible to apply. The festival cannot be a fundraiser.

Development Funding

Arts Development Program

In addition to the General Eligibility requirements, applicants must:

- pay principal artistic contributors for their services in accordance with generally accepted industry standards, and according to the applicant's practices and associations;
- have been in existence for a minimum of twelve (12) months, with evidence of public activity.

Repeat applicants must show evidence of organizational evolution, program innovation, creative partnerships and/or growth in community engagement.

Culture Builds Community Program

In addition to the General Eligibility requirements, applicants must:

- engage people from a local community in St. Catharines;
- Pay lead artists for their services in accordance with generally accepted professional arts management standards.

All organizational applicants must have been in existence for a minimum of twelve (12) months, with evidence of public activity.

Eligibility Exceptions for Arts Development and Culture Builds Community Programs

- Non-cultural organizations that are registered not-for-profits and meet all other program requirements may apply for the Culture Builds Community Program.
- Individual artists leading a community art project that engages the broader community and meets all other program requirements may apply to the Culture Builds Community Program stream.
- Arts organizations and artist ad-hoc groups that operate on a not-for-profit basis, but are not registered, may apply to the Arts Development and Culture Builds Community Programs.
- Subject to prequalification, first-time applicants that have been in existence for less than a year at the time of the application deadline may be permitted to submit an Arts Development or Culture Builds Community grant application outside of normal program deadlines. Prequalification will require that the applicant demonstrate that they are on a 2-year trajectory to be eligible for sustaining programs. Consultation with City staff will be required and the applicant may also be required to present to the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee. All other program eligibility requirements apply. Prequalification must be granted prior to submitting an application and does not guarantee that the application will be successful.

Culture Days Activity Program

Applicants to the Culture Days Activity Program are not required to meet all of the General Eligibility Requirements of SCCIP. Activities must:

- take place in St. Catharines during the Culture Days weekend;
- be free and open to the public;
- engage the public in hands-on, interactive cultural experiences and encourages continued involvement in local culture;
- employ (and pay) local artists and cultural workers;
- be distinct from normal activities offered by applicant.

Eligibility Exceptions to Culture Days Activity Grant

For-profit businesses are eligible for this program when all other eligibility requirements are met. Business applicants are eligible for artist fee costs only.



INSPIRE

ST. CATHARINES

CULTURE PLAN 2020



A special event at Market Square,
Downtown St. Catharines

Cover image: Band Concert in the Walter Ostanek Pavilion, Montebello Park

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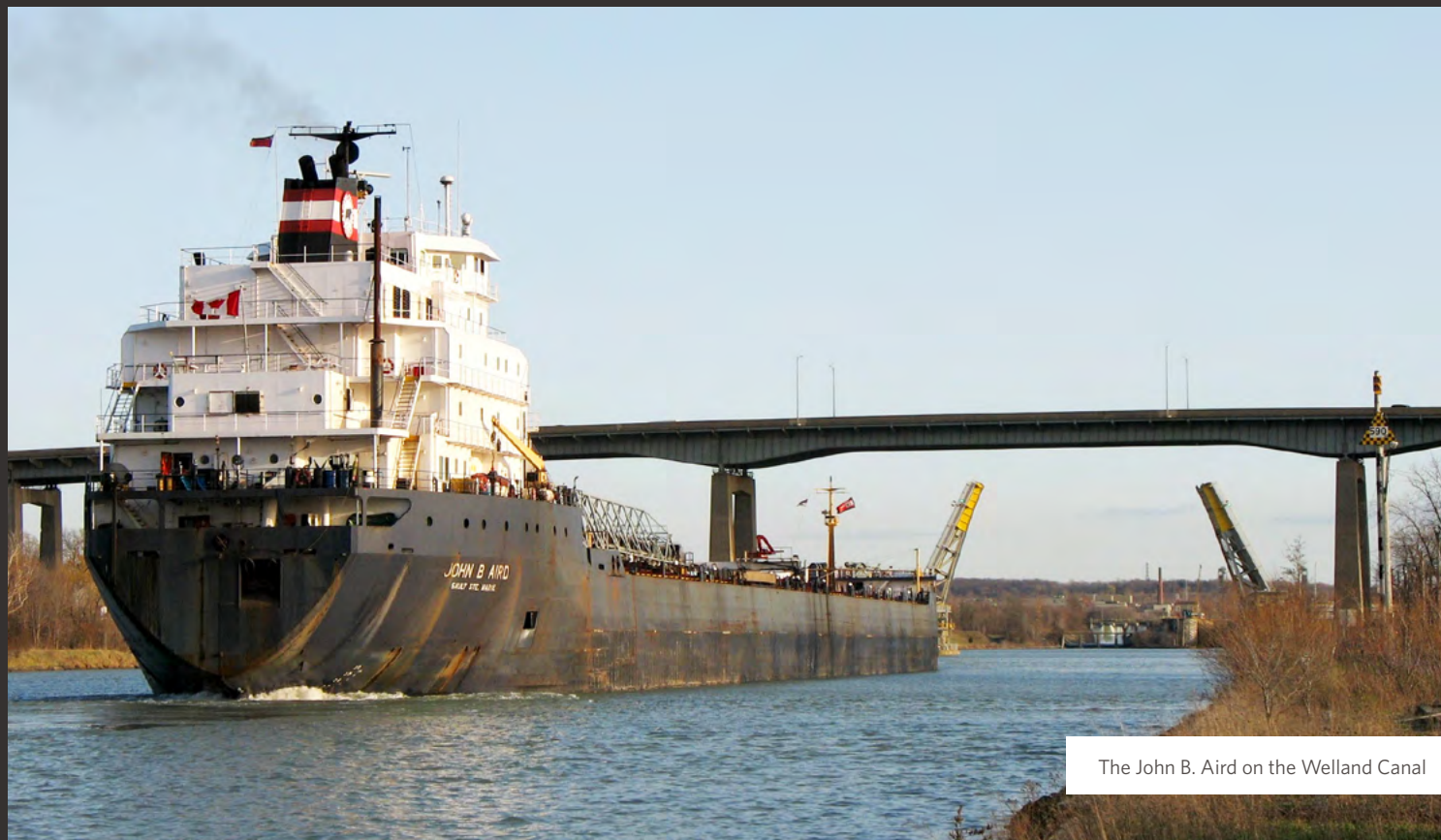
This project has been made possible with the
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Morningstar Mill at Decew Falls

Introduction



The John B. Aird on the Welland Canal

The Welland Canal was born here. The Underground Railroad ended here. Known as “The Garden City,” St. Catharines grew through industry and entrepreneurialism and today is celebrated by residents as a warm and friendly place with the amenities of a large city and the heart of a small town. St. Catharines is in economic transition and its cultural diversity, resources and opportunities are poised to contribute to the re-emergence of St. Catharines as a thriving, vital community.

St. Catharines is on the southern shores of Lake Ontario, within the region of Niagara in south-central Ontario. Proud of its history, with extensive built heritage, the city’s gardens, parks, trails, waterways and the Niagara escarpment contribute to a rich natural landscape. Originally incorporated as a town in 1845 and as a city in 1876, today St. Catharines has a population of 131,400 and is the largest municipality in Niagara. One of twelve lower-tier municipalities, the City of St. Catharines serves nearly a third of Niagara’s 431,346 residents. It is 134 km from Toronto in one direction and 50 km from Buffalo in the other, and is surrounded by Canada’s premier tourism attractions, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Niagara Wine Region.

St. Catharines is in a time of transition. The economy in St. Catharines is undergoing seismic changes with the loss of manufacturing jobs and an increased focus on creative and green economic opportunities; the municipal boundary, surrounded by the Provincial Greenbelt, is nearly “built out”; and local social service agencies are working hard to address homelessness, poverty and education levels.

During this flux, the City of St. Catharines has recognized the strength of its cultural sector. Over the past 12 years the City has increased its cultural asset portfolio and begun direct investment into the creative sector, with positive results. In 2008 City Council committed to a major new investment: the anticipated St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre, a partnership project with Brock University, and the first purpose-built arts facility developed by the municipality. The Arts Centre will open in 2015 and represents an unprecedented three-tier government investment of \$60.7 million into its construction. In 2012 the City committed to another key capital project: the \$50m Meridian Centre opened downtown in late 2014.

With major cultural projects on the horizon, the time is ripe for the municipality to link its cultural assets, and its cultural investment, to serve cultural, economic, environmental and social priorities.



What is a Municipal Culture Plan?

The Province of Ontario describes cultural planning as “a place-based approach to planning and development. It is a process for identifying and leveraging a community’s cultural resources, strengthening the management of those resources, and integrating those resources across all facets of local planning and decision making¹.”

This plan provides a framework to integrate culture into municipal priorities and decision-making, and aims to build a shared language across sectors and a common understanding of how culture can serve diverse priorities. The Inspire St. Catharines: Culture Plan 2020 is a tool for the City to respond to the challenges facing the community. It identifies issues in the planning, organization and delivery of culture, explores the links between culture and sustainability, and defines cultural priorities and initiatives for the City and its community partners to implement. The success of the plan relies on the City working with cultural groups and organizations, service providers, the business community and the community at large. This plan will nurture a healthy and vibrant community for now and for years to come and reinforce **cultural sustainability** as one of the four major pillars of the community’s sustainable future.

¹ Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Province of Ontario



Chorus Niagara -
Photo Credit: Kevin Argue

Acknowledgements

This plan was developed in partnership between Lord Cultural Resources and staff and volunteers at the City of St. Catharines. The Culture Plan Cross-Sectoral Committee advised on the development of the Culture Plan throughout the process. Its members represented a variety of agencies and perspectives:

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 Jennifer Wallace, St. Catharines Culture Committee
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 Lilita Stripnieks, Executive Director, St. Catharines Public Library

Sue Morrison, Province of Ontario, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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It is essential to acknowledge the hundreds of St. Catharines' residents who participated in the development of this plan, through surveys, social media, meetings, on-the-street interviews, "what is culture?" postcards, six word stories and more. This contribution of thought and perspective informs the heart of the plan.

Defining Culture

In early consultations, the question “what is culture?” emerged again and again. Culture can be defined and interpreted in many different ways. Culture takes on many forms and means different things to different people in different contexts. For the purpose of this plan, culture has been defined as follows:

Culture is the collective identity of St. Catharines - its people, places, and expressions. It is the shared experiences that bind us as a community – our traditions, memories, values, vision, creations and legacies.

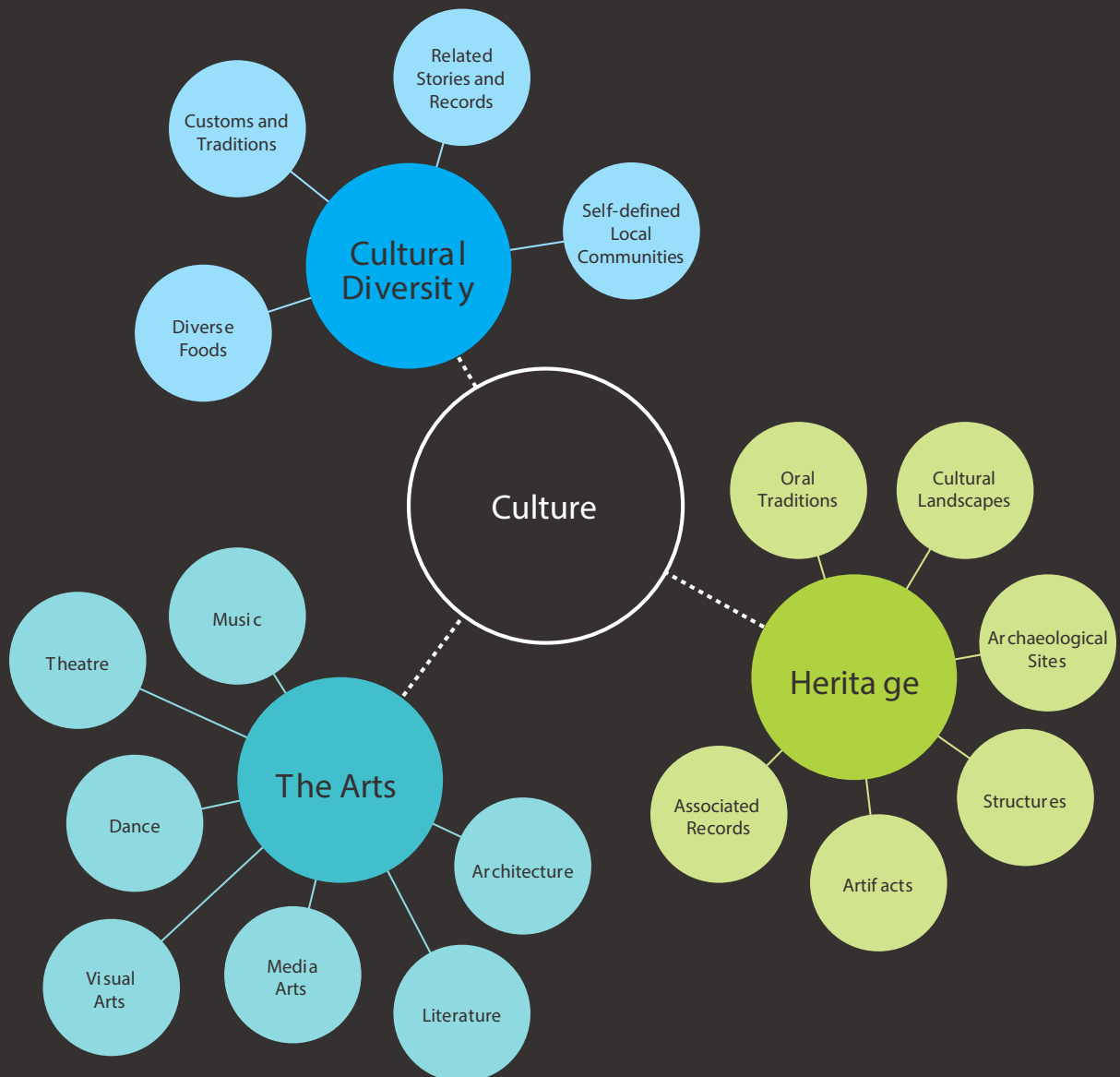
Our residents engage in culture through the arts, heritage and recreation, in their connections to community roots and our built and natural environment, and by seeking access to knowledge.

Culture is constantly negotiated and, dynamic, and is experienced in all connections between people.

From top (clockwise):
In the Soil Festival
Niagara Folk Arts Festival
Summer Band Concerts in
Montebello Park



Within this document the terms arts, heritage and cultural diversity, are frequently used. The word “culture” embraces all of these concepts. Each of these three “areas” shapes community identity. They reflect shared experiences through the celebration of traditions, collective memories and values, new ideas and creations, and through the preservation of all forms of legacy.



Planning Process

The City of St. Catharines engaged Lord Cultural Resources to facilitate a process towards a Culture Plan. The Culture Plan was commissioned to assess the key issues facing the municipality and to develop a set of actionable, implementable and measurable key priorities. The process was directed by Parks, Recreation and Culture Services and guided by the City appointed Cross-Sectoral Committee comprised of community leaders.

The planning process progressed along four streams: Internal Review and Analysis, Public Consultation and Engagement, Community Scan and Final Culture Plan. The tasks for each of these streams are described in the appendices.

Two reports were developed under separate cover that are referenced throughout the plan. The Internal Analysis undertook a review of departmental functions, city plans and policies, Committees of Council and financial investment – all as they relate to cultural service delivery, asset management, community development and planning. The State of Culture Report provides substantial information on: the affect of City investment into the cultural sector through the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) attendance and participation at selected cultural sites; the results of two surveys, one to local artists and one to the general population; and it includes maps that were developed in the cultural asset mapping process.



Impressions of Culture: Residents submitted their ideas of culture on postcards which contributed to an exhibit at City Hall.

Vision Statement

The City of St. Catharines boasts a dynamic and robust cultural sector, and values the arts, heritage and culture as essential to community building and sustainability. St. Catharines supports and promotes culture to enrich the lives of its residents, attract new people and ideas, bolster economic development and social inclusion and celebrate its unique identity. The City will nurture, support and celebrate St. Catharines distinct identity, creativity and diversity through the promotion and advancement of a wide range of cultural activities, events, facilities, programs and services that serve all citizens of St. Catharines regardless of age, ethnicity or income.



Downtown, St. Catharines

Culture Plan Priorities

Seven priorities are identified in this plan to leverage the opportunities culture offers the City of St. Catharines and its community partners. The priorities are intended to inform and direct future decision-making within the City and are not presented in order of priority. The priorities and their initiatives are intended as a guide, since future change is inevitable and new opportunities will emerge.





Student volunteers with Amy Keating in the Carousel Players/ Castlemoon Theatre production of Water Under the Bridge

Priority 1.

Communicate the experiences and value of culture to St. Catharines' residents.

St. Catharines offers a cultural richness to residents and visitors alike. Theatre, music, dance and visual arts, heritage districts, historic sites and museums, festivals and special events are all available in St. Catharines for people's enjoyment and to enrich their lives. While the future Performing Arts Centre has increased local awareness of culture as a significant component of the community's future, there are still many who don't know how to find out what's going on in the cultural sector. The opening of the PAC will help change this, but in the meantime, there is much cultural activity taking place now that needs audiences and participation.

The diversity of St. Catharines' cultural experiences remains relatively hidden from public view, and few local cultural organizations have the resources to market to tourists. Collective marketing and promotion of the cultural sector has been supported by the City over the past decade,

and on-line tools are being more effectively used than ever before. The City supports promotion of arts, heritage and festivals through their main website (www.stcatharines.ca), through their tourism website (www.tourismstcatharines.ca) and City Guide, and through the Recreation Leisure Guide. In the fall of 2012 the City led the launch of www.cNiagara.ca, a website promoting cultural events across Niagara.

While this marketing work has been strong, the Culture Plan consultation process revealed opportunities for improving the local information-sharing system that can improve overall awareness of what St. Catharines has to offer. For example, Brock University students and new employees at the City could benefit from a City Guide and/or Leisure Guide when they arrive. The Economic Development and Customer Service department regularly provides information to tourists and prospective businesses, and City information could also

be offered to new Canadians arriving in St. Catharines, as well as other newcomers who would benefit from a City or Leisure Guide.

General awareness is only part of the sector's communication needs. The value of culture in all aspects of community planning and development is often overlooked. Actively participating in culture – arts, heritage or local festivals – can positively affect individual development and social cohesion.

IMPERATIVE

By cultivating awareness of the diversity of cultural experiences available in St. Catharines the City will support: downtown revitalization efforts; the success of the future Performing Arts Centre; and the *Tending Our Garden City Plan*. Communicating the value of culture in all aspects of City programs and planning will encourage more residents to participate in cultural experiences and foster civic pride. Deepening awareness of the many ways culture can help build a community will open eyes and subsequently new doors for future partnerships and development.

INITIATIVES

1. Facilitate and support collective marketing initiatives, including cross-promotion, for all cultural organizations and events in the community.
2. Assess the City's marketing and interpretive materials and develop a plan to strengthen the promotion and awareness of municipal cultural assets.
3. Evaluate the City's protocols for welcoming and providing information to newcomers. Consider the distinct needs of new Canadians, Brock University and Niagara College students, new businesses and new municipal employees.
4. Identify strategies for celebrating local cultural success stories and the contributions of cultural workers and businesses.

Strumming at the Cicada Festival
Photo Credit: Cicada Festival on Henley Island

Priority 2.
Foster participation in arts, heritage and cultural experiences.

In St. Catharines there are many opportunities to participate in heritage and arts experiences, through the City's recreation programs, in workshops and activities led by local arts organizations, volunteer experiences at the St. Catharines Museum, with the Friends of Morningstar Mill or Friends of the Carousel, and more. There are also more passive ways to experience culture: the city's many memorials, historic buildings and sites; St. Catharines' four heritage districts; and the City's parks and trails offer some of the best examples of the region's built and natural heritage and opportunities for cultural discovery.

In St. Catharines² local participation in festivals is high, which suggests a strong interest in coming together as a community to celebrate and enjoy cultural experiences.

Yet participation in hands-on programming is often low. Recreation programs have been cancelled due to lack of registrations, and local arts organizations often struggle to reach youth and adult participants, often offering low or no-cost activities to ensure access.

In community consultations it was suggested that many residents of St. Catharines do not partake in cultural activities because of real or perceived barriers. Financial access, lack of public transportation to venues and sites, broad interests and a diverse demographic were all cited as contributing to less than optimal cultural participation.

2 See State of Culture Report for General Survey and Participation Statistics

IMPERATIVE

The City has a role to play in promoting all aspects of cultural participation. Local arts and heritage organizations tell local stories, express local ideas and concerns, and celebrate local achievements. Participatory experiences that are locally-inspired can be instrumental in growing healthy individuals and helping them make powerful connections to their environment. Cultural participation can have a positive influence on people's lives, deepen their relationship with the local community and contribute to community building.

INITIATIVES

1. Review and strengthen the support and development of existing and emerging festivals, celebrations and events, taking into consideration equitable access, transparency and efficiency.
2. Further develop opportunities to experience arts and heritage through direct programming, in partnership, and through investment in the cultural sector.
3. Investigate barriers to cultural access and identify strategies to increase participation.
4. Develop a comprehensive municipal volunteer policy that includes recruitment, management and recognition of volunteers, taking into consideration the current role of volunteers across the corporation.



Suitcase in Point Theatre Company

Priority 3.

Cultivate the growth and development of the creative sector.

As the St. Catharines economy changes, the creative sector grows in importance. It is a source of entrepreneurs and new businesses, a contributor to making the city more attractive for new businesses, workers and doctors, and a component of a youth retention strategy. The Downtown Creative Cluster Master Plan identified the future St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre and the Marilyn I Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts as cornerstones in the strategy to revitalize downtown St. Catharines and return it to its glory days as a bustling, vibrant community heart.

In cultural asset mapping³ undertaken for this plan, downtown St. Catharines has the largest cluster of cultural businesses and organizations. What was perhaps more surprising was the consistent spread of cultural assets across most of the city. Cultural workers and businesses populate all corners of St. Catharines and thus affect every neighbourhood in the city.

The City of St. Catharines has recognized that cultural investment is a contributor to economic renewal: the investment in the future arts centre is the most recent example. The past decade has seen the emergence of the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) and initiatives such as nGen (now part of Innovate Niagara), the new media incubator that continues to thrive since it opened in 2008. SCCIP has stimulated significant growth in the not for profit arts sector and fostered new arts facilities, more jobs, more private sector and upper-level government investment, and a more vibrant, engaged sector⁴. This was an important factor in the feasibility of the arts centre, as was the renewed commitment and interest by Brock University in a partnership with the City. Attracting the creative sector matters to the future of St. Catharines.

Yet despite the City's investment, and the development of an arts centre, many local arts organizations struggle with

³ State of Culture Report, Cultural Asset Mapping

⁴ State of Culture Report, St Catharines Cultural Investment Program Economic Impact

organizational capacity, sustainable funding levels and infrastructure issues. There is a recent perception of vitality and success within the arts sector, yet organizations are laying off staff, struggling with cash flow and worrying about the rental rates of the future arts centre. Further work is required to analyze how the City can further its investment in this sector, creatively and strategically. An evaluation of soft infrastructure, sustainability issues, resource sharing and strategies for motivating investment from other sectors will all be part of the solution.

IMPERATIVE

A creative community attracts creative sector workers. A strong and vibrant creative sector, both for and not-for profit, need to be part of the City's long-term strategy for economic renewal. Organizational growth, professional development and revenue and business-development strategies are essential for the creative sector to be a viable partner in the future growth and sustainability of St. Catharines.

INITIATIVES

1. Build on the success of the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program to further strengthen organizational capacity, revenue development and market-readiness within the local cultural sector.
2. Investigate the development and resourcing of an arms-length or independent umbrella arts authority.
3. Engage the private sector with arts and heritage organizations, with particular attention to deeper involvement in governance, partnerships and skills development.
4. Evaluate the availability of sufficient and appropriate facilities for arts development and presentation, taking into consideration the future changes in downtown and their potential effect on pre-existing artist studios and shared creative spaces.



Grist Mill at Morningstar Mill site

Priority 4. Further develop the planning, management and coordination of heritage assets and historical services.

St. Catharines' history spans four centuries and is reflected in the many heritage assets within the city. Historic sites and museums, private homes, attractions, cemeteries, memorials and cenotaphs all represent the community's storied past. The first-rate St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre preserves and interprets the city's history; the Lakeside Park Carousel, Morningstar Mill and the British Methodist Episcopal Church- Salem Chapel are some of the many beloved and significant heritage sites in St. Catharines. As well, remnants of the first three Welland Canals can be found in many of the City's parks, and the natural heritage of St. Catharines is a prevalent and valued feature of The Garden City.

During focus groups, local residents spoke of the lost historic landmarks that have disappeared over the years: the Russell Hotel, The Downtown YMCA, the Opera House, the Carnegie Library and more. Heritage preservation must be a priority if

St. Catharines' built heritage is to remain. These cultural assets represent not only the people and stories of St. Catharines, they provide unique landmarks for community and contribute to the distinctiveness of our built environment.

Heritage preservation is a responsibility for both the public and private sector. The City has a leadership role to play in how it maintains and manages the heritage properties it owns, and it can develop strategies to encourage private sector responsiveness to preservation goals as well. The City's Adaptive Heritage Re-Use Policy and its Heritage Façade Grants program are tools that serve this end, and more can be done.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Department at the City is primarily responsible for Historical Services in the community. Planning and Building Services tends to the city's heritage planning matters.

While both departments manage these services very well, there are still some areas that can be improved by coordination. How can these departments work together to ensure that resources and information are shared, that all heritage assets are managed and cared for appropriately, and that the community is engaged in decision-making related to these assets when appropriate?

IMPERATIVE

Heritage preservation in the private and public sector must be a priority for the City as part of cultivating a distinct sense of place and a connected community. Built heritage adds meaning to local landscape and fosters a stronger sense of civic identity for local neighbourhoods. Coordinated effort and further development of preservation efforts, private sector support, education and promotion will serve to pass these legacies on to future generations.

INITIATIVES

1. Build on existing incentives for heritage preservation and encourage growth of single building heritage designations. Consider establishing a dedicated Heritage Planner position within the City's complement of staff to build on the opportunities identified.
2. Preserve, maintain and promote access and interpretation of the remnants of the first three Welland Canals.
3. Recognize the significant role of Black History in our community, and continue to evaluate strategies for preserving, interpreting and promoting that history.
4. Evaluate the success of Doors Open in St. Catharines and consider options for the presentation of same or similar programs and strategies to celebrate the community's built heritage.



Performer at the Niagara Folk Arts Festival

Priority 5. Recognize and embrace the city's cultural diversity as a cornerstone for civic engagement.

Diversity goes beyond where a person is born. St. Catharines is a mix of different religions, abilities, sexual orientations, ethnicities, ages, genders etc. Diversity is generally perceived as an asset for a community. It increases attractiveness for culturally diverse businesses and workers, it is a sign of a progressive and tolerant community that welcomes new people, ideas and perspectives, and it can serve to further community development goals. Diverse perspectives in decision-making will foster strategies that consider a broader range of opinion, skill set and experience. An inclusive community embraces grass-roots initiatives and encourages the emergence of new ideas.

St. Catharines' cultural diversity was first formally recognized with the creation of the Niagara Folk Arts Festival in 1968, a festival

that continues to be celebrated in local neighbourhoods each May/June. The Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines is the centre of local cultural diversity as it provides services to new Canadians and offers language classes (English, Spanish, Mandarin), local awareness and interaction between residents and new Canadians, and the annual festival.

In the instance of inclusivity and diversity, "the cart must follow the horse." Individuals from diverse backgrounds may not feel included if they do not see themselves reflected in diverse facets of community life. In community consultations⁵ for this plan youth, women and people of visible minorities noted that representation reflective of them was rare in the City's leadership and committees. They observed that cultural diversity was a topic relegated to one committee which is no longer

⁵ See Culture Café on Diversity and Inclusivity, available on Facebook

operating. Others at the session described youth volunteers aging-out of the Youth Advisory Committee and unsuccessfully applying to other City committees. Questions were asked about the City's formal practices and policies as they pertain to inclusiveness and diversity. Simultaneously, community members applauded recent efforts to develop a grocery co-op in downtown and the Niagara Car Share program as positive signs that the community and its leadership are ready to embrace new ideas.

IMPERATIVE

The City can play a leadership role in Niagara, as inclusivity is an issue in most sectors. The City should apply itself to reflect the community's diversity and develop broader representation of all kinds within the municipality's processes.

INITIATIVES

1. Recognize the importance of representing the diversity of our community consistently in all City marketing and communication materials and develop communications policy as appropriate.
2. Recognize the importance of engaging youth with cultural initiatives, as a means of strengthening their civic and community engagement in the future, and develop strategies to deepen youth engagement with local culture.
3. Continue to support the development of grass roots initiatives that serve local community, reflect our distinct culture and foster distinct place-making.
4. Evaluate all forms of diversity in City Committees, consider the adoption of language in all committee Terms of Reference to address the value of inclusivity, and actively recruit diverse representation for all committees.



Screenshots from one of four Roving Camera videos, an outreach initiative of the Culture Plan. Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0ImXun1zGE>

Priority 6.

Leverage culture to strengthen St. Catharines' distinct sense of place and community.

There are areas of great beauty in St. Catharines and there are other areas that reflect the "geography of nowhere"⁶ that is bemoaned across North America by people seeking to live in communities that are distinct and authentic. Most often, those people are the creative workers sought for a changing economy.

Architecture, built heritage, urban design, parks, parkettes and landscaping are elements in the City's public realm that can reflect what is unique in a community. Arts, history, people and their stories can also influence public realm development. Public art, outdoor festivals and events, parades and celebrations – when developed and invested in, these contribute to vitality and meaning in our public realm and generate a sense of community. A community's shared culture – what is distinct in its environment,

and its self-expression and history – can be expressed in the public realm in real and influential ways. The City's Urban Design Guidelines and The Garden City Plan recognize the value of culture in the public realm, laying important groundwork for the inclusion of culture.

For example, Henry of Pelham Winery is historically named, and the Speck Family owners understand the role culture plays in their contemporary wine producing business. The historic property includes public art on their grounds and original art on their walls, and there is a heritage plaque commemorating an abandoned family cemetery on their property. Another business that understands the value of placemaking is the Pen Centre, Niagara's largest retail mall, which recently changed its roadway sign to incorporate green and purple grape leaves.

⁶ The Geography Of Nowhere: The Rise And Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape by James Howard Kunstler explores the effects of suburban sprawl, civil planning and the automobile on American society.

Local residents understand the significance of the leaves; a visitor simply sees a sign that is unexpected and beautiful, surprisingly, and appreciates the Pen Centre as a slightly more distinct place than other malls.

Working with artists, historians, designers and architects, as well as with local community residents, the City can foster the development of authentic, more attractive neighbourhoods and local pride of place. Public improvements that are meaningful to residents, that reflect local stories and experiences, will strengthen the identity of St. Catharines and local civic pride. The addition of gardens, public art and programs that draw people out of their homes will increase civic engagement and sense of community.

IMPERATIVE

The public realm will be positively influenced when it is developed with culture as a lens, considering both contemporary cultural realities as well as historic. St. Catharines must leverage its cultural resources in strategies and programs that shape the local

built and natural landscape. The result will be greater pride of place and a stronger sense of community.

INITIATIVES

1. Foster an environment to attract cultural and creative sector workers and businesses to St. Catharines and develop strategies for the development of creative mixed use spaces, including live/work space for artists.
2. Develop, resource and implement a public art plan, recognizing the role of public art in urban design and in cultivating a distinct sense of place at a neighbourhood level.
3. Maximize City-owned heritage buildings and structures as cornerstones of local community and civic pride when considering programs, rental opportunities or other plans for the future.
4. Identify key cultural assets across the city and develop strategies to maximize their use for local residents at a neighbourhood level. Include consideration of cultural neighbourhood identification through street signage and special promotions.



Rodman Hall Art Centre, Brock University

Priority 7.

Foster the cross-departmental management and delivery of arts and heritage service delivery, planning and community development.

Culture in all its forms is primarily managed within three distinct City departments / divisions: the Parks, Recreation and Culture Services department, home to Programs and Cultural Services, and the Performing Arts Centre; Economic Development and Tourism, within the CAO's office; and the Planning and Building Services department. Approximately one third of City Council's citizen committees are involved in cultural service delivery directly or indirectly. Communication and coordination are challenging when it comes to cultural service delivery and development.

This plan sought feedback from every City department, often on multiple occasions, and the connections between culture and many aspects of municipal management were clearly identified. Recommendations stemming from the Internal Analysis were picked up by the Citizens-First Evaluation; Human Resources found value in the

cultural asset mapping; and ideas for sharing construction information with the public emerged from a cultural asset mapping project on the horizon.

How can the City best utilize and manage all of its culture-related resources effectively, including its volunteer committees, to deliver cultural services efficiently to the residents of St. Catharines? This plan recommends that culture-specific initiatives be guided by an Internal Advisory Culture Team. As well, it is expected that this team will serve the municipality as a resource for other City plans, as it will offer a kaleidoscopic perspective with a cultural lens.

The development of this plan has identified a number of areas for immediate attention, but there are other initiatives that will emerge in the future that a cross-departmental committee will be well-suited to evaluate and support.

IMPERATIVE

The City should encourage regular intra-departmental communication and facilitate more collaboration amongst City staff. While the City's breadth of committees may require review, they continue to be an important contributor to help guide City staff and Council on cultural matters.

INITIATIVES

1. Build on Phase 1 of the Cultural Asset Mapping initiative, addressing maintenance, function and cross-departmental planning and promotional needs.
2. Evaluate the breadth of City Committees engaged in culture-related initiatives and identify communication strategies and efficiencies amongst them.
3. Evaluate collections within the municipality and identify efficiencies and policy and procedural clarifications, i.e. civic art, archives, Museum etc.
4. Develop a cross-departmental working group to address cultural service delivery, communication and community development. Develop Cultural Success Indicators that address all pillars of sustainability and that contribute to the implementation of this plan.

Plans for the Future: A Context for Culture

Cultural investment and service delivery in the City of St. Catharines must respond to multiple municipal plans. This section of the Inspire Plan draws links between the many facets of culture, three major City plans and current City priorities. Culture's relationship to economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainability is considered here because the influence of culture can be powerful if understood and leveraged by other sectors. Future municipal plans and priorities can utilize the "cultural lens" described here to strengthen their goals and to help achieve success.

CULTURE'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABILITY

St. Catharines approved its first sustainability plan in 2011 and it is the City of St. Catharines' strategic plan. *Tending Our Garden City* confirms the municipality's commitment to the four pillars of sustainability: economic, environment, social and culture. The vision states:

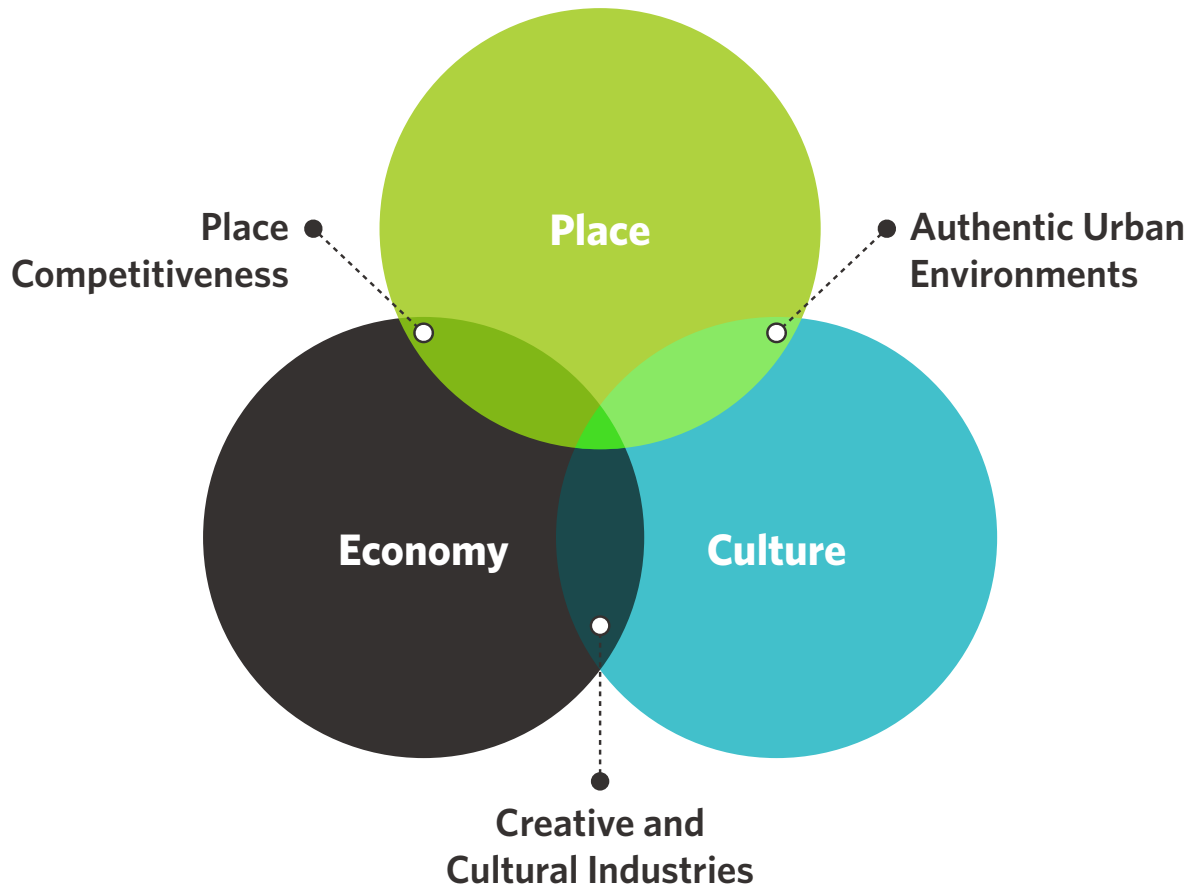
"A sustainable community works together to take on the challenges ahead."



Cicada Fest on Henley Island

The focus of the plan is on working together, across sectors, to find solutions to six challenges that can negatively affect our community's future:

1. The Global Economy
2. Rising Energy Prices
3. Climate Change
4. Infrastructure
5. Poverty
6. Natural Resource Scarcity



As the Province's designated urban growth centre in Niagara, St. Catharines is destined to become denser and the relationship between economy, place and culture will become more and more pronounced. Quality of life in a dense environment requires cultural assets: sensitive architecture, built heritage, urban design and public art will make the built and street environments attractive and distinctive; festivals and events offer opportunities to gather and share experiences with neighbours; theatres, galleries, restaurants and clubs provide vibrant experiences that make a dense urban environment exciting and chic. A diverse nightlife equates with more pedestrian activity, lower crime rates, a sense of safety and higher property values⁷. Artists will gentrify neighbourhoods that are perceived as sketchy by others. Thus, culture directly influences the environmental pillar of sustainability.

St. Catharines will benefit by attracting the "creative class" -- those increasingly involved in the arts & knowledge-based economies, including digital & interactive media businesses. The City has committed to this concept with municipal investments in the future St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre and in the development of nGen, Niagara's Interactive Media Generator, the city's hub for innovation, incubation and business development. As described later in this plan, direct municipal investment in the cultural sector has increased the number of jobs in the arts, and generated more activity, new optimism and a sector ready to work with its community. The cultural sector is working with the new hospital, with education partners, with youth and with the business community on initiatives that will contribute to this changing economy. Culture influences the economic pillar of sustainability through all of these initiatives and more.

Culture can have an influence on the social pillar, as well. A European Study entitled *The Role of Culture in Reducing and Preventing Poverty and Social Exclusion*⁸, notes:

"There are many different ways in which access to and participation in cultural activities can be very important in promoting greater social inclusion. These include:

- *Building skills and self-confidence*
- *Enhancing self-esteem and identity*
- *Overcoming cultural diversity and discrimination*
- *Creating employment opportunities*
- *Promoting social integration"*

⁷ Beyond Anecdotal Evidence: The Spillover Effects of Investment in Cultural Facilities, Ryerson University, Toronto Artscape, 2003

⁸ *The Role of Culture in Reducing and Preventing Poverty and Social Exclusion*, Commissioned by the European Commission from the Centre for Public Policy at Northumbria University, 2011, Policy Study Findings, pages 2 – 3. Note: "Cultural activities" include the arts, sports, media, theatre, museums, libraries, although the study notes a broader definition of culture would be beneficial.

Social outcome analysis is not a part of this plan, however, culture does have a role to play in the social health of the community. Across Canada there are examples of initiatives and organizations that utilize the expertise and assets found in the cultural sector to change the socio-demographic realities of those caught in the poverty cycle: murals are painted by high-risk youth through job creation programs; community art centres bring people together in low-income neighbourhoods; dance programs offer spark to seniors in residential homes. Cultural activities in theatre, galleries, museums and libraries can provide a positive influence at a local neighbourhood level.

In St. Catharines an under-resourced cultural sector and a two-tier local government system that separates social services from cultural services affect the neighbourhood experience of culture, in particular the kind of programming that can attract residents who have not traditionally engaged in cultural activity. The future social health of St. Catharines will be better-served when culture is better understood as an influential, community-building partner.

CULTURAL VITALITY

Cultural vitality is a pillar of community sustainability that is as essential and distinctive as the pillars of economic, social and environmental health. But it is the least understood by community leaders. If a community wants to attract business, knowledge-economy workers, doctors and youth it must have a strong sense of community identity, and be a place that is culturally vibrant.

So what is “cultural vitality” and how does a community get it? It is often described as being present in a community that has a sense of self and purpose. Perhaps it is a blend: a distinct sense of place; the shared experiences of a community that build a collective sense of identity; and the inclusion of distinct peoples, voices and stories that reflect all of the community. Self-expression, inclusion and creativity are essential to vitality, as is respect and preservation of heritage for future generations.

Cultural assets, the arts, heritage, and our cultural diversity are fuel for the community’s cultural vitality. Building on the community’s cultural strengths is essential to serve this fourth pillar of a sustainable future.



Artist Rendering of Performing Arts Centre, downtown St Catharines, opening Fall 2015.

City Priorities

The City of St. Catharines has many objectives and must take into consideration a wide range of community needs and interests. Culture has become a high-profile priority as a result of the future St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre. The City is simultaneously building the Meridian Centre, and has recently opened the Kiwanis Aquatics Centre and a new parking garage in downtown.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

In the mid 2000's, the City of St. Catharines initiated plans to encourage growth and vitality in the once vibrant urban centre. The City recognized the value of a strong downtown as part of its overall economic growth strategy and the role of culture as a driver for downtown revitalization and a new creative economy. With the development of the Downtown Creative Cluster Master Plan in 2008 and the support of the City's Downtown Development and Revitalization Committee the City of St. Catharines seeks to:

- create a safe and attractive downtown that will attract both investment and tourists;
- redefine the downtown as a desirable place to live, shop and do business;
- encourage people to walk through the downtown, day and night.

The Creative Cluster Master Plan integrates economic development and land-use planning. The plan recognizes the creative sector will contribute to economic renewal, and identifies the cultural academic partnership of the City of St. Catharines and Brock University as a cornerstone of the strategy.

Execution of the plan is well underway. The City has implemented the conversion of one-way arteries to allow two-way traffic through the downtown core. This change puts downtown St. Catharines on the Niagara Wine Route, redirecting regional tourists through the core. The Carlisle St. Parking Garage opened in 2012, the Meridian Centre opened in the fall of 2014, and other initiatives are underway to further contribute to the downtown's growth and revitalization.



James St. in downtown St. Catharines

Downtown was a significant topic of conversation in the course of community consultation for this plan. Culture and downtown are inextricably linked: the health of one influences the health of the other. The St. Catharines Culture Plan 2020 will serve downtown revitalization and its many cultural assets through the plan's recommended priorities and initiatives.

ST. CATHARINES PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

The largest cultural project within St. Catharines is the development of the future Performing Arts Centre, set to open in late 2015 at the corner of Carlisle and St. Paul Streets in downtown St. Catharines. Three levels of government are contributing to this new \$60.7 million purpose-built arts facility which is designed by the award-winning architectural firm of Diamond & Schmitt of Toronto: the Province of Ontario and the Government of Ontario are each contributing \$18 million in recognition of the role the future facility will play in downtown renewal. The St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre (PAC) will include four distinct performance venues including a 775-seat concert hall, a 210-seat dance/theatre venue, a 300-seat recital hall and a 187-seat film venue.

The project is being developed in partnership with Brock University. The university is relocating the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts to the former Canada Hair Cloth Building adjacent to the PAC. The university will actively use two of the PAC's venues on a shared basis. It is a unique project in the province of Ontario, if not in Canada, for its size, and partnership.

The Feasibility Study undertaken in 2008 for the project outlines the economic impact these joint projects will have on downtown. The study had some significant recommendations to make to the City's policy on future arts development:

*"The (PAC) Centre should not seek to meet all the space needs of the St. Catharines arts community, but rather should catalyze initiatives City-wide. The Centre will be at the core of the City's artistic life, but the cultural and economic goals of the project demand that an approach be adopted that encourages development of new arts initiatives and stabilizes existing ones outside the walls of the Centre, to form a downtown cultural district that extends from Rodman Hall to the Centre and beyond. Public policy tools should encourage the establishment and viability of non-profit performance and rehearsal spaces, non-profit and commercial galleries, programs for arts education, and residential space for artists downtown. The cultural economy cannot be defined by a single building. And though the downtown focus is essential, public policy must also extend to promotion of arts activity and arts education in residential neighbourhoods that are not downtown."*⁹

The document reiterates that the City must "preserve the ability of other arts activity to flourish downtown."¹⁰ Strategies for this include growing audiences and revenue generating abilities for arts organizations that are planning on using the facility -- work that is now underway with leadership from Arts Centre staff -- and ensuring that other arts facilities in the community are supported and encouraged, including existing performing arts space that functions as necessary development space. The PAC will not meet all of the facility needs of the arts sector in its final design – shared office space for local arts organizations, rehearsal and production space, community art space and a smaller theatre venue for emerging activity were all items that did not make it to the final design table. These are needs in the arts sector that are also not currently addressed in City planning.

The St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre will have an important role to play in the future cultural and economic landscape in St. Catharines. It will become the primary provider of arts experiences in St. Catharines; its programming will embrace the professional arts sector of St. Catharines and as such it will build relationships with those companies, and provide resources, support and perspective on the needs of the sector. The PAC will need to find ways to serve all of St. Catharines residents, through diverse programming that accommodates both populist and niche interests, accessible ticket prices, and inclusivity in all of its policies. It will also be the largest arts investment, per annum, that the City makes in culture.

⁹ Academic and Cultural Arts Centre for Downtown St. Catharines, Levitt Goodman Architects and Martin Vinik Planning for the Arts, p19.

¹⁰ Academic and Cultural Arts Centre for Downtown St. Catharines, Levitt Goodman Architects and Martin Vinik Planning for the Arts, p117.

THE MERIDIAN CENTRE

City Council approved a \$50m investment in a new spectator facility in December 2011. The Meridian Centre opened in October of 2014. The facility's site is adjacent to the Canada Hair Cloth Building, the future home of Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts. The 6,000 seat venue will provide a new home for St. Catharines-based OHL team, the Niagara IceDogs, as well as serve as a venue for other sports and entertainment events such as rock concerts, monster truck shows and Ice Capades. The Meridian Centre promises growth in the choice of home-based entertainment opportunities for local residents as it will offer entertainment experiences for St. Catharines residents that cannot be accommodated in the smaller PAC.

There may be opportunities for the two venues to cross-promote and cultivate audiences for a variety of programs, thus furthering the priorities of this plan. Plans are also underway to develop a Sports Hall of Fame Museum within the Meridian Centre, thus celebrating local sports heritage and inductees within its walls.

PLACEMAKING IN ST. CATHARINES

The Garden City Plan governs the City's land use and physical development and aims to:

*"... reflect, integrate and balance the collective aims and aspirations of the citizens of St. Catharines as to the quality of life to be preserved and fostered with respect to health, social, economic, cultural, natural and built environments, and towards the promotion and achievement of sustainable community planning and growth, and the essence of the Garden City."*¹¹

Reviewed and approved by City Council in 2010, the plan recognizes that cultural vitality and identity are part of our sustainable future. The Garden City Plan includes guidance for cultural heritage, urban design, green space and public art. The plan also includes references to the value of Heritage Lists, Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments, and an Archaeological Management Plan.

Cultural vitality includes ensuring that the local environment is as St. Catharines-specific as possible – what some call an “authenticity of place.” When a site, landscape or neighbourhood has features that are unique to St. Catharines, its unique or “authentic” qualities offer the city

¹¹ The Garden City Plan, p1.



Left: Merritton Cenotaph
Right: Farmers Market at
Market Square

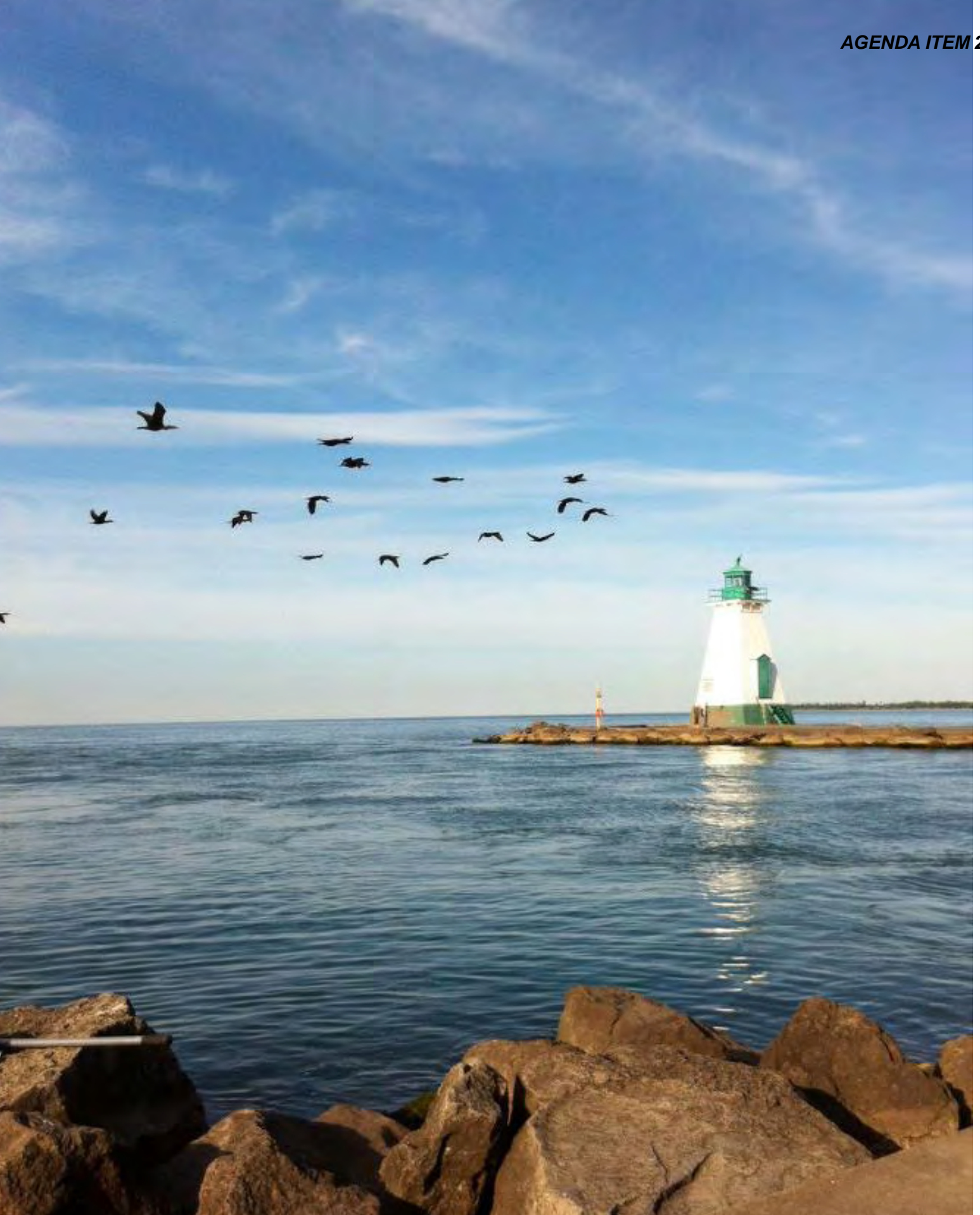


a competitive edge. Knowledge-based workers looking for a community to set up a business, live in, or retire to, are looking for somewhere that is distinct.

A distinct sense of place can emerge from local history, cultural businesses and organizations, diverse populations, and built heritage and all of these can be used to strengthen the sense of community, engage residents and stimulate civic pride. This sense of place can encompass an area as large as downtown or as modest as the Facer St. area. St. Catharines has many neighbourhoods that have a spirit or character that is founded in their history, such as Merritton, Western Hill and Port Dalhousie. Preserving what is physically unique, and encouraging the promotion of their particular characteristics as communities is part of the domain of cultural planning.

Homogenization, of people, businesses, landscapes and built environments does not offer the same competitive edge. In fact, just as inclusiveness of people from all backgrounds and with all abilities is critical to a community's health, so, too, is inclusiveness of the special places and sites that make St. Catharines distinct. It could be argued that "homogenization" is just as important a challenge to our community's future, as the other six challenges identified in the *Tending our Garden City Plan*.

PRIORITY: Leverage culture to strengthen St. Catharines' distinct sense of place and community.



The Outer Range Lighthouse
in Port Dalhousie

Culture in St. Catharines: A Thriving Eco-System

Understanding where culture is, who manages cultural assets, who provides cultural experiences, and why they do so, is part of cultural planning. Tangible cultural assets are everywhere, and are owned and managed by a great number of people, businesses and agencies in St. Catharines:

Private Individuals	Private Sector Businesses	Not-for-Profit Sector	Public Sector
Private individuals own: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ heritage properties, ▪ works of art, ▪ family heirlooms ▪ and stories 	Private sector businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ operate cultural industries, ▪ own and develop cultural properties, both physical and intellectual ▪ can create festivals and events 	The not-for-profit sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ manages facilities and collections, ▪ creates festivals and events, ▪ develops locally created works of art, ▪ preserves and promotes local history with artefacts, stories and information 	The public sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ owns built and collected cultural properties, ▪ operates cultural facilities, ▪ manages natural heritage properties, ▪ produces cultural programs for the community's benefit

The City of St. Catharines influences each of the four areas above, and of course has specific responsibility associated with the cultural assets it owns and manages. An understanding of how for-profit and not-for-profit agencies develop and deliver cultural services and products will help maximize the value of the City's investment into culture.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL DELIVERY

Artists, arts organizations, arts facilities and museums are the primary “providers of culture” in a community. Ethnocultural organizations serve the community with the promotion and sharing of specific cultural legacies. While the word “culture” describes them all, there are strategic differences. Terms used in the cultural sector to describe organizations and businesses include: for-profit, not-for-profit, professional, semi-professional, emerging, amateur, community art, and recreation. These branches make contributions to the local community in different ways:

“Branches” of Culture	Focus/Priorities
For profit	Profit, job creation
Not-for-Profit	Community improvement through the following categories
Professional	Excellence, community voice, sector and worker development
Amateur (Community)	Participation, for fun, physical, emotional and mental health, personal growth, sense of community and/or accomplishment
Recreation	Fun, learning, personal growth, health etc.
Community Art ¹²	Social inclusion, local community connectivity and personal growth and development

Often within the sector, the different branches appear to be in conflict, simply by virtue of their different priorities. For example, “excellence” does not always support “inclusion” – a choir looking for the best vocalists will not welcome all interested singers. Most people think that not-for-profit equates with “no profit,” when in fact, many not-for-profit cultural organizations are high-functioning businesses.

A healthy cultural eco system has all of these branches working well, as they influence each other and the community around them simultaneously. The for-profit sector requires highly skilled, motivated and creative workers. The creative sector workers of tomorrow depend on recreation and amateur cultural experiences to provide early life experiences that stimulate interest and skills in a creative career. Those recreation and amateur experiences are often led by emerging cultural workers, or established professionals. The professional not-for-profit sector is an important training ground and place of mentorship. It offers ongoing stimulus for all creative sector workers : some of the most innovative and challenging programming,

¹² Community art projects provide opportunities for non-arts community members to work with a professional artist on a project that culminates in a public presentation or work of art expressing community interests and issues - definition from the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program – Culture Builds Community.

whether arts or historic, is developed by professionals who work in a not-for-profit environment that supports risk-taking. Community art relates to this aspect of arts activity: it uses the artistic expertise of a professional artist to stimulate dialogue and collective self-expression at a local community level. Community art is a process-focused endeavour that prioritizes working together over the development of an end-product. Audiences and patrons of all cultural events and businesses are often engaged and inspired by any of these branches of the eco-system, a fact that is expanded on in the section on participation (pages 62-72).

Similar to an ecosystem in nature, all branches of the cultural community are essential to maintain a healthy, functioning system. Professional artists, cultural managers, and heritage workers are the cornerstones of a healthy cultural eco-system and directly affect our community's ability to serve the social, economic and environmental priorities of St. Catharines.



Gallery Players -
Photo Credit: Chris Beard Photography

THE MUNICIPAL ROLE IN THE ECO-SYSTEM

The City of St. Catharines approved its first Municipal Cultural Policy in March 2000 and since then it has been transforming its relationship to culture. The past decade has seen an increase in the cultural assets owned by the City; the City's cultural investment has grown; and there is more direct delivery of culture-related services and programs. The Internal Analysis undertaken for this plan confirmed that culture-related initiatives are led by multiple departments and divisions. Three distinct municipal areas are responsible for the majority of cultural planning, management and service delivery as follows:

Parks, Recreation and Culture Services

- **Programs and Cultural Services Division**
 - Historical Services: includes the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre and Morningstar Mill
 - Cultural Services: civic art collection, public art, cultural and festival grants and community development
 - Recreation Programming: Lakeside Park Carousel and recreation programming
- **St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre**
- **Market Square and Corporate Events**
- **Some special event support through Enterprise Division and Parks Division**
- **Oversight of programming and management of some heritage facilities**

Economic Development and Tourism Division

- **Economic Development Office**
- **Tourism Services**
- **Small Business Enterprise Centre**

Planning and Building Services

- **Heritage Planning – built heritage designation, heritage grants**
- **Urban Design**
- **Civic Square planning and programming (new)**

Not a municipal department, but a significant arms-length municipal agency when evaluating cultural service delivery, is the St. Catharines Public Library. The St. Catharines library system has four branches, with its central location downtown. The City's investment in the library is significant, and the library has been active in supporting the cultural sector, developing culture-specific programs, and participating in cultural planning and program development. Currently the library's only formal connection to the municipality's cultural activity has been on the Council-appointed Culture Committee.

The Internal Analysis provides a great deal of detailed analysis and outlines the breadth of opportunity that more coordination across departments will offer. A cross-departmental Internal Cultural Advisory Team including representation from the above departments and divisions as well as the Public Library can facilitate this coordination.

CITY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Over time, the City has developed multiple Council-appointed committees involved in providing advice and service related to culture. The Internal Analysis identified eight, not including the Library Board:

- Mayor's Advisory Committee for Black History
- Culture Committee
- Green Committee
- Heritage Committee
- Museum Advisory Committee
- Performing Arts Centre User Group Committee
- Port Dalhousie Heritage Committee
- Public Art Advisory Committee

Each of these committees was formed with a specific mandate and purpose. Merging some of them may improve communication and coordination, as well as efficiency and transparency. For the past 12 years the Culture Committee has included City staff representation from Parks, Recreation and Culture Services, Economic Development and Tourism Services, Planning and Building Services, the Library, the St. Catharines Museum and the Performing Arts Centre. This structure was in place in an effort to bridge the many internal branches of culture within the municipality. This plan recommends the majority of this staff step down from the volunteer committee and become the core of an Internal Cultural Advisory Team.

PRIORITY: Foster the cross-departmental management and delivery of arts and heritage service delivery, planning and community development.



Left: The Lakeside Park Carousel in Port Dalhousie
Right: Garden City Productions performance of South Pacific (photo by Kevin Argue)

FINDING CULTURE IN ST. CATHARINES

If culture is to be a contributor to St. Catharines' future vitality and prosperity, it must be identified and shared. St. Catharines has more than a thousand identified cultural resources, and many more that were not formally identified in this process. This section of the plan provides detailed maps of where culture lives in St. Catharines and discusses cultural participation habits of residents.

Cultural Asset Mapping

Cultural Asset Mapping is the process of developing a database of information that categorizes cultural assets, collects basic information about those assets, and then utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to put assets on maps. Included in the database are physical assets – such as galleries and cenotaphs – as well as businesses and industries – such as graphic designers, architects and theatre companies. This plan does not attempt to address the process of mapping intangible assets, ie the stories, values and traditions that influence day-to-day life in St. Catharines. This form of asset mapping is often seen within museums and original arts creations, as they use local content to be relevant to local patrons.

Cultural Asset Mapping can:

- help municipal staff and decision makers adopt new ways of thinking about how to use cultural resources to achieve the municipality's broad strategic objectives
- support the local cultural sector by giving residents and visitors access to information about arts and heritage activity
- create a strong base of information about cultural resources that supports evidence based decision-making and can be integrated into municipal plans (e.g. land use, tourism, economic development)¹³

¹³ [Cultural Resource Mapping: A Guide for Municipalities](#), 2010, Canadian Urban Institute for Municipal Cultural Planning Inc, p3

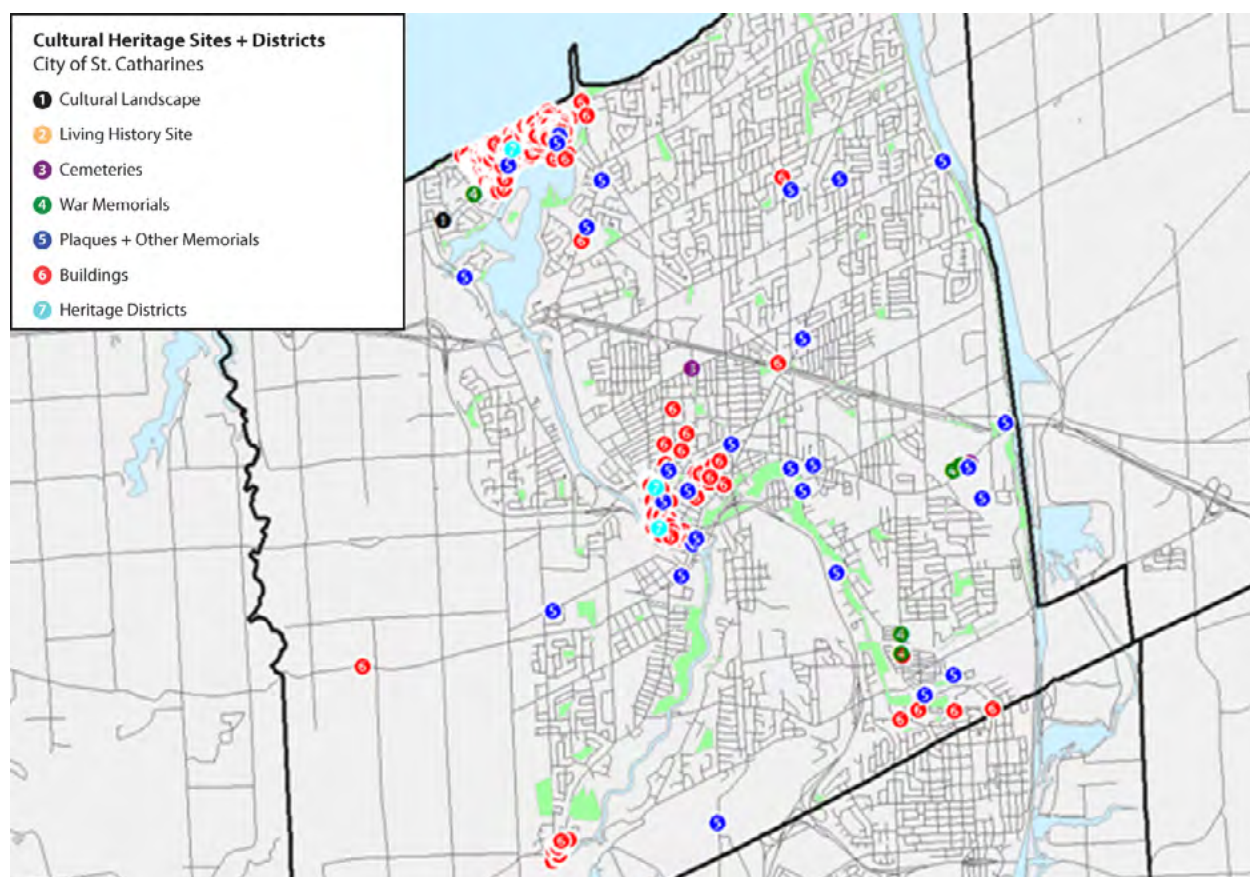
The City developed a cultural asset database and Lord Cultural Resources used this information to create a series of visual maps and charts. Information was gathered in late 2011 and is organized in the following categories:

Category and No. of Records	For Example
Cultural Heritage (882): Built heritage, cemeteries, heritage districts, recognition plaques and war memorials	Morningstar Mill St. Catharines Cenotaph Mayholme Foundation Lakeside Park Carousel
Cultural Industries (237): Advertising, bookstores, dance studios, ethnocultural groups, art dealers, interior, graphic and industrial designers, newspapers, radio and broadcasting, publishers, music stores, schools and groups, printing, visual arts instruction, theatre companies, photographers and more.	Hannelore Headley's MacDonald Zuberec Ensslen (Architects) Niagara Symphony Orchestra Chimpanzee Marketing Niagara Conservatory of Music Brian Yungblut Photography Next Company Theatre Niagara Dance Company
Natural Heritage: Parks and trails, waterways, unique landscapes and features. Natural Heritage was not included in the current mapping exercise although plans are underway to develop this component of the cultural mapping.	Montebello Park Niagara Escarpment Happy Rolph's Twelve Mile Creek The Welland Canals Short Hills Provincial Park Merritt Trail
Spaces and Facilities (56): Art galleries, theatres, cinemas, libraries and archives, museums, sound recording studios, rehearsal studios, theatres, bars with live entertainment, non-traditional venues that exhibit, and more.	Empire 8 Theatre Rodman Hall Art Centre The Red Hot Chili Pepper St. Catharines Public Library Centre for the Arts, Brock U The Harris (rehearsal studio)
Community Groups (30): Ethnocultural groups, municipal advisory committees and miscellaneous arts groups.	The Greek Community of Niagara St. Catharines Heritage Committee Public Art Advisory Committee
Festivals and Celebrations (29): Festivals, celebrations and interpretive programs such as walking tours.	VegFest Niagara Folk Arts Festival St. Catharines Busker Festival
Public Art (27): Owned by the City, Brock University and the Province of Ontario, as well as privately owned art or cultural property.	Spirit of St. Catharines (in Rennie Park) Flight into the Future (back of old post office building – Church St.) Doug Cranmer Totem Pole, Centennial Park

Cultural Heritage

St. Catharines has a robust collection of cultural assets, and by far the largest category of cultural resource in St. Catharines is cultural heritage. The majority of these cultural heritage assets reside in the private sector, primarily in the city's four heritage districts: Port Dalhousie, Power Glen, Queen Street and Yates Street. The map below illustrates the breadth of St. Catharines' built heritage sites: over 800 properties reside in these four districts. These areas are powerful attractors for businesses, re-locating workers and retirees, and the history and sense of community they embody, strengthen the identity of local neighbourhoods. Almost all of the buildings within these districts are privately owned – the process of developing these districts was a significant community-building initiative and reflects a commitment on the part of residents to preserve and promote St. Catharines' built heritage.

There are 40 buildings in St. Catharines that are designated as individual properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Individual designations can provide greater protection to a property as specific elements are identified and thus protected, whereas the preservation priority in a district designation is the overall character of a district. Thus, single buildings are still vulnerable to demolition or significant change if not designated as an individual property.



Given the breadth of heritage properties in St. Catharines, and the value they offer the community's future, further promotion of individual heritage designation is warranted, and a review of municipal tools and mechanisms to support these designations is recommended.

This work would require full-time heritage planning staff, which St. Catharines currently does not have despite its significant collection of cultural heritage assets. The City offers heritage grants, and tax incentives strength designation and preservation efforts, along with ongoing promotion of the value and benefits of built heritage.

Below is a chart comparing St. Catharines with other communities and their designation numbers. Communities known for their heritage character, such as Kingston, have done the work required to preserve it and it shows in these numbers.

Municipality/Region	Population	Heritage Cons. Districts	Designated Historic Buildings (PT. IV - Heritage Act)
Prince Edward	24,901	0	83
Cornwall	45,640	0	18
Belleville	46,029	0	38
Peterborough	77,583	0	115
Barrie	103,710	0	16
Thunder Bay	109,016	1	60
Kingston	114,195	2	593
St. Catharines	131,400	4	40
Vaughan	182,022	4	47
Hamilton	490,260	7	241
Toronto	2,481,494	20	4500
Sources	Statistics Canada	Ministry of Tourism & Culture	Primary Research

Source: Peterborough Municipal Culture Plan, Cultural Facilities Comparison Chart (Adapted from Creative Together: A Cultural Plan for the City of Vaughan), pg. 35

A discussion of cultural heritage in St. Catharines would be incomplete without noting the changes taking place in Port Dalhousie. The centre of this historic lakeside neighbourhood in St. Catharines has undergone renewal in the past and it is again in a state of transition. In 2004 a development company began work with the City on plans to renew the popular retail heart of Port. A collection of warehouse buildings that had been rehabilitated to support retail, bar, and a small dinner theatre, is being replaced with a hotel, condominium and retail plaza, as well as a larger theatre underground. The sought-after result would include the loss of some heritage fabric, but provide significant economic gain for the community.

The public response to this development was an emotionally fraught debate about local community, environment, culture, and economy. These are not simple decisions to make, with no one perfect solution for this type of evolution as community needs are constantly changing. What this plan hopes to provide is a new lens to investigate the connections between past, present and future, and shed light on how potentially diverse interests, like heritage and economy, can actually serve one another.

City-Owned Heritage Buildings

The City of St. Catharines owns and manages the following heritage buildings and structures:

- *Port Dalhousie Inner Range Lighthouse*
- *Lakeside Park Carousel*
- *Morningstar Mill and the Miller's House*
- *City Hall*
- *Former Lincoln County Courthouse*
- *85 Church St. & Robertson Hall*
- *The Walter Ostanek Pavilion*
- *Roy T. Adams Bandshell*
- *Dalhousie House (Port Dalhousie)*
- *Merritton Town Hall*
- *Buchanan House*

The City has made capital investments in all of these assets over the past decade, most recently completing major renovations at 85 Church St., the home of St. Catharines Folk Arts-Multicultural Centre. The City's capital budget regularly invests in these properties. What is less measured, but no less valued, is the investment made by volunteers from the community. The Lakeside Park Carousel and Morningstar Mill are heavily supported by volunteers, and without their efforts these historic gems would likely not be open to the public today.

The Friends of the Carousel have been fundraising and restoring the animals on the Lakeside Park Carousel since 2000. The Charles I. D. Loeff historic amusement ride has 69 animals and four chariots and the Friends have restored every animal at least once, have carved two new ones, and have been intimately involved in other restoration efforts on the carousel. After completing one full cycle of restoration, they have begun a new cycle, as this highly beloved summer experience sees thousands of riders each year, and thus sees significant wear and tear on its components.

Morningstar Mill is located at Decew Falls along the Bruce Trail atop of the Niagara Escarpment and is made up of a number of buildings including the original gristmill, a turbine shed, a sawmill, the millers house, a blacksmith and carpentry shops. The Friends of Morningstar Mill have been working on this historic site since approximately 1992, rehabilitating and re-building the Grist Mill, Turbine Shed and accompanying buildings. They provide support and upkeep of all aspects of the operations at the Mill site, including milling, interpretation, maintenance and collections management. Over the years these two groups of volunteers have saved the City hundreds of thousands of dollars and ensured these heritage jewels are preserved for future generations.



The Miller's House on the site of Morningstar Mill

The Former Lincoln County Courthouse is a significant property to the arts community. It houses a children's theatre company, Carousel Players, the Arts Mosh Pit (AMP) a creative cluster of shared arts offices, and the Niagara Symphony Orchestra offices. In 2001 Carousel Players converted the upstairs into a small theatre and rehearsal studio and these spaces have been instrumental in the development of an exploding theatre community. The City has plans to undertake an End-Use Study of this building, offering an opportunity to review its role as a primary incubator in the development of the arts community.

At present, three City-owned heritage buildings are closed and in search of a use: the Merritton Town Hall, Dalhousie House and Buchanan House. In addition, the Port Dalhousie Inner Range Lighthouse is rarely open to the public, although it is used annually by the Niagara College Sailing School. Planning for these assets is challenging as they were built for different times and purposes. They each reflect, however, a legacy from St. Catharines' past and represent stories and people that are unique to St. Catharines.



Volunteer at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre

Museums and Archives

The St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre (WCC) is the municipality's primary Museum and Archives, and a popular destination to explore St. Catharines storied past. In 2004, the museum came under the jurisdiction of the City and with it came a secured stream of operating funding. Under the stewardship of its curator the St. Catharines Museum and WCC has demonstrated exemplary practices of archiving and artifact preservation, a rarity for community museums of this size and scope. As a collecting institution, the museum has become the main repository and caretaker of the city's primary historic assets and a key player in celebrating the diverse history of the community.

The St. Catharines Museum and WCC collects, preserves and archives material of local historical significance with a focus on St. Catharines and the four Welland Canals. Its permanent galleries interpret and present a wide array of stories from St. Catharines past including the engineering feats of the famed canal systems, the legacies of the Underground Railroad and the industries that fueled economic prosperity. Both the St. Catharines Museum and WCC and Morningstar Mill are managed by the Historical Services section of the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Department. The Morningstar Mill site came under the supervision of Museum staff in 2011, and a Feasibility Study and End Use Plan was finalized in 2012. The development of this site's potential to provide residents and visitors with a living history experience is a positive addition to St. Catharines landscape.

The only other facility classified as a museum in St. Catharines is the Mayholme Foundation and Geneological Centre. The geneological library amassed by dedicated volunteers is open to the public by appointment, and the house museum is carefully furnished and described, and opened only for special events. The Mayholme Foundation was established through a private donor intent on preserving a significant loyalist asset and cultivating awareness of the deep roots to be found in the Niagara region.



Entrance to the St. Catharines
Museum and Welland
Canals Centre

Other archival collections can be found at the Brock University Special Collections and Archives, the St. Catharines Public Library Special Collections and the St. Catharines Museum Archives – these four significant archival collections in St. Catharines provide depth to the public's ability to access their heritage.

The St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre is flourishing, and engaging more and more members of the community in new exhibits and special initiatives. Future plans for Morningstar Mill are moving forward, as are plans to undertake a feasibility study for a Black History Museum. There are future opportunities to link the initiatives and successes of the City's built heritage planning and management and museum and historical services section.

Other Cultural Heritage Assets

Other cultural heritage assets owned and managed by the City of St. Catharines include memorials, cenotaphs and the historic Victoria Lawn Cemetery (VLC), which is operated under the Cemetery Act. The VLC staff are conscientious of the legacy they manage, and have been successful at addressing preservation and restoration issues when they arise. The municipality is also responsible for eight War Memorials, the legacy of past amalgamations, with the oldest erected in 1886. The City has undertaken considerable effort to research, assess and begin restoration of these assets over the past 4 years. This work has garnered positive public support, including monetary donations by local Legions and members of the community.



Left: Roy T. Adams
Bandshell
Right: Walter Ostanek
Pavilion, Montebello Park

Natural Heritage

Natural Heritage is not represented on the maps contained in this plan but it is an important cultural asset in St. Catharines. The “Garden City” name is not only a reference to St. Catharines’ agricultural past but refers to the more than 1,000 acres of parks, gardens and trails within its boundaries. The Garden City ethos serves as a municipal directive to encourage more greening initiatives, both public and private.

The City of St. Catharines is responsible for over 100 municipal parks and many kilometres of trails are governed by the Parks Policy Plan and The Garden City Plan. This system plays an important role in residents’ healthy living and in neighbourhood life, with sports fields and amenities, events and outdoor art, and as a place to experience much of St. Catharines’ culture. One of the most significant parks is Montebello Park, which was designed in 1887 by Frederick Law Olmstead, best known for designing New York’s famed Central Park. Montebello Park is in the heart of downtown, contains two designated historic structures¹⁴, and hosts multiple festivals and events each year. Other City parks contain remnants of the first three Welland Canals and other historic assets. The City’s parks are a key resource for residents to experience local culture in many forms but graffiti, vandalism, aging infrastructure and untamed growth are the first priority of the parks division. There are opportunities for interpretive signage, public art and other culture-specific strategies to share the local stories these parks contain. Cross-departmental cooperation is needed to coordinate preservation, program and land-use planning, interpretation, promotion and resourcing strategies to truly leverage these assets.

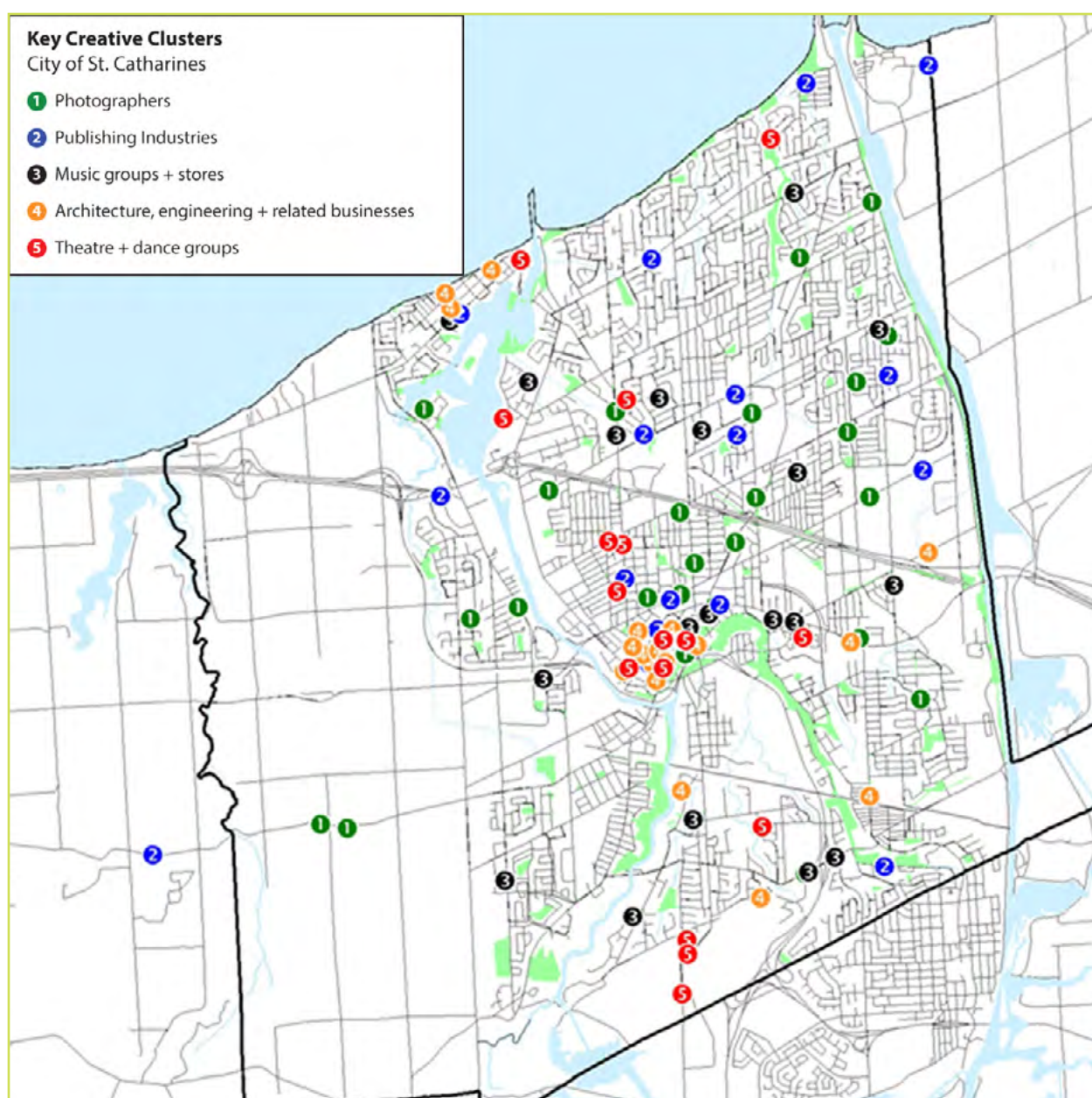
PRIORITY: Further develop the planning, management and coordination of heritage assets and historical services.

¹⁴ The Roy T. Adams Bandshell and the Walter Ostanek Pavilion.

Creative Cultural Industries

Creative cultural industries encompass a broad range of the creative workforce in St. Catharines from architecture to performing arts to advertising agencies.

Creative industries encompass both for-profit businesses and not-for-profit cultural organizations. A sampling of creative industries can be seen on the next map. Photographers, publishers, architects and engineers, music stores and groups and theatre groups are represented. Most neighbourhoods in St. Catharines have creative sector workers within their boundaries, with a cluster in downtown.



New Media

The City of St. Catharines' Economic Development Strategy¹⁵ has identified new media as an important focus for development within the creative sector. When Ontario's economy faltered in 2008, the City of St. Catharines took a proactive approach, working closely with industry stakeholders to identify key sectors that offered the most potential and could play a role in the city's economic revitalization. One example is the City's investment in nGen, the Niagara Interactive Digital Media Generator, developed in partnership with several public/private partners including Brock University and Niagara College. nGen is an investment in the region's emerging technology sector and leverages the success of recent local university and college graduates. A hub for innovation, incubation and business development in Niagara, nGen is Niagara's Regional Innovation Centre, connecting technology-based business, entrepreneurs and researchers with services and programs to help innovate and gain a competitive advantage. The site houses' world-class technology, talent and experience and provides innovative entrepreneurs with training programs, tools and resources, and advisory services to enable them to successfully commercialize their ideas. It is now part of a larger consortium, Innovate Niagara, as the cultivation of this sector continues.

nGen exemplifies how the City's investment can in turn stimulate more investment, more jobs and more dynamism within the creative sector. St. Catharines is cultivating its emerging innovators in the for-profit sector to grow economic opportunity. What is unexplored are the intersections between for-profit and not-for-profit creative sectors in St. Catharines. Cultural Asset Mapping may be a starting point for future investigation of local synergies, and cross-departmental work will further the dialogue required to identify opportunity.

PRIORITY: Cultivate the growth and development of the creative sector.

¹⁵ City of St. Catharines Economic Development Strategy



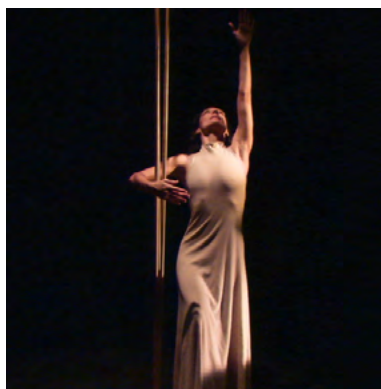
The Arts Sector

The list of arts organizations in St. Catharines is long, and their activities are diverse, so a list is not provided. The not-for-profit arts community of St. Catharines has grown substantially in the past ten years, and the City's direct investment into this sector, through the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP), is an important factor in this growth. The theatre community has exploded, and there are new arts facilities and arts organizations active in our downtown and elsewhere. The St. Catharines' arts community offers contemporary and traditional arts experiences, as well as membership and participation opportunities. Programming options exist for children, youth and adults, free or low-cost events are frequently available, and the arts community is filled with artists interested in collaborating and partnering with other agencies to create new opportunities for the community. More importantly, the community is fostering young, emerging artists and made-in-Niagara art is becoming more and more prevalent – plays, poetry, music, whether indie, choral or symphonic, paintings, sculpture, and media art – all of these art forms are being generated by the local arts sector and are reflecting the stories, perspectives and voices of St. Catharines.

The professional arts sector is actively working together as a community. The Downtown Alliance of Performing Arts is a group of ten organizations undertaking cross-promotion; the Niagara Performing Arts Educators Network is a region-wide network promoting arts experiences for children and youth in the local school systems; ArtsVote Niagara evaluates political candidates on their support and understanding of the arts sector; the eyeGo to the Arts program, led by the Centre for the Arts at Brock University, has 15 arts organizations participating, and offers \$5 tickets to high school students for arts performances. Most recently, the arts community stepped forward to work with the City of St. Catharines on the planning and design of the future St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre. In support of this major initiative, Carousel Players and the Centre for the Arts formed a partnership with the City of St. Catharines to apply for federal funding and undertake three capacity-building projects for the arts of Niagara, including the Inspire: Niagara Arts in Niagara Schools DVD and Resource Guide for Educators and Parents¹⁶, and the www.cNiagara.ca website of cultural events.

Many of the professional arts organizations in St. Catharines have a region-wide mandate. Rodman Hall Art Centre, the Niagara Artists Centre, the Centre for the Arts, Carousel Players, the Niagara Symphony and Chorus Niagara provide services to residents both in and beyond St. Catharines. There is some "tourism-ready" cultural 'product' in St. Catharines but most organizations focus first and foremost on the local market, and very few have the resources to market themselves beyond Niagara. Nevertheless, these organizations all play a key role in the development of the sector and its workers and thus some of their "economic impact" is hidden.

¹⁶ Inspire! Niagara Arts in Niagara Schools



Left: Drum Workshop during the Niagara Night of Arts
Right: Niagara Dance Company Artistic Director, Mary Jo Mullins in Past Hereafter,
Photo Credit: Eric Sherping

St. Catharines also has participatory arts experiences for those interested in “doing,” no matter the level of experience or expertise. Garden City Productions, the St. Catharines Art Association, Chorus Niagara and their Children’s Chorus, Mercredi Musique, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Company and more – these are organizations that provide performance or exhibit experience, learning and networking opportunities, and a home for artists who may be amateur, emerging, semi-professional or professional, but who all share a love for the arts.

The City of St. Catharines’ Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Department provides recreation-based arts activity for children, adults and older adults at recreation and older adult centres, but does not operate facilities designed or purposed for the arts. The future St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre will fill this gap for the performing arts and film presentation.

With such a robust arts sector, the City has recognized that arts programming is best undertaken by the community. The City simply cannot afford to provide the quality, depth and variety of arts services offered by these organizations, but it can collaborate with the community to facilitate all forms of participation in cultural activity.

An important future role for the City will be in the development of an arts service organization. The arts of St. Catharines were served by the St. Catharines and Area Arts Council from 2001 until it ceased operations in 2011. It is traditionally assumed that an arts council has an important role to play in the cultural eco-system, and the loss of this Arts Council continues to be a point of debate within the community. Arts Councils operate as a sector facilitator, partnership broker, marketing agent and advocate, and can help identify and serve the needs of the arts community. In some communities arts councils operate grant programs and provide other services on a fee-for-service basis to the municipality. The professional arts organizations of St. Catharines are presently sharing the coordinating role of an arts council with City staff, but this is an interim solution in a sector that is preparing for a new performing arts centre. Community dialogue, research and a review of the City’s cultural services office are recommended to maximize options for success.

Heritage Organizations

There are very few incorporated heritage organizations in St. Catharines: what exists can be found in the cultural industries listings:

- *Friends of the Lighthouse*
- *Canadian Canal Society*
- *Central Ontario Network for Black History*
- *Friends of the Carousel*
- *Heritage Niagara, Inc.*
- *Friends of Morningstar Mill*
- *Welland Canals Foundation*
- *Historical Society of St. Catharines*

The Historical Society has been a leader in telling the stories of the City's past and their monthly lecture series is a popular activity for heritage enthusiasts. The "friends" groups are all connected to City-owned assets. Aside from the two friends groups already described, the organizations on this list provide sporadic public programming.

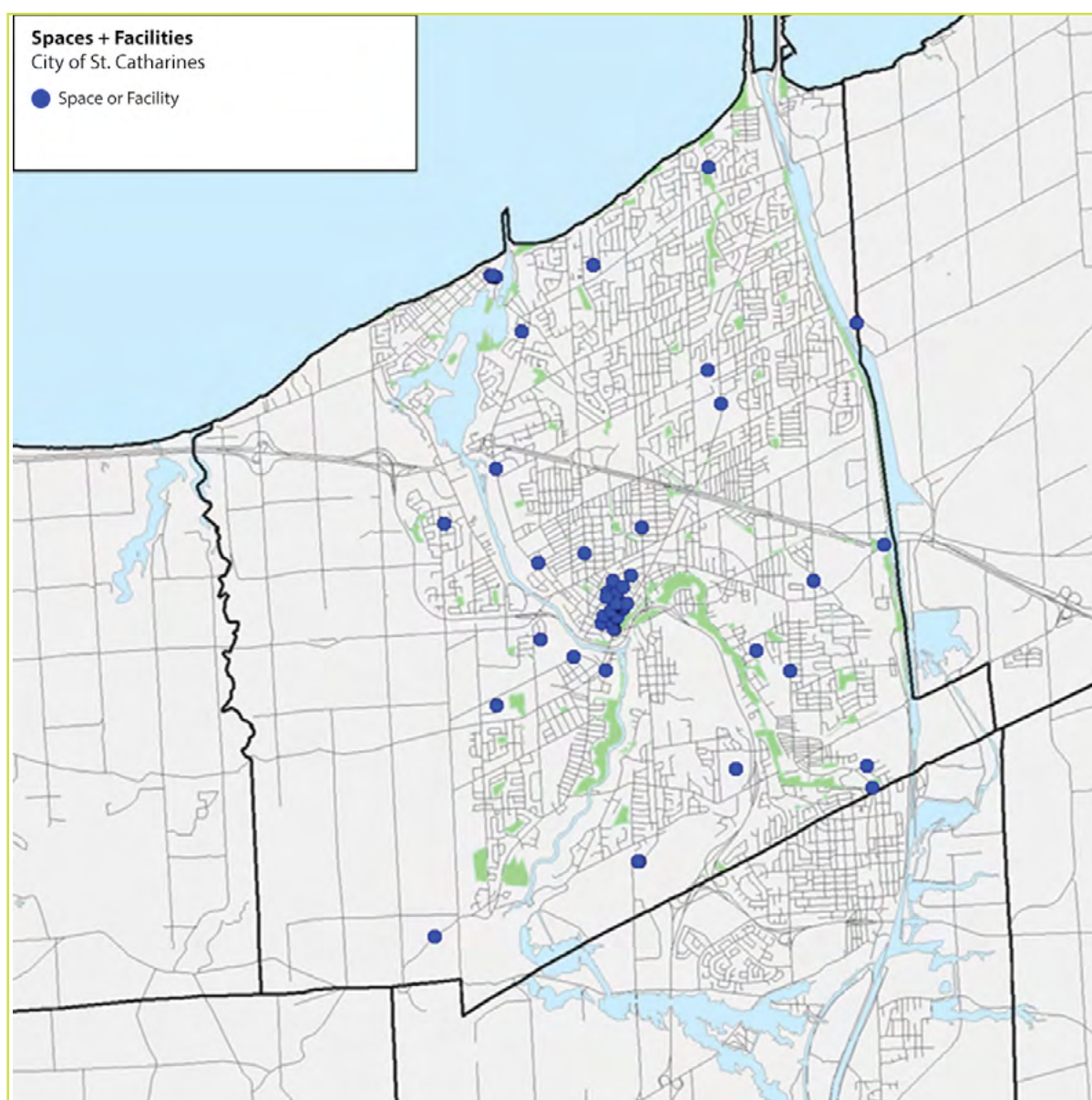
Outside of the City of St. Catharines there is no agency with the resources to broaden the interest and participation of residents in their local history. All of the above organizations are run by volunteers. Further dialogue is required with this community to determine whether there are future needs for collaboration, cross-organizational engagement or information-sharing, and collective marketing. Communities like London, Ontario have developed state of the art web portals to make it easy to access local heritage assets and opportunities. St. Catharines has nothing like this, despite its rich history.



Young visitor at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre

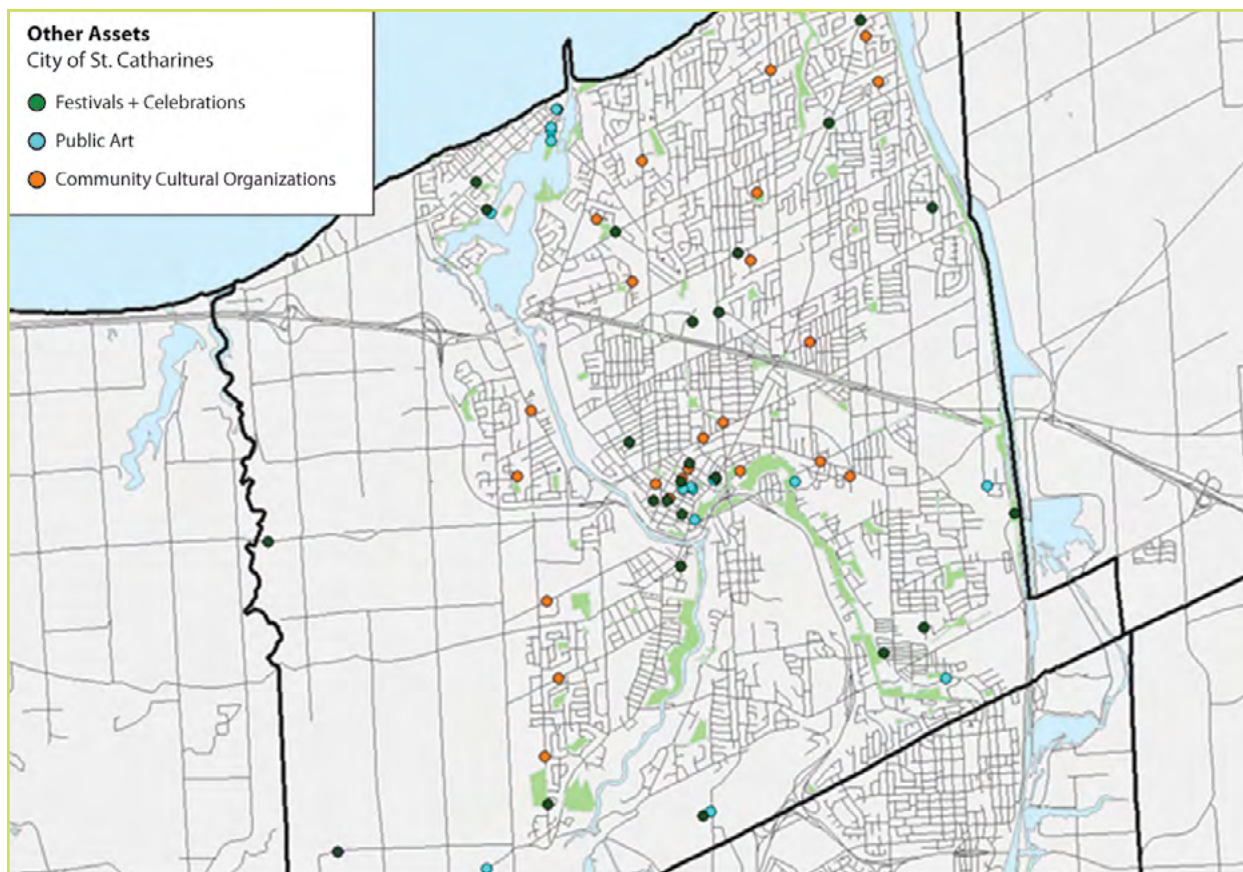
Spaces and Facilities

Visibility is a major issue for the the arts and heritage sector since the majority of its sites are tucked away in unusual corners of the city or have modest or no street presence. There is a significant cluster of cultural spaces and facilities in downtown, and a relatively even smattering of facilities across most of the city's neighbourhoods. Cultural activity and facilities can be partners in neighbourhood engagement, encouraging people to participate in community-building experiences, and support conversations and self-expression relevant to local community. Addressing issues of visibility, through information sharing and new strategies of outreach, can foster cultural awareness and participation.



Other Cultural Assets

The final three categories of cultural assets also have significant community impact: festivals, public art and community cultural organizations are contained in this category. The map below includes all three, although it should be noted that festivals and events do not always take place in one location (for example, Doors Open Niagara or the Niagara Wine Festival). The physical affect of an event is not truly represented on the map and this could be useful information when considering the affect and opportunities of culture on a by-neighbourhood basis.





Niagara Icewine Festival

Festivals and Events

St. Catharines is home to a healthy number and array of festivals, from major tourism events to small neighbourhood celebrations. A partial list includes:

Niagara Grape and Wine Festival

Ice Wine Festival

New Vintage Wine Festival

S.C.E.N.E. – St. Catharines Event for New Music and Entertainment

Niagara Folk Arts Festival

In the Soil Festival

Ti Amo Festival

Niagara Greek Festival

Niagara VegFest

Harvest Festival

Pride Niagara

Rotary Ribfest

Strutt: Wearable Art Show

Garden City Kiwanis Music Festival

St. Catharines Busker Festival

Port Dalhousie Lions Canada Day Carnival

Merritton Labour Day Parade

Downtown Classic Car Show

Spring Arts Festival (Brock U.)

Doors Open Niagara

The Niagara Wine Festival is the most significant local festival in scale and is an economic generator for the city. This festival and the Niagara Folk Arts Festival receive ongoing direct investment from the City. The City's Tourism staff work closely with these festivals to maximize their economic value to the community.

Within the Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Department there are multiple staff from several divisions involved in festival funding, permitting, coordination, promotion and actual festival and event operations:

Economic Development and Tourism Division

- Fee-for-Service contracts for three major festivals
- New Festivals and Events grants program, for tourism-ready events (now working with Programs and Cultural Services Division to administer)

Programs and Cultural Services Division

- SCCIP - grants available for new and emerging festivals and events
- New Festival and Events grants program - (see above)
- Special Events guide currently in development
- Recreation special events
- Summer in the Park programming
- Historical and Cultural Services special events
- Also within RCS: Parks permitting and management

Planning and Building Services

- Civic Square programming

Transportation and Environmental Services

- Road closures, parking requirements and banner permits

The Internal Analysis identified this complexity within municipal operations and recommended further coordination to serve the development of community events as well as the City's direct investment into festivals. The importance of festivals as a community-builder cannot be under-estimated, particularly when their popularity is considered, as noted on page 71.



Emblemata, a poster exhibit
in Centennial Park Gardens

Public Art

Public art can be found on City property, on Brock University's main campus and at the Rodman Hall Art Centre, and on Provincial and Federal government buildings. The occasional work of public art is located on private property, both residential and business.

While the City has owned artwork for decades, the commissioning and formal management of Public Art is a relatively new undertaking. City Council approved the City's first Public Art Policy in 2003 to provide a vision, purpose and goals for the procurement of public art in the city. The document addresses management guidelines for the City's existing art collection and new acquisitions, and established the Public Art Advisory Committee to advise Council and staff on related matters.

An inventory of the City's Art Collection in 2012 identified a significant collection of fine art, memorials, plaques and sculptures, and more unusual elements such as the animals, band organ and rounding board paintings on the Lakeside Park Carousel. As of 2013, the collection has over 200 items, as well as additional photographs and reproductions on display. The Public Art Policy was a significant stepping stone to developing appropriate standards of management and care for this diverse collection. Deferred maintenance issues have been identified and are being addressed, such as the recent restoration undertaken on the St. Catharines Cenotaph.

2012 saw the City's first-ever public art commission with the unveiling of a mural titled Jeux D'Eau / Games of Water by Naoko Matsubara in the City's newly completed Kiwanis Aquatics Centre. More public art is on the horizon, for the Arts Centre and Spectator Facility, projects that will be developed through the Public Art Advisory Committee. Site-specific public art projects like these will serve the community by contributing to distinct placemaking, visibly celebrating arts and culture, and ensuring free and equitable access to art for all community members.



The many faces of the Niagara Folk Arts Festival organizers

Community Cultural Organizations

This category of cultural asset primarily represents organizations that exist to preserve the traditions and arts of specific cultures. The tradition of engaging local cultures in clubs is strong in St. Catharines, and is supported by the St. Catharines Folk Arts Council, which is also responsible for the Niagara Folk Arts Festival. Local cultural organizations range in size and prosperity, from very small groups meeting in private homes, to the Club Roma and Black Sea Hall ventures that are significant businesses and community centres in their neighbourhoods. The City supports the Niagara Folk Arts Festival each year with a fee-for-service contract. As well, since its start in 2004 the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) has been available for ethnocultural groups. As seen on the previous map, these organizations are scattered throughout the City's neighbourhoods so they may be a resource in future neighbourhood-based culture plan implementation as well as strategies to improve inclusive practices.

St. Catharines is not as culturally diverse a community as many in the 905 region, although Niagara is a portal for immigrants to Canada and this affects local diversity. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of visible minorities living in the region grew 52.1% compared with 27.5% in Ontario. The Niagara Immigrant Employment Council was created to enhance Niagara's diversity and economic prosperity by strengthening its capacity to attract, recruit and retain internationally trained immigrants who have chosen Canada as their destination. The Council represents 30 - 50 agencies and businesses, and includes three levels of government. While the City of St. Catharines does not play a direct role in the provision of services to new Canadians, its economic growth and cultural vitality are affected by the success of initiatives such as these. Embracing the practice of including diverse voices in all aspects of City services will contribute to the welcoming environment so essential to attracting newcomers of all kinds to the community.

PRIORITY: Recognize and embrace the city's cultural diversity as a cornerstone for civic engagement.



Juliet Dunn of Shea D Duo

THE UN-MAPPED ASSET – ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS

The cultural sector exists because of its workers, paid and unpaid. These include artists, historians, cultural managers, technicians of all kinds, and business owners with a diverse range of skills and educational backgrounds. Evaluating the breadth of this sector is beyond the scope of this plan, however, some pre-existing information is available about artists in St. Catharines, and a direct survey was undertaken with 165 responses.

Why are artists the focus of study? Professional artists are the foundation of most creative industry activity. They are a source of talent, innovation and entrepreneurship, and they can positively influence the social and environmental fabric around them: their reputation as gentrifiers of depressed neighbourhoods is well-documented. The community's attitude towards artists and their work can be an indicator of openness to diverse perspectives as art can be vocal in its observations of society.

In a survey¹⁷, St. Catharines-based artists were asked how much time they spent on their art practice, what the biggest challenges to their practice were, and whether they worked at home or in studios or spaces outside of their residence. When asked whether they sell or practice their art outside of St. Catharines, **92% of respondents** confirmed they did. Additionally, 25% of respondents sell or practice their art outside of Ontario. In other words, **arts are an export industry in St. Catharines**.

The top three challenges identified by artists are linked:

Financial resources and income	60%
Another occupation/employment	44%
Lack of time	41%

Members of the Niagara
Symphony Orchestra

¹⁷ State of Culture Report, Artists Survey Findings



Monica Dufault in *Saving Lonesome George* by Gail Bowen
presented by Carousel Players.
Photo Credit: Joe Lapinski

These issues are confirmed in a study that identified the arts as a growth sector in St. Catharines. A study by Hill Strategies Research, based on the 2001 Census, states that the artist labour force in St. Catharines increased between 1991 and 2001, while the rest of the labour force decreased, a phenomena that took place in only 4 other Canadian cities of the 92 studied. Further,

In Canada, the number of artists grew by 29% between 1991 and 2001, close to three times the rate of growth of the overall labour force (10%). In 60 of the 92 large Canadian cities, the growth in the arts labour force exceeded that of the overall labour force. This shows that the arts are a growth sector in many Canadian cities.¹⁸

According to the study, St. Catharines had 495 artists¹⁹ within its population in 2001, making up 0.7% of the labour force, slightly below the provincial average of 0.8%. When compared to other similar cities, local artists are paid less, and *paid less compared to other local wage earners.*

City	Artists	Overall Labour Force	Artists as %	Artists average earnings	Earnings Gap
Niagara Falls	280	42,255	0.70%	\$16,200	44%
Peterborough	285	35,090	0.80%	n.r.	n.r.
Barrie	340	57,755	0.60%	\$23,400	28%
Guelph	410	62,390	0.70%	\$21,400	36%
St. Catharines	495	66,800	0.70%	\$16,400	48%
Waterloo	500	52,045	1.00%	\$29,700	26%
Kingston	520	60,755	0.90%	\$18,400	41%
Windsor	535	106,455	0.50%	\$25,300	28%
Oakville	700	83,620	0.80%	\$28,300	46%

¹⁸ Artists in Large Ontario Cities, Hill Strategies Research Inc, 2006, p4.

¹⁹ It is important to note that "the census captures information about the occupation at which a person worked the most hours between May 6 and 12, 2001. Overall, census estimates of artists may be somewhat low because of the frequency of multiple job-holding among artists and the May timing of the census." p2.



Submission in the Niagara Artists Centre's Strutt: Niagara's Wearable Art Weekend
Photo by Brian Yungblut

So while there was growth in the number of artists in St. Catharines, their wage earnings were extremely low. In consultations for this plan, some local artists suggested that perhaps their value is not as appreciated in St. Catharines as it is in other communities. They are often asked to donate their artwork and time, often as a "marketing opportunity."

The arts were a growth sector ten years ago, and the past decade has seen a stronger presence and more activity emerging from the arts. As the arts become more valued in the region, individual artists could further influence economy, local neighbourhoods and social and cultural vitality.

PRIORITY: Communicate the experiences and value of culture to all St. Catharines' residents.

CULTURAL PARTICIPATION

The State of Culture Report evaluates participation in culture-specific recreational opportunities offered by the City as well as audience attendance at St. Catharines' largest cultural facilities and festivals. Audience development for the arts is critically important to the future St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre. Cultural participation develops future audiences and patrons, and fosters civic engagement and inclusivity. Patrons and participants are both vital to the sector's health.

Attendance

The local arts community also works hard to make attendance at arts events accessible – all local art galleries are free admission, ticket prices for most downtown performing arts activity range from \$12 to \$25, often cheaper for children and students. Some organizations offer pay-what-you-can performances, 2 tickets for the price of one, or discounts for the under-employed. And of course the eyeGo to the Arts program offers \$5 tickets to high school students. Financial access is something the arts sector is keenly sensitive to, and it strives to be accessible in creative ways.

The City plays its part: the St. Catharines Museum and WCC's new policy is admission by donation; the Lakeside Park Carousel is 5¢ a

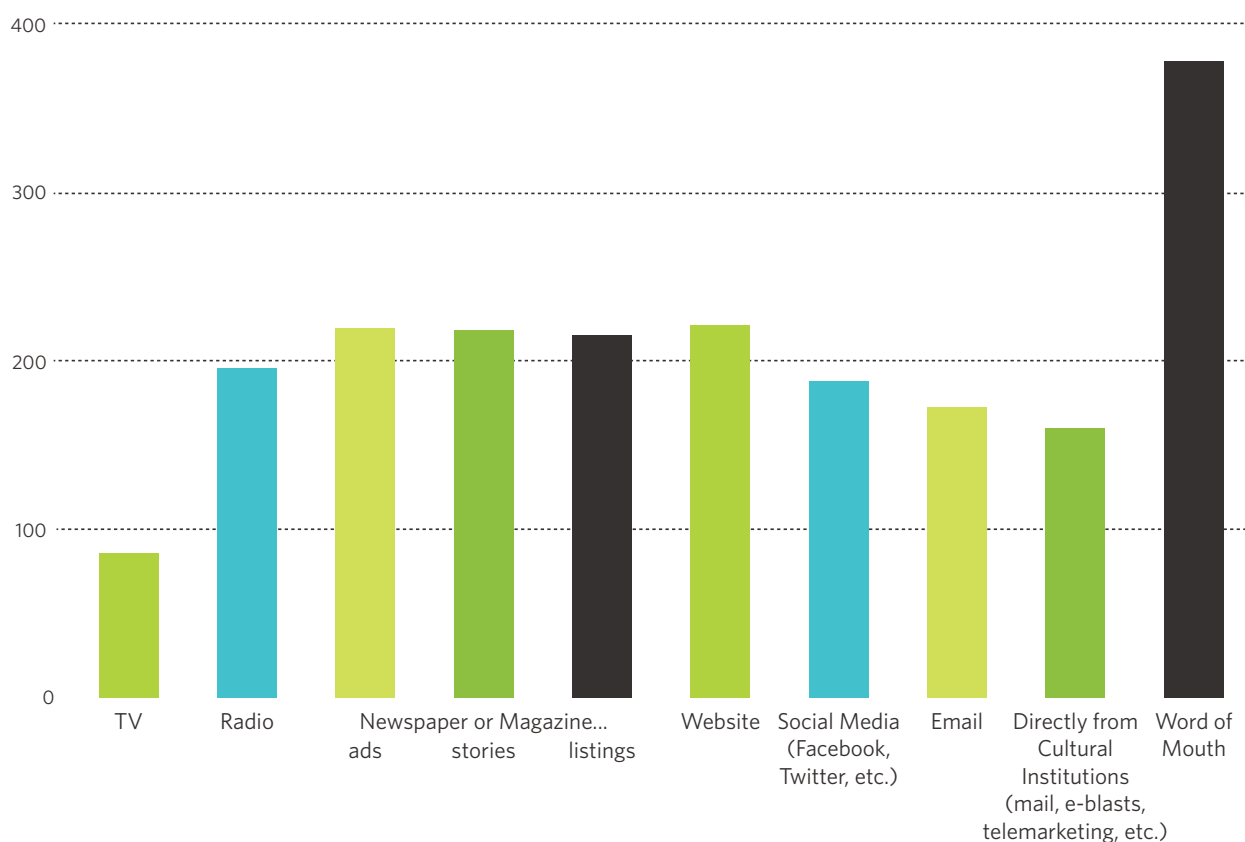


Brock students during the Niagara Wine Festival Parade

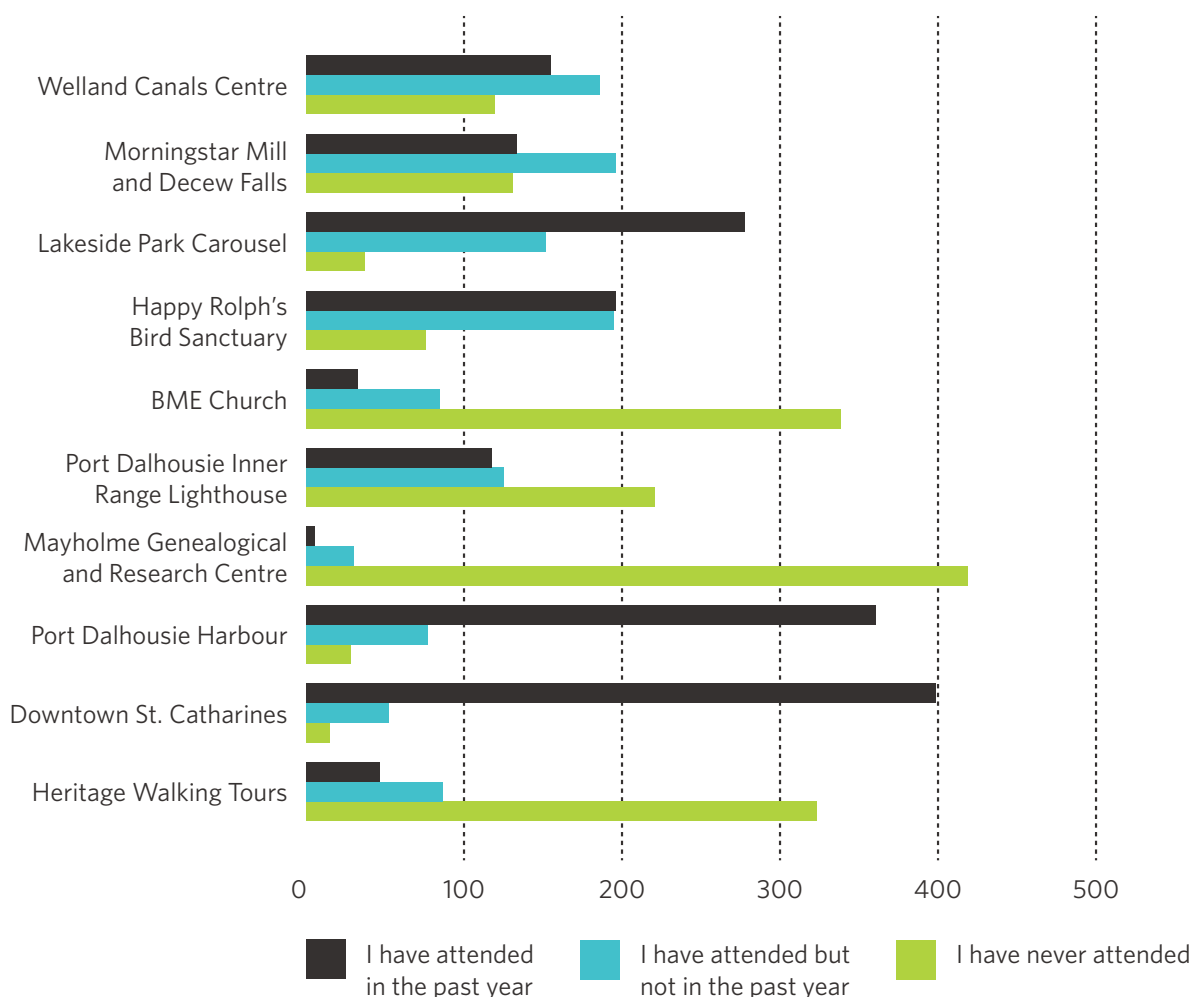
ride, and the Morningstar Mill is also open by donation. The Museum's preliminary statistics suggest that the new policy has resulted in more attendance, which suggests that cost has been a barrier to local residents.

As part of this plan's research, a survey was sent out to the general population of St. Catharines to evaluate participation in leisure-based cultural activities. 450 surveys were completed in full and the following results, and more, can be found in the State of Culture Report²⁰.

The majority of people found information about culture by word of mouth, although the chart below suggests that multiple channels need to be utilized to share information about culture. This is a resource-intensive issue for organizations with few staff resources or marketing dollars.



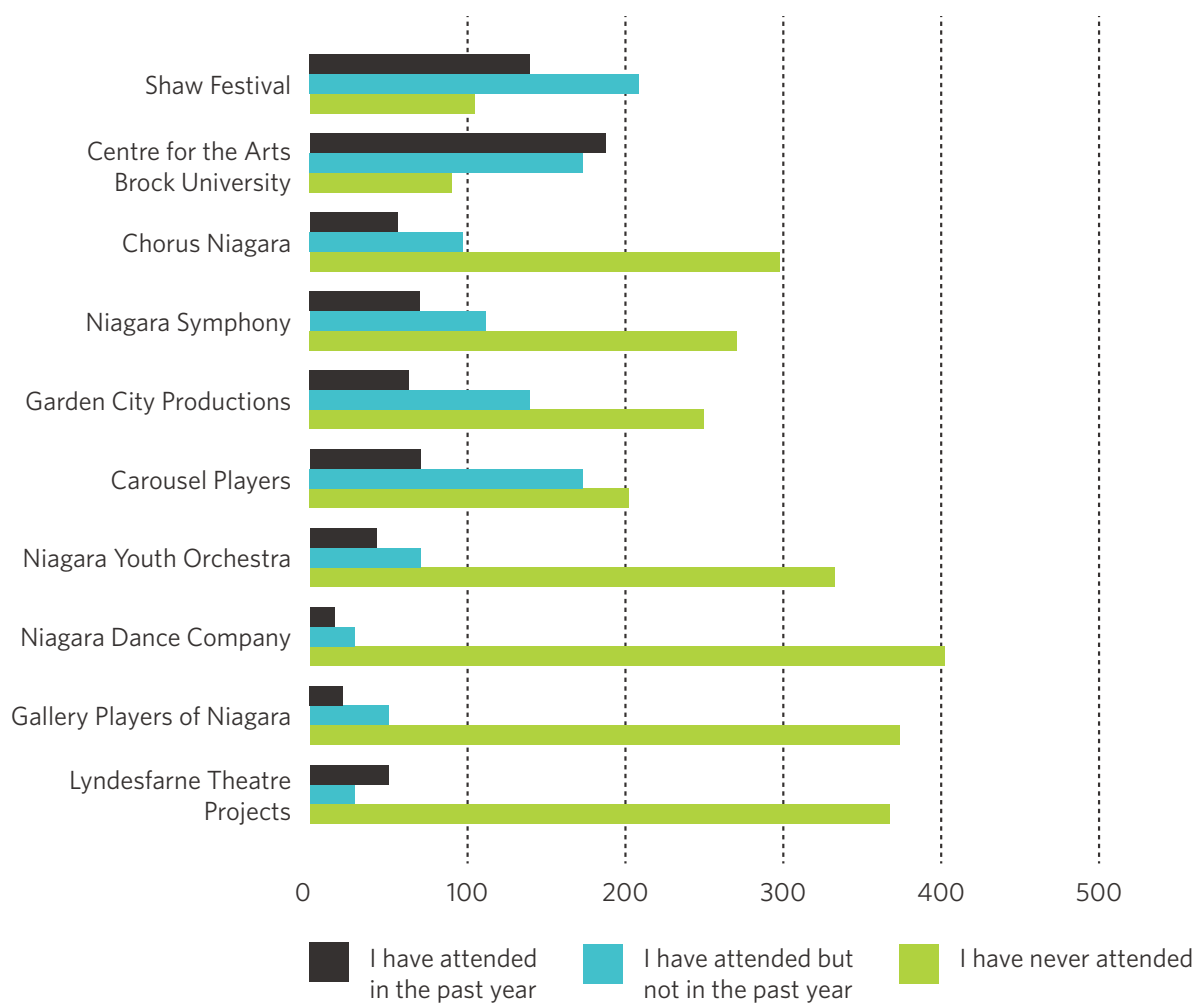
²⁰ Charts in this section can be found in the State of Culture Report, slides 131 to 140

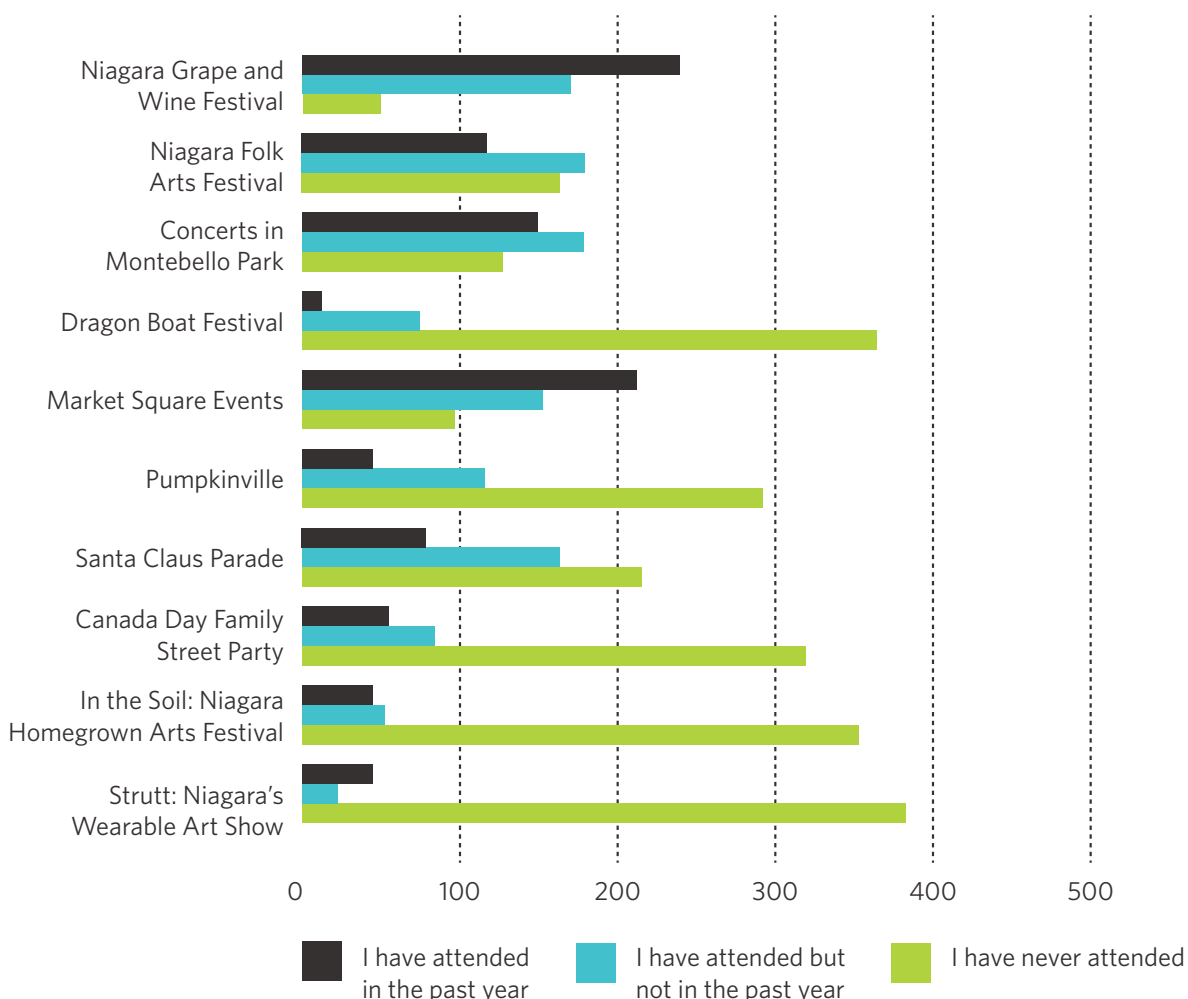


Respondents were asked whether they attend heritage attractions, arts events and festivals. The Lakeside Park Carousel had 50% attendance in respondents, while the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre and Morningstar Mill both had considerable visitation. Less visited were the British Methodist Episcopal Church-Salem Chapel, the Mayholme Foundation and St. Catharines Heritage Walking Tours. The BME Church has international significance as a site associated with Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, yet fewer than 10% of survey respondents had experienced its charm.

The performing arts, seen in the above chart, are less frequented by local residents, and many of the professional arts events available have never been attended. The Shaw Festival and the Centre for the Arts are the most popular arts activities: it is worth noting that the local arts centre is more popular than the world-renowned Shaw Festival. Fewer than 25% of respondents had attended Chorus Niagara, Carousel Players, the Niagara Symphony and Garden City Productions, all long-standing arts producers in the community.

Local arts organizations have consistently indicated they have challenges with promotion and “visibility” and arts patrons have noted it is difficult to find their information. If residents are interested in arts activity but not inclined to hunt for information, there is potential for growing local audiences and participants.





The most interesting feedback from respondents was related to festival attendance, clearly a very popular activity in St. Catharines. Niagara Grape & Wine Festival and events at Market Square received the highest respondent participation in the last year. Among others, Niagara Folk Arts Festival, the Montebello Park Summer Concerts, and the Santa Claus Parade have been popular among respondents.

Festival attendance levels suggest St. Catharines' residents are keen for community gatherings that celebrate local culture. This popularity could offer many opportunities for engaging citizens further in experiencing their local culture. Work has begun to address improved marketing for the arts. The Marketing the Arts of St. Catharines-Niagara partnership undertook three initiatives to promote arts and cultural opportunities: a professional development series to improve skills in the sector, the Inspire: Niagara Arts in Niagara Schools DVD and resource guide for teachers and educators, to promote arts for children and youth, and the www.cNiagara.ca website. This newly launched website promotes cultural events from across Niagara and is the first online tool that facilitates the cultural sector to actively share information for an interested audience. Access to cultural information is improving, and

the future arts centre will be a highly visible beacon for the arts, but strategies for collective marketing can be further developed to promote the breadth of cultural experiences St. Catharines has to offer – to both residents and visitors.

Participation

Participation in culture goes beyond the act of watching: it is about doing something active, most often for the pleasure of the experience, whether it's performing in a theatre production or choir, doing research in a museum, or taking photography or pottery lessons.

A recent arts engagement study undertaken by the Ontario Arts Council discovered that 98% of Ontarians engage at least once a year in music activities; 98% engage in visual arts, crafts or film activities; and 64% of Ontarians participate at least once a year in theatre activities²¹. The study's findings state:

- Involvement in participatory activities is linked to attendance at audience-based activities;
- Interest in cultural heritage correlates strongly with higher levels of (arts) engagement;
- Opportunities exist for increasing the engagement among those who are interested but participate infrequently in the arts, and has economic benefits, too.

The study indicates that in order to cultivate audiences for the arts, one must first cultivate arts participation, at home, at school, in church and in the community. In other words, cultural participation is necessary to attract and grow local audiences. Further participants in cultural activity experience personal benefits and their sense of belonging to community is improved. Cultural participation serves social inclusion and civic engagement and has economic benefits too.

In St. Catharines there are many opportunities to participate in heritage and arts experiences, through the City's recreation programs, in workshops and activities led by local arts organizations, in volunteer experiences at the St. Catharines Museum, with the Friends of Morningstar Mill or Friends of the Carousel, and more. The City also offers Fee Assistance in recreation (FAIR) to reduce barriers to access. While some of the City's participatory programs have significant levels of participation, such as the cultural activities provided at the City's Older Adult Centres: others are not as successful. If cultural participation is important to the health of the sector, and the social health of our community, strategies for growing participation are required.

PRIORITY: Foster participation in arts, heritage and cultural experiences.

²¹ The Ontario Arts Engagement Study, WolfBrown, October 2011, <http://www.arts.on.ca/page4400.aspx>



Niagara Dance Company performs Dissolve,
concept and choreography by Elizabeth Chitty.
Photo by The Brain Farm

Cultural Investment

Each year the City of St. Catharines invests in culture in three ways: in its own cultural assets and programs, in departmental priorities, and directly into the cultural sector. Cultural expenditures and revenues were identified across departmental budgets for a four year period and are summarized below.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Heritage	1,338,627	1,652,548	1,611,615	1,554,671
Cultural Services	185,884	250,157	223,428	159,449
Special Events	179,316	162,198	181,006	179,283
Cultural Industries	105,359	130,476	133,614	146,236
SCCIP	124,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Public Art	7,174	5,050	21,521	11,441
Subtotal	1,940,360	2,350,429	2,321,184	2,201,080
% of Annual City Budget	1.32%	1.55%	1.91%	1.75%
Less Revenues	720,504	779,448	571,931	699,719
City Tax Investment ²²	1,219,856	1,570,981	1,749,253	1,501,361

Over a four-year period, less than 2% of the City's total budget is invested in arts, heritage and related programming and development. Approximately 70% of the City's cultural investment is in heritage – this line includes the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre, Morningstar Mill, operations for the Lakeside Park Carousel, Heritage planning staff and grants, and cenotaph maintenance. No capital investments are included, although regular capital investments have been made into City-owned heritage buildings and structures. The operating and program investment in heritage is appropriate given the scope of the City's heritage assets.

²² At the time of writing, the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) was funded through the Civic Project Fund and was thus not a direct expense to taxpayers. This Fund is to be spent in the next 2 to 3 years and SCCIP is expected to return to a departmental budget line item.

Another 22% - 24% is spent on cultural services staff, programs and initiatives, special events, including those at Market Square and within recreation, and cultural industries²³. The latter represents investments in nGen and Market Square.

That leaves 6% - 7% for direct investment in the cultural community²⁴ and into public art. In the Municipal Cultural Policy 2000 several recommendations related to the development of public art, including the establishment of a percent for art policy, and commitment of a percentage of all municipal capital investments to public art. The Garden City Plan, the City's land-use plan, reiterates the need for this investment, as public art can be important addition to the urban environment. Its influence will be limited unless investment is increased.

In December 2008 City Council approved in principle an \$18 million investment in the future Performing Arts Centre. Council recognized the economic value of the project, its role in downtown revitalization and the importance of investing in its first purpose-built arts facility. The City's capital commitment has since grown, and will be matched by other government commitment and community fundraising to achieve its capital investment goals. Once the St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre is operating, it will require an annual investment from the City. In the 2008 Feasibility Study the operating costs of the arts centre were estimated at \$4.5 million. The study outlined a business plan that generated revenue of \$3 million, and confirmed the future facility would need a tax investment of approximately \$1.5 million annually. The partnership with Brock University will reduce the City's investment in the arts centre, but ongoing investment is required to achieve the anticipated economic return.

What is that return? An economic impact analysis details **a \$16 million per year return on investment**²⁵ to the businesses and residents of St. Catharines. When the City invests \$1.5 million per year, the community will see a return on that investment ten-fold.

In consultations with the arts community, support for the PAC is strong, but there is concern about the future rental costs and the potential for the City to reduce or eliminate direct investment to currently-supported organizations. The PAC should not be the project that reduces other arts investment by the City, particularly since future programming and audiences at the facility are dependent on a healthy local arts sector. The PAC is an enormous investment that can make or break the local cultural sector: the City will need to foster the health of the arts community to ensure that its economic - and cultural - goals of the PAC are achieved.

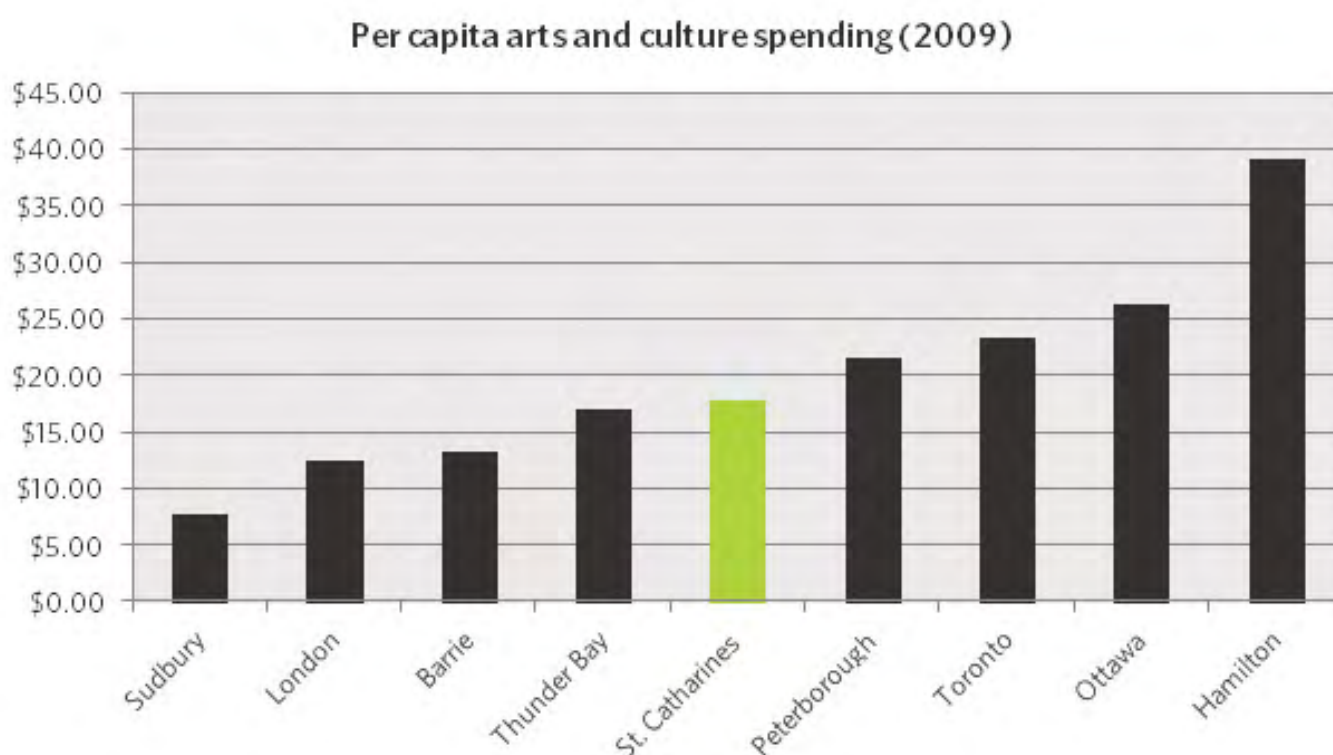
²³ Staffing and operating costs of recreation staff and programs, and the Small Business Enterprise Centre, were not included in this analysis, as it was too difficult to quantify the percentage each spent on culture-specific service provision.

²⁴ Fee-for-service investments were made each year to two independent, long-standing festivals - the Niagara Wine Festival and the Niagara Folk Arts Festival. These amounts are included in the special events line item.

²⁵ A Feasibility Study for an Academic and Cultural Arts Development in Downtown St. Catharines. Levitt Goodman Architects and Martin Vinik Planning for the Arts

HOW DOES ST. CATHARINES' INVESTMENT COMPARE?

Currently the only source of comparative information on municipal cultural investment is the Ontario Municipal Benchmark Indicators (OMBI) and St. Catharines does not participate in this benchmarking initiative. It is still worth reviewing OMBI data: the chart below suggests that St. Catharines' 2009 per capita investment of 17.67% is higher than London, Barrie and Thunder Bay, but lower than Peterborough and the larger cities of Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto. What is unclear in this information is the division of investment between heritage, arts, facility operations and sector investment.



Were the City of St. Catharines to further investigate how other municipalities invest in culture, new revenue development or investment strategies may be identified, for example, the recent billboard tax that was approved by the City of Toronto specifically for arts investment.

It is easier to evaluate cultural investment programs, grants provided to the cultural sector to strengthen their ability to engage residents in cultural experiences. The chart below includes the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) at \$1.14 per capita in 2008, the last year the program received an increase to its budget. The City's level of investment is in the bottom 5 of 16 cities. This, and the issues identified in the arts sector, would indicate that St. Catharines needs to increase its direct investment to the cultural community.

Ontario Cities: per capita spending on culture		
Municipality	Population (2006)	Spending on Cultural Grants per capita (2008)
Thunder Bay	109,140	\$10.46
Barrie	128,430	\$2.06
St. Catharines	131,400 (2012)	\$1.14 (2012)
Sudbury	157,857	\$3.00
Kingston	159,561	\$2.73
Richmond Hill	162,704	\$0.08
Oakville	165,613	\$1.09
Kitchener	204,668	\$5.50 (2008 estimate) \$6.30 (2010)
Windsor	216,473	\$3.53
Vaughan	238,866	\$0.01 (SIK)
Markham	261,573	\$0.46
London	352,395	\$3.24
Brampton	433,806	\$1.58
Hamilton	504,559	\$2.70
Mississauga	668,549	\$1.57
Ottawa	812,129	\$4.65
Toronto	2,503,281	\$6.27

Source: Vaughan Cultural Plan

SIK – Services in Kind

RETURN ON INVESTMENT – THE SCCIP RESULTS

The City of St. Catharines began the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) in 2004 and the results in the arts community are visible. St. Catharines has a vibrant professional arts community as well as proud community arts organizations. Some of its long-

standing arts organizations are 40, 50 or more than 60 years old and they acknowledge SCCIP is an important contributor to their sustainability. The program has: helped them leverage more money from other levels of government and from the private sector; it has encouraged recent graduates to stay in St. Catharines and create jobs in the arts for themselves; and it has helped create new arts facilities, new festivals and more activity and outreach programs.

The return on SCCIP investment was evaluated over a three year period (2008 – 2010) as part of this plan's research and the following conclusions were reached²⁶:

- SCCIP recipients are generating more revenue – total revenue went up by approximately 27%, or \$600,000 in a three-year period.
- Funding from the private sector nearly doubled, growing from 23% of all revenue to 36% of total revenue.
- In 2010, the average SCCIP grant recipient supported double the full-time equivalent jobs than in 2008.
- Between 2008 and 2010 the number of artists and curators employed by SCCIP recipients increased by over 30 percent.
- Between 2008 and 2010 the number of artist contracts increased by 50%, amounting to nearly 600 total artist contracts.
- The majority of grants were under \$7,500K.

An economic impact analysis was undertaken which confirmed that SCCIP recipients are creating jobs, generating revenue and stimulating spin-off spending in St. Catharines.²⁷

Impact of SCCIP Grantee Spending on Ontario			
Year	Expenditures (Direct Impact of Grantees + Audiences)	Outputs (Indirect Impact)	Employment (Jobs)
2009	\$2,297,889	\$3,398,435	33.17
2010	\$2,359,899	\$3,476,195	33.65
2011	\$2,549,402	\$3,768,426	36.25

²⁶ See State of Culture Report, Economic Impact of SCCIP Recipients, Slides 19 - 28

²⁷ See State of Culture Report, Economic Impact of SCCIP Recipients, Slides 19 - 28b



Niagara Falls: a twenty minute drive from downtown St. Catharines

Yet, there are signs of trouble in the arts sector. In early 2013 there were temporary and permanent layoffs taking place in the sector. Much available funding is project-based, released in cycles that can negatively affect smaller organizations' ongoing operations and ability to support sufficient staff levels. Simultaneously, the arts community saw City funding levels drop in the 2012 SCCIP approvals²⁸. A new program stream, the Culture Builds Community Program, has expanded the focus of the program's investment and tapped into funding previously focused on the professional arts sector. The result is less funding for arts organizations trying to grow their capacity in readiness for the Arts Centre, and more concern about the future cost of renting the St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre for their performances.

THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

The two-tier municipal system in Niagara poses both opportunities and challenges for the City. Not all local services are provided by the City, and some are shared between two levels of government. Coordination between the two is not always achieved, and St. Catharines, as the biggest municipality amongst twelve, is often perceived as being the "want-it-all" community by others in Niagara.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara recognizes cultural vitality as an essential "fourth pillar" of municipal sustainability along with economic prosperity, environmental responsibility and social equity. In 2010, the Region developed a Culture Plan – "Creative Niagara: Economy, Places, People, Identity" – which reinforces culture's relevance and importance in people's everyday lives. With the adoption of the Culture Plan, Niagara became one of the first regions in Ontario to "embrace the integration of culture into the Region's land use planning objectives."²⁹

²⁸ Some of the funding cuts were reinstated in 2013, although not all, and the return to 2011 rates was at the expense of funding more project grants.

²⁹ Niagara Region Culture Plan

In 2013, the Region approved amendments to embed culture in its Official Plan. The amendments establish a policy framework to implement the key strategic directions of the Culture Plan as follows:

1. "Build a diverse economy by strengthening cultural resources and the creative cultural sector to maximize their contribution to economic development."
2. "Encourage analysis and inclusion of cultural places, spaces and activities in land-use planning, infrastructure development and programming to preserve and develop distinct and unique places in Niagara."
3. "Support professional development and information sharing for the creative cultural sector, and encourage participation in culture across the Niagara community to stimulate innovation, creativity and community engagement.³⁰"
4. "Promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of culture and its contribution to the ongoing development of vibrant, unique communities and a shared sense of identity as Niagara."

The amendments, will guide and support cultural planning for both the Region and its municipalities, including St. Catharines. The inclusion of culture in Niagara's Official Plan should influence regional decision-makers and lead to investment in the cultural sector, and into municipally-led cultural initiatives such as the Arts Centre. Many of the arts organizations supported by the City's SCCIP program serve the wider Niagara area, yet only the City of St. Catharines consistently invests in them.

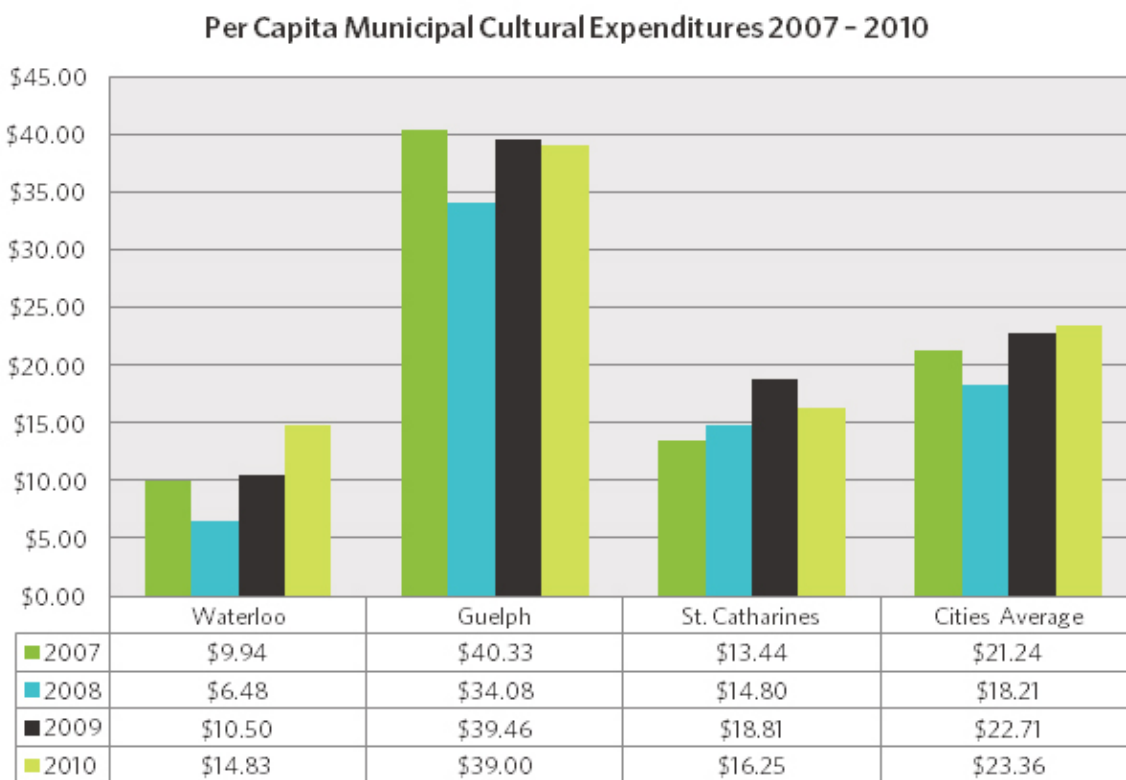
In its revised Official Plan the Region clearly embraces the role culture has to play in building a creative economy. The amendments note that zoning amendments need to consider culture, cultural asset mapping is identified as a useful resource, the value of culture in landscape and public realm is incorporated, and the amendments contain a Cultural Expression Policy, which is a strong addition to local policy. Despite the fact that social services and public health are under the umbrella of Regional government, no links are identified between culture and these two responsibilities. There are several areas where the work of each level of local government could be duplicated: public art, sector training and education, cultural asset mapping and plaquing are all areas where cross-over of responsibility exists. Ideally, the Niagara Region will work closely with the City of St. Catharines when moving forward initiatives that can be improved by building St. Catharines' experience.

30 Niagara Region Culture Plan

REGIONAL INVESTMENT IN CULTURE

Prior to 2012, there has been virtually no direct investment into the cultural sector by the Region of Niagara. In 2012 the Niagara Region was successful in its bid as a Cultural Capital of Canada. Approximately \$2.1 million was invested into cultural activities across the region, a shared investment from the federal government and the Niagara Region. Several St. Catharines-based arts organizations participated in the program as did the City's cultural services office. The funding was project-specific, and to date the Region has yet to commit to continuing continue direct investment in the cultural sector.

In 2012 City staff participated in a study led by the City of Waterloo that compared cultural investment in Waterloo, St. Catharines and Guelph. A comparison to two other cities does not provide sufficient breadth of information, although the study posed an unexpected question about the affect of regional investment in culture.



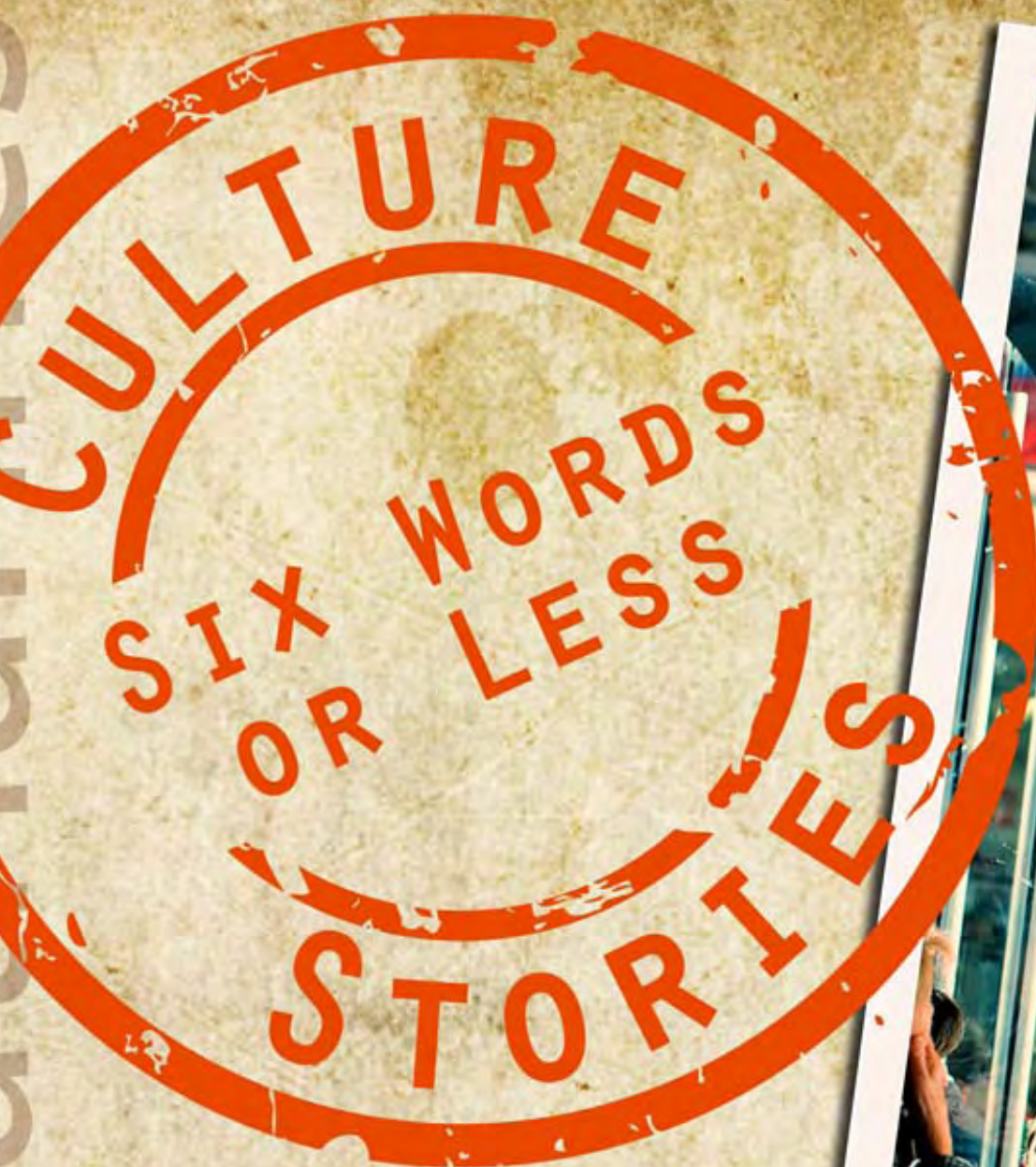
The chart above includes operating, grant and capital expenditures over four years. It shows significantly different levels of investment in culture between the three municipalities, with St. Catharines in the middle. The report notes "there are differences in municipal government and budgeting structures that partially explains the contrasts between each municipality's per

capita operating expenditure.³¹ Those differences are between one-tier and two-tier systems. Guelph is a one-tier government and therefore is responsible for all cultural funding; Waterloo is within a two-tier system and their regional government provides considerable ongoing investment into cultural facilities and organizations (they have a grant program for culture, for example). St. Catharines also operates in a two-tier system but without the additional support of regional investment into culture, the City spends considerably more than the City of Waterloo. At the time of this plan's release, the Niagara Region had released its first-ever applications to the Niagara Cultural Investment Program, a positive addition to the landscape.

The report did not formally evaluate the nature of cultural investment in a two-tier structure, but this information is highly suggestive. Is St. Catharines' investment higher than Waterloo's **because of the difference in Regional cultural investment**? The one-time investment through the Cultural Capital of Canada Program did not address the issues of a sector plagued with project-only funding. Can St. Catharines encourage future regional investment into the health of the cultural eco-system in Niagara?

Further municipal comparative analysis of cultural investment is recommended given the evidence of need in the community and the comparatively low level of municipal investment into the arts sector. Neither the City nor the Region can offer the direct programming provided by this sector and successfully achieve the diversity of activity, programs and engagement. Nor should they as it is programming handled far more successfully, and economically, by cultural professionals. The Creative Capital Gains Plan from the City of Toronto estimated that \$17.75 is generated for every dollar invested into cultural initiatives. This, coupled with the evidence of SCCIP's ability to support revenue generation and have a positive economic return, is further proof that investment in the cultural sector provides numerous benefits.

³¹ Report on Municipal Cultural Investment in the City of Waterloo. A study prepared by the Wilfrid Laurier University MBA Project Team, 2012, as commissioned by the City of Waterloo



“My home,
past, present
and future”

Bones, Niagara Ice Dogs



Poster from the Six-word contest, an outreach initiative of the Culture Plan (see appendices for responses)

Priorities and Implementation

After fourteen months of consultation, research and analysis seven priorities were identified that all stakeholders felt would respond to the opportunities on St. Catharines' cultural horizon. While there was a long list of initiatives under each priority initially, they were slowly whittled down to a more feasible list. Still, there are 28 action items within this plan to be addressed over the next eight years.

The Culture Plan priorities have been shaped to allow for future opportunities that may emerge. They are:

- 1. Communicate the experiences and value of culture to all St. Catharines' residents.**
- 2. Foster participation in arts, heritage and cultural experiences.**
- 3. Cultivate the growth and development of the creative sector.**
- 4. Further develop the planning, management and coordination of heritage assets and historical services.**
- 5. Recognize and embrace the city's cultural diversity as a cornerstone for civic engagement.**
- 6. Leverage culture to strengthen St. Catharines' distinct sense of place and community.**
- 7. Foster the cross-departmental management and delivery of arts and heritage service delivery, planning and community development.**

IMPLEMENTATION

The priorities and their initiatives are to be implemented by multiple City departments, City committees and potential partners in the community. Over the next five pages a matrix identifies some of these collaborators as well as broad timelines, complexity levels and a preliminary evaluation of cost level; these are offered as a starting point for implementation. This structure is flexible, to allow for responsiveness to future priorities and opportunities as they arise.

Collaboration and reporting are important to the plan's success. The Internal Cultural Advisory Team should be tasked with developing success indicators or measurements and developing reports and communication strategies for City Council and the community. While this is a plan for municipal government, the Inspire St. Catharines: Culture Plan 2020 has emerged with the community's active participation and support. Transparent reporting will serve to further engage St. Catharines' citizens in the future sustainability of the community.

Legend

Short term – 1-2 years	PCS – Programs and Cultural Services Division	FMS – Financial Management Services
Medium-term – 3-4 years		Library – St. Catharines Public Library
Medium-long term – 5-6 years	EDT – Economic Development and Tourism Services Division	
Long-term – 7-8 years	PBS – Planning and Building Services	
	CSS – Corporate Support Services	

Initiative	Estimated Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Estimated Complexity	City Dept.	City Committees	Outside Agencies
Priority 1. Communicate the experiences and value of culture to St. Catharines' residents.						
Facilitate and support collective marketing initiatives, including cross-promotion, for all cultural organizations and events in the community.	ongoing	low to medium	low to medium	PCS; EDT; Library		
Assess the City's marketing and interpretive materials and develop a plan to strengthen the promotion and awareness of municipal cultural assets.	short-term	low	low	PCS; EDT; PBS	Heritage Committee, Museum Advisory Committee, Culture Committee	
Evaluate the City's protocols for welcoming and providing information to newcomers. Consider the distinct needs of new Canadians, Brock University and Niagara College students, new businesses and new municipal employees.	short-term	low to medium	low	PCS; EDT; CSS		Niagara Region; Folk Arts, Brock U; Niagara C; Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce
Identify strategies for celebrating local cultural success stories and the contributions of cultural workers and businesses.	ongoing	medium	low to medium	PCS; EDT; Library	Culture Committee; Museum Advisory Committee	

Initiative	Estimated Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Estimated Complexity	City Dept.	City Committees	Outside Agencies
Priority 2. Foster participation in arts, heritage and cultural experiences.						
Review and strengthen the support and development of existing and emerging festivals, celebrations and events, taking into consideration equitable access, transparency and efficiency.	short to medium-term		medium	PCS; EDT	Culture Committee	Downtown Association
Further develop opportunities to experience arts and heritage through direct programming, in partnership, and through investment in the cultural sector.	ongoing	medium to high	medium	PCS; EDT; Library	Museum Advisory Committee; Culture Committee	
Investigate barriers to cultural access and identify strategies to increase participation.	short to medium term / ongoing		medium	Internal Cultural Advisory Committee	Culture Committee	
Develop a comprehensive municipal volunteer policy that includes recruitment, management and recognition of volunteers, taking into consideration the current role of volunteers across the corporation.	short to medium term		medium	PCS; EDT		

Priority 3. Cultivate the growth and development of the creative sector.						
Build on the success of the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program to further strengthen organizational capacity, revenue development and market-readiness within the local cultural sector.	ongoing	medium	low	PCS	Culture Committee	
Investigate the development and resourcing of an arms-length or independent umbrella arts authority.	short to medium term	low to medium	medium to high	PCS; EDT	Culture Committee	Arts Alliance
Engage the private sector with arts and heritage organizations, with particular attention to deeper involvement in governance, partnerships and skills development.	medium term	low	medium	PCS; EDT	Culture Committee	Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Association

Initiative	Estimated Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Estimated Complexity	City Dept.	City Committees	Outside Agencies
Evaluate the availability of sufficient and appropriate facilities for arts development and presentation, taking into consideration the future changes in downtown and their potential effect on pre-existing artist studios and shared creative spaces.	medium to medium-long term	low to high	high	PCS; EDT; PBS	Culture Committee	Arts Alliance

Priority 4. Further develop the planning, management and coordination of heritage assets and historical services.

Build on existing incentives for heritage preservation and encourage growth of single building heritage designations.	ongoing	low to medium	medium	PBS		
Consider establishing a dedicated Heritage Planner position within the City's complement of staff to build on the opportunities identified.						
Preserve, maintain and promote access and interpretation of the remnants of the first three Welland Canals.	medium term		medium to high	PCS; EDT; PBS	Heritage Committee; Museum Advisory Committee	Niagara Region
Recognize the significant role of Black History in our community, and continue to evaluate strategies for preserving, interpreting and promoting that history.	ongoing	low to high	low to high	PCS; EDT	Black History Advisory Committee	
Evaluate the success of Doors Open in St. Catharines and consider options for the presentation of same or similar programs and strategies to celebrate the community's built heritage.	short term	low	medium	PCS; PBS	Museum Advisory Committee	Niagara Region; Binational Tourism Alliance

Initiative	Estimated Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Estimated Complexity	City Dept.	City Committees	Outside Agencies
Priority 5. Recognize and embrace the city's cultural diversity as a cornerstone for civic engagement.						
Recognize the importance of representing the diversity of our community consistently in all City marketing and communication materials and develop communications policy as appropriate.	short-term	low	low	PCS; EDT	Culture Committee	
Recognize the importance of engaging youth with cultural initiatives, as a means of strengthening their civic and community engagement in the future, and develop strategies to deepen youth engagement with local culture.	short to medium-term	low to medium	medium	PCS; EDT; Library	Youth Advisory Committee; Culture Committee	Next Niagara
Continue to support the development of grass roots initiatives that serve local community, reflect our distinct culture and foster distinct place-making.	ongoing	low to medium	medium	PCS; EDT	Museum Advisory Committee; Sustainability Committee; Culture Committee	
Evaluate all forms of diversity in City Committees, consider the adoption of language in all committee Terms of Reference to address the value of inclusivity, and actively recruit diverse representation for all committees.	short-term	low	low to medium	All Departments	All City Committees	

Priority 6. Leverage culture to strengthen St. Catharines' distinct sense of place and community.						
Foster an environment to attract cultural and creative sector workers and businesses to St. Catharines and develop strategies for the development of creative mixed use spaces, including live/work space for artists.	medium to long-term	medium to high	high	PCS; EDT; PBS	Internal Advisory Committee	Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce; Downtown Association



Exhibit at Niagara Arts Centre - photo by
 andrea brown

Initiative	Estimated Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Estimated Complexity	City Dept.	City Committees	Outside Agencies
Develop, resource and implement a public art plan, recognizing the role of public art in urban design and in cultivating a distinct sense of place at a neighbourhood level.	medium term	medium	high	PCS; PBS	Public Art Advisory Committee	
Maximize City-owned heritage buildings and structures as cornerstones of local community and civic pride when considering programs, rental opportunities or other plans for the future.	short to long term		medium to high	PCS; EDT; FMS		
Identify key cultural assets across the city and develop strategies to maximize their use for local residents at a neighbourhood level. Include consideration of cultural neighbourhood identification through street signage and special promotions.	medium to long term	low to medium	medium to high	PCS; EDT; PBS	Culture Committee; Museum Advisory Committee	Neighbourhood Associations

Priority 7. Foster the cross-departmental management and delivery of arts and heritage service delivery, planning and community development.

Build on Phase 1 of the Cultural Asset Mapping initiative, addressing maintenance, function and cross-departmental planning and promotional needs.	short to medium-term		medium to high	PCS; EDT; PBS; CSS		
Evaluate the breadth of City Committees engaged in culture-related initiatives and identify communication strategies and efficiencies amongst them.	short-term	low	low	PCS; EDT; PBS	All connected Committees	
Evaluate collections within the municipality and identify efficiencies and policy and procedural clarifications, i.e. civic art, archives, Museum etc.	short to medium-term	low	medium	PCS; EDT	Museum Advisory Committee; Public Art Advisory Committee	
Develop cross-departmental working group to address cultural service delivery, communication and community development. Develop Cultural Success Indicators that address all pillars of sustainability and that contribute to the implementation of this plan.	short term	low	medium to high	PCS; EDT; PBS		

Conclusion



S.C.E.N.E. - The St. Catharines Event for new Music and Entertainment - live performance at Market Square

In the municipal arena, culture is no longer simply about delivering arts programming. It is an economic strategy, a social imperative and an environmental investment. Culture, when identified and leveraged, can be a significant contributor to a community's future vitality and prosperity. The *Inspire St. Catharines: Culture Plan 2020* aims to inspire government, business and residents to maximize the opportunities that culture affords.

St. Catharines is changing. The people, landscapes and expressions of St. Catharines are seeds, soil and sunshine for the future. With sufficient support, they can help St. Catharines grow and flourish, and make The Garden City fertile again.



IT CAME FROM THE WELLAND CANAL
By Rob Elliott and Christine Cosby (Swizzle Studio)
Performed by Tracy Duru. Photo by Brian Yungblut.

Appendix A: Planning Process

Internal Review and Analysis

- **Background Review & Analysis:** review and analysis of all background documents related to culture and heritage including policies, studies and other planning documents
- **Assessment of Existing Cultural Assets and Cultural Service Delivery:** review of existing cultural assets cultural service delivery across departments, City Committees
- **Policy and Plan Analysis and Assessment:** examination of existing City policies and plans, and identify opportunities for integrating culture
- **Internal Analysis:** interim report synthesizing all of the previous findings

Public Consultation and Engagement

- **Cultural/Creative Sector Focus Groups:** gather information about level of participation in cultural events, opportunities for collaboration, and perceived gaps in access, services and incentives
- **Neighbourhood Meetings:** conducted in diverse locations around St. Catharines with a focus different constituencies
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** one-on-one interviews conducted to further engage in specific issues facing St. Catharines
- **ONLINE SURVEY:** two online municipal-wide surveys were administered: one to evaluate participation patterns of residents; the second surveyed artists and evaluated their space needs, income sources and opportunities for improved service

Community Scan

- **Cultural Participation Analysis:** analysis of participation for cultural events and activities
- **Performing Arts Centre Governance Analysis:** review of existing governance and operating plans for the new Performing Arts Centre
- **Cultural Mapping Update:** expansion of cultural asset data and mapping of cultural asset characteristics to understand proximity and relationships to one another and accessibility to transportation and key populations
- **Best Practices Analysis:** review of select Canadian municipalities exhibiting best practices in cultural service delivery
- **State of Culture Report:** synthesis of findings above and top-line priorities

Final Culture Plan

- **Stakeholder Charrette:** review and testing of key issues, strategic direction and top line priorities and development of initiatives to achieve priorities
- **Draft Culture Plan:** findings, analysis, and final initiatives for implementation are included in this Draft Cultural Plan. Draft is presented to cross-sectoral committee and the public have had opportunities to provide feedback, communicate needs and aspirations, and outline their preferences for their City's Culture Plan
- **Final Culture Plan:** final revisions based on feedback from cross-sectoral and public are incorporated into Final plan and is presented to the City as a dynamic, working document

Appendix B: State of Culture – Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. SCCIP Impact
3. Cultural Participation Analysis
4. Performing Arts Centre Analysis
5. Cultural Mapping & Demographic Analysis
6. Artists Survey
7. Community Perceptions
8. Top-Line Priorities
9. Next Steps

Appendix 1. Source Charts for SCCIP Impact

Appendix 2. Stakeholders Interview List

Appendix C: Internal Analysis – Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
 - a. Cultural Planning Process
 - b. Content
 - c. Key Findings
2. People
 - a. How City Departments are Involved in Cultural Service Delivery: Key Findings and Recommendations
 - b. How City Committees are Involved in Cultural Service Delivery: Key Findings and Recommendations
3. Policies and Plans Audit
 - a. Recreation Facility Master Plan (2008)
 - b. Downtown Creative Cluster Master Plan (2008)
 - c. The Garden City: City of St. Catharines Official Plan (2010)
 - d. Tourism Strategy (2009)
 - e. Tending our Garden City: The City of St. Catharines Sustainability Strategy (2011)
 - f. Economic Development Strategy (2009)
 - g. Public Art Policy (2003)
 - h. Cultural Investment Policy (2004)
 - i. Municipal Cultural Policy (2000)
 - j. The St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre Strategic Plan 2008-2012
 - k. St. Catharines Public Library strategic planning documents, including: "Strategic Agenda 2007-2010: Door Onto the World", "Memo and Goals 2011", and "Operational Goals Update 2012"
4. Programming and Asset Management
5. Funding

Appendix: Culture-related Revenues and Expenses Figures

Appendix D: Glossary of Terms

Artist: creator in any art form or discipline

Arts: include, but are not limited to, music, theatre, dance, visual art, media arts and literature

Celebrations: cultural events organized for the purpose of building and celebrating a sense of community in response to a desire that is best addresses through celebration. Often a celebration marks a civic or national holiday, a special day, or a noteworthy event.

Community Art: an experience in which non-arts community members work with a professional artist on a project that ends in a public presentation or work of art expressing community interests and issues

Cultural diversity: the breadth of ancestral heritages reflected in any part of society.

Cultural landscape: any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people

Cultural workers: personnel involved directly or in support functions in the production, presentation and distribution of culture

Event: any cultural presentation in any medium such as literary reading, storytelling, music concert, play, visual art opening, dance concert, public talk, heritage re-enactment, etc.

Festival: a series of theme-related events, predominantly cultural in nature, held annually for two or more consecutive days and possessing city-wide and regional appeal

Heritage: set of things, places and ideas inherited from the past, both natural and man-made

Heritage resources: include, but are not limited to, cultural landscapes, archeological sites, structures, artifacts and associated records

Inclusivity: the process of engaging as many diverse people within the community as possible, and fairly representing gender, culture, race, religion, age, ability, sexual orientation etc.

Local Community: a group of people brought together by geography, tradition, culture, lifestyle, common experience or spirit

Professional: (pertaining to artists and other cultural workers) persons making all or part of their living from their cultural practice, and/or identified by their peers and/or themselves as primarily committed to their practice over other income-producing and life activities

Living arts: arts made by living artists

Non-professional: (pertaining to artists and other cultural workers) persons engaged in cultural practices as a leisure pursuit and not receiving financial compensation

Semi-professional: (pertaining to artists and other cultural workers) persons making part of their living from their cultural practice and/or committed to their practice as a significant part of their activities

Appendix E: Bibliography

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City of Toronto Creative City Planning Framework: A Supporting Document to the Agenda for Prosperity: Prospectus for a Great City, 2008

Cultural Resource Mapping: A Guide for Municipalities, 2010, Canadian Urban Institute for Municipal Cultural Planning Inc

Inspire! Niagara Arts in Niagara Schools: A Resource Guide for Parents and Teachers, 2012

Niagara Region Culture Plan

Peterborough Municipal Culture Plan

Report on Municipal Cultural Investment in the City of Waterloo. A study prepared by the Wilfrid Laurier University MBA Project Team, 2012, commissioned by the City of Waterloo

The Geography Of Nowhere: The Rise And Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape by James Howard Kunstler

The Ontario Arts Engagement Study, WolfBrown, October 2011, <http://www.arts.on.ca/page4400.aspx>

The Role of Culture in Reducing and Preventing Poverty and Social Exclusion, Commissioned by the European Commission from the Centre for Public Policy at Northumbria University, 2011, Policy Study Findings

Appendix F: The Last Word

We asked St. Catharinites to “tell the story” of St. Catharines in six words. The winners of our contest were:

“Put St. Catharines in yourself”~ from J.Pizzati

“Sea-ewe-Elle-tea-you-are-E!”~from G.Redden

“An interpersonal community of culturaldiversity” ~ K.Briggs

Here are the rest of the entries in our Six Word Story of St. Catharines Contest. Thank you to those of you who participated!!!

“Family, fun, history, culture, jobs,.....HOME !!!!”
~ D.N.

“The Paris of the Niagara Peninsula”
~ J.H.

“St.Petrie, Dish of Culture, Grows here”
~ A.W.

“Where perseverance and natural beauty meet”
~ C.G.

“Culture was at 110 James Street”
~ J.V.

“St Catharines offers something for everyone!”
~ C.H.

“Loyalist blood, seafaring spirit, industrial heart.”
~ D.P.

“HIDDEN TREASURES TRANSFORM INTO
PRECIOUS MEMORIES”
~ G.M.

“Experience cultural diversity and interpersonal
community”
~ K.B.

“LIVING IN THE GARDEN OF CULTURE”
~ R.R.

“Close to everything you can imagine”
~A.M.

“Give us free parking. It’s windy.”
~ A.S.

“Our diversity is our greatest strength”
~ M.M.

“Come and see for yourself”
~ A.O.A

“Big city dreams small city money”
~ T.D.

“Over spending Council small town justice”
~ C.D.

“University city, wine country, regattas, gardens”
~ J.R.

“Old, retired, change fearing senior citizens.”
~ J.R.

"Big city , small town charm"

~ CKTB

"Where complex intersections make living dynamic"

~ R.C.

"St. Catharines the hub of Niagara"

~ L.P.

"City where I created amazing memories"

~ L.M.

"My Home, My Garden City"

~ M.C.

"Hub of Niagara; City of Possibilities"

~ M.P.

"Small town feeling, Big city attitude!"

~ C.M.

"Stoic brickwork nods to flourishing gardens."

- L.V.

"We're the best of all worlds"

~ L.C.

"It's where you want to be."

~B.J.

"Accomplished beauty with a young heart!"

~ B.G.

"Expansive with aged growth and grace"

~ B.G.

"Historical Brilliant Breezy beautiful water's edge"

~ B.G.

"Rich history, challenging present, bright future!"

~ J.

"Learn, work and play"

~ D.W.

"Henley city, home of the great!"

~ B.D.

"Vibrant, engaging, ethnocultural, diversified, strategic, spiritual"

~A.H.

"St. Catharines: a spectacular, diverse, progressive jewel"

~ F.L.

"Plays are only found in Thorold"

~ A.S.

"From Lakeside Park to Brock University"

~ C.V.

"The Park & Market are alive"

~ J.

"Laid-off suburbanite, white consumer pop."

~ D.F.

"Vibrant. Alive. Misunderstood. Superlative soul food."

~ A.W.

"St. Petrie, Dish of Culture, grows here."

~ A.W.

"St. Catharines, St. Paul, St. Timmy's."

~ J.C.



*For more information contact the Parks, Recreation and Culture Services
Department 905-688-5601 ext 5232.*

Final Draft: February 18, 2015



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Report Date: July 3, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: CAO-102-2020 **File:** 10.4.99

Subject: Remote Public Engagement

Strategic Pillar:



Recommendation

That Report CAO-102-2020, regarding Remote Public Engagement, be received for information purposes. FORTHWITH.

Summary

The City hosts a number of public engagement opportunities – both legislated and non-legislated – in an effort to engage and inform the public with respect to ongoing initiatives, service delivery changes, committee hearings and other various decision making processes.

Due to COVID-19 and continued social distancing guidelines and restrictions, staff have been unable to host public engagements by meeting in person. As a result, staff have identified and implemented a number of tools, processes and procedures to enable staff to meet with the public “remotely” over a virtual platform.

This report addresses the following:

1. The public engagements impacted by COVID-19.
2. The strategy and tools being implemented by staff to support remote public engagements.
3. The intention of staff with respect to remote public engagements post COVID-19

Relationship to Strategic Plan

The recommendation in this report does not address any specific point in the strategic plan directly. However, remote public engagements will impact a number of large strategic initiatives, and thus its implementation indirectly impacts the City’s strategic plan.

Background

The City completes approximately 40 different types of engagement with the public for various topics, some of which are legislated and mandatory to complete, and others that are for information purposes or to solicit feedback on a specific topic. These engagements include:

- Council Meetings.
- Committee Meetings.
- Environmental Outreach Presentations.
- Environmental Sustainability Presentations.
- Planning Public Meetings.
- Planning Open Houses.
- Public Information Centres.
- Public Meeting Under By-Law Notice.
- Notice of Project Commencement/Completion.

The vast majority of these engagements have historically been hosted in-person, either at a City facility (like City Hall) or a specific site that is being featured as the topic of discussion.

In March 2020, the City closed its facilities to the public in response to emergency declarations being made by the Province and the City as a result of COVID-19.

As a result, staff determined that in order to move forward on certain projects and initiatives, alternative methods to host public engagements would need to be considered and implemented.

In April 2020, staff assembled a small cross-functional working group to identify the types of public engagements that City staff regularly undertake, and ways to responsibly host those same engagements remotely, or virtually.

The following report will detail the measures being implemented to host public engagements remotely.

Report

Staff assembled a cross-functional team in April, 2020 to evaluate alternative ways to host public engagements given the unique circumstances and challenges associated with COVID-19. The objectives of this team were to:

- Account for all types of public engagement and identify several tools that could be used as alternatives for hosting.
- Ensure all forms of public engagement remain accessible to the entire public, and do not unintentionally limit or exclude residents.
- Develop resources to support staff as they transition to hosting public engagements remotely.

Tool Identification

Staff identified over 40 unique types of public engagements that occur on a regular basis throughout the corporation. Because of this, it was imperative to identify tools that could satisfy the needs of multiple types of public engagements, rather than utilize tools that would be singular in their function.

Staff have moved forward with two tools that enable the majority of public engagements to be facilitated remotely online.

Zoom

Video and online chat services

Video and online chat services, such as Zoom, allow participants to join a virtual meeting room. These tools also allow City staff to host a meeting and maintain vital controls including the ability to record the meeting, to share content to participants, and to tweak settings (including volume, etc.). Services such as Zoom allow for different meeting formats, including those that can host up to 1,000 participants in a single meeting room making it ideal for engagements where a large turnout is expected. Participants can also dial-into the meeting through a telephone if they do not have access to a computer or other electronic device with internet access.

Zoom is currently being used by staff to host a number of remote public engagements virtually, including:

- Council Meetings.
- Committee Meetings (Committee of Adjustment, Heritage Committee).

Services such as Zoom can be used for many types of public engagements including Public Meetings, Public Open Houses, and Public Information Centres. Most recently, the Planning and Building Services team (PBS) has planned to host a Public Open House via Zoom regarding an application for a Zoning By-Law Amendment for the subject lands known as 268 Oakdale Avenue on July 16, 2020, before final approval is made by Council.

As the use of Zoom expands within the corporation, staff have the ability to add licences as required to support the increased use, and effectively increase the City's capacity to host public engagements online.

Alternatives to Zoom exist, including Microsoft Teams and Google Meet; however, their features are more targeted towards businesses. As of the writing of this report, staff have agreed to move forward with Zoom and will re-evaluate the most suitable online chat service once Microsoft Teams is made available to City staff with the Office 365 rollout expected by Q4 2020 to Q1 2021.

Engage STC

The City's online engagement platform, www.EngageSTC.ca, is hosted by Bang the Table. The platform is also used by the cities of Welland and Niagara Falls.

The platform allows for a project page to be created with links to documents, photographs, videos and information on the initiative – and for staff it has a reporting feature that makes gathering the data simple. Staff can be assigned as project leads or administrator which allows them to customize project pages and access feedback and data that is posted to the page.

The platform includes a number of tools that can be used to solicit feedback and engage the public, including:

- Forums
- Ideas
- Places
- Stories
- Guestbook
- Question and Answer
- Quick Poll
- Surveys

The breadth of available tools allows project leads to tailor the project page to the type of public engagement being hosted. For example, a survey can be used to gauge the popularity of a particular project or policy change without the need to host a face-to-face meeting.

Since its launch, Engage STC has been responsible for:

- 30,416 site visits
- 2,773 site registrations
- 4,047 survey responses

And more recently, Engage STC has been used for the following projects and initiatives:

Project	Aware	Informed	Engaged
Lakeside Park Pavilion	5,300	2,800	935
Arena Strategy	3,300	1,800	482
Rodman Hall	1,100	779	302
Private Property Tree By-law	2,600	1,600	283
Short-term Rentals	825	610	256

The Corporate Communications team manages the administrator licences for Engage STC. As the use of Engage STC expands, staff can explore the potential for adding additional licences if required to increase capacity. For Council's information, by January 1, 2021, all public sector organizations in Ontario must meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA. The platform exceeds those requirements with a WCAG 2.1 AA level rating.

Accessible to All

One of the primary concerns with moving in-person public engagements online is continuing to ensure every type of public engagement meets the City's accessibility standards and remains accessible to as many residents as possible.

Staff identified a number of committees, including the Accessibility Committee, that could provide valuable insights into engagement tools. The purpose of contacting these committees is to seek assistance in determining if there are any obvious accessibility concerns that need to be addressed, and to develop alternatives for those who may have difficulty accessing tools like Zoom or Engage STC. Some concerns that need to be considered when moving to a largely online environment include:

- Physical challenges with the operation of applications like Zoom.
- Access to internet and devices that are compatible with applications like Zoom.
- Cognitive challenges that can impact the ability to operate an application like Zoom.

Access to Internet and devices is exaggerated further during COVID-19 as the majority of facilities that offer access to these services for free are heavily restricted or closed.

Staff have compiled a list of volunteers from several committees who have agreed to help staff in identifying and navigating these challenges. Moving forward, staff will continue to work closely with these volunteers to ensure accessibility concerns with respect to remote public engagements are continuously being addressed.

The City has been successful in navigating some of these challenges already. Staff facilitated write-in ballots for residents who did not feel comfortable voting online through the Engage STC platform for the renaming of the Lakeside Park Pavilion in January 2020, and continue to offer off-line solutions as an alternative to obtain information and collect feedback for certain projects and initiatives.

Supporting Resources

Given the need for a swift transition from an in-person to a virtual format, staff have developed a number of resources designed to support projects or initiatives that have some form of remote public engagement component.

User Guides

Several departments have contributed content in an effort to complete user manuals for both Zoom and Engage STC. The purpose of these user manuals is to be high level, and provide an overview of the platforms, the features that they provide, how to set up the platforms and whom to contact with questions or concerns.

The Communications team is assisting with formalizing these guides for publishing and distribution to staff, and they will be housed on the City's intranet moving forward.

IT Support

IT remains vital to the ongoing support of all applications that enable remote public engagement. In addition to ensuring the availability of these applications, IT is responsible for:

- Ensuring updates are pushed out to users.
- Remaining accessible for any troubleshooting or questions / concerns regarding use.
- Managing licences.
- Managing the impact these programs have on the City's servers / systems.

Communications Support

Communications continues to support public engagements for the corporation through the following ways:

- Facilitating notices or communications through www.stcatharines.ca.
- Promoting public engagements such as surveys, public information sessions, polls, etc. via social media and other available channels.
- Issuing news releases, where appropriate, to encourage media outlets to inform the public
- Ensuring any external communications are vetted to meet accessibility standards.
- Providing assistance to departments for the Engage STC platform.

It should be noted that the above objectives were established while keeping in mind that the City has an opportunity to permanently modernize certain types of public engagements, such as by moving them to a virtual platform. As the operations of the City begin to resume, public engagement opportunities will be evaluated individually to determine the feasibility and benefits of hosting them online.

Ongoing Contact

Although COVID-19 has altered the way the public can voice their opinions and concerns to City staff and Council, there are a number of processes currently in place that ensure the public can still continue to do so.

The public can continue to voice their comments and concerns through the following channels:

- Citizens First continues to respond to phone calls, e-mails, mail and items submitted through the City's dropbox. Members of the public can also leave voicemails after-hours.
- All social media channels, including twitter, Instagram, facebook, in addition to the City's website, remain open and available for members of the public to communicate with staff through.
- Members of the public can sign up for the Garden City Current mailing list.

Participation in Council Decision Making

- The agendas and minutes for Council and Committee meetings are available online at www.stcatharines.ca/council
- Council Meetings are livestreamed, available to watch online after the Council date and available through YourTV (scheduling is at the discretion of YourTV).

- Members of the public who wish to provide input into Council's decision making are encouraged to engage Council through written correspondence, delegations or public meetings. Post COVID-19 protocol allows members of the public to submit requests to make a delegation to Council via an online form, available at www.stcatharines.ca/council. Staff is also accessible to assist with requests via phone and e-mail. Members of the public interested in speaking at a public meeting are also encouraged to submit their comments via writing.

Financial Implications

There are direct costs associated with increased usage of tools like Zoom and Engage STC in the form of licensing. As the City increases the number of public engagements hosted on these applications, it is possible there will be additional costs incurred.

As of June 2020, there is no need to increase the number of licences available due to remote public engagements. If the number of these engagements increases to the point where additional licences need to be added, the approximate cost for each tool is as follows:

Zoom – Additional Zoom licenses cost \$27/month under the terms of our current business license. Currently licenses are available for each department and there is no immediate need to increase the amount available.

Engage STC – Bang The Table, the company that supports the Engage STC application, currently allows for two administrator licenses, which allow an unrestricted amount of “project leads.” Assuming an increase in usage, a third administrator license would be useful to help manage the project pages and project leads that are assigned. Each individual license costs \$1,500 per year.

Conclusion

Due to COVID-19, staff have worked to adapt to a primarily online environment and have had to identify unique ways to host public engagements to inform residents of projects and initiatives and solicit feedback. Through a cross-functional team, staff have identified tools appropriate for the majority of public engagements, ensured they are accessible and safe to use, and have prepared supplementary materials to support staff in adopting their use. These efforts have resulted in more modernized solutions for public engagement being available, and may allow the City to engage with a broader audience overall.

Moving forward, staff will continue to evaluate the feasibility of new tools, and look to continuously improve the online experience for public engagements as user friendly as possible for staff and residents.

Prepared & Submitted by
Jacob Ledda, Project Manager

Approved by
Shelley Chemnitz, Chief Administrative Officer
David Oakes, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk

Report Date: July 3, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: LCS-098-2020 **File:** 10.12.1

Subject: Council Correspondence

Strategic Pillar:

Recommendation

That Council receive and file the items listed within the report; and

That Council receive and file additional correspondence distributed for the meeting held July 13, 2020, which is available upon request. FORTHWITH

Report

The Office of the City Clerk is submitting, for the approval of Council, correspondence received during the period of June 12, 2020 to July 2, 2020.

Resolutions

1. City of Welland – Odour and light emissions at cannabis production facilities
2. Grey County – Implementation of Broadband in Grey County
3. City of Sarnia – Long-Term Care Home Improvements
4. Township of Armour – High-speed Internet connectivity in rural areas
5. Town of Renfrew – COVID-19 Pandemic affect on Economic Development, Employment & Small Business in Ontario
6. Town of Kingsville – Rent Assistance Program

Correspondence

7. AMO Watchfile – June 25, 2020
8. AMO Watchfile – July 2, 2020
9. Niagara Peninsula Conversation Authority – 2019 Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report
10. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – 2020 Rabies Control Operations
11. Correspondence from Garry Tate – July 13, 2020 Council Agenda Item 10.1 - Removal of Private Alexander Watson Statue and Review of City Policies.

Niagara Region

12. Curbside Collection Changes Frequently Asked Questions

Planning and Building Services – Building Activity Statistics

- 13. Building Activity Statistics – January 2020
- 14. Building Activity Statistics – February 2020
- 15. Building Activity Statistics – March 2020
- 16. Building Activity Statistics – April 2020
- 17. Building Activity Statistics – May 2020

Reports Requested by Council

18. Outstanding Reports List – updated July 3, 2020

Confidential Memorandum (will be added to the July 13, 2020 SugarSync Folder)

19. Stephanie Tripp, Manager of Realty and Insurance Services – Corporate Insurance Program – 2020-2021 Renewal Pricing

Prepared by

Evan McGinty
Council and Committee Coordinator

Submitted and Approved by

Bonnie Nistico-Dunk
City Clerk



City of Welland
Corporate Services
 Office of the City Clerk
 60 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X4
Phone: 905-735-1700 Ext. 2159 | **Fax:** 905-732-1919
Email: clerk@welland.ca | www.welland.ca

Sub-Item 1

June 26, 2020

File No. 18-87

SENT VIA EMAIL

Niagara Region
 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
 P.O. Box 1042
 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Attention: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Dear Ms. Norio:

Re: June 16, 2020 – WELLAND CITY COUNCIL

At its meeting of June 16, 2020, Welland City Council passed the following motion:

“WHEREAS the residents of Ward 1 and Ward 2 been exposed to continuous nuisance odour and light management control issues from a cannabis facility in the neighbouring municipality of Pelham; and further
WHEREAS the approval process for licensing these facilities has not been adequate in managing the nuisance odour and light emissions; and further
WHEREAS the impact residents have long been patient and accommodating while this business attempts to get the emissions under control and it is increasingly impacting their quality of life; and further
WHEREAS the facility falls outside of our jurisdiction where our by-laws do not apply The City of Welland.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND directs staff to work with Niagara Region and the LAMs in a collaborative manner to create resolutions to present to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in an effort to effect change in the approval process and hold existing facilities accountable for their odour and light emissions; and further
THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Niagara Region, area municipalities, MP, MPPs and AMO for support.”

Yours truly,

Tara Stephens
 City Clerk

TS:jm

c.c.: Sent via email
 Vance Badawey, MP, Niagara Centre
 Jeff Burch, MPP, Niagara Centre
 Association of Municipalities of Ontario
 Niagara Regional Municipalities



Sub-Item 2

Clerk's Department

595 9th Avenue East, Owen Sound Ontario N4K 3E3
519-372-0219 / 1-800-567-GREY / Fax: 519-376-8998

June 16, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Dear the Honourable Doug Ford:

Please be advised that at it's June 11th, 2020 meeting, Grey County Council endorsed the following resolution for your consideration:

CW93-20 Moved by: Councillor Robinson Seconded by: Councillor Keaveney

Whereas now more than ever in our increasingly electronic world, Grey County families and business owners have a need for reliable and affordable broadband to conduct business and stay connected both locally and beyond; and

Whereas broadband is a contributing social and economic driver in supporting the vitality and growth of our communities; and

Whereas families require internet to enable their children to complete school assignments, take online courses, maintain a human connection, or just stream movies at home; and

Whereas Grey County agriculture production, medical, health care, manufacturing, retail and the service industry depend on reliable high-speed connections to support and ensure business continuity and success; and

Whereas connectivity has been a lifeline for those businesses and sectors with access to reliable broadband during this global pandemic; and

Whereas reliable broadband will continue playing an essential role in the economic and social recovery of communities across Grey

County post-pandemic; and

Whereas not all areas of Grey County are within a connectivity coverage area which continues to be increasingly challenging, and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas Grey County has unserved areas as well as under-served areas that receive inadequate or disproportionately low levels of service; and

Whereas while it is important for the Provincial Government to look at both the number of people and the number of businesses that can be serviced by broadband expansion, it is essential, as well, that the Province provide broadband service to areas that have a small number of people, yet cover a vast geographical area; and

Whereas the need for broadband infrastructure improvement is now;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Grey County representing our Grey County residents and business owners alike, call to action Premier Ford; Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Scott; Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Minister Ernie Hardeman and Associate Minister of Energy & MPP Walker to champion the implementation of broadband in the unserved and under-served areas of Grey County; and

That this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities for their endorsement.

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Tara Warder
Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator
(519) 372-0219 x 1294
tara.warder@grey.ca
www.grey.ca

cc Hon. Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure
Hon. Bill Walker, Associate Minister of Energy & Bruce – Grey - Owen Sound MPP
Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
All Ontario Municipalities

Sub-Item 3



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
City Clerk's Office

255 Christina Street N. PO Box 3018
 Sarnia ON Canada N7T 7N2
 519 332-0330 519 332-3995 (fax)
 519 332-2664 (TTY)
www.sarnia.ca clerks@sarnia.ca

June 24, 2020

To: All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Long Term Care Home Improvements

At its meeting held on June 22, 2020, Sarnia City Council adopted the following resolution submitted by Councillor Margaret Bird with respect to the conditions in Long Term Care homes exposed by the pandemic:

That due to the deplorable conditions exposed by the pandemic in LTC homes in the province, and because this is a time for action, not just continuous streams of investigations, commissions and committees, and because the problems have been clearly identified, that Sarnia City Council direct staff to send this motion to the 444 Ontario Municipalities, asking them to urge Premier Ford to start implementing the required resolutions immediately, as follows:

- 1. increasing hours for all part-time and casual labour***
- 2. since the government provides funding for privately-operated homes, they have an obligation to inspect these homes and see that they are being properly run, and that funds are being used for the benefit of the residents and not the huge profitability of the operators, and***
- 3. to end the neglect and unacceptable conditions being experienced, each day, by our vulnerable seniors.***

Sarnia City Council respectfully seeks your endorsement of this resolution. If your municipal council endorses this resolution, we would request that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the following:

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; and

City of Sarnia, City Clerk's Office
clerks@sarnia.ca

Sincerely,



Dianne Gould-Brown
City Clerk

cc: AMO

Sub-Item 4



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

RESOLUTION

Date: April 28, 2020

Motion # 6.

That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the letter, dated April 15, 2020 from Councillor Rod Ward, on the need to make substantial investments in high-speed internet connectivity in rural areas. Furthermore, that this resolution and the letter be circulated to Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and all Ontario municipalities requesting their support.

Moved by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MacPhail, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Seconded by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>
MacPhail, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Carried / Defeated

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by:

Recorded vote requested by:

Recorded Vote:

Blakelock, Rod
Brandt, Jerry
MacPhail, Bob
Ward, Rod
Whitwell, Wendy

For	Opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

April 15, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario has highlighted both our positive responses to a crisis, and some definite shortcomings in infrastructure, systems and services which need to be addressed on a long-term basis. Setting priority on solving these issues will be a challenge, given the differing agendas and the strained budgets. Solving fundamental issues should focus on the most basic needs as a starting point. One of the clear needs in a rural community such as the Almaguin Highlands, highlighted further by recent events, is the need for proper high-speed internet connectivity. Healthcare and education are both going down a path where appropriate connectivity is assumed. Like many models that move outward from metropolitan areas, this assumption is lost on rural areas. For the vast majority of households in our community, true high-speed connectivity simply does not exist. For the vast majority of future strategies in healthcare and education, there is an assumption that it does exist.

Even in areas in the Almaguin Highlands which have 'high-speed' internet, the overall infrastructure is still limited. It is certainly not designed to deal with a sudden huge peak in demand. Whereas the capacity in large urban centres is built to handle the added throughput, there are clear limitations here. The best way to explain it is a comparison to hydro. Imagine if everyone went home at the same time and turned their lights on, but because there wasn't enough hydro capacity overall, all lights were 50% dimmer than normal and some appliances simply didn't work. We no longer have to imagine what happens with internet speed during peak usage. Suddenly during the COVID pandemic, people are working from home who have never worked from home. Kids are trying to do courses on-line. People who are not working are turning on-line to stay connected. Video-conferencing, which was a totally foreign concept to many, is now part of daily routine. Any idea how much internet bandwidth video uses? It's no wonder we hit a wall.

The future of healthcare sees patients being monitored and cared for in their own homes, through the use of technology. The future of education sees students doing much of their learning on-line. The future of business and commerce sees the ability to function outside the 'bricks and mortar' of an office location. Malls disappear and on-line shopping is the norm. For some, that future has already arrived. Our area has already been drastically affected by cutbacks in the area of healthcare and education through gradual decreases in budgets and services. Technology offers us the ability to level the playing field to a great extent. High-speed connectivity cannot be seen as a luxury or a nice-to-have, any more than hydro should be seen that way. In order to solve some other problems (i.e. skyrocketing budgets in healthcare and education) the wise investment is in providing connectivity for every resident in the province.



Rod Ward
Councillor
Armour Township



Sub-Item 5

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RENFREW**RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 06 - 44**

Moved By: Reeve Emon
Seconded By: Councillor Jamieson

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has had a catastrophic affect on employment and small business survival rates, with over 11.3% jobless rate in Ontario in April 2020 alone with only a few signs of a change over the next several fiscal periods;

AND WHEREAS the Renfrew County region is already at a distinct economic disadvantage due to a shorter infrastructure construction season and the lack of essential services, like effective and available broadband across its vast and rural area that would allow for greater flexibility to work from home, or telecommute;

AND WHEREAS the County of Renfrew and the other 19 municipalities and first nations reserves within the geographical borders have an incredible influence on the economy through investments in infrastructure spending, with over \$70million being invested in 2020 in municipal projects, but will now have to evaluate and adjust the way they safely operate and offer community services and modes of transportation;

AND WHEREAS the County of Renfrew and the other 19 municipalities and first nations reserves have submitted over \$73.5 million worth of applications to the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Community, Culture and Recreation Stream*, with all considered shovel ready and shovel worthy;

AND WHEREAS the County of Renfrew and the other 19 municipalities and first nations reserves have submitted previously over \$25million in the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Green Stream* and *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Rural & Northern Stream*;

AND WHEREAS both large and small infrastructure projects have the immediate effect on local small and medium businesses in our region with consideration of the multiplier ratio on every \$1million invested having the ability to create 7.6 jobs in the local marketplace, meaning that approval of these projects would create over 1,200 jobs across Renfrew County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Renfrew calls upon the Governments of Ontario and Canada to fast track the review of current and previous *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* grant applications in order to provide much needed employment and investment into rural Ontario to provide sustainable infrastructure that will be safe and suitable in a post-pandemic setting;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; MP Cheryl Gallant, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; the Honourable John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; the Minister of Infrastructure; the Association of Municipalities Ontario; Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and all Municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

- CARRIED -

I, Jennifer Charkavi, Deputy Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Renfrew, do hereby certify this to be a true and complete copy of Resolution No. 2020 - 06 - 44, passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Renfrew at its meeting held the 23rd day of June 2020.

DATED at Renfrew, Ontario
this 24th day of June 2020.

Jennifer Charkavi

Jennifer Charkavi



2021 Division Road North
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9
Phone: (519) 733-2305
www.kingsville.ca
kingsvilleworks@kingsville.ca

June 29, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford (premier@ontario.ca)
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

-and to-

The Honourable Rod Phillips (rod.phillips@pc.ola.org)
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South; 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Phillips:

RE: Kingsville Council request that the Rent Assistance Program to include all businesses in a lease agreement within all "residential-above-commercial" properties without a cap on commercial/residential ratio

At its Regular Meeting of June 22, 2020, Kingsville Council resolved the following:

391-2020

Moved By Councillor Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Councillor Larry Patterson

Whereas the COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly impacted the business community in the Town of Kingsville;

And Whereas the Province of Ontario has provided financial assistance including a multi-level Rent Assistance program to the business community impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic;

And Whereas the Rent Assistance program offered by the Province of Ontario established an arbitrary cap on multi-use properties where it is common for "residential-above-commercial" developments, especially in downtown and Main Street corridors;

And Whereas Kingsville, particularly in our downtown business centres, has several properties with residential-above-commercial where the ratio of commercial storefront businesses represents less than 30 per cent of the entire building, thus leaving a gap where local business owners cannot qualify for rent relief with their willing landlords;

And Whereas the Town of Kingsville's newly adopted Business Retention and Expansion Project Report identified that Kingsville businesses would benefit from the Province expanding the Rent Assistance program to include all commercial lease properties regardless of overall footprint.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Town of Kingsville requests that the Province of Ontario expand their Rent Assistance program to include all businesses in a lease agreement within all "residential-above-commercial" properties without a cap on commercial/residential ratio;

And Finally, That this Resolution be circulated to the Premier, Doug Ford, the Minister of Finance, Rod Phillips, our local MPP Taras Natyshak, and all Ontario municipalities requesting their support.

CARRIED

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Astrologo'.

Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Corporate Services Department

jastrologo@kingsville.ca

/sjk

CC: Taras Natyshak, MPP (tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca)

CC: All Ontario Municipalities

Sub-Item 7



June 25, 2020

In This Issue

- COVID-19 resources.
- Resolutions on Blue Box Transition due by June 30.
- Coyote and wildlife information.
- New interim Codes of Practice under *Fisheries Act*.
- Deadline to book delegations at AMO Conference is June 30, 2020.
- Ministers' Forum at the AMO 2020 Conference.
- AMO leads the way: Virtual 2020 Exhibit Hall!
- Anytime is a good time to review your Employee Group Benefits Plan.
- LAS Blog: How to stay connected to LAS.
- Energy reporting deadline extended due to COVID-19.
- Resolution concerning missing & murdered Indigenous women.
- Careers with Cochrane DSSAB and Town of Tillsonburg.

COVID-19 Resources

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources page](#) is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

AMO Matters

Municipal Councils that operate Blue Box programs have until June 30, 2020 to pass a resolution on transition. For more information contact [Dave Gordon](#), or check [our website](#).

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has released a series of [information sheets](#) on managing coyotes, wolves and wildlife. Of particular interest is the sheet for municipal governments.

Federal Matters

DFO released two new interim [Codes of Practice](#) - culvert maintenance and temporary stream crossings. The Fish Habitat Protection Program will begin public engagement activities in the fall of 2020. Municipalities with questions navigating the Act should [contact DFO](#).

Eye on Events

Delegation meetings remain a key feature of the AMO conference. The deadline to request delegation meetings at the AMO AGM and Annual Conference is June 30. Submit your requests using the online form in [English](#) or [French](#).

The Ministers' Forum is a highlight for many delegates at the AMO Conference. This year, there will be three smaller Ministers' Forums presented live, one on each of the three days of the Conference. The smaller format will allow more time with Ministers and more questions from you. New program and conference [information](#) is now available. [Register here](#).

AMO's 2020 Conference [virtual exhibit hall](#) offers an unparalleled opportunity for you to showcase your products and connect with municipal leaders and decision makers. Providing greater flexibility, extended trade show hours, multiple points of interaction, and ways to highlight your products, AMO's conference is the place to network and connect. Space is still available. [Book now!](#)

LAS

When is the best time to review your employee group benefits? [Our April blog](#) will explain that group benefits can be reviewed at anytime of the year.

LAS is online! Check out the [LAS blog](#) to find out how to connect with us on LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter.

The Ministry of Energy has extended the 507/18 energy reporting deadline to October 1, 2020 due to COVID. They will run [webinars](#) on the reporting on June 30; July 14, 28; September 8 or 22. Check out the Ministry's [reporting portal](#) for more information. Email BPSsupport@ontario.ca if you have questions.

Municipal Wire*

The Town of Kirkland Lake [resolution](#) resolves to send a request to Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister, Carolyn Bennett, to release the steps her office is taking to ensure the National Action Plan on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women will be completed in a timely fashion.

Careers

[Director of Finance, Timmins - Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board](#). Reports to the Chief Administrative Officer. Applications will be received in confidence by, Sue Chenier 500 Algonquin Blvd. E., Timmins, Ontario, P4N 1B7, telephone 705.266.1201, via fax 705.268.8290, or via e-mail cheniers@cdssab.on.ca no later than July 10, 2020.

[Director of Operations - Town of Tillsonburg](#). Reports to: Chief Administrative Officer. The Operations Services department is comprised of Engineering, Public Works, and Water/Wastewater. Interested candidates are invited to submit their application in confidence online by visiting [Tillsonburg Job Opportunities](#). Application deadline is July 14, 2020.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watch File](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#) Tel: 416.729.5425

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Sub-Item 8



July 2, 2020

In This Issue

- COVID-19 resources.
- AMO Nominations Report (Correction).
- Submission on *Bill 184, Protecting Tenants & Strengthening Community Housing*.
- Revised deadlines for Next Gen 9-1-1 due to COVID-19.
- Ministers' Forum at the AMO 2020 Conference.
- AMO leads the way: Virtual 2020 Exhibit Hall!
- Careers with Scugog and YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka.

COVID-19 Resources

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources page](#) is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

AMO Matters

Nominations for the election of the AMO Board of Directors for the term 2020-2022 closed June 22. The [Nominations Report is now posted](#) with a correction to information about the election in the Northern Caucus.

AMO made [a submission](#) on [Bill 184](#) to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and MMAH, which recently passed Second Reading. Areas of municipal interest include community housing, an administrative authority, and residential landlord and tenants relations, among others.

Federal Matters

The CRTC issued Telecom Regulatory Policy 2017-182 directing telecommunications service providers to make the necessary changes to support a transition to the new NG 9-1-1 system. The [deadlines have been revised](#) due to COVID-19.

Eye on Events

The Ministers' Forum is a highlight for many delegates at the AMO Conference. This year, there will be three smaller Ministers' Forums presented live, one on each of the three days of the Conference. The smaller format will allow more time with Ministers and more questions from you. New program and conference [information](#) is now available. [Register here](#).

AMO's 2020 Conference virtual exhibit hall offers an unparalleled opportunity for you to showcase your products and connect with municipal leaders and decision makers. Providing greater flexibility, extended trade show hours, multiple points of interaction, and ways to highlight your products, AMO's conference is the place to network and connect. Space is still available. Book now!

Careers

Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Scugog. Located within the Regional Municipality of Durham, just an hour northeast from Toronto, you will find the enchanting Township of Scugog. To explore this opportunity further, please submit your resume and related information online to Kartik Kumar, Legacy Executive Search Partners at scugogcao@lesp.ca by Friday, July 31st, 2020.

Chief Executive Officer - YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka. The closing date for receipt of applications is July 31, 2020. To obtain more information or to express your interest in this leadership opportunity please call Tony Woolgar at 416.902.2974 or forward your resume, in complete confidence to tony.woolgar@lesp.ca. To learn more about YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka please visit their web site.

About AMO

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AMO Contacts

AMO Watch File Tel: 416.971.9856

Conferences/Events

Policy and Funding Programs

LAS Local Authority Services

MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario

ONE Investment

Media Inquiries Tel: 416.729.5425

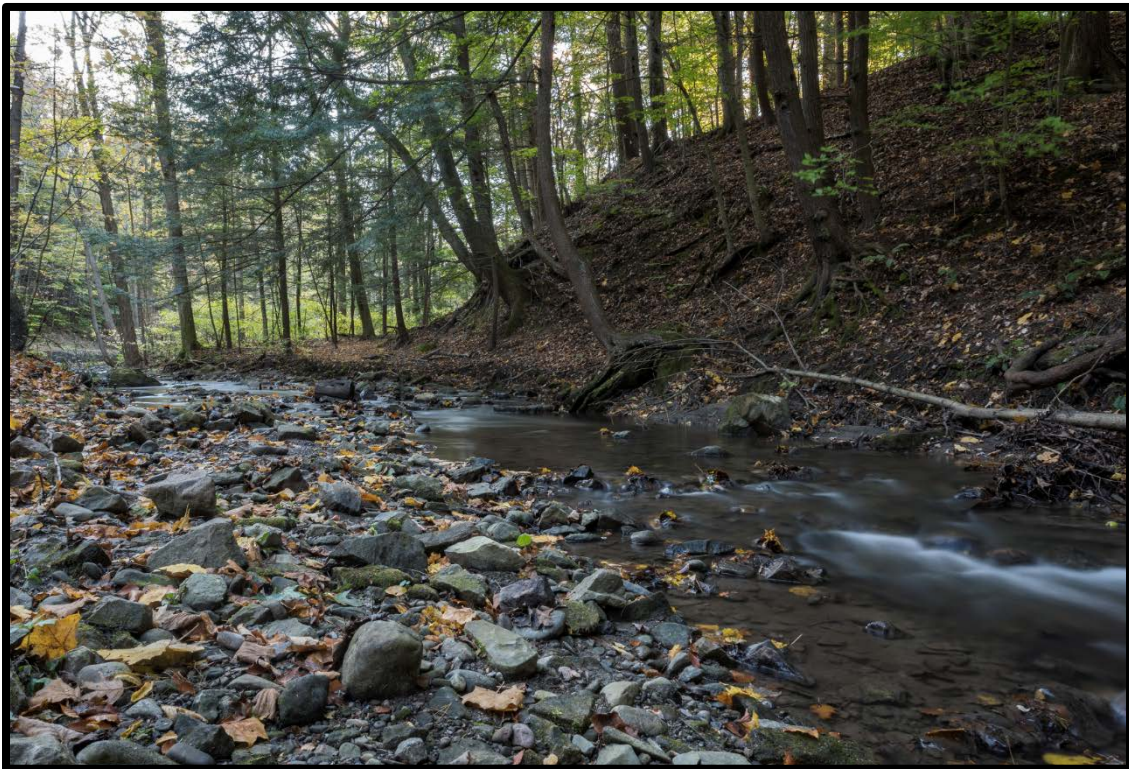
Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions

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Sub-Item 9



NPCA WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM: SUMMARY REPORT OF THE YEAR 2019



MAY 2020

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Table of Acronyms

AOC	Area of Concern
BC MOE	British Columbia Ministry of Environment
BioMAP	Biological Monitoring and Assessment Program
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CWQG	Canadian Water Quality Guidelines
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EMRB	Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch
HIA	Hamilton International Airport
HBI	Hilsenhoff Biotic Index
MECP	Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks
NPCA	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
PGMN	Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
PWQMN	Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network
PWQO	Provincial Water Quality Objective
ODWS	Ontario Drinking Water Standards
OPG	Ontario Power Generation
RMN	Regional Municipality of Niagara
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
WQI	Water Quality Index- for CCME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Water Quality Monitoring Program was implemented in 2001 and is operated in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Haldimand County and the City of Hamilton. Through these partnerships the NPCA collects water quality samples at 80 surface water stations and 13 groundwater stations located throughout the NPCA watershed. The NPCA utilizes both chemical and biological approaches to evaluate the surface water quality. Surface water quality samples are analysed for several indicators such as nutrients, *E. coli*, suspended solids, and metals. Surface water results are used to calculate the Canada Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) Water Quality Index. This index is a Canada-wide standard for reporting water quality information. The NPCA also evaluates water quality in the watershed by sampling the aquatic animals at most of the NPCA surface water quality stations using the Ontario Biological Benthos Monitoring (OBBN) protocol. The density and diversity of animals living in the watercourse provides a biological snapshot of the water quality. Groundwater samples are evaluated by comparing monitoring results to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) Drinking Water Standards.

For surface water, the biological and chemical monitoring results indicate that most of Niagara's watersheds have poor water quality. Total phosphorus, *E. coli*, suspended solids, and chlorides from non-point sources (agricultural/livestock runoff, faulty septic systems) and point sources (combined sewer overflow, urban stormwater) continue to be the major causes of impairment in the NPCA watershed. Twelve Mile Creek continues to have the best water quality rating in the NPCA watershed.

For groundwater, results indicate that water quality generally meets Ontario Drinking Water Standards. Reported groundwater quality exceedances were mainly related to naturally occurring bedrock conditions; however, two groundwater monitoring stations were found to have elevated nitrate concentrations. These nitrate exceedances have been investigated thoroughly by the NPCA, Niagara Public Health and the MECP are likely attributed to surrounding agricultural land use and/or faulty septic systems.

The Water Quality Monitoring Program continues to provide valuable information about the health of the NPCA watershed. Often the way the land is managed is reflected in the health of our water resources. The fact that the water quality is generally poor in the NPCA watershed has been caused by decades of environmental degradation. However, water quality improvement programs that improve how nutrients are managed, increase riparian buffers, and improve forest cover can begin to address these impacts. It will likely take many years of implementing these programs before the water quality in the NPCA watershed improves to the point where it is able to meet federal and provincial water quality guidelines and objectives. As such, it is recommended that the NPCA continue to monitor both our surface water and groundwater to ensure that there is up-to-date current water quality information available, be able to quantify trends, and continue to identify sources of contamination within the NPCA watershed.

NPCA WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM: SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program was initiated in 2001. Before 2001, the NPCA was involved in numerous water quality related initiatives but did not have a dedicated monitoring program. The NPCA has since established an extensive network of monitoring stations located throughout the watershed with the purpose of gathering long-term water quality data for both surface water and groundwater. This network represents the largest and most comprehensive water quality monitoring program in the Niagara Peninsula. The NPCA monitoring network is operated in partnership with the MECP, Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMN), Haldimand County and City of Hamilton. The main objective of the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program is to assess water quality in local watersheds using a network of chemical and biological monitoring stations. The purpose of this Annual Report is to summarize the water quality data collected from these monitoring stations and provide recommendations for future monitoring and stewardship initiatives.

2.0 SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

2.1 CHEMICAL MONITORING

In 2019, the NPCA monitored surface water quality at 80 stations covering 52 watersheds. Grab samples are collected monthly during the ice-free season and analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, bacteria, suspended solids, and general chemistry. The chemical monitoring program is mainly funded through the municipal levy, however the NPCA does receive additional support for lab analysis from the following partners: RMN, MECP, ECCC and the City of Hamilton. These are described in detailed below.

2.1.1 NIAGARA RIVER AOC TRIBUTARY MONITORING PROGRAM

The Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 Report released in 1995 by Environment Canada and the MOE outlines 37 recommended remedial actions to restore the health of the watershed. Recommendation #29 is to develop and implement a Welland River and Niagara River tributaries monitoring program to monitor rural non-point sources of pollution and track the effectiveness of stewardship efforts (MOE and EC 1995). To fulfill this recommendation, the Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC) Tributary Monitoring Program was implemented in 2003 through a partnership between the NPCA, Environment Canada and Climate Change (ECCC) and the MECP. The objectives of the program are to establish baseline water quality conditions at selected tributaries and track changes in water quality over time. Monitoring stations for the Niagara River AOC Tributary Monitoring Program were selected as specified in the funding agreement and sampling was initiated in 2003 and concluded in 2016. Stations were selected to both overlap with historic stations and fill data gaps where required. Commencing in 2017, the NPCA began funding the lab analysis for these monitoring stations.

2.1.2 PROVINCIAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK

In 2003 a partnership was established with the MECP through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) whereby NPCA staff collect monthly water samples at six stations located within the NPCA watershed and the MECP provides laboratory services. The PWQMN was established in 1964 to collect surface water quality information from

rivers and streams at strategic locations throughout Ontario. Over time, stations have been added and discontinued in response to changing MECP and program-specific needs. The NPCA has 13 PWQMN stations which are located on the Black Creek (Fort Erie), Welland River (West Lincoln & Welland), Twenty Mile Creek (West Lincoln and Lincoln), Forty Mile Creek (Grimsby), Four Mile Creek (Niagara-on-the Lake), and Twelve Mile Creek (Pelham & St. Catharines).

2.1.3 OTHER WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS

Several watersheds are monitored through other water quality monitoring programs. In 2002 a monitoring agreement was established with the City of Hamilton whereby NPCA staff collect monthly water samples at eleven stations located within the City of Hamilton's municipal boundaries and the City of Hamilton provides laboratory services. This laboratory partnership was to be cancelled as of January 2018 by the City of Hamilton. However, after the cancellation of this program the NPCA continued to fund the lab analysis for these monitoring stations. The NPCA is also involved in monitoring at the Hamilton International Airport and the Glanbrook Landfill. For further details, please refer to section 6.0.

In 2003 a similar monitoring arrangement was established with the RMN whereby NPCA staff collect water samples at ten stations located within the Niagara Regional Municipal boundary of the NPCA watershed and the RMN provides laboratory services.

2.2 BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

The NPCA also monitors surface water quality using benthic invertebrates as indicators of stream health. Water quality monitoring has historically relied heavily upon chemical testing as a means of measuring the quality of water but the advantages of biological monitoring using benthic invertebrates as indicators of water quality are well documented (Griffiths 1999, Jones *et al.* 2005). Due to their restricted mobility and habitat preferences benthic invertebrates usually remain in a localized area. As a result, they are continuously subjected to the effects of all pollutants and environmental stream conditions over time, and as such can provide a broad overview of water quality related problems. They are abundant in all types of aquatic systems and can be easily collected and identified.

The NPCA has been using benthic invertebrates as indicators of water quality since 1995 and is a leader in the field of biological monitoring in the Niagara Peninsula. Benthic invertebrate samples are collected annually during the spring and fall seasons using the Biological Monitoring and Assessment Program (BioMAP) developed by Dr. Ron Griffiths (Griffiths 1999). BioMAP water quality assessments have been completed at over 100 sites located throughout the NPCA watershed. BioMAP monitoring projects are also completed annually and biennially by the NPCA for Hamilton International Airport and the City of Hamilton Glanbrook Landfill to evaluate environmental management practices.

The NPCA is also involved in the development of the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN). The OBBN is a biomonitoring research initiative that was launched in 2002. The goal of the OBBN is to provide a standardized benthic invertebrate sampling protocol for the province of Ontario. A secondary goal of the OBBN is to provide a biological complement to the chemistry based PWQMN. The NPCA is an active participant in the development of the OBBN and is providing on-going research support in the upper Twelve Mile Creek watershed. In 2016, the NPCA transitioned its benthic invertebrate sampling protocol from the BioMAP protocol to the OBBN sampling protocol with the reporting focus on the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI).

3.0 SURFACE WATER QUALITY INDICATOR PARAMETERS

The indicator parameters described in the following sections best reflect the range of water quality issues that are likely encountered in the watershed and are most useful in assessing relative stream quality. These indicator parameters and their respective surface water quality objectives are summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Summary of surface water quality indicator parameters

INDICATOR PARAMETER	OBJECTIVE	REFERENCE
Chloride	120 mg/L (Chronic)	CWQG (CCME 2011)
Nitrate	2.9 mg/L	CWQG (CCME 2003)
Total phosphorus	30 µg/L	PWQO (MOE 1994)
Suspended solids	25 mg/L	BC MOE (2001)
Copper	5 µg/L	PWQO (MOE 1994)
Lead	5 µg/L	PWQO (MOE 1994)
Zinc	20 µg/L	PWQO (MOE 1994)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	100 counts/100 mL	PWQO (MOE 1994)
Benthic invertebrates	>Good	HBI (Hilsenhoff 1987)

3.1 CHLORIDE

Chloride is a naturally occurring substance found in all waters. Chloride can be toxic to aquatic organisms with acute toxic effects at high concentrations and chronic effects on growth and reproduction at lower concentrations. Chloride ions are conservative, which means that they are not degraded in the aquatic environment and tend to remain in solution. Chloride is extensively used in the form of sodium chloride and calcium chloride for salting of roadways and ice removal during the winter season. Other anthropogenic or human-derived sources of chloride include sewage, animal waste, storm and irrigation drainage, fertilizers, and industrial effluent. Due to natural variability, there is currently no guideline for chloride in surface water. The Canadian Water Quality Guidelines (CWQG) for the Protection of Aquatic Life recommend that long-term or chronic chloride concentrations should not exceed 120 mg/L in surface water (CCME 2011).

3.2 NITRATE

Nitrate is the most common form of nitrogen that occurs in surface water. In aerobic or oxygen-rich water, bacteria convert ammonium and nitrite to nitrate through a process known as nitrification. In anaerobic or oxygen-depleted water, the process is reversed through denitrification. The nitrate ion is the most stable form of nitrogen in water and does not tend to combine with other ions in solution. Nitrate can be toxic to aquatic organisms and elevated concentrations contribute to excessive plant and algae growth in surface water. Anthropogenic sources of nitrate include sewage discharges, animal waste, fertilizers and pesticides. The CWQG for the Protection of Aquatic Life recommend that nitrate-nitrogen concentrations should not exceed 2.9 mg/L in surface water (CCME 2003).

3.3 TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

Phosphorus is a natural element found in rocks, soils and organic material and is an essential nutrient for plant growth. Phosphorus clings tightly to soil particles and is often associated with suspended sediment. Excessive phosphorus concentrations stimulate the overgrowth and decomposition of plants and algae. The decomposition of organic matter in turn depletes dissolved oxygen concentrations and stresses aquatic organisms such as fish and benthic invertebrates. Total phosphorus is a measure of all forms of phosphorus in a water sample, and includes biologically accessible phosphates. Anthropogenic sources of phosphorus include fertilizers, pesticides, and sewage discharges. The interim Ontario Provincial Water Quality Objective (PWQO) for total phosphorus in streams and rivers is 30 µg/L (MOE 1994).

3.4 SUSPENDED SOLIDS

Suspended solids are a measure of undissolved solid material in surface water and usually consist of silt, clay, plankton, and fine particles of organic and inorganic matter. Sources of suspended solids include soil erosion, stormwater, wastewater, and industrial effluent. Fine particles are significant carriers of phosphorus, metals and other contaminants. Concentrations of suspended solids vary seasonally and often peak during rain events. Due to natural variability in surface water there is currently no water quality guideline for suspended solids in Ontario. High concentrations of suspended solids in surface water can negatively impact aquatic organisms. Water quality guidelines for the protection of aquatic life from the British Columbia Ministry of the Environment recommend that the maximum concentration of suspended solids in surface water should not exceed 25 mg/L (BC MOE 2001). This is a conservative guideline and will be under review for future NPCA reporting.

3.5 COPPER

Copper is an essential trace element that is toxic to aquatic organisms at elevated concentrations. In surface water copper tends to bind with organic matter and accumulate in streambed sediment. Natural sources are wind-blown dust, decaying vegetation and from forest fires. Anthropogenic sources of copper include industrial wastewater, sewage discharges and pesticides. The interim PWQO for copper is 5 µg/L (MOE 1994).

3.6 LEAD

Lead is a non-essential trace element that is toxic to aquatic organisms at elevated concentrations. Lead tends to bioaccumulate and can affect the central nervous system. Lead occurs naturally in the environment. However, most lead concentrations that are found in the environment are a result of human activities. Anthropogenic sources of lead include industrial wastewater, sewage discharges, municipal waste incineration, fertilizers and pesticides. The interim PWQO for lead is 5 µg/L (MOE 1994).

3.7 ZINC

Zinc is an essential trace element that is toxic to aquatic organisms at elevated concentrations. In surface water zinc tends to bind with organic matter and accumulate in streambed sediment. Zinc occurs naturally in air, water and soil. Anthropogenic sources

of zinc include industrial wastewater, sewage discharges and stormwater runoff. The interim PWQO for zinc is 20 µg/L (MOE 1994).

3.8 *ESCHERICHIA COLI*

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) is a type of fecal coliform bacteria that is commonly found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals and humans. *E. coli* is used as an indicator for the presence of sewage or animal waste in surface water, and the possible presence of pathogens (Tchobanoglous & Schroeder 1987). The PWQO for *E. coli* is 100 counts per 100 mL (MOE 1994).

3.9 BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS: BENTHIC INVERTEBRATES

Benthic invertebrates are the larger organisms inhabiting the substrate of watercourses for at least part of their life cycle. As a rule, benthic invertebrates include those species whose body width exceeds 500 microns. Examples of benthic invertebrate species that are commonly found in the NPCA watershed include clams, snails, leeches, worms, and the larval stages of dragonflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, mayflies, and beetles.

The NPCA collects benthic samples during the spring and fall seasons each year at approximately 30 monitoring sites. Once collected, counted and preserved, the benthic invertebrates are identified to family level and various statistics were calculated. For this 2019 Report the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI) was calculated for each sample site. The HBI estimates the overall tolerance of the community in a sampled area, weighted by the relative abundance of each family taxonomic group. Organisms are assigned a tolerance values based on those provided Hilsenhoff (1987). Water quality is classified as gradient from *excellent* to *very poor* in to recognize the occurrence of organisms whose environmental requirements and tolerances match those which would be expected at the site without the input of environmental stresses to those with the organisms found are less sensitive. Therefore, more tolerant to environmental stresses than organisms which would have historically occurred. The benthic population at an impaired site would typically be dominated by these more tolerant species, and as a result biodiversity at the site would be quite low.

Threshold values to classify the water quality of watercourses based on Hilsenhoff Family Biotic Index (1987)	
Family Biotic Index	Water Quality Rating
0.00-3.75	Excellent
3.76-4.25	Very Good
4.26-5.00	Good
5.01-5.75	Fair
5.76-6.50	Fairly Poor
6.51-7.25	Poor
7.26-10.00	Very Poor

4.0 SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

The Water Quality Index (WQI) was used to summarize the indicator parameter data collected from NPCA surface water quality monitoring stations between 2015 and 2019. This is a significant departure from previous water quality reports where the entire dataset (2002 to present) was used to generate the CCME WQI. Although this approach reduces the overall sample size of some water quality monitoring stations it allows for the partitioning of the water quality dataset to determine if CCME WQI ratings are changing over time. This approach is consistent with Conservation Ontario's recommendation for comparing water quality data in watershed reporting (Conservation Ontario 2011). Using

the five-year blocks of data minimizes seasonal variation and provides sufficient data for reliable statistics in surface water analysis.

The WQI was developed by a sub-committee established under the Canadian Council for Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Water Quality Guidelines Task Group to provide a convenient means of summarizing complex water quality information and communicating it to the public (CCME 2001). The WQI incorporates the number of parameters where water quality objectives have been exceeded, the frequency of exceedances within each parameter, and the amplitude of each exceedance. The index produces a number between 0 and 100 which represents the worst and best water quality, respectively. These numbers are divided into five descriptive categories that range from *poor* to *excellent* (**Table 2**). The CCME WQI has been used extensively by other agencies, including conservation authorities and provincial ministries, as a means of reporting water quality data.

Table 2: CCME Water Quality Index categories (CCME 2001)

CATEGORY	WATER QUALITY INDEX	DESCRIPTION
Excellent	95-100	Water quality is protected with a virtual absence of threat or impairment; conditions very close to natural or pristine levels.
Good	80-94	Water quality is protected with only a minor degree of threat or impairment; conditions rarely depart from natural or desirable levels.
Fair	65-79	Water quality is usually protected but occasionally threatened or impaired; conditions sometimes depart from natural or desirable levels.
Marginal	45-64	Water quality is frequently threatened or impaired; conditions often depart from natural or desirable levels.
Poor	0-44	Water quality is almost always threatened or impaired; conditions usually depart from natural or desirable levels.

The calculation of the WQI is dependent on the water quality parameters and objectives selected for analysis. The indicator parameters and objectives summarized in **Table 1** were used to determine the WQI for NPCA monitoring stations. Benthic invertebrate data is not included in the WQI and is presented separately. It is important to note that the water quality information presented in this report is limited by the size of the dataset which represents 1 to 5 years of data, depending on the station. The reliability of the WQI rating improves over time (> 3 years) as more data is collected and a wider range of water quality conditions are captured in the dataset.

4.1 TREND ANALYSIS

The NPCA operates with its partners the most extensive surface water quality monitoring network in the NPCA watershed. The dataset that has been collected through this network has reached a sufficient size so that trend analysis can be conducted on some NPCA water quality monitoring stations. Trend analyses are very useful for determining if water quality parameter concentrations are increasing, decreasing or remaining unchanged over time. If the concentration of a water quality parameter is found to be increasing or remaining in an impaired status then appropriate corrective action can be taken. Trend analysis is also useful for evaluating the performance of stewardship or remediation efforts.

The data on many water quality parameters for the NPCA are not normally distributed and it is not appropriate to use parametric statistical methods to test for trends. Non-parametric statistical methods can deal effectively with non-normally distributed data and are flexible enough to account for seasonal variability. The Seasonal Mann-Kendall Test is often used to determine trends in water quality data (Helsel and Hirsch 1992). The Seasonal Mann-Kendall Test modified from the Mann-Kendall Test (Helsel and Hirsch 1992), compares relative ranks of data values from the same season. This means the water quality parameter concentrations of May would be compared with concentrations of May in other years. Similarly, June concentrations would be compared with June concentrations and so forth. The null hypothesis (H_0) is that the concentration of a water quality parameter is independent of time or, in other words, the datasets show no distinct trend. The alternative hypothesis (H_A) means that a significant increasing or decreasing trend is found over time. The Seasonal Mann-Kendall uses alpha (α) to quantify the probability that a trend exists. For this report, the alpha level for statistical significance was set at $\alpha = 0.05$. This alpha level is commonly used in statistical methods to test for statistical significance. It should be noted that a value of $\alpha = 0.05$ means there is a 5 percent possibility of falsely rejecting the null hypothesis that no trend exists. Probability values of less than 0.05 mean there was statistically significant trend (increasing or decreasing). Trend analysis using the Seasonal Mann-Kendall Test was conducted on chloride, *E. coli*, total phosphorus and total suspended solids concentrations at all stations with 5 or more years of data using software provided by the U.S. Geological Survey (Helsel *et al.*, 2005). Trend analysis for copper, lead, nitrate and zinc parameters could only be conducted on a small number of stations because many concentrations found were below the laboratory detection limits. These were reported as “non-detect” or a “less than” the laboratory detection limit. Trend analysis with many non-detections or less than values was not favourable for analysis and therefore was excluded from most stations.

4.2 WELLAND RIVER WATERSHED

The Welland River is the largest watershed in the NPCA jurisdiction with a total drainage area of 1,023 km². The watershed covers eleven local municipalities, originating in the Town of Ancaster and spanning the center of the Niagara Peninsula to its physical outlet in the City of Niagara Falls at the Niagara River (**Figure 1**). Over 70% of the watershed is classified as rural. The Welland River is part of the Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC) and is targeted for restoration through the Remedial Action Plan. As shown in **Appendix A**, 29 of the 80 surface water quality monitoring stations are in the Welland River watershed, and 13 of these 29 stations are located on the main Welland River channel.

4.2.1 Welland River: Water Quality Index

The calculated WQI for the Welland River ranges from *poor* to *excellent*. Based on the 2015-2019 data collected, seven of thirteen Welland River stations have *poor* water quality, five stations were rated as *marginal*, one station was rated as fair and one was rated as *excellent* (WR012). WQI results are illustrated in **Appendix A**. Mapping showing the spatial distribution of the eight WQI parameters from 2015 to 2019 are found in **Appendix B to Appendix I**. Highlights of the water quality monitoring in the Welland River are summarized in **Table 3**:



Figure 1: Map of the subwatersheds monitored for water quality within the Welland River watershed

Table 3: Summary of NPCA water quality data for the Welland River (2015-2019)

STATION	WQI RATING ↔ Stable ↓ Declining ↑ Improving	HILSENHOFF FAMILY BIOTIC INDEX RATING	FACTORS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY (%)= PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING GUIDELINES THIS IS ONLY REPORTED WHEN >50% OF SAMPLES EXCEED GUIDELINE	TREND GREEN- DECREASING BLACK- STABLE RED- INCREASING
WR00A Welland River	Marginal ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of copper, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (95%), and total suspended solids Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total phosphorus concentrations Stable chloride, and total suspended solid concentrations
WR000 Welland River	Fair ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of <i>E. coli</i> (57%) total phosphorus (81%), and total suspended solids. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Groundwater discharge provides intermittent baseflow at this but the watercourse will dry up in the summer when groundwater levels drop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride and total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i> concentrations
WR001 Welland River	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (51%), nitrate, total phosphorus (63%), total suspended solids and zinc (50%) Potential stressors include: agricultural, airport and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing zinc concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
WR002 Welland River	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of chloride (100%), copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, nitrate, total phosphorus, total suspended solids and zinc (93%) Potential stressors include: agricultural, airport and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing <i>E. coli</i> concentrations Stable chloride, total phosphorus, total suspended solid and zinc concentrations
WR020	Marginal	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (59%), copper, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (100%), and total suspended solids Potential stressors include agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data
WR003 Welland River	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of chloride (62%), copper, <i>E. coli</i>, nitrate total phosphorus (93%), total suspended solids (55%) and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solid concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations
WR004 Welland River	Marginal ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (95%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Lake Niapenco is improving the water quality the Welland River at this site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations Stable chloride concentrations
WR005 Welland River	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (64%), nitrate, total phosphorus (98%), suspended solids (70%) and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride concentrations Stable total phosphorus and suspended solid concentrations

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algae and duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing <i>E. coli</i> concentrations.
WR006 Welland River	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Algae and duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
WR007 Welland River	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%) total suspended solids (64%) and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural, roadway run-off Algae and duckweed observed during summer months Site is invaded by non-native Zebra Mussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride and total phosphorus concentrations Increasing <i>E. coli</i> and total suspended solid concentrations
WR009B Welland River	Poor ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of copper, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (93%), total suspended solid and zinc Potential stressors include: Sewage treatment plant effluent and agricultural and urban run-off Site strongly influenced by Niagara River backwater which has the potential to improve water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
WR010 Welland River	Marginal ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of copper, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (78%), and total suspended solids. Potential stressors include: Sewage treatment plant effluent and agricultural and urban run-off Site strongly influenced by Niagara River backwater which has the potential to improve water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total phosphorus concentrations
WR011 Welland River	Marginal ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances of chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (72%) and total suspended solids Potential stressors include: Sewage treatment plant effluent and agricultural and urban run-off Site strongly influenced by Niagara River backwater which has the potential to improve water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations
WR012 Welland River	Excellent	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No water quality exceedances observed Site influenced by re-direction of the Niagara River for Ontario Power Generation hydroelectricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data

4.2.2 WELLAND RIVER: HILSENHOFF BIOTIC INDEX RESULTS

Hilsenhoff Biotic Index results indicate that water quality at most stations in the Welland River ranged from *Very Poor* to *Poor* (**Table 3**). Two sites managed to obtain a *Fairly Poor* rating (WR000 and WR005). Results from Hilsenhoff Biotic Index assessments completed between 2015 and 2019 are illustrated in **Appendix J**.

Benthic invertebrates at stations WR001 and WR002 are negatively impacted by discharges from Hamilton International Airport (HIA). The NPCA has completed annual BioMAP assessments for Hamilton International Airport since 1998 (NPCA 2019). Recent NPCA reports (2019) recommend that HIA review its stormwater and de-icing management practices to improve water quality in the upper Welland River. Low BHI scores observed in the Welland River mainly are due to sediment loading, lack of in-stream habitat, and nutrient enrichment. A biological assessment was not completed for WR009B,

WR010, WR011 and WR012 due to high water depth and channel morphology. These stations are located at the siphon where the Welland River flows beneath the Welland Canal and would require boat access for sample collection.

4.2.3 WELLAND RIVER: KEYS FINDINGS

- Based on the 2015-2019 data, elevated concentrations of total phosphorus are a widespread cause of water quality impairment in the Welland River. Greater than 95% of samples collected in the main Welland River exceeded the PWQO with some concentrations greater than 20 times the PWQO. High phosphorus in the Welland River has stimulated the overgrowth of algae and duckweed throughout the watershed. When these plants transpire, and decompose they deplete dissolved oxygen in the water and this in turn stresses aquatic organisms such as fish and benthic invertebrates. Manure from livestock operations, sewage discharges, soil erosion, fertilizers, and pesticides are sources of total phosphorus in the Welland River.
- Generally, the overall water quality of the Welland River downstream of the City of Welland is less stressed than the water upstream of the City of Welland. This is caused by the redirection of the Niagara River water down the Welland River in Chippawa for Ontario Power Generation (OPG). This results in a dilution effect that reduces the concentrations of water quality parameters. This effect is observed all the way to the east side of the City of Welland. However, upstream of the City of Welland, the river flow pattern caused by OPG operations and canal siphons are likely restricting the natural flushing of sediment, nutrients and other contaminants from the central Welland River watershed and exacerbating water quality conditions in this watershed.
- The Hamilton International Airport (HIA) water quality stations WR001 and WR002 continue to have water quality designated as *poor* due to elevated concentrations of chloride and zinc. Chloride concentrations are stable at WR001 but increasing at WR002 despite the recent removal of the road salt storage pad. Zinc concentrations found at these stations consistently exceed the PWQO and are the highest observed in the NPCA water quality network. The current information that the HIA has suggests that zinc is coming off the brake system of the airplanes. It should be noted that zinc concentrations have been decreasing at both stations. The NPCA also has not observed any propylene glycol discharge in WR001 or WR002 this year. In 2011, the HIA expanded its facilities and upgraded its water quality safeguards to WR001 and WR002. Continued monitoring by the NPCA will track water quality changes at these tributaries. The NPCA does not monitor the water quality of the Hamilton Airport tributary identified as the potential source of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) that has been found in turtle/fish tissue sampled at Binbrook Conservation Area. PFOS is a man-made compound belonging to a large family of compounds known as perfluorinated chemicals. These compounds do not readily breakdown and have the potential to bioaccumulate in animal tissue. The PFOS investigation is currently being led by the MECP and Hamilton Public Health, and new fish consumption guidelines were implemented for the 2018 Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish. The NPCA has been notifying Binbrook Conservation Area park users about the new fish consumption guidelines and information regarding PFOS has been posted on the NPCA website. The NPCA water quality department has added PFOS sampling in 2014 as part of special project monitoring program at Binbrook Reservoir. The NPCA still undertakes this monitoring.

4.3 WELLAND RIVER TRIBUTARIES

Fourteen tributaries of the Welland River are monitored through the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program. These tributaries include: Buckhorn Creek, Elsie Creek, Mill Creek, Oswego Creek, Beaver Creek, Big Forks Creek, Coyle Creek, Drapers Creek, Feeder Canal, Grassy Brook, Tee Creek, Thompson Creek, Power Canal and Lyons Creek (**Figure 1**). Tributaries were selected based on drainage area, landuse, restoration projects, and watershed plans.

4.3.1 WELLAND RIVER TRIBUTARIES: WATER QUALITY INDEX

Based on the results of the WQI thirteen of sixteen Welland River tributary stations have water quality that is rated as *poor* (**Table 4**). Tee Creek (TE001), Lyons Creek (LY003), and the Power Canal (PR001) were found to have water quality rated as *marginal*. WQI results are illustrated in **Appendix A**. Mapping showing the spatial distribution of the eight WQI parameters from 2015 to 2019 are found in **Appendix B** to **Appendix I**. Highlights of the water quality monitoring in the Welland River are summarized in **Table 4**:

Table 4: Summary of NPCA water quality data for Welland River tributaries (2015-2019)

STATION WATERSHED	WQI RATING ↔ Stable ↓ Declining ↑ Improving	HILSENHOFF FAMILY BIOTIC INDEX RATING	FACTORS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY (%)= PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING GUIDELINES THIS IS ONLY REPORTED WHEN >50% OF SAMPLES EXCEED GUIDELINE	TREND GREEN- DECREASING BLACK- NO TREND RED- INCREASING
BF001 Big Forks Creek	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (63%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zincs. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Significant algae and overabundance of duckweed observed during summer months Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing total phosphorus concentrations
BU001 Buckhorn Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (70%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (98%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
BV001 Beaver Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Significant algae observed during summer months Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations

CO001 Coyle Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Site invaded by non-native Zebra Mussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solids concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus concentrations
DR001 Drapers Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (85%), total phosphorus (95%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: urban run-off Algae observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations
EL001 Elsie Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (97%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Algae observed during summer months Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
GR001 Grassy Brook	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Algae observed during summer months Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TE001 Tee Creek	Marginal ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Nutrient enrichment from upstream agricultural areas Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
LY003 Lyons Creek	Poor ↓	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Site strongly influenced by Niagara River backwater which has the potential to improve water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations

MI001 Mill Creek	Poor ↓	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (97%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Algae and overabundance of duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total phosphorus concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, and total suspended solid concentrations
OS001 Oswego Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i> (60%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids (83%) and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Algae and overabundance of duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride concentrations Increasing <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solids
OS002 Oswego Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (65%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Algae and overabundance of duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TC001 Thompson Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (72%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
PR001 Power Canal	Marginal ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in <i>E. coli</i> (62%), total phosphorus, total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: urban run-off and Niagara Falls waste water treatment plant Water source at this site is Niagara River water which potentially improves water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
MR001 Mill Race Creek	Poor ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i> (70%), total phosphorus (100%) and total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data
FC001 Feeder Canal	Poor ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, total phosphorus (84%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data

4.3.2 WELLAND RIVER TRIBUTARIES: HILSENHOFF BIOTIC INDEX RESULTS

HBI results indicate that water quality is ranged from *very poor* to *fairly poor* at all Welland River tributary stations currently monitored (**Table 4**). Results from biological assessments completed between 2015 and 2019 are illustrated in **Appendix J**. Generally, the HBI results match with water chemistry ratings. Sediment loading, lack of in-stream habitat, and nutrient enrichment are the primary causes of impairment at all stations. Buckhorn Creek BioMAP assessments are completed biennially by the NPCA for the City of Hamilton as part of the Glanbrook Landfill monitoring plan. Biological assessments completed between 1998 and 2018 indicate that water quality is impaired; however, there is no additional impairment resulting from the landfill (NPCA, 2018).

4.3.3 WELLAND RIVER TRIBUTARIES: KEY FINDINGS

- Based on the 2015-2019 data, elevated concentrations of total phosphorus are a widespread cause of water quality impairment in the Welland River tributaries. Approximately 95% of samples collected from the Welland River tributaries exceeded the PWQO with some concentrations greater than 30 times the PWQO. Concentrations of total phosphorus are very high in Beaver Creek, Big Forks Creek, Oswego Creek and Tee Creek. These subwatersheds have been prioritized for Best Management Practice works to reduce phosphorus loads. Sources of phosphorus include manure from livestock operations, sewage discharges, soil erosion, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- *E. coli* concentrations frequently exceed the provincial objective in Buckhorn Creek, Big Forks Creek, Beaver Creek, Coyle Creek, Drapers Creek, Elsie Creek, Mill Creek, and Oswego Creek.
- Decreasing total phosphorus concentrations in Mill Creek are now being observed with the NPCA's long-term data. Mill Creek watersheds have been targeted by the NPCA's stewardship program over the last twenty years to reduced non-point pollution such as nutrients and sediment. These data provide some evidence that this program is reducing nutrient runoff.



NPCA staff using a water quality sensor to measure dissolved oxygen.

4.4 TWENTY MILE CREEK WATERSHED

The Twenty Mile Creek watershed is the second largest watershed in the NPCA jurisdiction with a total drainage area of 302 km². Nine of 80 NPCA surface water quality monitoring stations are located within the Twenty Mile Creek watershed. There are six stations on the main channel. There are also monitoring stations for each of the subwatersheds which include Spring Creek, North Creek and Gavora Ditch (**Figure 4**).

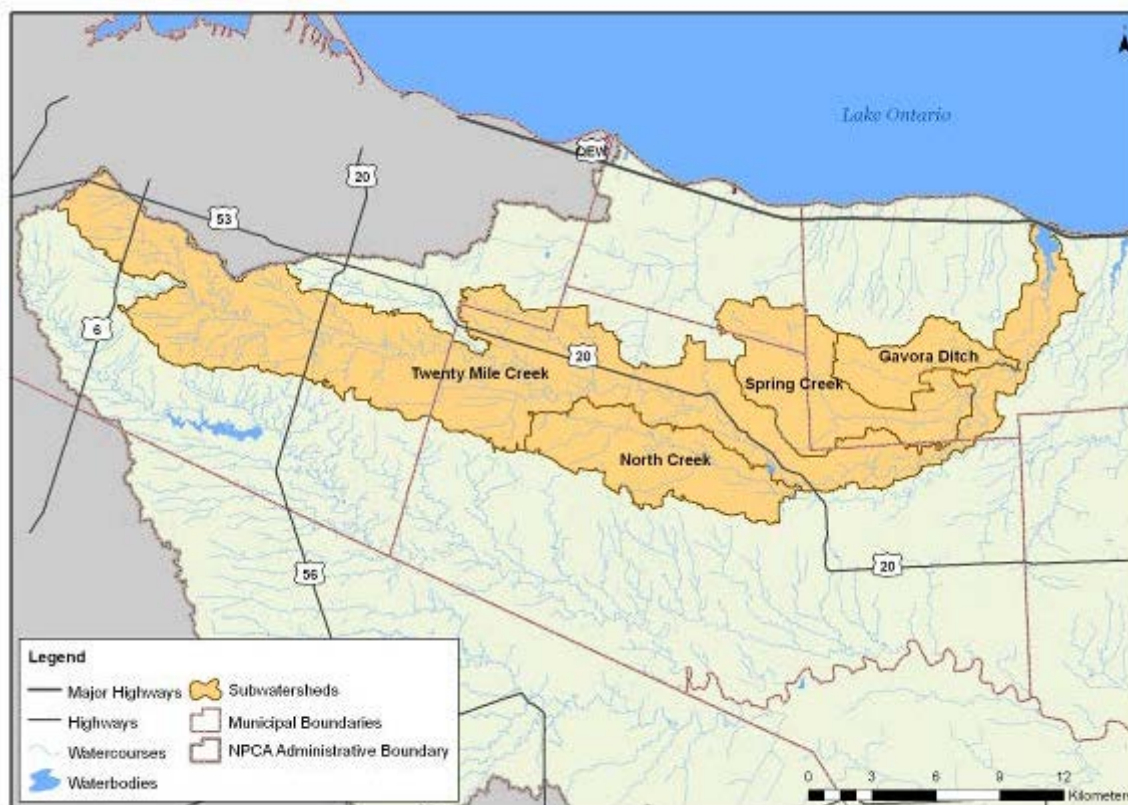


Figure 4: Map of the subwatersheds monitored for water quality within the Twenty Mile Creek watershed

4.4.1 TWENTY MILE CREEK WATERSHED: WATER QUALITY INDEX

Based on the results of the WQI six of nine Twenty Mile Creek watershed stations have water quality that is rated as *poor*. Three stations (GV001, TN002 & SP001) were rated as *marginal*. WQI results are illustrated in **Appendix A**. Mapping showing the spatial distribution of the eight WQI parameters from 2015 to 2019 are found in **Appendix B** to **Appendix I**. Highlights of the water quality monitoring in the Twenty Mile Creek are summarized in **Table 5**:

Table 5: Summary of NPCA water quality data for the Twenty Mile Creek watershed (2015-2019)

STATION WATERSHED	WQI RATING ↔ Stable ↓ Declining ↑ Improving	HILSENHOFF FAMILY BIOTIC INDEX RATING	FACTORS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY (%) = PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING GUIDELINES THIS IS ONLY REPORTED WHEN >50% OF SAMPLES EXCEED GUIDELINE	TREND GREEN- DECREASING BLACK- NO TREND RED- INCREASING
TN001 Twenty Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (51%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (74%), lead, total phosphorus (97%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and urban run-off Site invaded by the non-native Chinese Mystery Snails Excessive algae observed during the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TN002 Twenty Mile Creek	Marginal ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (52%), lead, total phosphorus (93%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and urban run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TN003 Twenty Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (56%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and urban run-off Excessive algae observed during the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TN003A Twenty Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, <i>E. coli</i> (60%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and urban run-off Excessive algae observed during the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TN004 Twenty Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (67%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids (59%) and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Algae observed during the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TN006 Twenty Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i> (50%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Excessive algae observed during the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, nitrate, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations

NC001 North Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (65%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months Excessive algae observed during the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and suspended solid concentrations
SP001 Spring Creek	Marginal ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i> (79%), lead, total phosphorus (97%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months Excessive algae observed during the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solids concentrations Stable chloride <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus concentrations
GV001 Gavora Ditch	Marginal ↑	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in <i>E. coli</i> (69%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), and total suspended solids Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months Algae observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations

4.4.2 TWENTY MILE CREEK WATERSHED: HILSENHOFF BIOTIC INDEX RESULTS

HBI results indicate that water quality is ranged from *poor* to *fairly poor* at most Twenty Mile Creek monitoring stations (**Table 5**). Results from biological assessments completed between 2015 and 2019 are illustrated in **Appendix J**. Reduced baseflow, high sediment loading due to erosion, lack of in-stream habitat, and nutrient enrichment are primary causes of impairment at these stations.

4.4.3 TWENTY MILE CREEK WATERSHED: KEY FINDINGS

- Based on the 2015-2019 data, elevated concentrations of total phosphorus are a widespread cause of water quality impairment in the Twenty Mile watershed. Approximately 95% of samples collected from the Twenty Mile watershed exceeded the PWQO with some concentrations greater than 30 times the PWQO.
- *E. coli* and total suspended solid concentrations frequently exceed the provincial objective in Twenty Mile Creek watershed. Efforts through BMPs works should continue to be implemented to reduce the sources of *E. coli* in this watershed.



NPCA staff using a water quality sensor to measure stream temperature.

4.5 LAKE ONTARIO TRIBUTARIES

Eighteen tributaries discharging into Lake Ontario are monitored through the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program. These tributaries include: Forty Mile Creek, Thirty Mile Creek, Eighteen Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek, Fifteen Mile Creek, Twelve Mile Creek, Francis Creek, Richardson Creek, Walker's Creek, Eight Mile Creek, Six Mile Creek, Four Mile Creek, Two Mile Creek, One Mile Creek, Purdhommes Drain, Welland Canal, Shriners Creek and Beaver Dam Creek (**Figure 6**). Twenty Mile Creek is also a tributary of Lake Ontario but is presented separately due to the relatively large size of the watershed.

4.5.1 LAKE ONTARIO TRIBUTARIES: WATER QUALITY INDEX

Based on the results of the WQI, sixteen of twenty-seven Lake Ontario tributary stations have water quality that is rated as *poor*. Nine stations were rated as *marginal*, and two stations were rated as *fair*. WQI results are illustrated in **Appendix A**. Mapping showing the spatial distribution of the eight WQI parameters from 2015 to 2019 are found in **Appendix B to Appendix I**. Highlights of the water quality monitoring in the Lake Ontario tributaries are summarized in **Table 6**.



Tributary outlet to Lake Erie

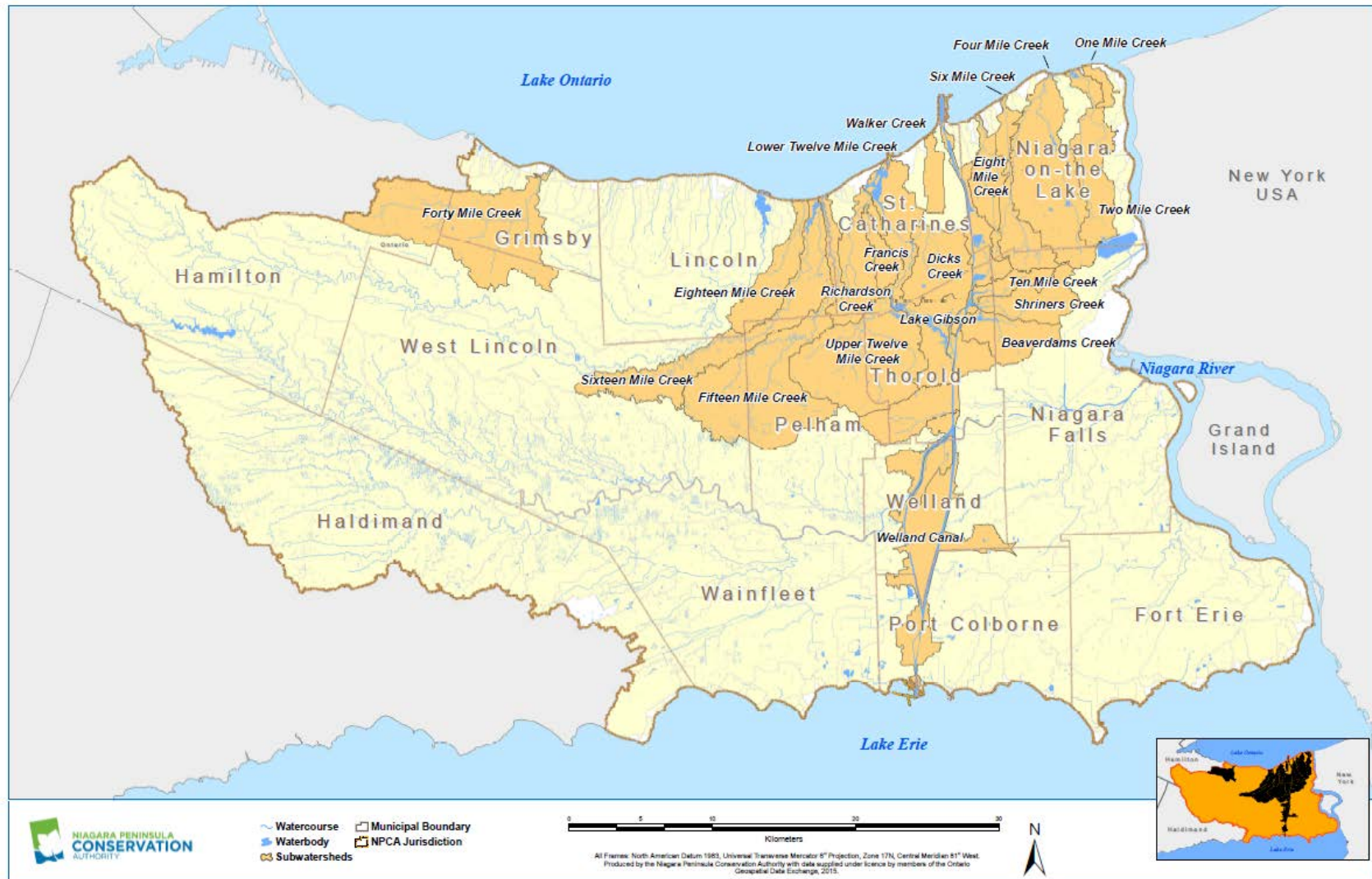


Figure 6: Map of the subwatersheds draining to Lake Ontario that are monitored for water quality

Table 6: Summary of NPCA water quality data for Lake Ontario tributaries (2015-2019)

STATION WATERSHED	WQI RATING ↔ Stable ↓ Declining ↑ Improving	HILSENHOFF FAMILY BIOTIC INDEX RATING	FACTORS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY (%)= PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING GUIDELINES THIS IS ONLY REPORTED WHEN >50% OF SAMPLES EXCEED GUIDELINE	TREND GREEN- DECREASING BLACK- NO TREND RED- INCREASING
FM001 Forty Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (81%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (91%), total suspended solids and zinc (54%) Potential stressors include: road salt storage compound, quarry dewatering, urban and agricultural run-off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
ET001 Eighteen Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper (63%), <i>E. coli</i> (63%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: greenhouse waste water, rural and agricultural run-off. Very frequent copper exceedances warrant further investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride concentrations. Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
FF001 Fifteen Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i> (60%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Excessive algae observed during summer months Potential stressors include: rural and agricultural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solid concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, and total phosphorus concentrations.
SX001 Sixteen Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (68%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solid concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, and total phosphorus concentrations
EI001 Eight Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (62%), nitrate, total phosphorus (97%), and total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable <i>E. coli</i>, and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing chloride and total phosphorus concentrations
FA001 Francis Creek	Marginal ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (100%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (81%), nitrate, and total phosphorus (86%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	Insufficient Data
RC001 Richardson Creek	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (50%), copper (61%), <i>E. coli</i> (67%), nitrate (100%), and total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	Insufficient Data
SI001 Six Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (55%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (81%), total phosphorus (77%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and roadway run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solid concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and

				total suspended solid concentrations
FU004 Four Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (55%), nitrate, total phosphorus (98%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solid concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus concentrations
TM001 Two Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (92%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), and total suspended solids Excessive <i>E. coli</i> concentrations warrant further investigations Potential stressors include: rural and urban run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
OM001 One Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (81%), nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: urban run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing total phosphorus concentrations
TW001 Twelve Mile Creek	Marginal ↑	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i> (38%), lead, total phosphorus (69%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: rural and urban run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solid concentrations. Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations
TW002 Twelve Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i>, lead, total phosphorus, total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solids Stable chloride concentrations
TW003 Twelve Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (74%), lead, total phosphorus (90%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: decommissioned landfill and rural run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations

TW004 Twelve Mile Creek	Marginal ↔	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i> (52%), nitrate (97%), total phosphorus, total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: golf course and rural run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total phosphorus concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i>, and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing chloride and nitrate concentrations
TW005 Twelve Mile Creek	Marginal ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (67%), total phosphorus (68%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: rural and urban run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total phosphorus and total suspended solids concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i> concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations
TW006 Twelve Mile Creek	Fair ↔	Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in <i>E. coli</i> (54%), total phosphorus (56%) and total suspended solids Potential stressors include: rural run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
TW007 Twelve Mile Creek	Marginal ↔	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (65%), nitrate, total phosphorus (70%), and total suspended solids Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off Groundwater discharges sustains continuous baseflow at this site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data
TW008 Twelve Mile Creek	Marginal ↑	Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (84%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (50%), total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing <i>E. coli</i> and total suspended solids concentrations Stable chloride and total phosphorus concentrations
TW009 Twelve Mile Creek	Marginal ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, nitrate, total phosphorus, total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: urban run-off and industrial waste water Water source at this site is predominately from the Welland Canal water which potentially improves water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data
TH001 Thirty Mile Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (51%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (67%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (97%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations

WC001 Walkers Creek	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (77%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (92%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (90%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: urban run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
SH002 Shriners Creek	Poor ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (647%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (54%), total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: urban run-off Algae and duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solids concentrations Stable chloride and <i>E. coli</i> concentrations Increasing total phosphorus concentrations
BE004 Beaver Dam Creek	Fair ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (77%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: industrial and urban run-off Algae and duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus concentrations Stable total suspended solid concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations
WE001 Welland Canal	Marginal ↓	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance in chloride, <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus, total suspended solids and zinc. Water source at this site is predominately from the Lake Erie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data
PD001 Prudhommes Drain	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (64%), copper, <i>E. coli</i> (88%), lead, nitrate, total phosphorus (96%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: urban run-off Algae and duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data
BT001 Bartlett Creek	Marginal	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, <i>E. coli</i> (88%), total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: highway and agricultural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient Data

4.5.2 LAKE ONTARIO TRIBUTARIES: HILSENHOFF BIOTIC INDEX RESULTS

HBI results indicate that water quality is ranged from *fair* to *very poor* at Lake Ontario tributary stations (**Table 6**). Results from biological assessments completed between 2015 and 2019 are illustrated in **Appendix J**. Sediment loading, nutrient enrichment, and the lack of in-stream habitat are the primary causes of impairment at these stations. Upper Twelve Mile Creek stations TW002, TW004, and TW006 located on the Effingham tributary are rated as *fair*. The Effingham tributary of upper Twelve Mile Creek is the only watercourse in the NPCA watershed that consistently achieves this rating. These sites can support several sensitive taxa such as mayflies and stoneflies due to cooler water temperatures, excellent riparian buffer and in-stream habitat, and suitable water quality.

4.5.3 LAKE ONTARIO TRIBUTARIES: KEY FINDINGS

- The Upper Twelve Mile Creek watershed represents some of the best water quality in the Niagara Peninsula. This portion of Twelve Mile Creek supports brook trout and a rich macroinvertebrate community that is unique in Niagara. The main stresses to the aquatic community include exceedances of total phosphorus and *E. coli*. Nitrate contamination has been identified as a stressor at TW004 and its source is likely a golf course. Efforts to minimize these stressors through BMP initiatives will allow this watershed to remain in its current state.
- Based on the 2015-2019 data, all the Lake Ontario tributaries have total phosphorus exceedances. The most impacted of these tributaries include Fifteen Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek and Eighteen Mile Creek which had median concentrations nearly 10 times the PWQO. The upper portions of these watersheds need to be prioritized for BMPs to reduce phosphorus loads. Total phosphorus concentrations were found to be lower in the NOTL watersheds.
- The Lake Ontario tributary WQIs were stable when compared to previous assessments. There was an increase in WQI ratings (*poor* to *fair*) for Twelve Mile Creek at two sites (TW001 and TW008) due to no exceedances in metal parameters. The WQI rating decreased from *fair* to *marginal* at the Welland Canal site (WE001) due to continued exceedances in total suspended solids and zinc concentrations detected during wet-weather events.
- Two Mile Creek (TM001) has the highest concentrations of *E. coli* in the NPCA watershed and continues to suggest that there may be sewage entering the Two Mile Creek. The NPCA sampled the stormwater outfalls of Two Mile Creek Conservation Area and found two sources of the bacteria and are currently working with the Town of NOTL and MECP to solve this issue. Elevated *E.coli* concentrations for Walkers Creek (St. Catharines) and Purdhommes Drain (Lincoln) were also observed and additional follow up will be initiated with the municipalities.
- Copper and zinc concentrations in Eighteen Mile Creek consistently exceed PWQOs. Within the NPCA water quality monitoring network regular metal exceedances are uncommon but based on the landuse in this watershed there may be pesticides entering the watercourse. The MECP has been alerted to these exceedances and will be investigating further.
- Richardson Creek consistently exceeds CCME for nitrate and has a significant nitrate impairment. Possible sources may include upstream agricultural sources and greenhouse operations.



A mayfly (Heptageniidae) collected from 12 Mile Creek

4.6 NIAGARA RIVER TRIBUTARIES

Five tributaries discharging to the Niagara River are monitored through the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program. These tributaries include: Bayer Creek, Black Creek, Beaver Creek, Frenchman's Creek, and Usshers Creek (**Figure 8**).

4.6.1 NIAGARA RIVER TRIBUTARIES: WATER QUALITY INDEX

Based on the results of the WQI, Usshers Creek station (US001) was rated as *poor* water quality. Bayer Creek (BA001), Beaver Creek (BR001), Black Creek (BL003) and Frenchman Creek station (FR003) stations were all rated as *marginal*. WQI results are illustrated in **Appendix A**. Mapping showing the spatial distribution of the eight WQI parameters from 2015 to 2019 are found in **Appendix B** to **Appendix I**. Highlights of the water quality monitoring in the Niagara River Tributaries are summarized in **Table 7**:



Figure 8: Map of the subwatersheds monitored for water quality in the Niagara River watershed outside of the Welland River

Table 7: Summary of NPCA water quality data for Niagara River tributaries (2015-2019)

STATION WATERSHED	WQI RATING ↔ Stable ↓ Declining ↑ Improving	HILSENHOFF FAMILY BIOTIC INDEX RATING	FACTORS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY (%)= PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING GUIDELINES THIS IS ONLY REPORTED WHEN >50% OF SAMPLES EXCEED GUIDELINE	TREND GREEN- DECREASING BLACK- STABLE RED- INCREASING
BA001 Bayer Creek	Marginal ↑	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (59%), total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solids concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and concentrations
BL003 Black Creek	Marginal ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations Increasing <i>E.coli</i> and total suspended solid concentrations
BR001 Beaver Creek	Marginal ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (100%) and total suspended solids Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
FR003 Frenchman Creek	Marginal ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, <i>E. coli</i> (68%), total phosphorus (86%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off Algae observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride and total phosphorus concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i> and total suspended solid concentrations
US001 Usshers Creek	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (50%), total phosphorus (100%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off Prone to zero baseflow conditions in the summer months Algae and duckweed observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations

4.6.2 NIAGARA RIVER TRIBUTARIES: HILSENHOFF BIOTIC INDEX RESULTS

HBI results indicate that water quality is *impaired* at all Niagara River tributary stations (Table 7). Results from biological assessments completed between 2015 and 2019 are illustrated in **Appendix J**. Sediment loading, reduced baseflow, lack of in-stream habitat, and nutrient enrichment are primary causes of impairment at these stations. BioMAP

samples have not been collected from station BL003 due to high water depth, channel morphology, and access restrictions.

4.6.3 NIAGARA RIVER TRIBUTARIES: KEY FINDINGS

- Generally, the water quality in these smaller Niagara River tributaries is better than the rest of the NPCA watershed. The degree of landuse impacts from urban and rural pressures are significantly less in these watersheds.
- Based on the 2015-2019 data, all the Niagara River tributaries had total phosphorus exceedances. The most impacted of these tributaries include Usshers Creek, Black Creek and Bayer Creek which had median concentrations 6 times the PWQO. Total phosphorus concentrations were found to be much lower in Frenchman Creek with median concentrations only 2 times the PWQO. Nonetheless these watersheds would benefit by Best Management Practice works to reduce phosphorus loads.

4.7 LAKE ERIE TRIBUTARIES

Eight tributaries discharging to Lake Erie are monitored through the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program. These tributaries include: Beaver Dam Creek, Casey Drain, Eagle Marsh Drain, Krafts Drain, Low Banks Drain, Point Abino Drain, Six Mile Creek, and Wignell Drain (**Figure 10**). In addition, the Welland Canal monitoring point in Port Colborne is also included with the Lake Erie tributaries. Water at this site enters the Welland Canal and outlets in Lake Ontario.

4.7.1 LAKE ERIE TRIBUTARIES: WATER QUALITY INDEX

Based on the results of the WQI four of nine Lake Erie tributary stations are rated as having *poor* water quality three stations are rated as *marginal*, one station (PA001) rated as fair and one station rated as *good* (**Table 8**). WQI results are illustrated in **Appendix A**. Mapping showing the spatial distribution of the eight WQI parameters from 2015 to 2019 are found in **Appendix B** to **Appendix I**. Highlights of the water quality monitoring in the Lake Erie Tributaries are summarized in **Table 8**:

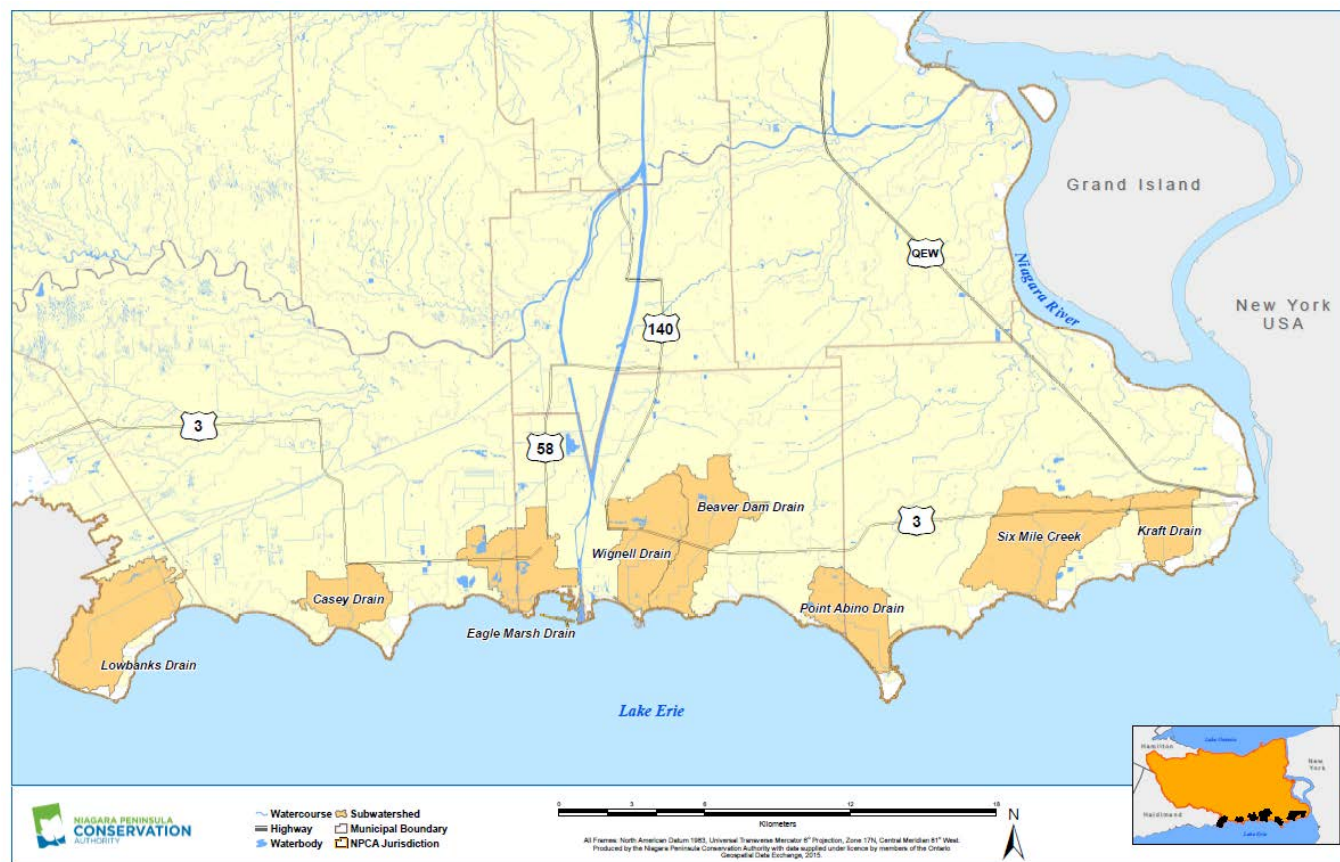


Figure 10: Map of the subwatersheds monitored for water quality along the north shore of Lake Erie

Table 8: Summary of NPCA water quality data for Lake Erie tributaries (2015-2019).

STATION WATERSHED	WQI RATING ↔ Stable ↓ Declining ↑ Improving	HILSENHOFF FAMILY BIOTIC INDEX RATING	FACTORS AFFECTING WATER QUALITY (%)= PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING GUIDELINES THIS IS ONLY REPORTED WHEN >50% OF SAMPLES EXCEED GUIDELINE	TREND GREEN- DECREASING BLACK- NO TREND RED- INCREASING
BD001 Beaver Dam Drain	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper (51%), <i>E. coli</i> (59%), nickel, nitrate, total phosphorus (97%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: historic industrial pollution, agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solids concentrations Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, and total phosphorus concentrations
CD001 Casey Drain	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i> (59%), nitrate, total phosphorus (97%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride and total suspended solids concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus concentrations
EM001 Eagle Marsh Drain	Marginal ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride (59%), <i>E. coli</i> (65%), total phosphorus (82%), total suspended solids and zinc. Potential stressors include: quarry dewatering, agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride and total suspended solids concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i>, and total phosphorus concentrations
KD001 Krafts Drain	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, <i>E. coli</i> (76%), nitrate, total phosphorus (89%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: rural and urban run-off Algae observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing total suspended solids concentrations Stable chloride and <i>E. coli</i>, concentrations Increasing total phosphorus concentrations
LB001 Low Banks Drain	Marginal ↔	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i>, nitrate, total phosphorus (95%), total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off Severe algae growth observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable chloride, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus and total suspended solid concentrations
PA001 Point Abino Drain	Fair	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in copper, <i>E. coli</i>, and total phosphorus (74%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing <i>E. coli</i> and total suspended solids concentrations

	↔		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off Site is influenced by backflow from Lake Erie which is likely improving water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable total suspended solid concentrations Increasing chloride concentrations
SM001 Six Mile Creek	Marginal ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, total phosphorus (100%), and total suspended solids Potential stressors include: agricultural and rural run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride and total suspended solids concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i> and total phosphorus concentrations
WD001 Wignell Drain	Poor ↔	Very Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedances in chloride, copper, <i>E. coli</i>, nickel, nitrate, total phosphorus (100%), and total suspended solids and zinc Potential stressors include: quarry dewatering historic industrial pollution, agricultural and rural run-off Algae observed during summer months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing chloride and total suspended solids concentrations Stable <i>E. coli</i> concentrations Increasing total phosphorus concentrations
WE000 Welland Canal	Good ↔	Insufficient Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance total phosphorus Water source at this site is predominately from the Lake Erie 	Insufficient Data

4.7.2 LAKE ERIE TRIBUTARIES: HILSENHOFF BIOTIC INDEX RESULTS

HBI results indicate that water quality is *impaired* at most Lake Erie tributary stations (**Table 8**). Results from biological assessments for these stations are illustrated in **Appendix J**. Sediment loading, reduced baseflow, lack of in-stream habitat, and nutrient enrichment are primary causes of impairment at these stations. BioMAP samples have not been collected from SM001 due to high water depth, channel morphology, and access restrictions.

4.7.3 LAKE ERIE TRIBUTARIES KEY FINDINGS

- Based on the 2015-2019 data, all the Lake Erie tributaries have total phosphorus exceedances. The most impacted of these tributaries include Beaver Dams Drain, Casey Drain and Wignell Drain which had median concentrations 7 times the Provincial Water Quality Objective. In addition, the total phosphorus concentrations in Wignell Drain have been significantly increasing since 2007. These watersheds need to be prioritized for Best Management Practice (BMPs) works to reduce phosphorus loads.
- Total suspended solid concentrations have been found to be significantly decreasing in the Lake Erie tributaries since 2007. These decreases have been observed in Casey Drain (CD001), Eagle Marsh Drain (EM001), Six Mile Creek (SM001), and Wignell Drain (WD001). The decreasing trend observed in these watersheds could be the result of several factors which include improved farming

practices such as no-till minimize soil erosion, improved construction site sediment controls (silt fences/sedimentation basin), water retention ponds and drier watershed conditions.

- Nickel is not included in the WQI calculation; however, nickel concentrations were found to frequently exceed the PWQO at Beaver Dam Creek station BD001 and Wignell Drain station WD001. These nickel exceedances are likely from previous industrial landuse.

5.0 GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

5.1 PROVINCIAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) is a partnership between the MECP and the Conservation Authorities of Ontario. The PGMN is a province-wide groundwater monitoring initiative designed to collect long-term baseline data on groundwater quantity and quality in special areas of interest. There are currently 470 ambient groundwater monitoring wells in the program. Groundwater is monitored through a network of 15 monitoring wells located throughout the NPCA watershed in locally significant hydrogeological areas. Monitoring wells are instrumented with datalogging equipment which record hourly groundwater levels at all stations. Groundwater quality samples are collected twice yearly from 13 of the 15 wells during the spring and fall, and analyzed for nutrients, metals, bacteria, and general chemistry. The two other wells W356-2 and W356-3 were not sampled because the NPCA was unable to obtain permission from the well owner. Refer to **Figure 11** for NPCA groundwater monitoring locations.



Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Well W0000361-3 in Pelham

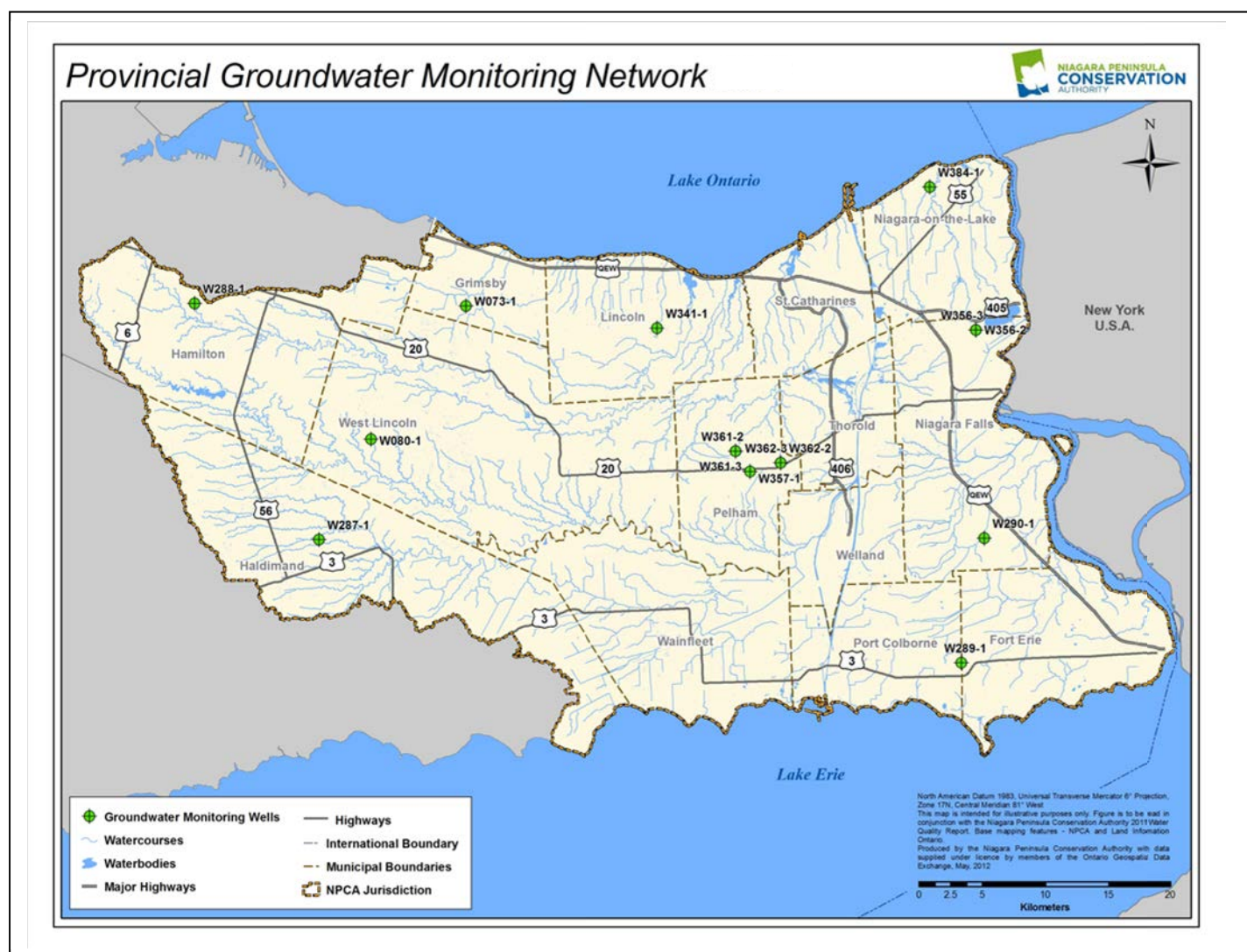


Figure 11: Location of PGMN monitoring wells in the NPCA watershed

5.1.1 Groundwater Levels

The NPCA has been monitoring water levels at all PGMN wells since 2003. Groundwater levels at this well are typically at their highest during the late-winter and spring but drop during the dry summer months are lowest in the fall. There is also yearly variation in water levels at PGMN wells which is dependent on precipitation. In dry years (such as 2016) water levels can drop substantially from seasonally high water levels; and conversely the water level drops in wet years (2009) are not substantial. PGMN monitoring wells each have water levels that are seasonally and yearly variable due to several factors (formation that well is placed into, soils, precipitation, etc.). The results of this monitoring are found in **Appendix K**.

The data from the PGMN will is also being used to help in the understanding of the impact of both local dry weather events and broader provincial scale drought events and therefore can assist in climate change adaptation planning.

5.1.2 Groundwater Chemistry

The first round of groundwater quality samples was collected by the NPCA and MOE between 2002 and 2005 and analyzed by the MOE laboratory for a wide range of parameters including metals, nutrients, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides and general chemistry. Results from the first round of sampling generally indicate that water quality is good relative to natural bedrock conditions. VOCs and pesticides were not detected in any first round samples.

Routine groundwater quality sampling was initiated in 2006, and samples are collected by the NPCA during the spring and fall seasons of most field seasons. Groundwater quality samples are analyzed for bacteria, nutrients, metals, and general chemistry. Exceedances of the Ontario Drinking Water Standards (MOE 2003) are flagged by the MECP and are reported to the NPCA, Region of Niagara Public Health Department and local municipalities. Wells with reported exceedances are subsequently re-sampled by the MECP to confirm the initial exceedance. Based on the type and source of the exceedance these agencies formulate an action plan to protect human health. Confirmed exceedances of the ODWS (MOE 2003) at NPCA PGMN wells sampled between 2015 and 2019 are summarized in **Table 9**.

Table 9: NPCA PGMN stations with Health-Related Exceedances of the ODWS (2015-2019). Blue text exceedances are caused by natural groundwater conditions and red text exceedances are caused by human influences

Well ID Location	Well Type	Formation	Year				
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
W073-1 Grimsby	Bedrock	Guelph-Lockport	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium
W080-1 West Lincoln	Bedrock	Guelph-Lockport	Sodium Fluoride	Sodium Fluoride	Sodium Fluoride	Sodium Fluoride	Sodium Fluoride
W287-1 Haldimand County	Bedrock	Salina	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium
W288-1 Hamilton	Bedrock	Guelph-Lockport	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance
W289-1 Port Colborne	Bedrock	Onondaga	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance
W290-1 Niagara Falls	Bedrock	Salina	Sodium Boron	Sodium Boron	Sodium Boron	Sodium Boron	Sodium Boron
W341-1 Lincoln	Bedrock	Clinton	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium
W356-2 Niagara Falls	Overburden	St.David's Buried Gorge	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance
W356-3 Niagara Falls	Overburden	St.David's Buried Gorge	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance
W357-1 Pelham	Overburden	Fonthill Kame	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance
W361-2 Pelham	Overburden	Fonthill Kame	Nitrate	Nitrate	Nitrate	Nitrate	Nitrate
W361-3 Pelham	Overburden	Fonthill Kame	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium
W362-2 Pelham	Overburden	Fonthill Kame	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium	Sodium
W362-3 Pelham	Overburden	Fonthill Kame	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance	No Exceedance
W384-1 NOTL	Overburden	Iroquois Sandplain	Nitrate	Nitrate	Nitrate	Nitrate	Nitrate

5.1.3 PGMN KEY FINDINGS

- The elevated concentrations of boron, and fluoride observed in monitoring wells W080-1, W290-1, and W341-1 have been attributed to natural groundwater conditions by the MECP Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch (EMRB) staff. These elements occur naturally in the groundwater and the MECP reports these exceedances are likely due to the dissolution of minerals from the bedrock formations. No anthropogenic activities or potential sites were identified. This appears to be an aquifer wide issue that will likely be present when this water is extracted for use. Water treatment is recommended when using these sources for drinking.
- Elevated sodium concentrations have been observed in W073-1, W080-1, W287-1, W290-1, W341-1, W361-3, and W362-2. MECP EMRB staff has attributed these exceedances to natural groundwater conditions and impacts from road salt. As per the MECP exceedances protocol the Niagara Medical Officer of Health was notified when the sodium concentration exceeded 20 mg/L for each PGMN well, so that this information could be communicated to local physicians for their use with patients on sodium restricted diets.
- Elevated nitrate concentrations observed at monitoring wells W384-1 and W361-2 are likely attributed to agricultural landuse and/or faulty septic systems. Nitrate concentrations at W384-1 have remained unchanged since 2003, but nitrate concentrations have been significantly increasing at W361-2. In response to these exceedances additional groundwater sampling of local private wells was completed by the NPCA in partnership with the Region of Niagara Public Health Unit in October 2008 and November 2009. The purpose of the additional sampling was to determine the extent of nitrate contamination near PGMN wells (W384-1 and W361-2) and to notify affected residents of potential health concerns related to elevated nitrate concentrations in drinking water. Sampling results indicated that none of the private wells tested exceeded the Ontario Drinking Water Standard (ODWS) for nitrate (MOE 2003) near W384-1 and one private well was found to exceed the ODWS near W361-2. The well exceeding the ODWS was determined to be a shallow dug well with poor construction and is likely not related to the nitrate exceedance at PGMN well W361-2.

5.2 WATER WELL DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAM

In 2019, the NPCA continued to provide grants to watershed residents interested in properly decommissioning abandoned water wells on their property through the NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Program. The grant program offers an 80% subsidy for water well decommissioning to a maximum of \$1000 per well. Grant applications are prioritized in areas designated as highly susceptible to groundwater contamination in the NPCA Groundwater Study (Waterloo Hydrogeologic Inc. 2005), areas where there is a high density of private wells used for domestic purposes, and areas where a watershed plan has been completed or is underway. Numerous improperly abandoned water wells are known to exist in the NPCA watershed, and these wells can serve as a direct pathway between potential contaminants at ground surface and deeper aquifers. The implementation of this program will reduce the risk of groundwater contamination and fulfills a recommendation made in the Groundwater Management Strategy of the NPCA Groundwater Study (Waterloo Hydrogeologic Inc. 2005).

To date, 99 water wells have been decommissioned with the NPCA water well decommissioning program **Table 10**. An example of a water well decommissioning project is shown in **Figure 12**. Recently the participation with this program has been very strong with a 100% of the funding allocated. Increased participation is attributed to improved exposure of the program in the watershed through various media sources and word of mouth from licensed well contractors.

Table 10: Number and location of abandoned water wells decommissioned through the NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant from 2007 to 2019.

Year	# of Projects	Location of Projects
2007	4	Hamilton (2), Lincoln (1), Niagara Falls (1)
2008	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake (1)
2009	3	Grimsby (1), Lincoln (1), Niagara Falls (1)
2010	7	Grimsby (1), Lincoln (1), Pelham (3), St. Catharines (2), West Lincoln (1)
2011	9	Niagara Falls (1), NOTL (1), Pelham (2), Port Colborne (3), Wainfleet (1), West Lincoln (1)
2012	10	St. Catharines (1), NOTL (1), Pelham (1), Port Colborne (1), Wainfleet (1), West Lincoln (1), Fort Erie (2), Lincoln (2)
2013	12	St. Catharines (2), Niagara Falls (1), NOTL (3), Pelham (1), Lincoln (2), Wainfleet (2), West Lincoln (1)
2014	12	Niagara Falls (1), Fort Erie (1), NOTL (2), Pelham (3), Lincoln (1), Welland (2), Port Colborne (1), Thorold (1)
2015	9	NOTL (1), Pelham (3) Colborne (1), St. Catharines (2), Wainfleet (2)
2016	9	Hamilton (1), Lincoln (2), Niagara Falls (1), NOTL (1), Pelham (1), Wainfleet (3),
2017	8	Hamilton (2), Pelham (1), NOTL (1), Wainfleet (2), West Lincoln (2)
2018	10	Lincoln (4), NOTL (2), Pelham (1), St. Catharines (2), West Lincoln (1)
2019	5	Grimsby (1), Hamilton (1), Lincoln (1), Niagara Falls (1), Pelham (1)



Figure 12: An example of a NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Project. Left photo shows an abandoned drilled well in need of decommissioning and the right photo shows same dug well after decommissioning had been completed by a licensed well contractor.

6.0 OTHER PROJECTS

6.1 HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Since 1998, the NPCA has been commissioned and funded by the Hamilton International Airport (HIA) to complete annual biological assessments of water quality near their property. The goal of the annual assessment is to determine if stormwater runoff and de-icing fluids such as propylene glycol are impacting surface water quality in two headwater tributaries of the Welland River. The annual biomonitoring is part of the airport's commitment to fulfilling a recommendation in the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan to improve degraded water quality in the Welland River. The NPCA generates this separate report for the HIA for their exclusive information and use. Data collected by the NPCA since 1998 indicates that water quality in the upper Welland River is impaired due to stormwater runoff and de-icing management practices at HIA. Despite the continuing water quality issues the HIA has made considerable efforts to improve water quality by: 1) Relocating the road salt storage area; 2) Sending glycol off-site for recovery where concentrations allow; 3) Increased use of recovered glycol and improved on-site glycol containment; 4) Glycol waste water is now discharged to the Hamilton sanitary sewer and 5) Using smaller salt trucks for de-icing. The NPCA supports these operational changes and strongly recommends the HIA continue to investigate new and innovated methods to improve water quality on their property.

6.2 GLANBROOK LANDFILL

Since 1998, the NPCA has been commissioned and funded by the City of Hamilton to complete biennial biological assessments of water quality for the Glanbrook Landfill. The Glanbrook Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Hamilton, and is designed to receive domestic, commercial, and non-hazardous solid industrial waste. The purpose of the biennial assessments is to determine if stormwater runoff and leachate from the landfill are negatively impacting water quality and aquatic biota in the Welland River and Buckhorn Creek. The NPCA generates this separate report for the City of Hamilton for their exclusive information and use. Results from NPCA assessments indicate that water quality in these watercourses has improved since 1996, with limited landfill impacts observed in 1996 and no impacts observed from 1998 through to 2016.

6.3 TWELVE MILE CREEK TEMPERATURE MONITORING

The upper Twelve Mile Creek watershed contains the only identified coldwater streams in the NPCA watershed and its biota are very sensitive to water temperature changes. In 2013, the NPCA reinitiated temperature monitoring in the upper Twelve Mile Creek watershed to (1) identify and classify the thermal regime for the Twelve Mile Creek surface water sampling stations; (2) identify possible areas of restoration within the Twelve Mile Creek watershed; and (3) identify any changes that may have occurred to the thermal stability of Twelve Mile Creek. The results of this monitoring are found in **Appendix K**.

6.4 LAKE NIAPENCO PERFLUORINATED COMPOUND MONITORING

Since 2012 the NPCA has been monitoring for perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in Lake Niapenco and groundwater supply well at Binbrook Conservation Area. PFCs were found in the plasma of snapping turtles at Lake Niapenco in 2009 and 2010 by an Environment Canada (EC) scientist as part of an organic toxins accumulation study (de Solla et al. 2012). PFC trackdown studies by MECP confirmed the presence of PFCs in Lake Niapenco and identified John C. Munro International Airport as the source of the contamination (Fowler 2011).

NPCA collected a water sample at Lake Niapenco on July 24 2019. A raw water sample could not be collected from the water supply well because of the new water treatment infrastructure prevented access. **Figure 13** shows the sample location in the Conservation Area. Water samples were collected following the same protocol used by the NPCA's Operation Department. This protocol was as follows: 1) Lake Niapenco samples were collected in waist-deep water at the beach (**Figure 14**); and 2) Samples were collected and placed in a cooler with ice and shipped the next day for PFC analysis.



Figure 13: Sample Location at Lake Niapenco



Figure 14: Sample location at the beach Lake Niapenco

Lake Niapenco

The water chemistry results from Lake Niapenco indicate the presence of PFOS (a PFC of concern) at concentrations below Health Canada Provisional Drinking Water Guidelines (**Figure 15**). The concentration of PFOS generally matched the PFOS concentrations observed in previous NPCA sampling events but higher than the range of mean concentrations detected by de Solla *et al.* (2012) shown in **Figure 15**. Another PFC of concern, Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) was not detected but several other PFCs were detected in the Lake Niapenco. These included Perfluorohexane Sulfonate (PFHxS), Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA) and Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA) (**Figure 16**). These concentrations generally matched previous sampling event concentrations and PFPeA concentrations were higher than those detected in the study by de Solla *et al.* (2012). These PFCs (PFHxS, PFHxA and PFPeA) have no drinking water guidelines.

Lake Niapenco was contaminated by historic PFC usage from John C. Munro International Airport in Hamilton (de Solla 2012 and Fowler 2011). The NPCA's monitoring at Binbrook Conservation Area continues to support the evidence that PFCs and specifically PFOS are present in Lake Niapenco but not at concentrations above Health Canada drinking water guidelines. It is expected that PFCs will continue to be present in Lake Niapenco due the persistence of PFCs in the environment and due to the delay to contain upstream sources. It should be noted that Hamilton Public Health has evaluated previous PFC water quality data at Binbrook Conservation Authority and determined that the PFC concentrations detected would not adversely affect the park users.

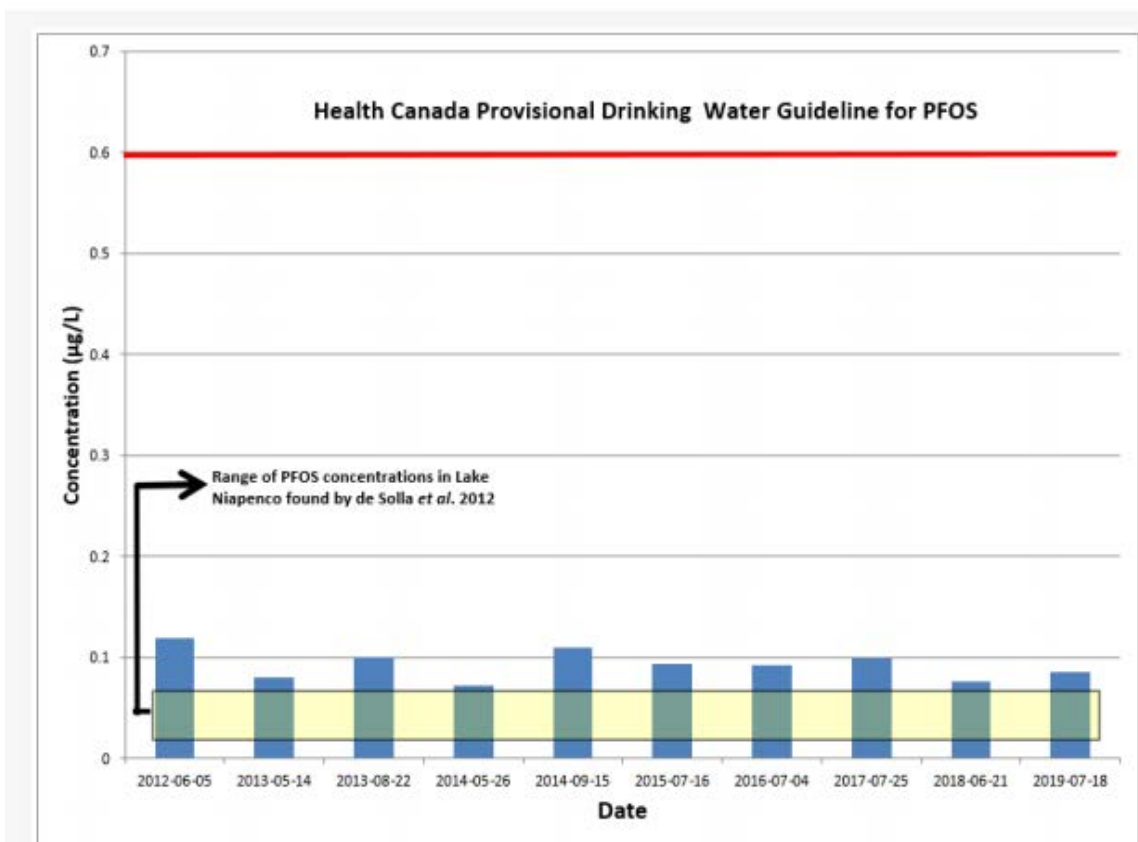


Figure 15. PFOS concentrations found in Lake Niapenco by NPCA monitoring 2012-2019

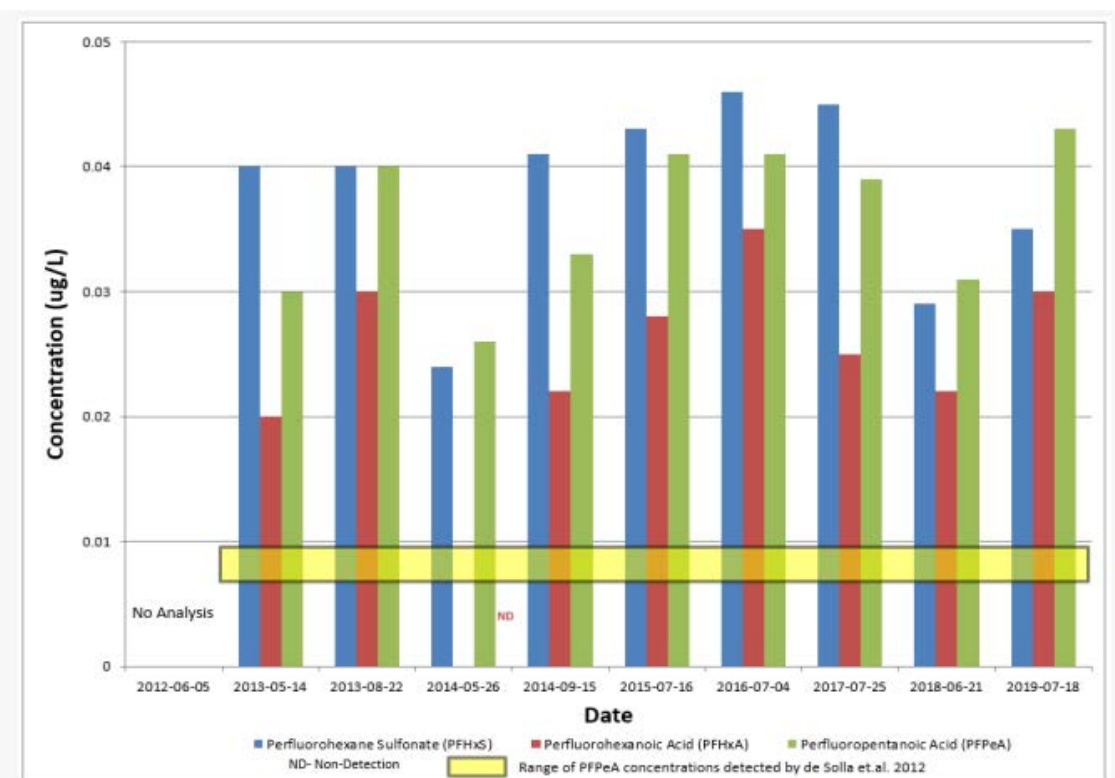


Figure 16: PFHxS, PFHxA and PFPeA concentrations found in Lake Niapenco by NPCA monitoring 2012-2019.

6.5 CANADA ONTARIO AGREEMENT CLIMATE CHANGE MONITORING NETWORKS REVIEW PROJECT

A climate change sensitivity assessment completed by the MECP in 2009 identified the NPCA watershed as one of several southern Ontario watersheds that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Indicators used in their analysis were related to water quality and quantity for both surface and groundwater resources. These indicators included frequency of low water levels, water use, water quality at active PWQMN stations, shallow well vulnerability, and baseflow. As a follow-up to this assessment, the NPCA conducted a detailed assessment in 2009-2010 of their existing monitoring networks and made specific recommendations for climate change detection and adaptation monitoring. Based on the NPCA and MECP assessments the existing monitoring station at Balls Falls Conservation Area was upgraded to an integrated monitoring site in 2015 which includes a rain gauge, soil moisture sensors and extended laboratory analysis for event sampling.

6.6 NPCA DATA REQUESTS

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program generates a large wealth of scientific data that is a valuable resource to several clients. In 2019, the NPCA water quality monitoring program received 55 data requests from a variety of agencies and the public. These include:

- Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Academia (McMaster University & University of Waterloo)
- Environment Canada
- Municipalities (Upper and Lower Tier)
- Health Units (Hamilton and Niagara)
- Consultants
- Non-Governmental Agencies
- Public



NPCA staff collecting a grab sample for laboratory analysis.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing, the NPCA offers the following conclusions:

- Based on the results of the 2015 to 2019 WQI, 60% of the NPCA surface water monitoring stations are rated as *poor*, 33% are rated as *marginal*, 5% are rated as *fair* and 2% is rated as *excellent*.
- Based on the results of the 2015 to 2019 biological assessments using the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI): 21% of the NPCA monitoring stations had water quality rated as very poor, 36% rated as poor, 21% rated as fairly poor, 4% rated as fair and 18% have not been assessed.
- Generally, the WQI ratings at water quality stations were relatively stable when compared to historic NPCA data. None of the NPCA monitoring site showed improvement in WQI ratings. The Welland Canal (Port Colborne) has the highest water quality rating in the NPCA watershed. This is not unexpected as the water found in the Welland Canal is from Lake Erie. The other monitoring sites with high WQI ratings include the Point Abino Drain (Fort Erie), the Effingham tributary of Twelve Mile Creek (Pelham), the upper Welland River (Hamilton), the Welland River under the influence of the Niagara River (Niagara Falls) and Beaver Creek (Fort Erie).
- WQI ratings decreased in Lyons Creek (Niagara Falls) and the Welland Canal (St. Catharines) because of increased exceedances of water quality parameters. WQI ratings improved in Bayer Creek (Niagara Falls), Gavora Ditch (Lincoln) and Twelve Mile Creek (Pelham and Thorold) this is due to decreases in the number and magnitude of water quality exceedances.
- The NPCA watershed has total phosphorous exceedances of the Provincial Water Quality Objective at virtually all monitoring stations owing to the higher population densities, and larger concentration of agriculture and industry. Based on the data collected to date, elevated concentrations of total phosphorus are the most frequent (over 95% observations) and widespread cause of water quality impairment in the NPCA watershed. The relative high frequency and magnitude of these exceedances is the driving factor in lowering the WQI at all stations. However, the NPCA is now observing statistically significant decreases of total phosphorus concentrations in approximately 8% of NPCA's long-term monitoring stations. There are many potential reasons for these decreases such as a change in agricultural practices, improve nutrient management initiative, implementation of the watershed stewardship initiatives and climatic conditions. It should be noted that despite these decreases most of these stations are still 5 to 20 times the PWQO. Also, these trend results did not indicate whether such an change in ecologically significant.
- Exceedances of *E. coli* also contribute greatly to lower WQI ratings in the NPCA watershed. Approximately 60% of the NPCA stations have median *E. coli* concentrations greater than the PWQO. *E. coli* concentrations in the 5 watersheds (One Mile Creek, Two Mile Creek, Walkers Creek and Prudhommes Drain) are high relative to other watersheds and the sources of these exceedances need to be examined further. The NPCA initiated a trackdown of *E. coli* sources in Two Mile Creek Conservation Area and discovered a storm sewer outfall as the likely source of the *E. coli* contamination. This information has been provided to the Town of the Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Town staff are investigating the

neighbouring subdivision for a source. The NPCA has also observed elevated *E. coli* concentrations in Walkers Creek (St.Catharines) and Prudhommes Drain (Lincoln). The NPCA will continue to work with municipalities to identify *E. coli* sources.

- WQI ratings and Hilsenhoff Biotic Index results did not agree at every station (i.e. where the WQI rating is *marginal* the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index rating is *very poor*) indicating that the benthic invertebrate data does not entirely support the chemical data. There may be other factors which are beyond the scope of this analysis such as the availability of in-stream habitat, size of the dataset used to calculate the WQI rating, and influence of parameters not monitored by the NPCA that may be affecting this agreement. Nonetheless biological and chemical monitoring remain important tools to evaluating water quality.
- Exceedances for chloride, metals (copper, lead, and zinc), nitrate, and total suspended solids were uncommon in the NPCA watershed. Elevated copper exceedances in Beaver Dam Creek (Port Colborne) and Eighteen Mile Creek warrant further investigation. Zinc exceedances in the Welland River are related to Hamilton Airport operations and the NPCA and MECP are working with the HIA to reduce concentrations. Chloride exceedances are related to road salt impacts and groundwater discharge to surface water. Nitrate exceedances in the Richardson Creek and the upper Twelve Mile Creek may be related nearby commercial operations in the area. Total suspended solids are mainly related wet weather events and inadequate riparian buffers along watercourses.
- The water quality at most PGMN monitoring wells meets the ODWS and therefore can be characterized as good water quality. Some of the PGMN monitors were found to have exceedances in boron, fluoride and sodium that were attributed to natural conditions of the groundwater. Nitrate exceedances found in two PGMN wells were attributed to agricultural landuse near the monitoring well. Follow-up monitoring in 2008-2009 by the NPCA and Niagara Public Health determined that these nitrate exceedances were site specific to the PGMN monitoring well only. It is recommended that residents using groundwater near these monitoring wells regularly test their water not only for bacteria but also for metals, general chemistry and nutrients.
- The NPCA's 2019 water temperature monitoring of the Upper Twelve Mile Creek headwaters classified seven stations as coolwater. None of the stations were classified as coldwater or warmwater. Changes in the landscape in the upper Twelve Mile watershed since 2006 have not affected the thermal stability classifications of the NPCA monitoring stations in this watershed at the stations the NPCA monitors.
- The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program continues to generate a large wealth of scientific data that is a valuable resource to the public, environmental consultants, community groups, educational institutions, and other governmental agencies. In addition, this program continues to provide technical support to other NPCA programs, including Technical, Stewardship and Development Services.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations from this NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program Report are summarized as follows:

1. It is recommended that the NPCA continue the Water Quality Monitoring Program to collect up-to-date and reliable water quality data and continue to make this information freely accessible to the public.
2. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to analyze all collected water quality data with the intent to identify significant trends or abnormalities.
3. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to work with our partner municipalities and the MECP to identify and mitigate abnormally high sources of water pollution as they are identified through the Water Quality Monitoring field sampling program.
4. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to monitor summer water temperatures within streams that have been identified as being cool or cold water systems which are sensitive to temperature change.
5. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to undertake annual water quality assessments for the Hamilton International Airport (presently commissioned and funded by the Hamilton Airport Authority). and the City of Hamilton's Glanbrook Landfill (presently commissioned and funded by the City of Hamilton).
6. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to offer the 'Water Well Decommissioning Program' to the public to help reduce the risk of groundwater contamination by removing old and abandoned wells.
7. As it is no longer typical to have watercourses completely frozen from December to March, it is recommended that the NPCA continue to pursue opportunities to expand the surface water quality monitoring program outside of the months of April to November to address water quality data gaps which presently exist for the winter months.
8. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to monitor Perfluorinated Compounds in Lake Niapenco to provide the public with up-to-date information on PFC concentrations within the lake. Yearly surveillance is an appropriate time interval for monitoring based on lab analysis costs and contaminant variability and concentrations.
9. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to monitor winter dissolved oxygen concentrations in Lake Niapenco in order to assess any impacts on the resident crappie fish population if conditions permit.
10. It is recommended that the NPCA continue to support and MECP Climate Change project for Twenty Mile Creek at Balls Falls Conservation Area by continuing to operate and maintain this enhanced monitoring station.

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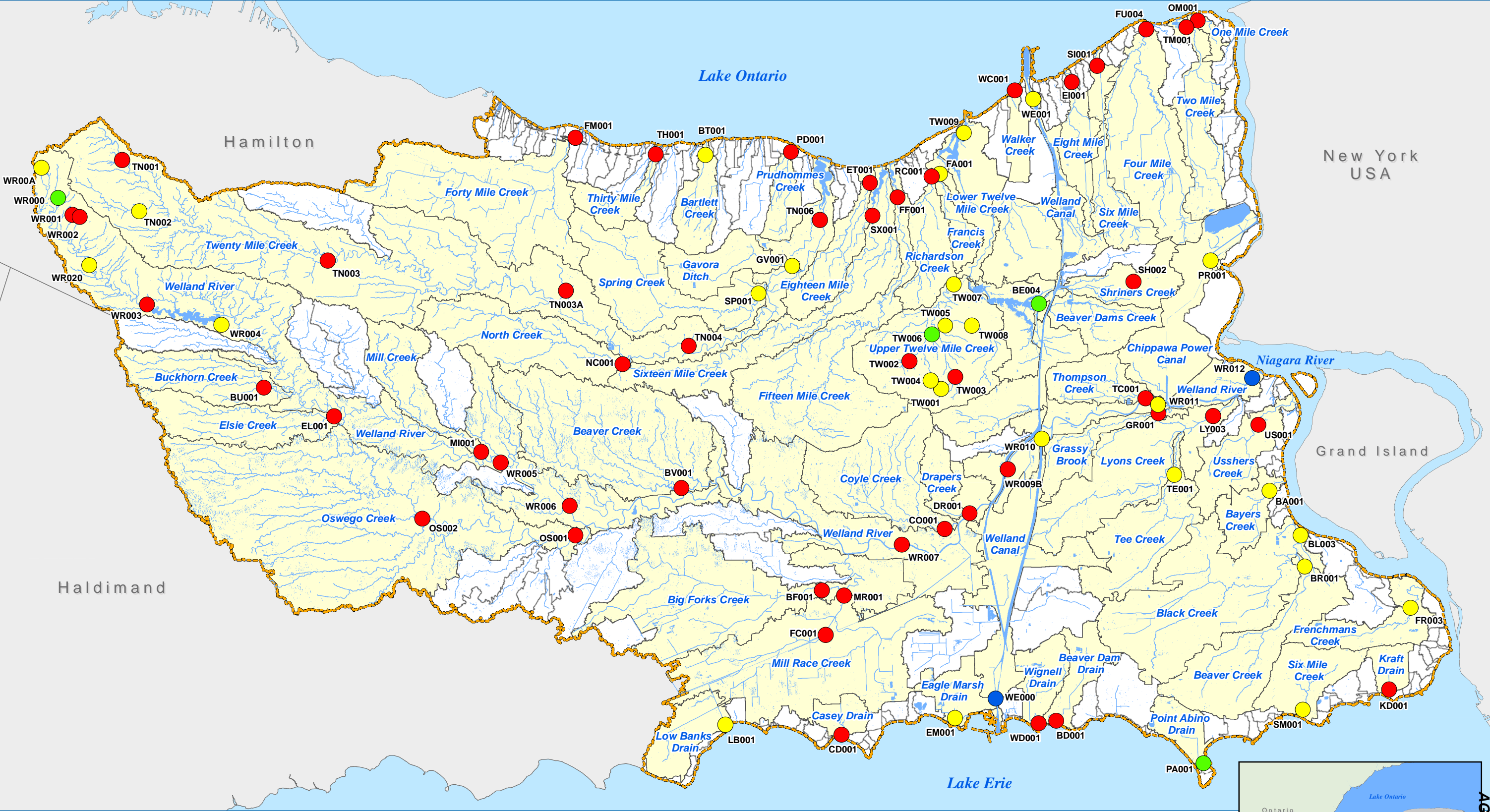
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10.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NPCA would like to thank the City of Hamilton, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Regional Municipality of Niagara, and Haldimand County for their support of the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program.

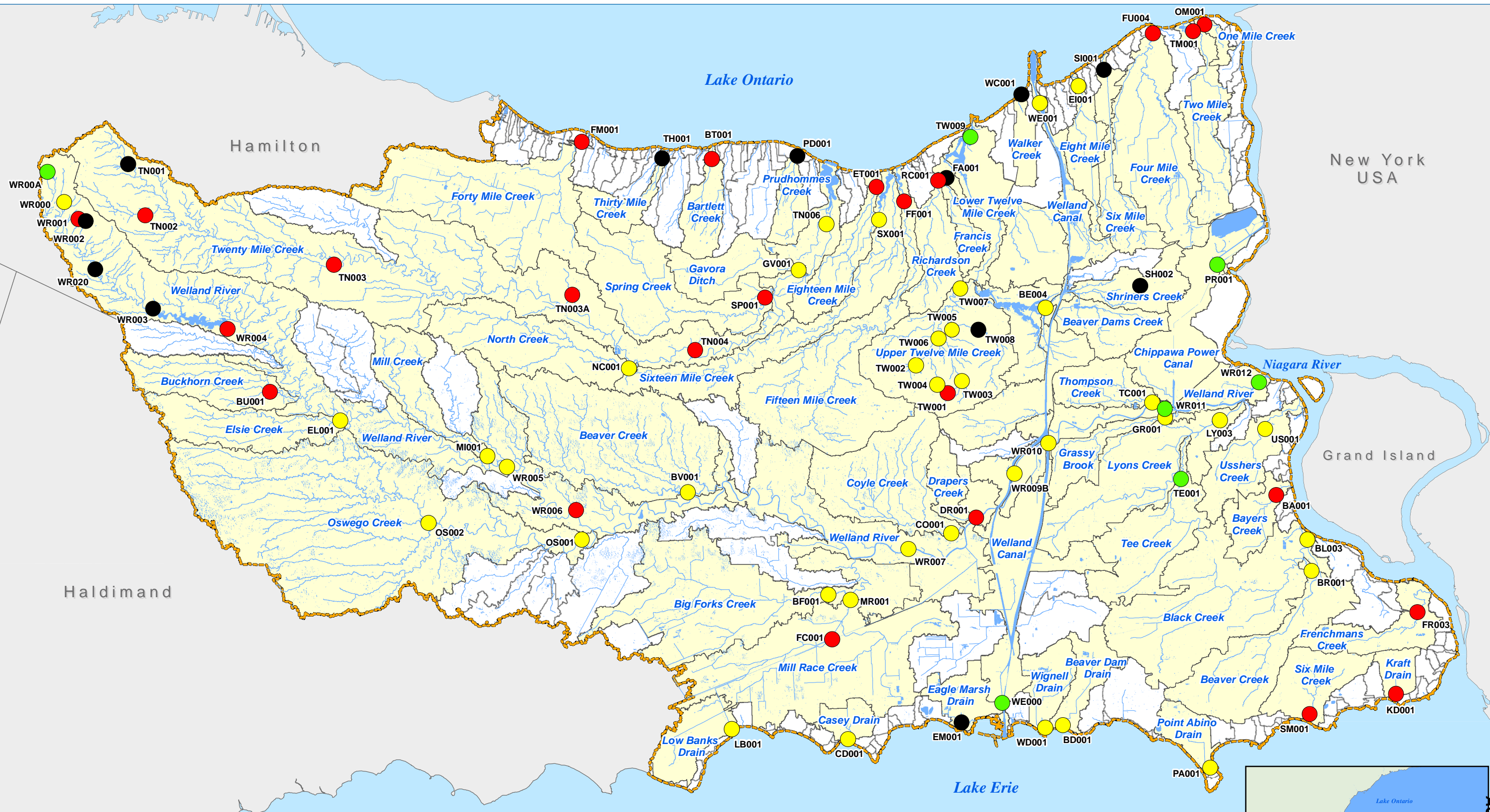
Appendix A

Water Quality Ratings 2015-2019



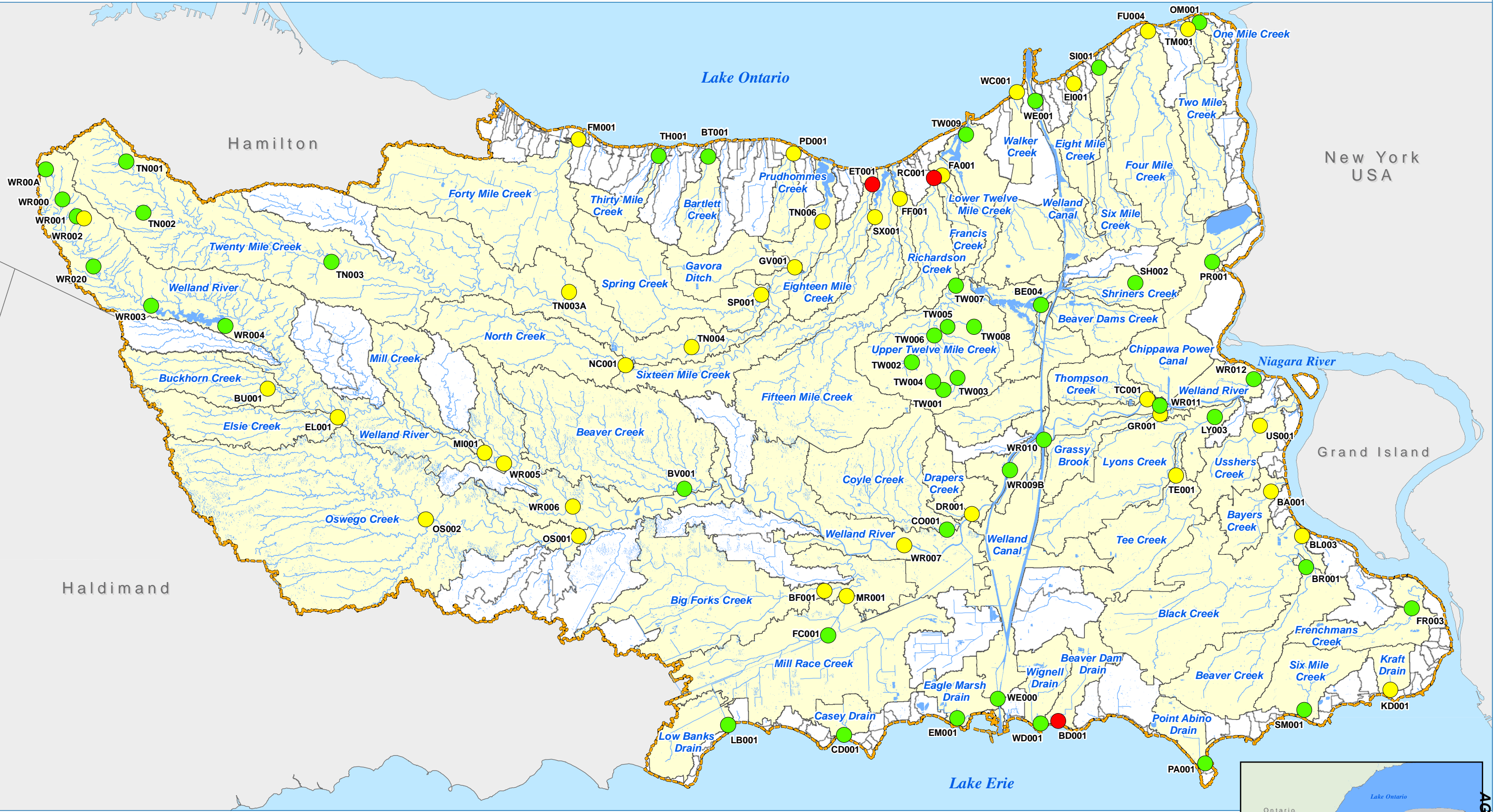
Appendix B

Median Chloride Concentrations 2015-2019



Appendix C

Median Copper Concentrations 2015-2019




Surface Water Quality Monitoring Station

Copper (ug/L)

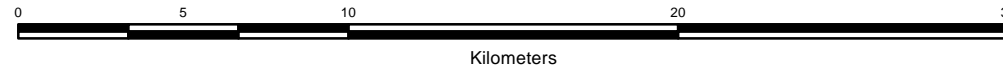
- < 2.5
- 5.1 - 10
- 2.5 - 5.0
- > 10

 Watercourses

 Waterbodies

 Sampled Subwatersheds

 NPCA Jurisdiction

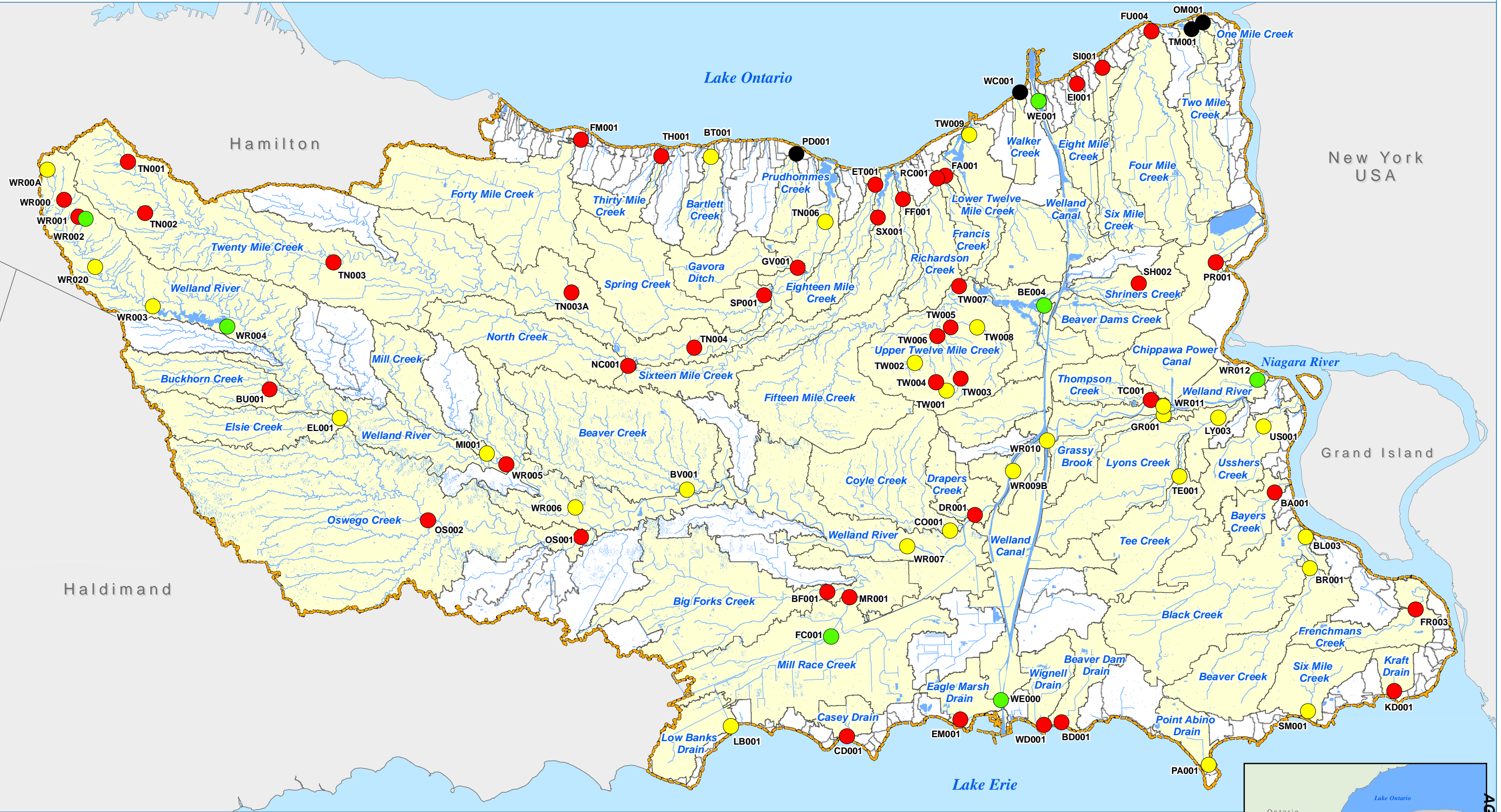


All Frames: North American Datum 1983, Universal Transverse Mercator 6° Projection, Zone 17N, Central Meridian 81° West.
Produced by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority with data supplied under licence by members of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange, 2020.



Appendix D

Median E.coli Concentrations 2015-2019



5 Surface Water Quality Monitoring Station

5 E.coli (cfu/100ml)

● < 25 ● 101 - 500

● 25 - 100 ● > 500

Watercourses

Waterbodies

Sampled Subwatersheds

 NPCA Jurisdiction

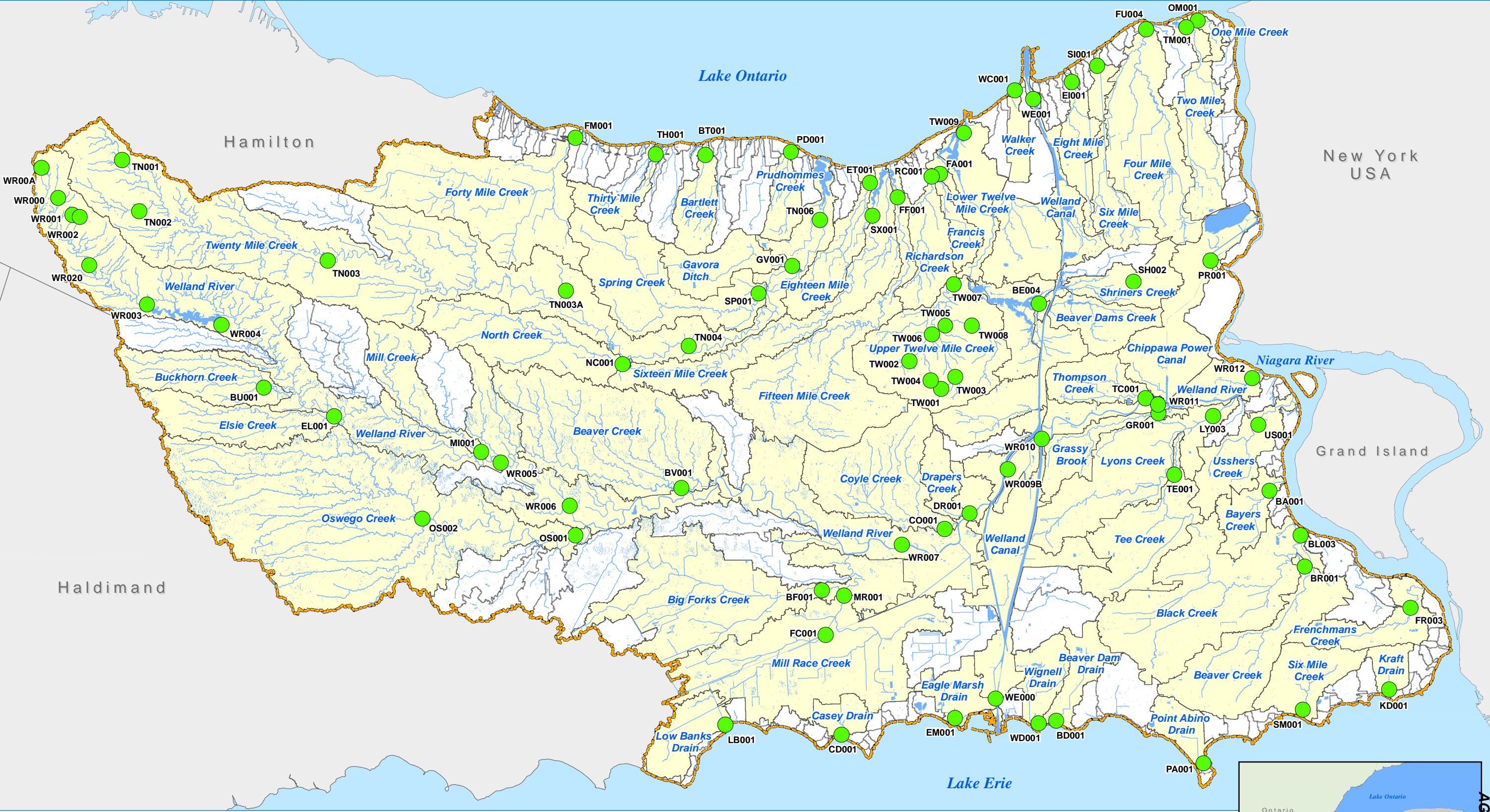
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AGENDA ITEM

Appendix E

Median Lead Concentrations 2015-2019



Surface Water Quality Monitoring Station

Lead (ug/L)

● < 2.5 ● 5.1 - 10

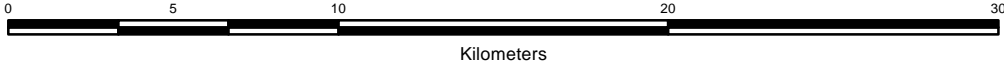
● 2.5 - 5.0 ● > 10

~ Watercourses

~ Waterbodies

~ Sampled Subwatersheds

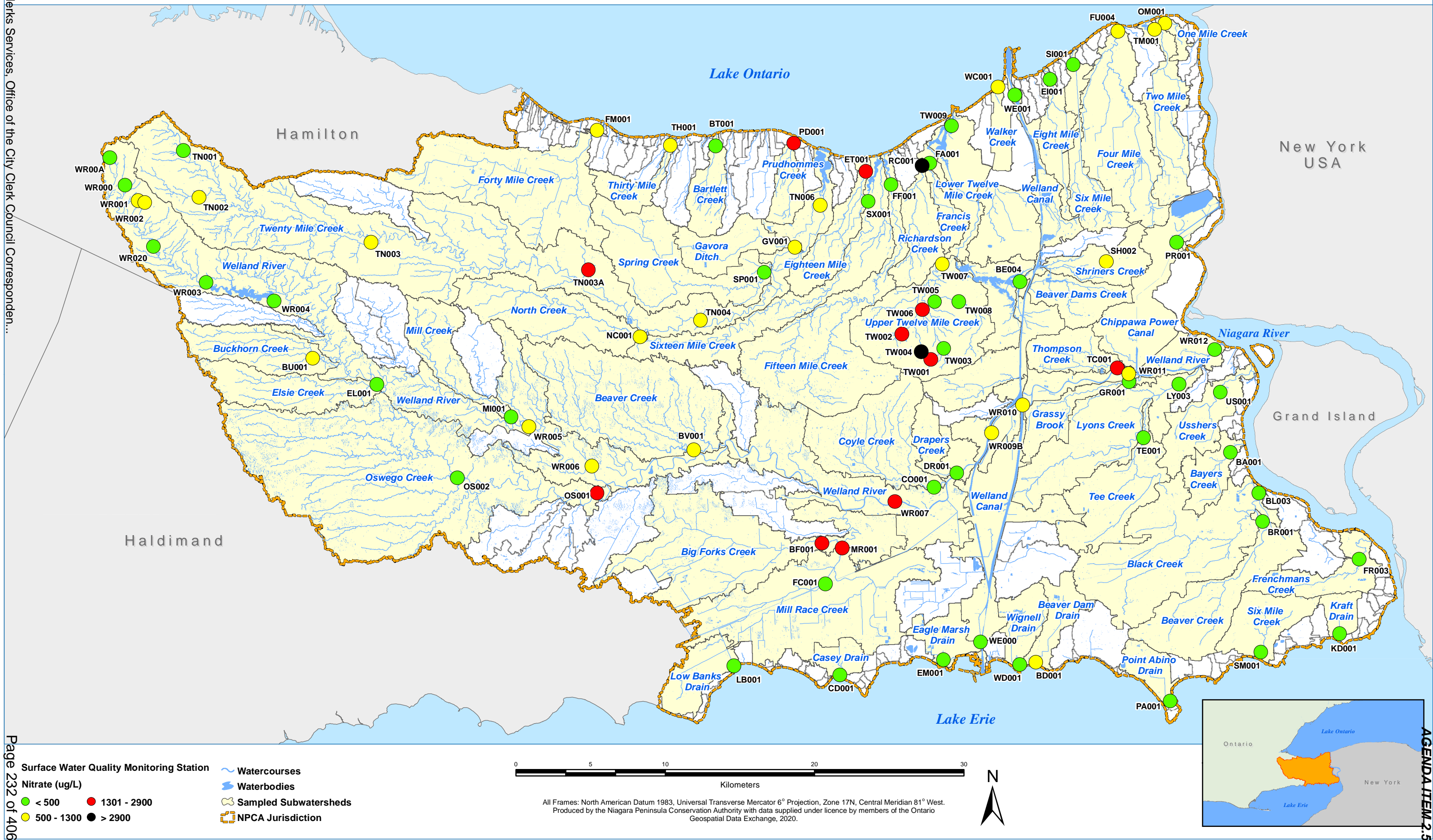
~ NPCA Jurisdiction



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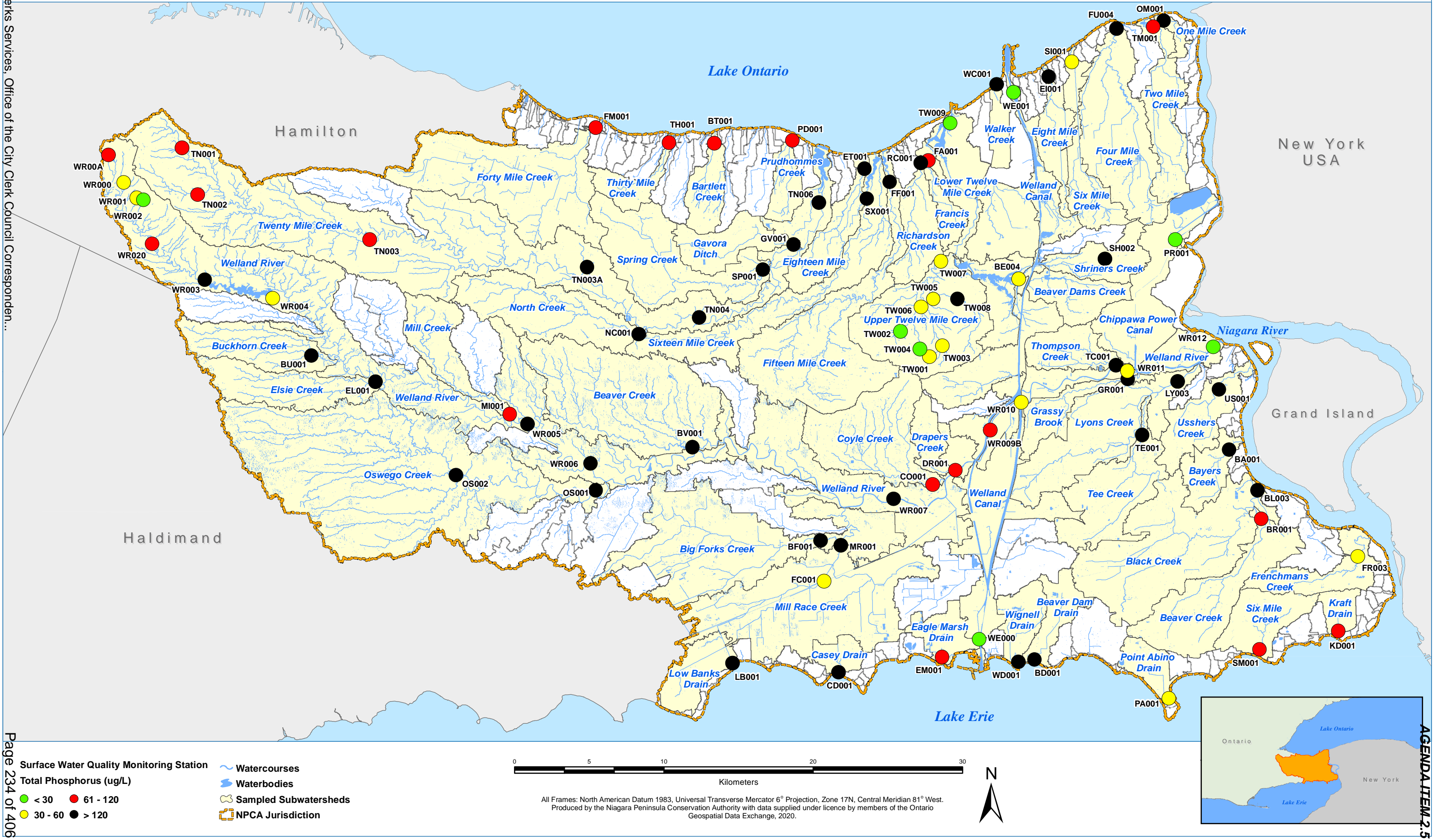


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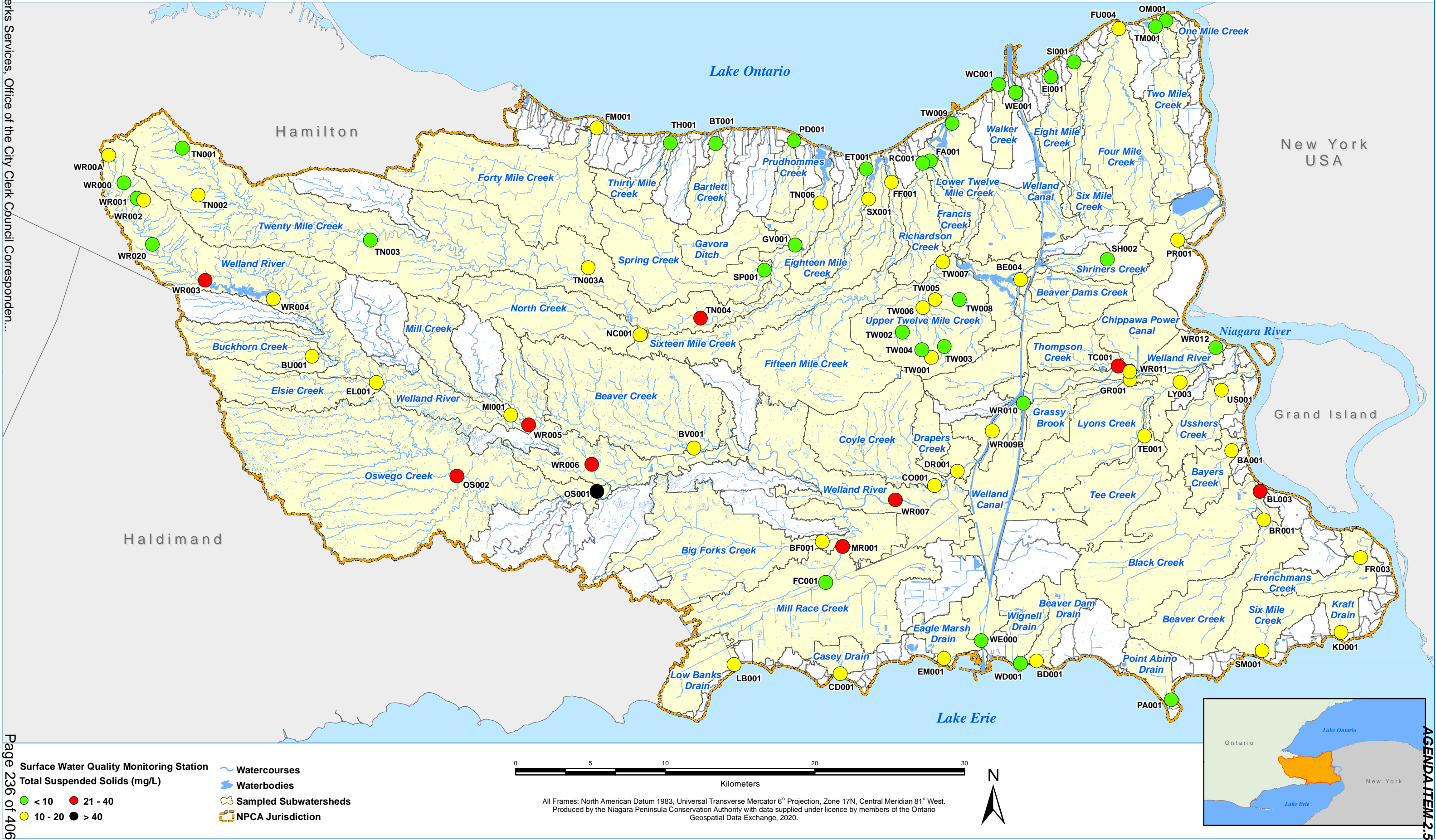
Appendix G

Median Total Phosphorus Concentrations 2015-2019



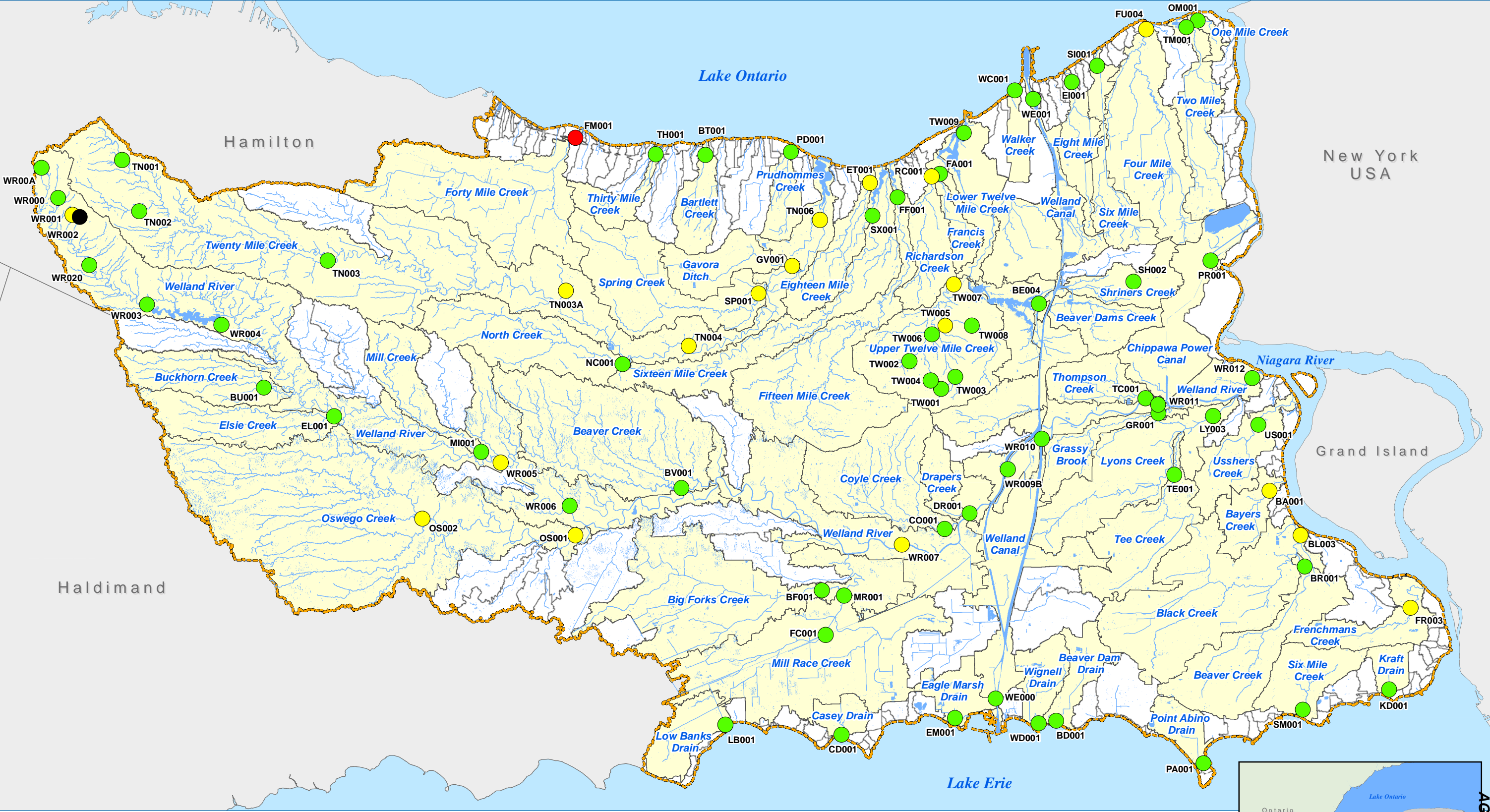
Appendix H

Median Total Suspended Solids Concentrations 2015-2019



Appendix I

Median Zinc Concentrations 2015-2019



Surface Water Quality Monitoring Station

Zinc (ug/L)

< 11

11 - 20

21 - 40

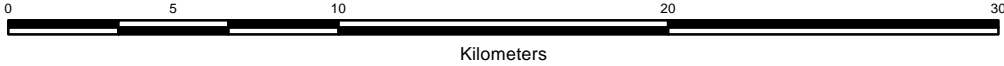
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Watercourses

Waterbodies

Sampled Subwatersheds

NPCA Jurisdiction

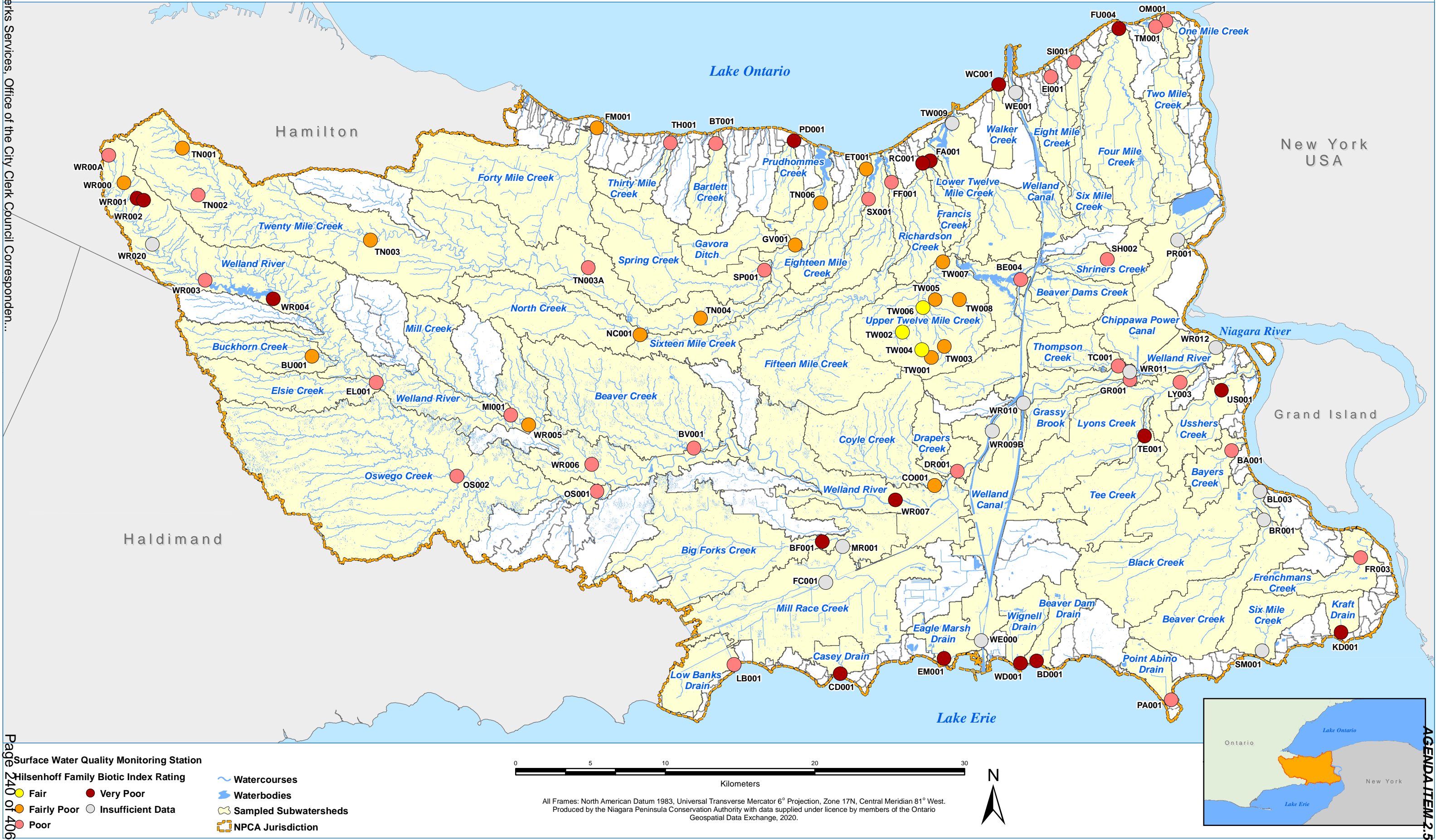


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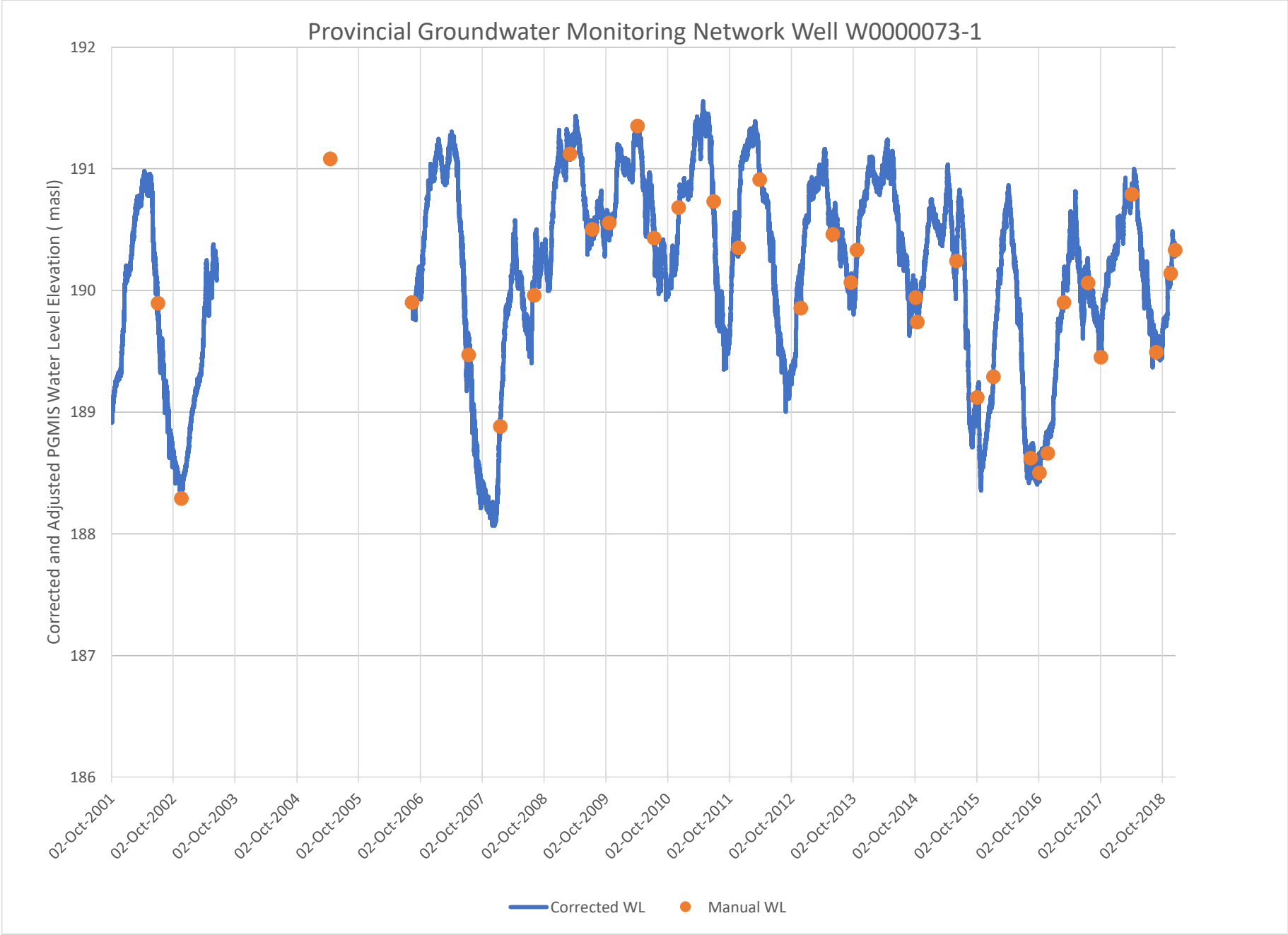


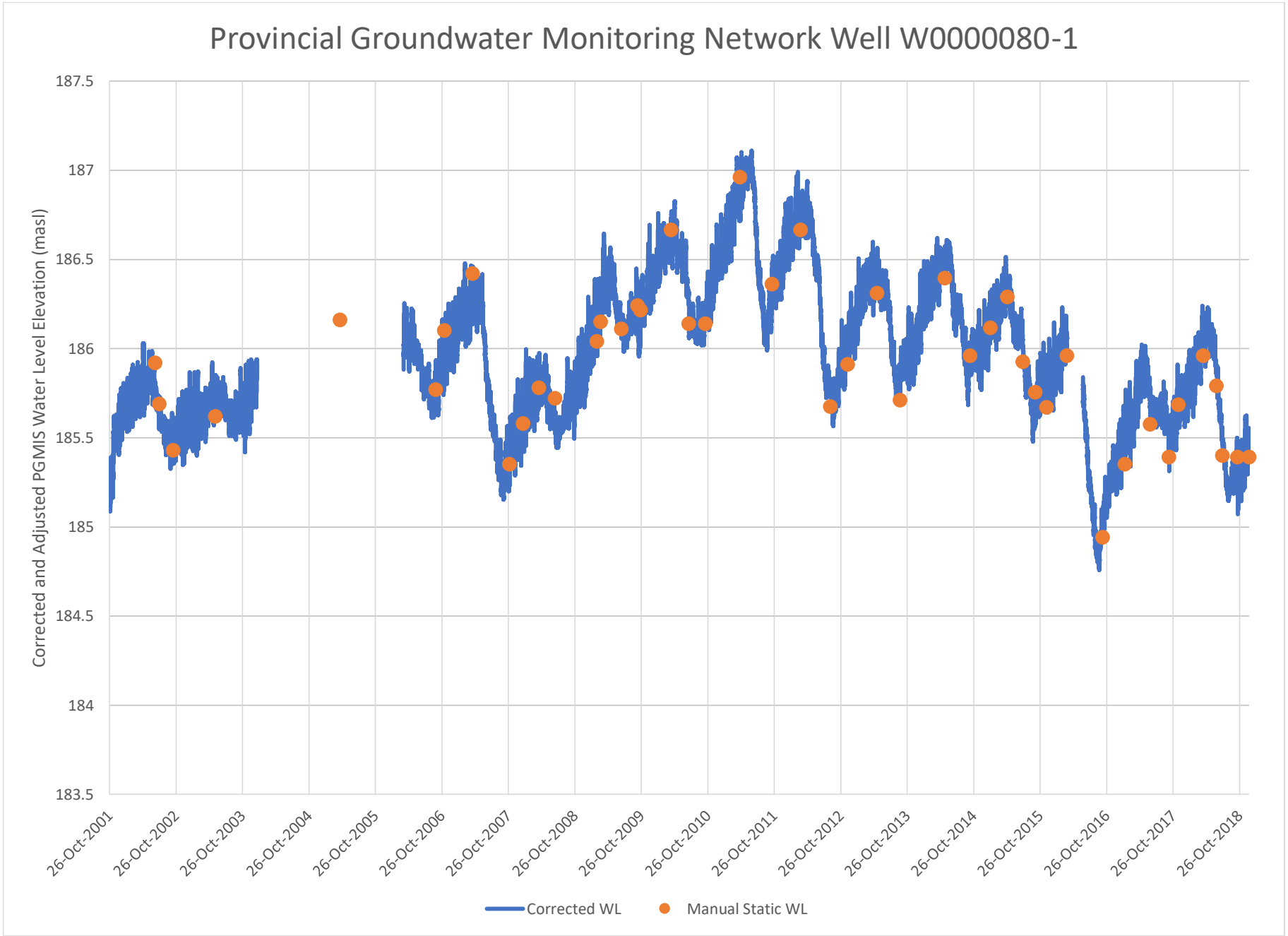
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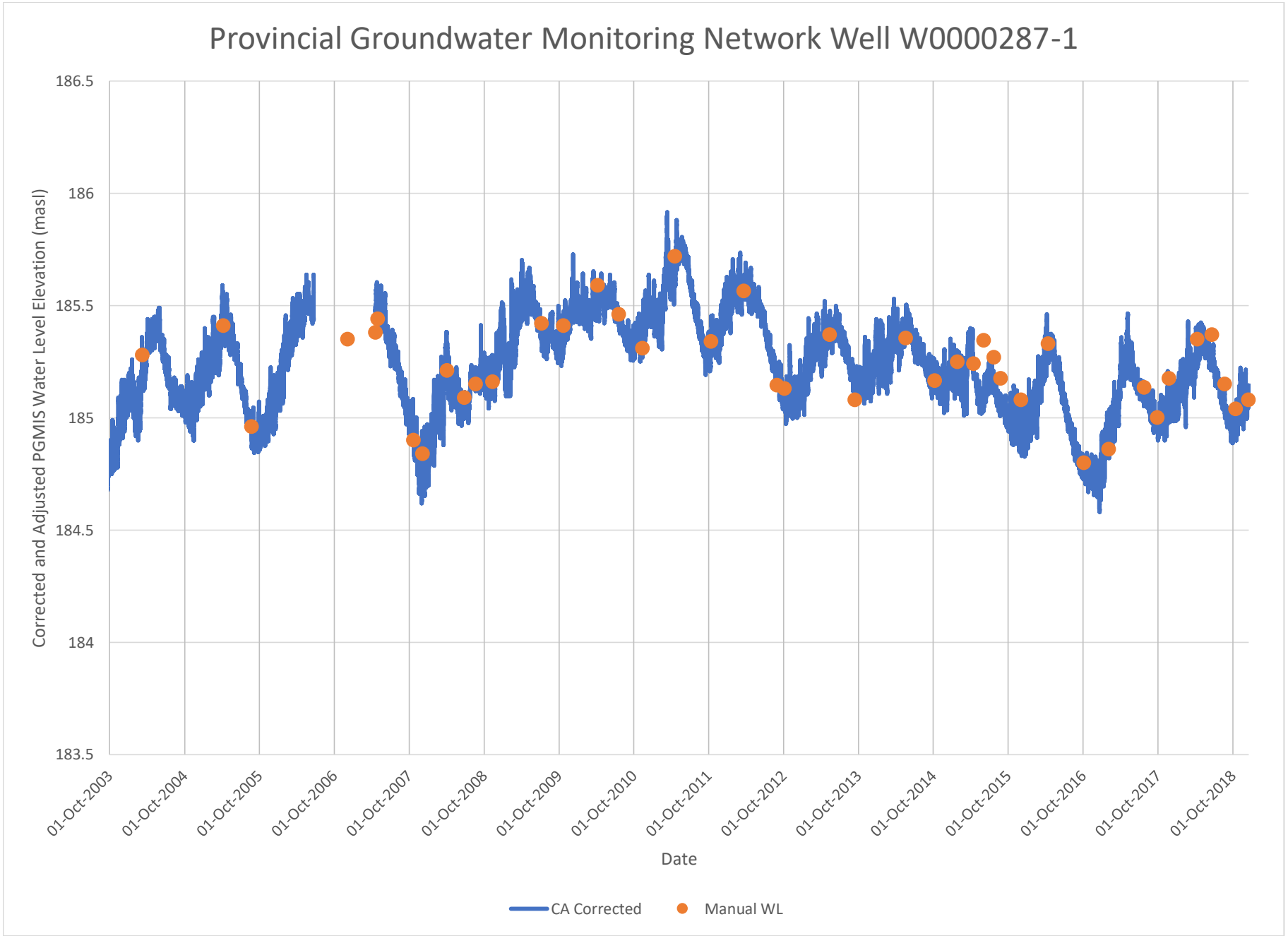
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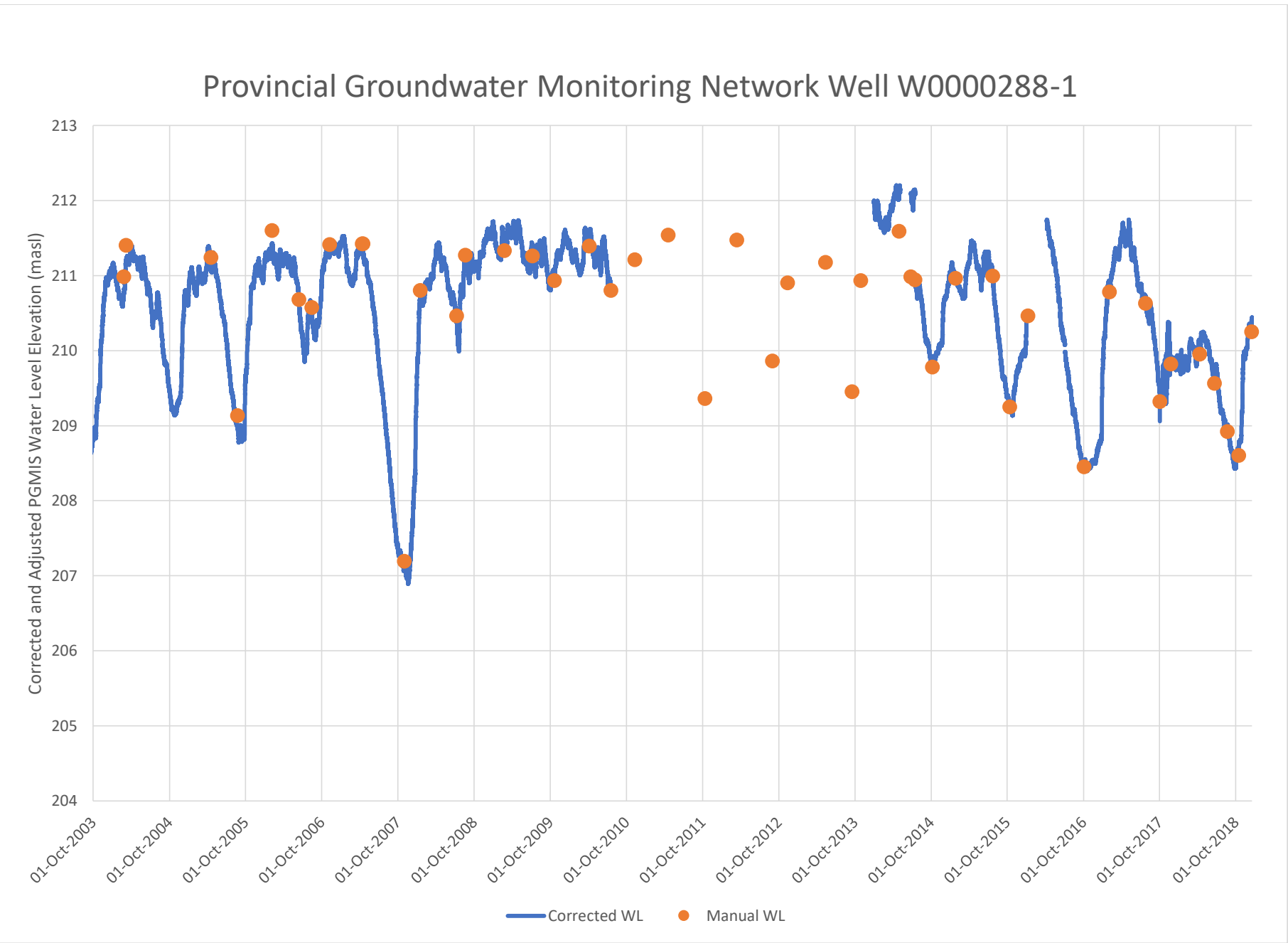


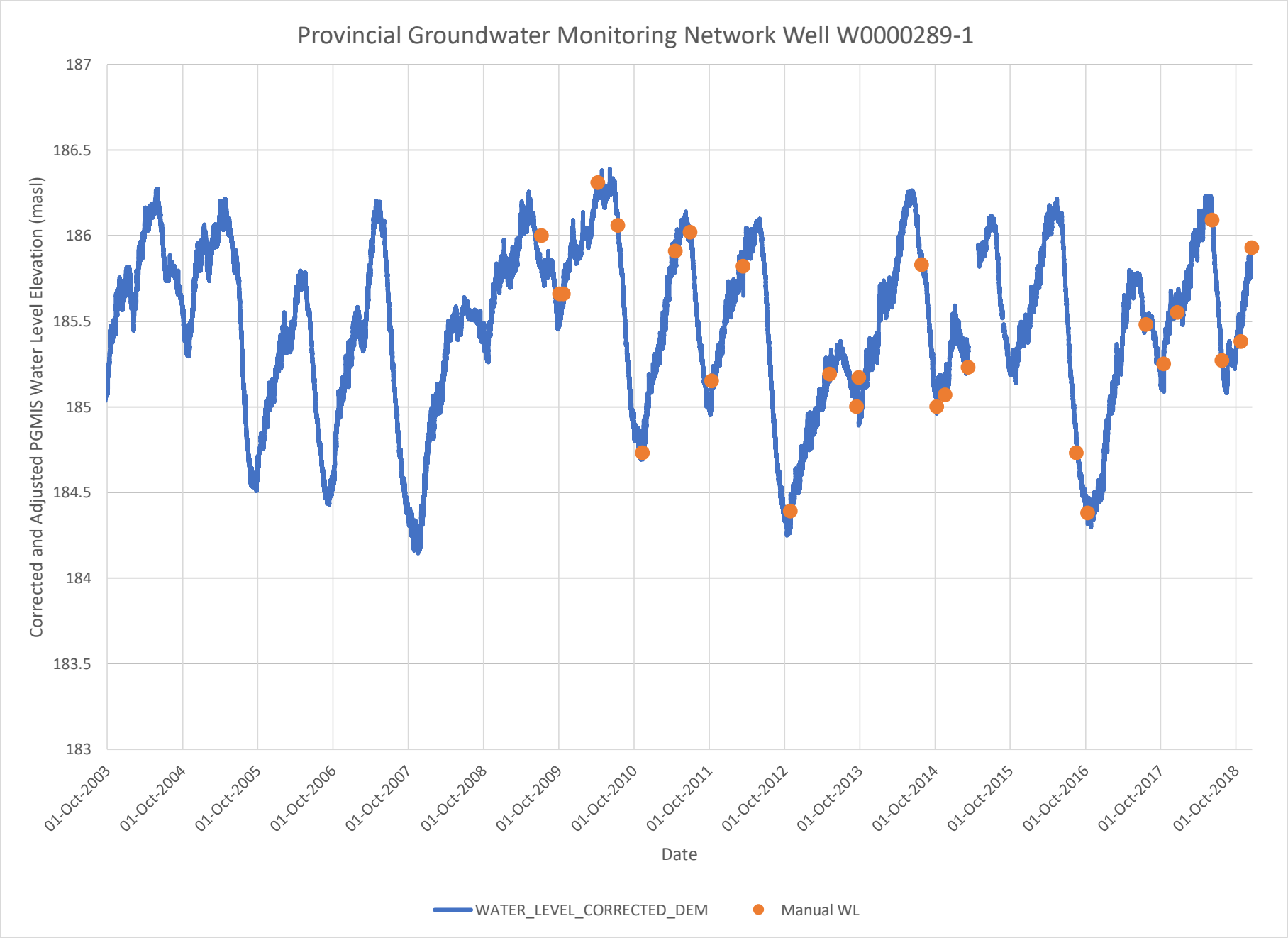
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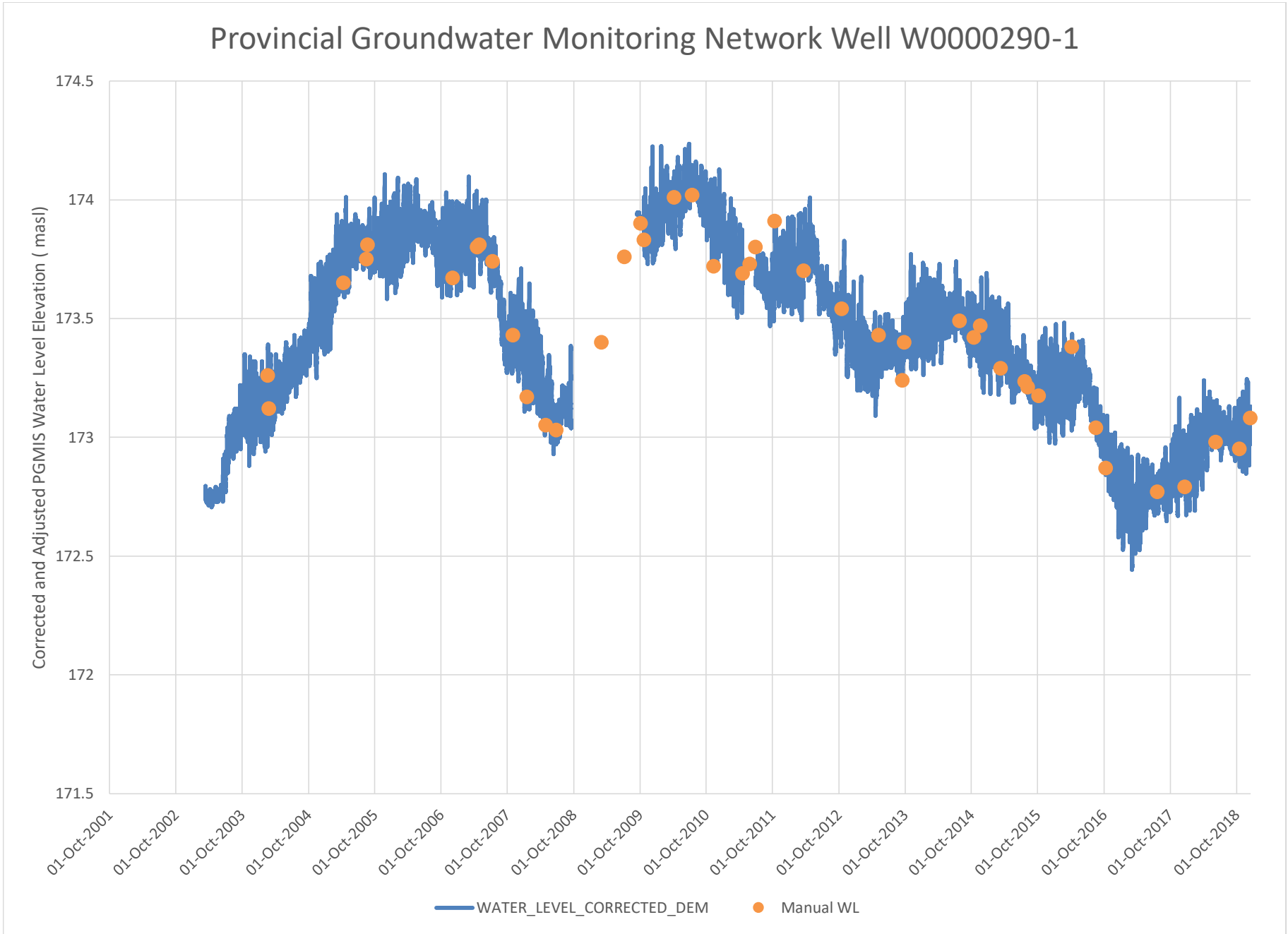




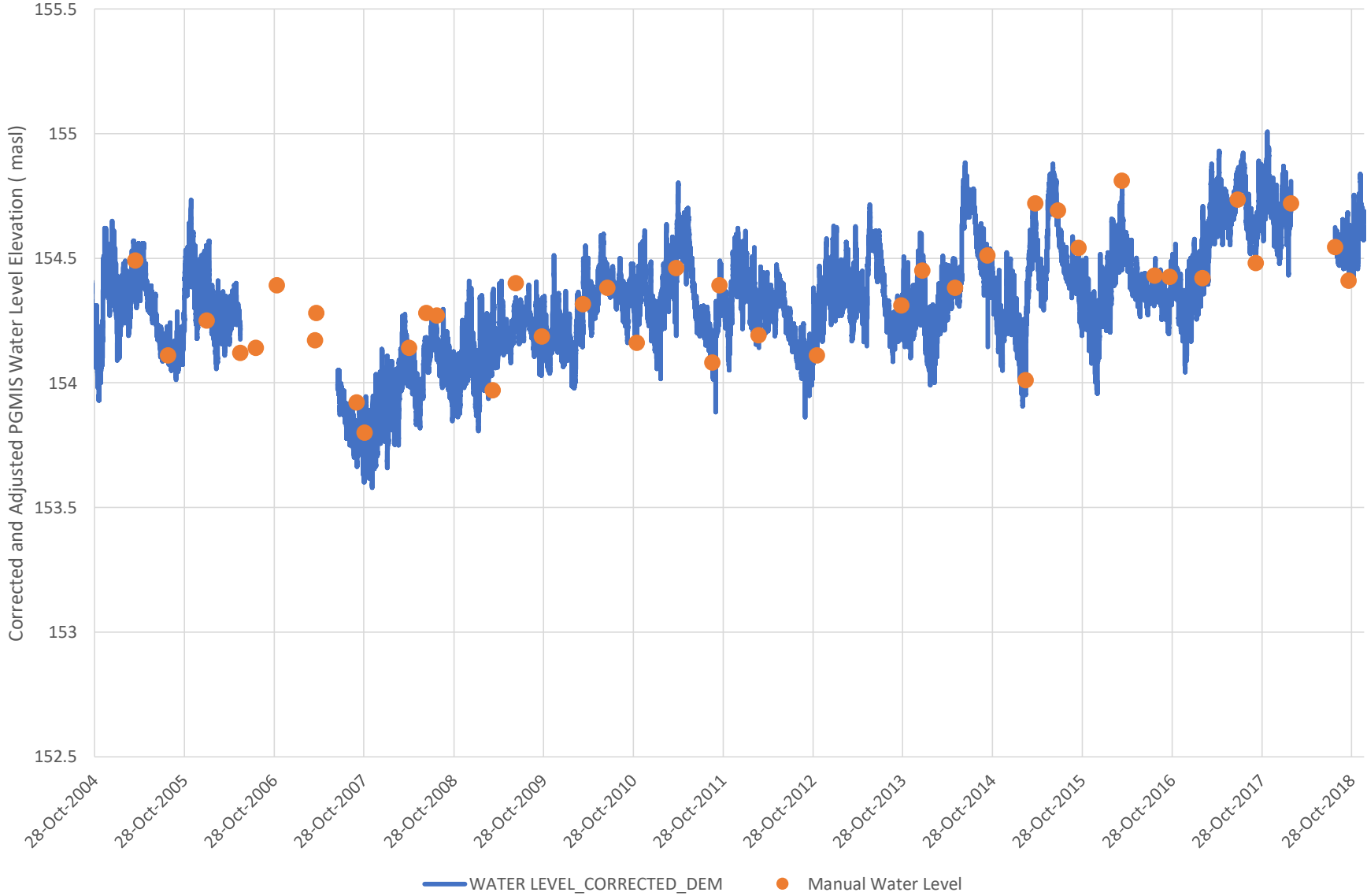


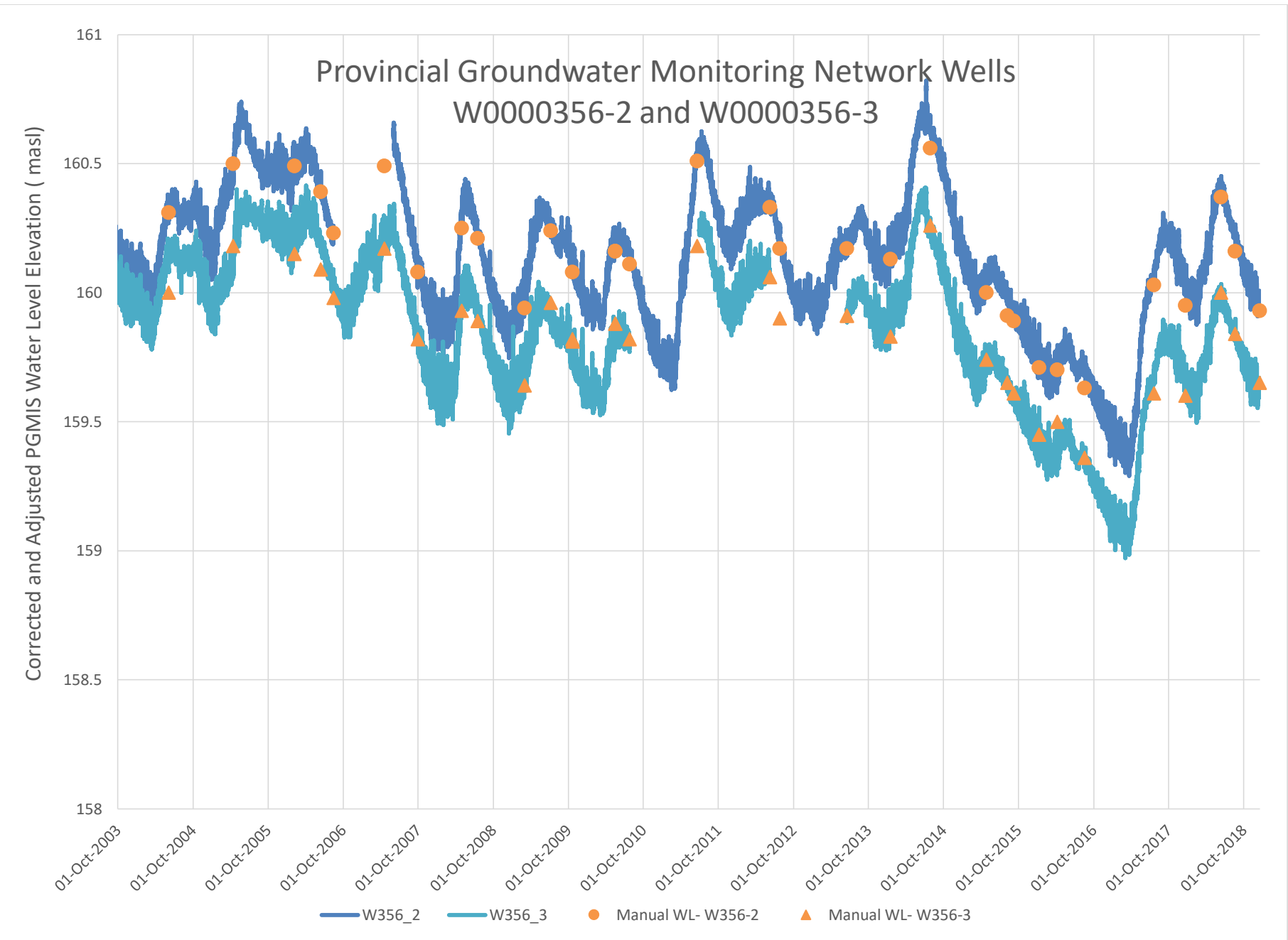


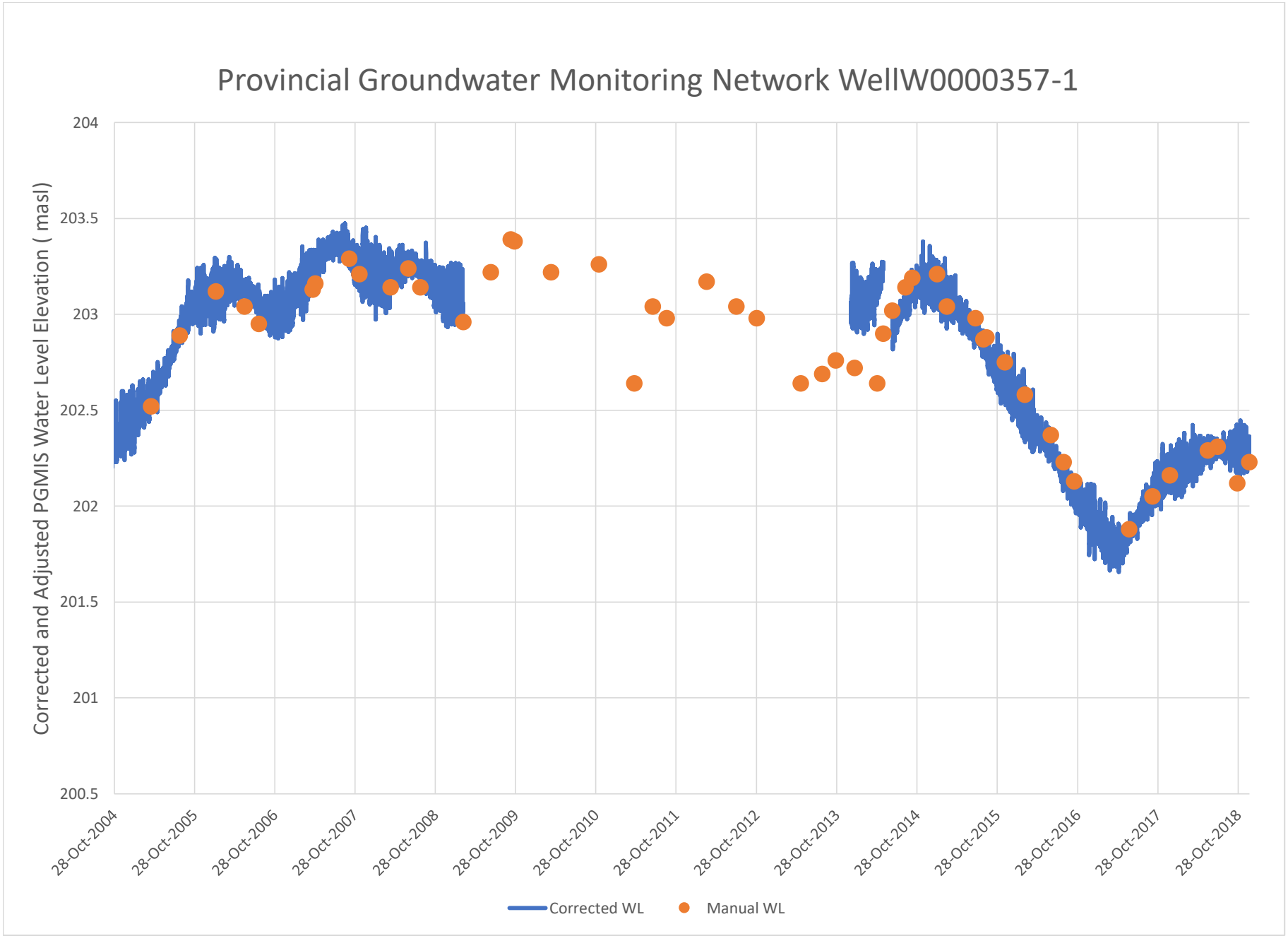




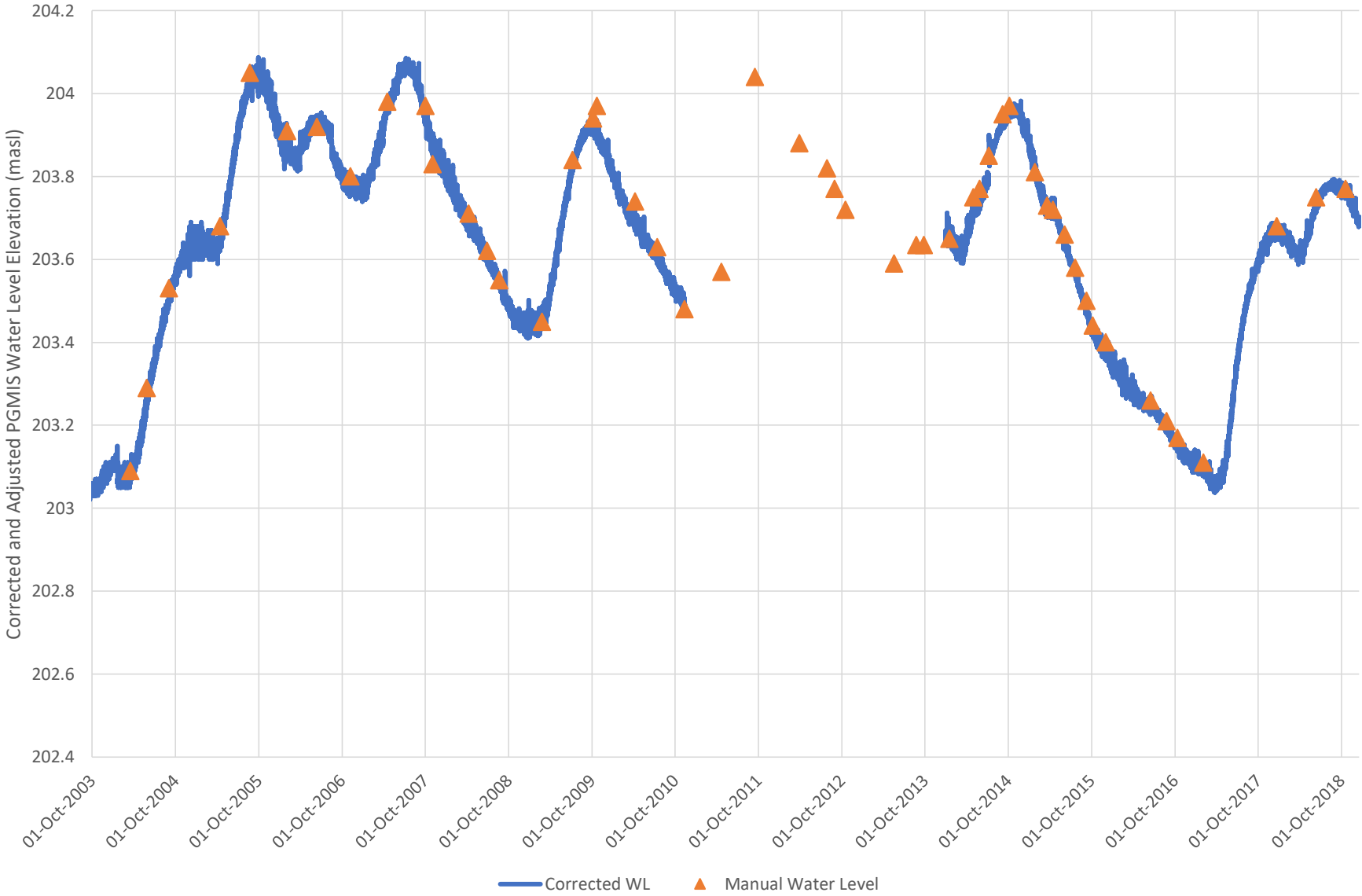
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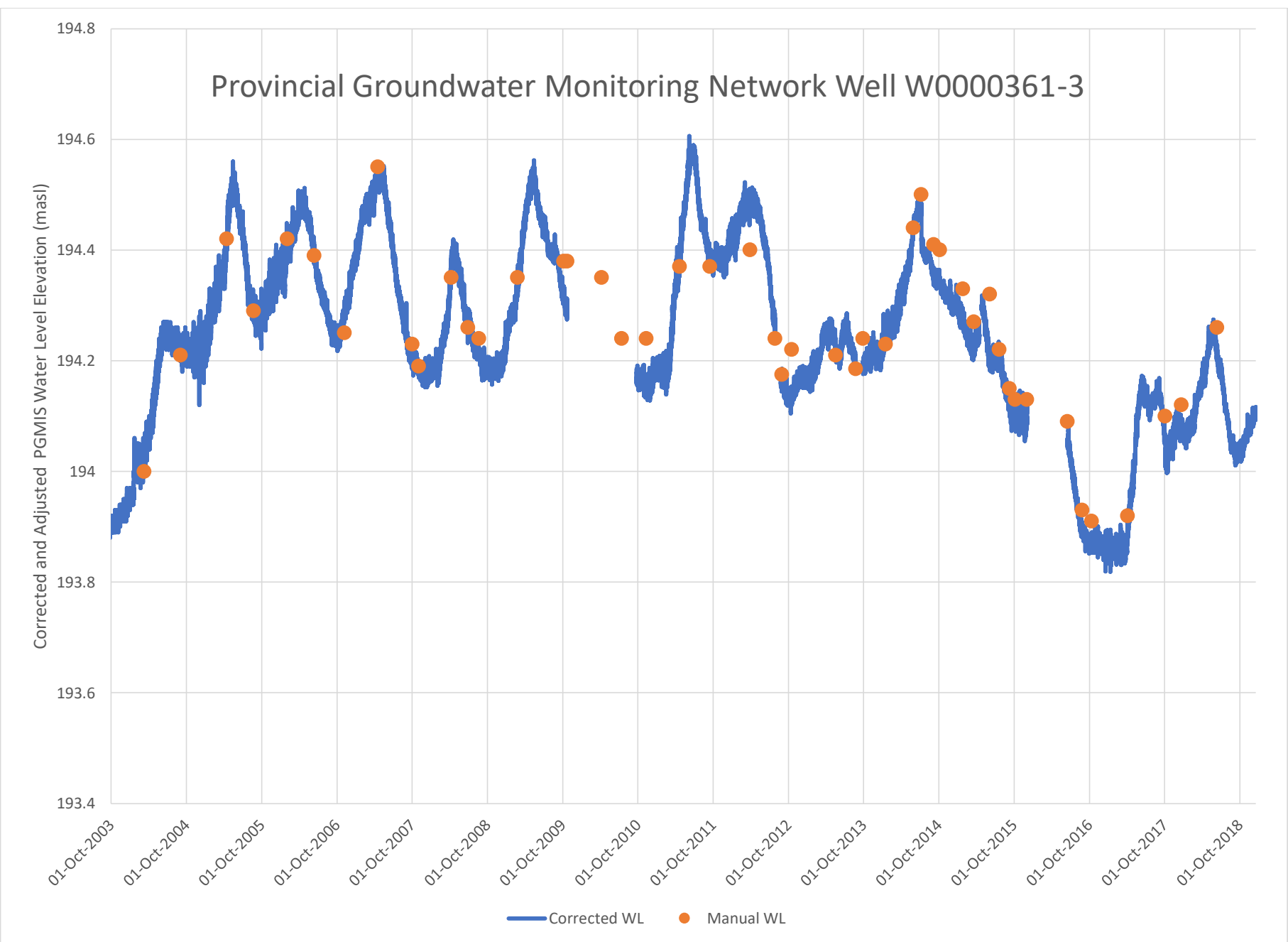


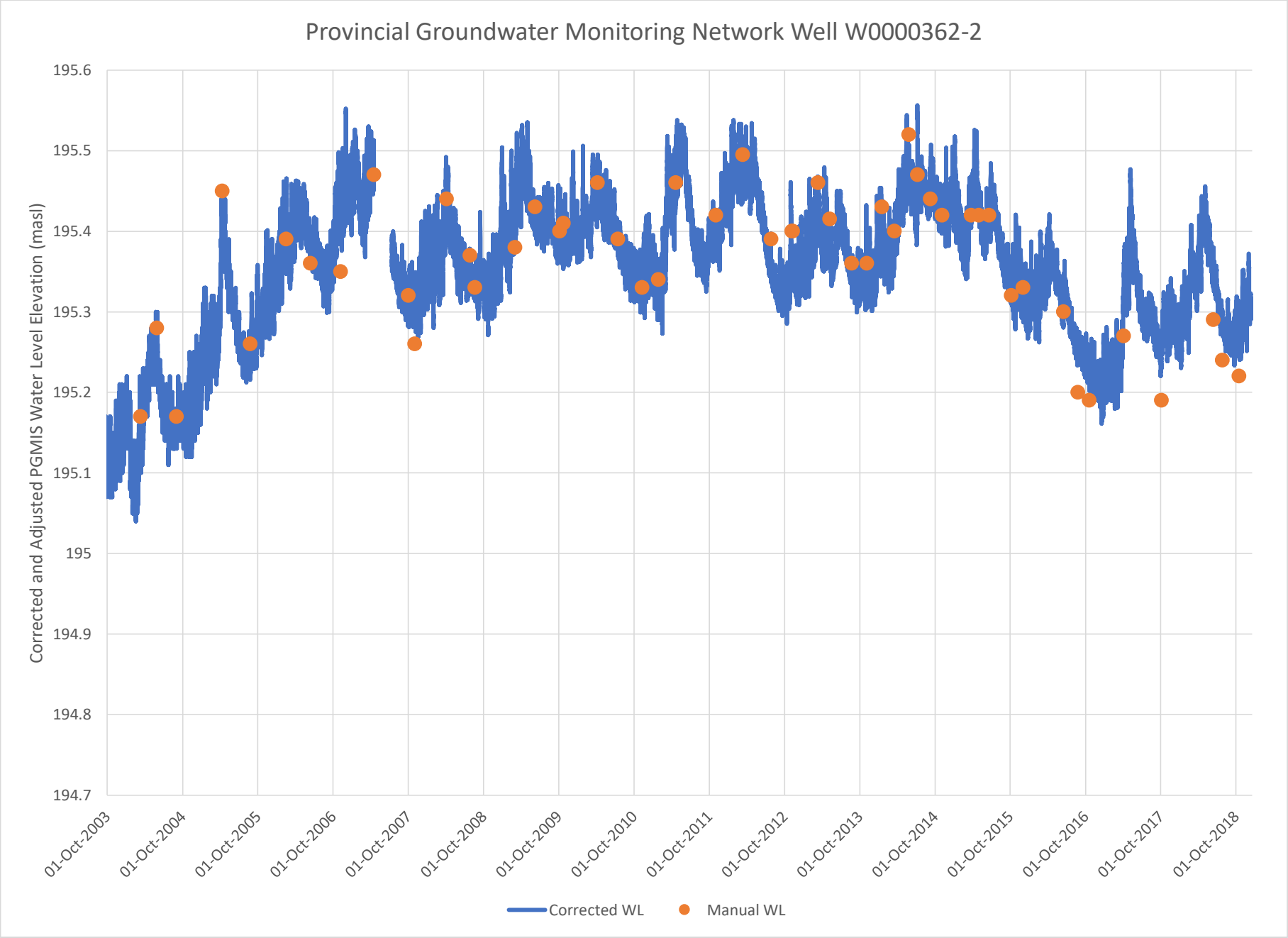




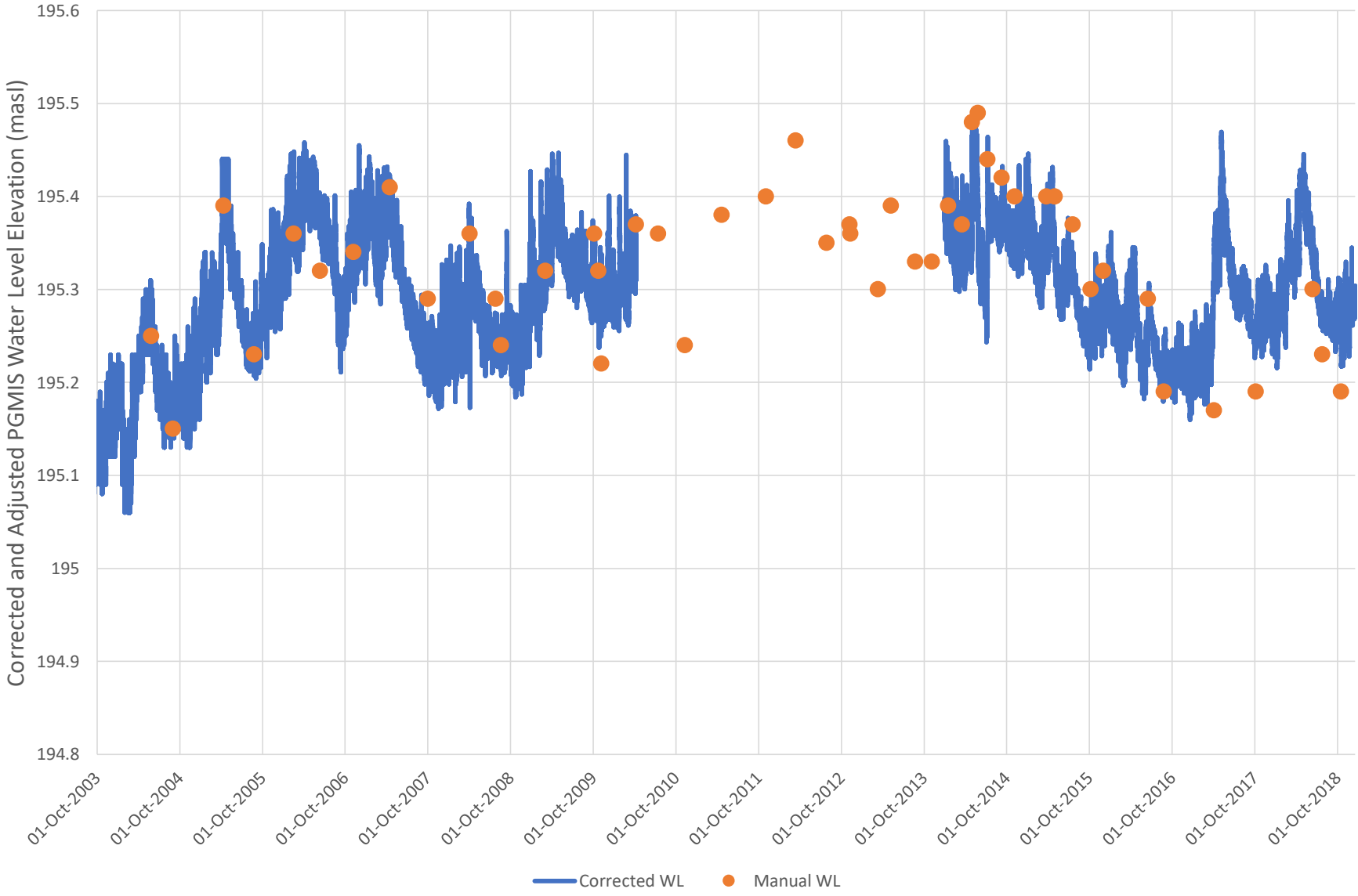
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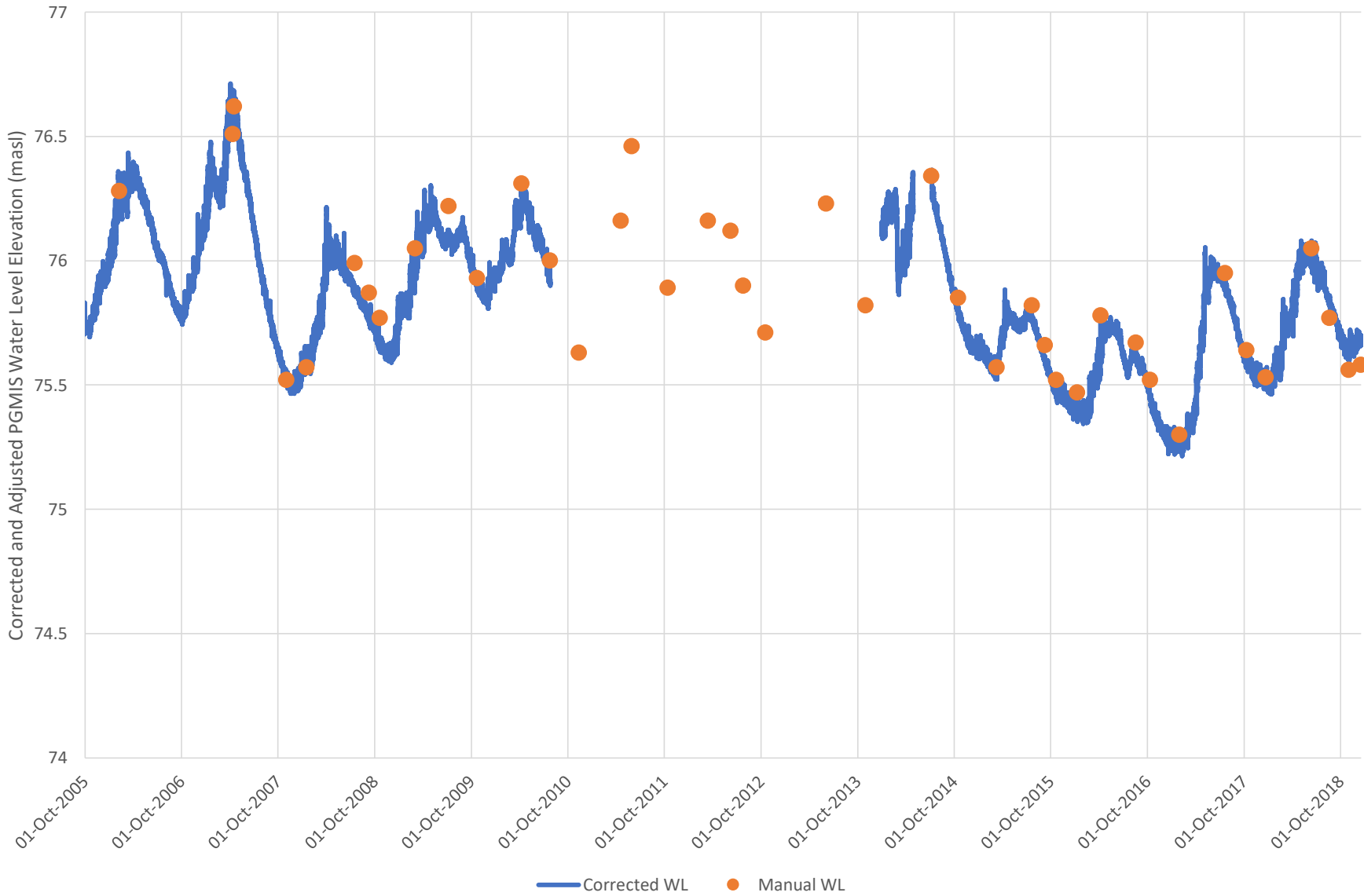




Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Well W0000362-3



Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Well W0000384-1



Appendix L

Twelve Mile Creek Temperature Monitoring: 2019 Summary Report

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, 2020

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Twelve Mile Creek Temperature Monitoring: 2019 Summary Report

1.0 Introduction

The following report is the yearly update on the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's stream temperature monitoring program in the Upper Twelve Mile Creek subwatershed.

The Twelve Mile Creek watershed covers 178 km² of the Niagara Peninsula and is over 22 km in length. Twelve Mile Creek's headwaters can be found in the Fonthill Kame Delta Complex in Pelham, Ontario. The creek runs north through urbanized St. Catharines and empties into Lake Ontario at Port Dalhousie. The Upper Twelve Mile Creek tributaries are groundwater fed. The St. John's and Effingham Tributaries, located in the Upper Twelve watershed, are the only identified coldwater streams in Niagara and are therefore the only stream supporting naturally reproducing Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) in Niagara.

Stream temperature directly influences the physiology, metabolic rates and life history traits of aquatic species and influences processes such as nutrient cycling and productivity. Fluctuating and permanent natural and human induced changes to water temperature can render suitable habitat unusable to native species of fish, invertebrates and native aquatic communities (Coker *et al* 2001).

Brook Trout are indicators of high quality coldwater habitat. Once abundant throughout the Lake Ontario basin, Brook Trout populations have experienced severe declines since the mid-1900s because of habitat loss and stream temperature increases from forest clearing for agriculture and urban development activities (Coker *et al.* 2001). Brook Trout requirements include forested riparian cover, clean low nutrient water quality, base flow sufficient to maintain flow rates, cold water temperature, and up-welling groundwater or spring fed streams to aerate incubating eggs. The upper lethal temperature limit for Brook Trout is 24°C with an optimum temperature range of 13°C to 17°C (Coker *et al.* 2001). The absence or impairment of any of these conditions can negatively affect the viability of individual populations.

To prevent the degradation and disruption of sensitive Brook Trout habitat and populations it is essential to establish monitoring programs to safeguard stream water quality. Water temperature, a key indicator and attribute of Brook Trout habitat health and viability, is easily monitored using temperature dataloggers.

Prior studies found that most upper tributaries fall within the healthy range for Brook Trout. Moving downstream leads to higher stream temperatures and eventually temperatures out of the optimal range for Brook Trout.

2.0 Objectives

The objectives of the 2019 temperature monitoring study are to:

- Continue the yearly temperature monitoring program of the Upper Twelve Mile Creek.
- Identify and classify the thermal regime for selected locations.
- Identify any changes that may have occurred to the thermal stability of Twelve Mile Creek.
- Identify sites that exceed the optimal range and/or lethal limit for Brook Trout.
- Identify locations that require restoration and stewardship.
- Look for any long-term warming changes that may pose risk in the future.

3.0 Methodology

Nine stream locations were monitored in 2019. The stations were chosen due to the availability of background data, including water chemistry, benthic macroinvertebrate data, fisheries, stream morphology, hydrology data and stream temperature data.

Onset HOBO Water Temp Pro dataloggers were deployed at nine locations identified in Table 1. Loggers were deployed in June 2019 and collected in November 2019, recording at one-hour intervals. Figure 1 below shows station locations on a map within Twelve Mile Creek. Figure 2 is the model of logger (Pro v2 Data Logger).

The dataloggers were installed in the stream bed at each location and anchored using metal spikes and aircraft cable. Stream bed locations were selected to provide shading from direct sunlight (where possible) and ensure adequate water depth to keep the datalogger fully submerged throughout the summer.

Sulphur Spring Drive data were taken from a stream gauge operated by the NPCA. This included air temperature data. TW007 stream temperature was taken from an Onset HOBO Conductivity logger deployed for a separate study with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

A monthly maintenance schedule was implemented for this study. Temperature loggers were cleaned and downloaded monthly to ensure they were in working order.

The data is downloaded via HOBOWare Pro Software and then organized into excel worksheets with air temperature data from an air temperature sensor located on Sulphur Spring Road in Pelham. The box and whisker plot is used to show here the data lies in relation to the Brook Trout's optimum temperature range. The box represents where 50% of the temperature values fall. The line within the box represents the median value, and the whiskers represent the minimum and maximum values that

were recorded. The red line represents the lethal limit of 24°C for Brook Trout and the blue line represents the maximum of the optimum temperature range of 13 °C to 17 °C.

Modified nomograms were created to observe the stream thermal stability and identify the thermal regime of each creek. The method used to create this figure was taken from Stoneman and Jones (1996), where a simple method to classify stream thermal stability with single observations of daily maximum air temperatures and water temperatures at 16:00 hours from July 1 to September 10. Their method determines whether a watercourse is to be classified as coldwater, coolwater or warmwater. For the purpose of this study, the monitoring period has been expanded from June 5th to September 30th. This protocol is an approximation of the classification.

Table 1: 2019 Monitoring locations

Station	Watershed	UTM Coordinates	Location Description
TW000	St. Johns	639434, 4767542	Small headwater tributary located in Marlene Stewart Streit Park
TW001	St. Johns	639604, 4768717	St. John's branch on Pelham Street near Overholt Road
TW002	Effingham	637665, 4770341	Effingham branch on Effingham Street, upstream of Sulphur Spring Drive
Sulphur Spring Drive	Effingham	638301, 4771206	Effingham branch located on Sulphur Spring Drive, downstream of TW002
TW003	St. Johns	640455, 4769347	St. Johns branch located on private property near McSherry Lane.
TW004	Effingham	638942, 4769132	Effingham branch located on Metler Road near Haist Street, downstream of golf course
TW005	St. Johns	639056, 4771938	St. Johns branch located on Roland Road, near the confluence of both branches
TW006	Effingham	639021, 4771975	Effingham branch located on Roland Road, near the confluence of both branches
TW007	Main branch	640329, 4775029	Main branch near 1 st Street Louth, downstream of Short Hills Provincial Park

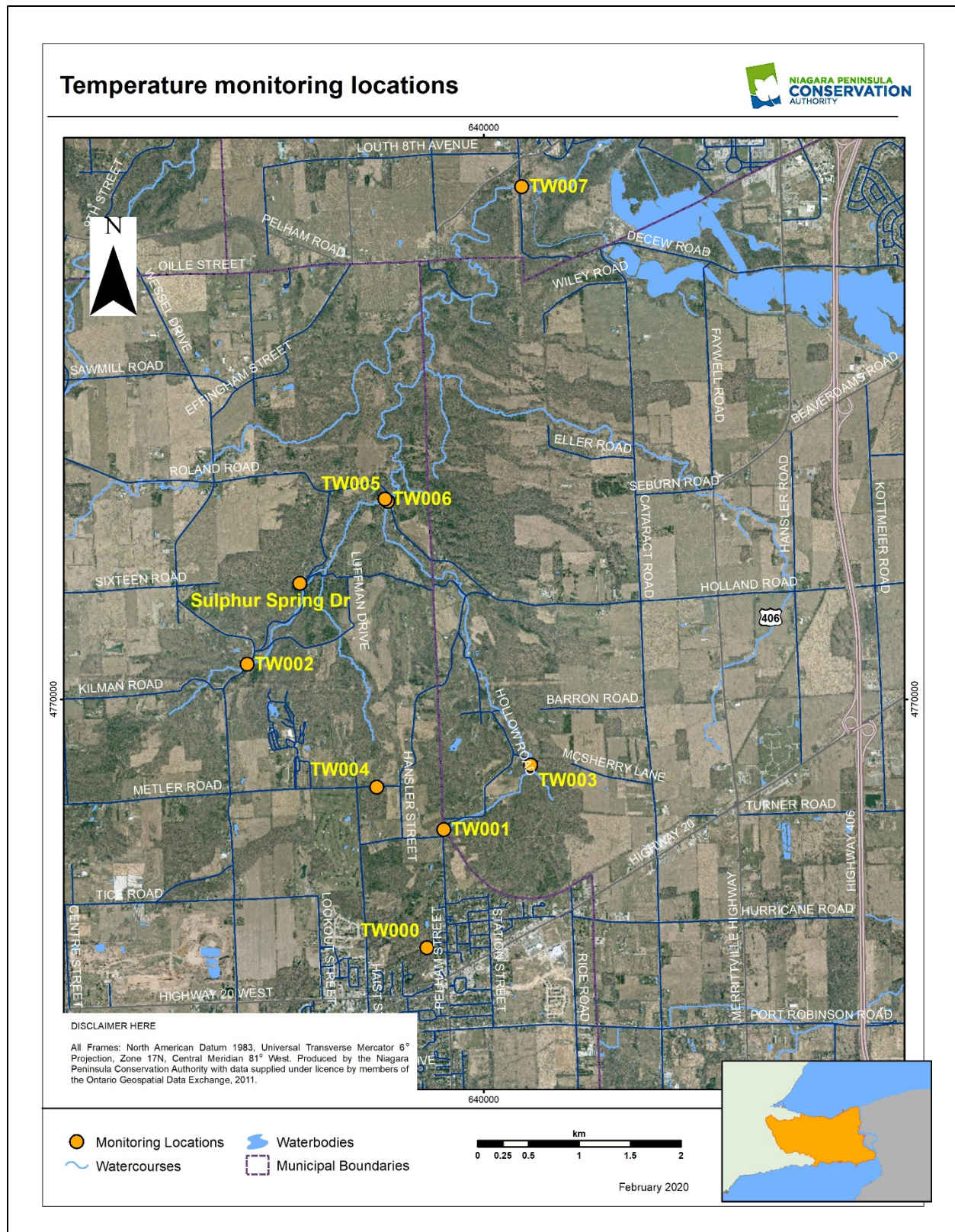


Figure 1: Map of temperature monitoring locations



Figure 2: Onset HOBO Water temperature Pro v2 Data Logger

4.0 Results

Table 2: Summary of data collected

Stations	Mean Temperature (°C)	Minimum Temperature (°C)	Median Temperature (°C)	Maximum Temperature (°C)	Time out of optimal range (%)	Consecutive Hours over lethal limit
TW000	13.09	11.05	12.99	17.94	0.18	0
TW001	16.62	12.56	16.58	22.11	41.61	0
TW002	15.09	11.37	15.08	19.77	12.19	0
Sulphur Spring Drive	15.31	11.08	15.28	20.59	17.40	0
TW003	14.61	11.35	14.46	19.87	5.67	0
TW004	15.68	12.05	15.70	20.27	22.73	0
TW005	17.33	12.12	17.46	22.71	56.66	0
TW006	17.19	12.00	17.23	23.09	53.38	1
TW007	20.10	15.2	20.19	25.23	94.15	13

Table 2 above displays a summary of data collected for the 2019 field season. In total, 2838 data points were collected at all stations, with the exception of TW007 where only 2085 data points were collected.

Maximum temperatures exceeded the lethal limit at one location, TW007. More than half of the data collected was over the optimal range at TW005, TW006, and TW007. The lethal limit was only exceeded for a significant portion of time in one instance, from July 20th to July 21st at TW007 for 13 consecutive hours.

4.1 St. Johns tributaries and main branch

St. Johns tributaries and the main branch of the Upper Twelve Mile Creek watershed were monitored for a total of five stations. Figure 2 below shows a box and whisker diagram of the five locations for the 2019 field season. The main branch at TW007 (1st Street Louth) exceeds the lethal limit and is above the optimal range for most data collected. TW005 data falls above the optimal range. TW000, TW001, and TW003 fall below the optimal range.

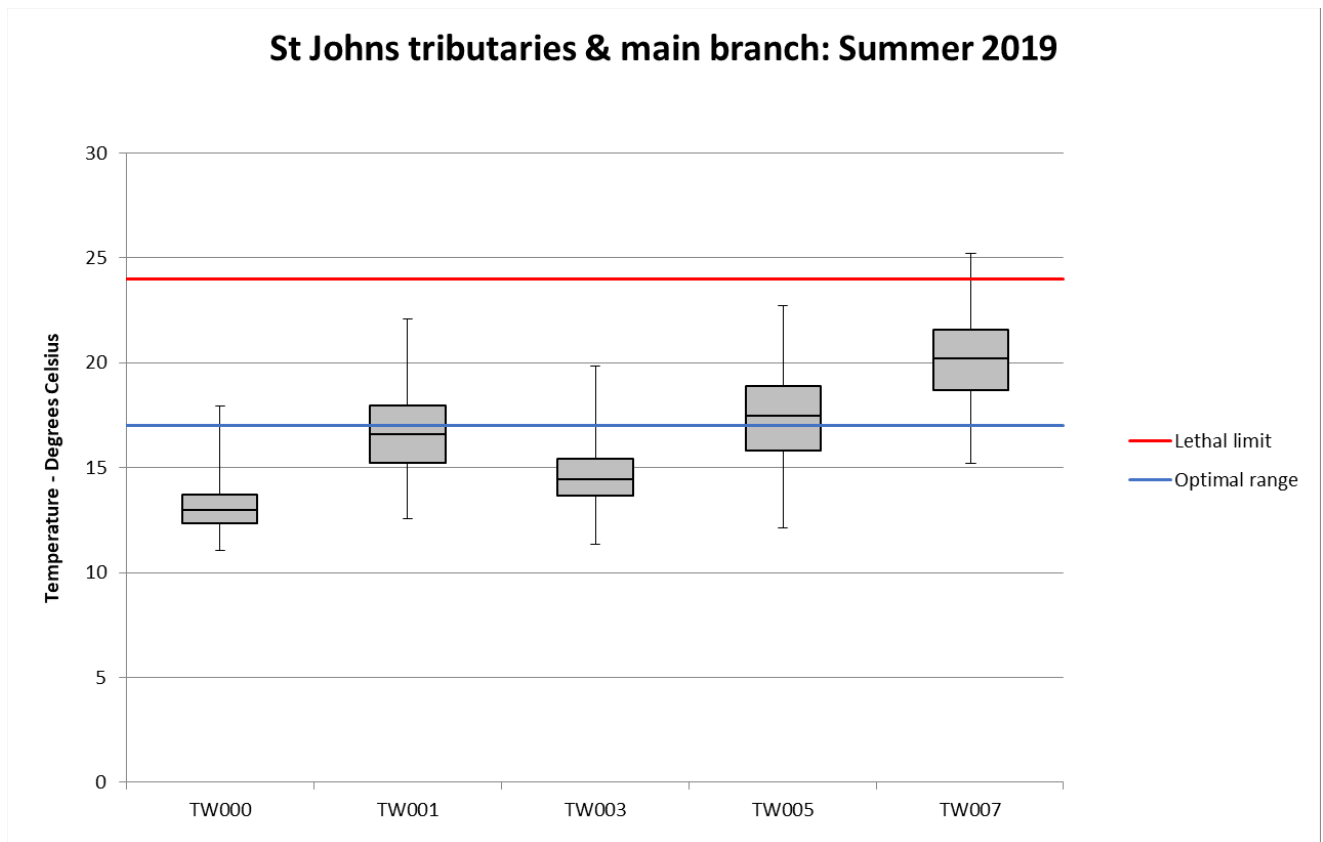


Figure 3: Box and whisker plot for St. Johns tributaries and main branch

Figure 3 below is a scatter plot nomogram that represents the classification of stream thermal stability. Maximum daily air temperature is plotted against the corresponding water temperature at 16:00hrs from June 5th to September 30th. This nomogram is created based on the protocol outlined by Stoneman and Jones (1996).

The nomogram for St Johns and the main branch of Twelve Mile Creek show that TW000 and TW003 can be classified as coldwater. TW001 and TW005 are classified as coolwater. TW007 (main branch) is classified as warmwater. The classifications are determined by where the majority of data fit into the graph below.

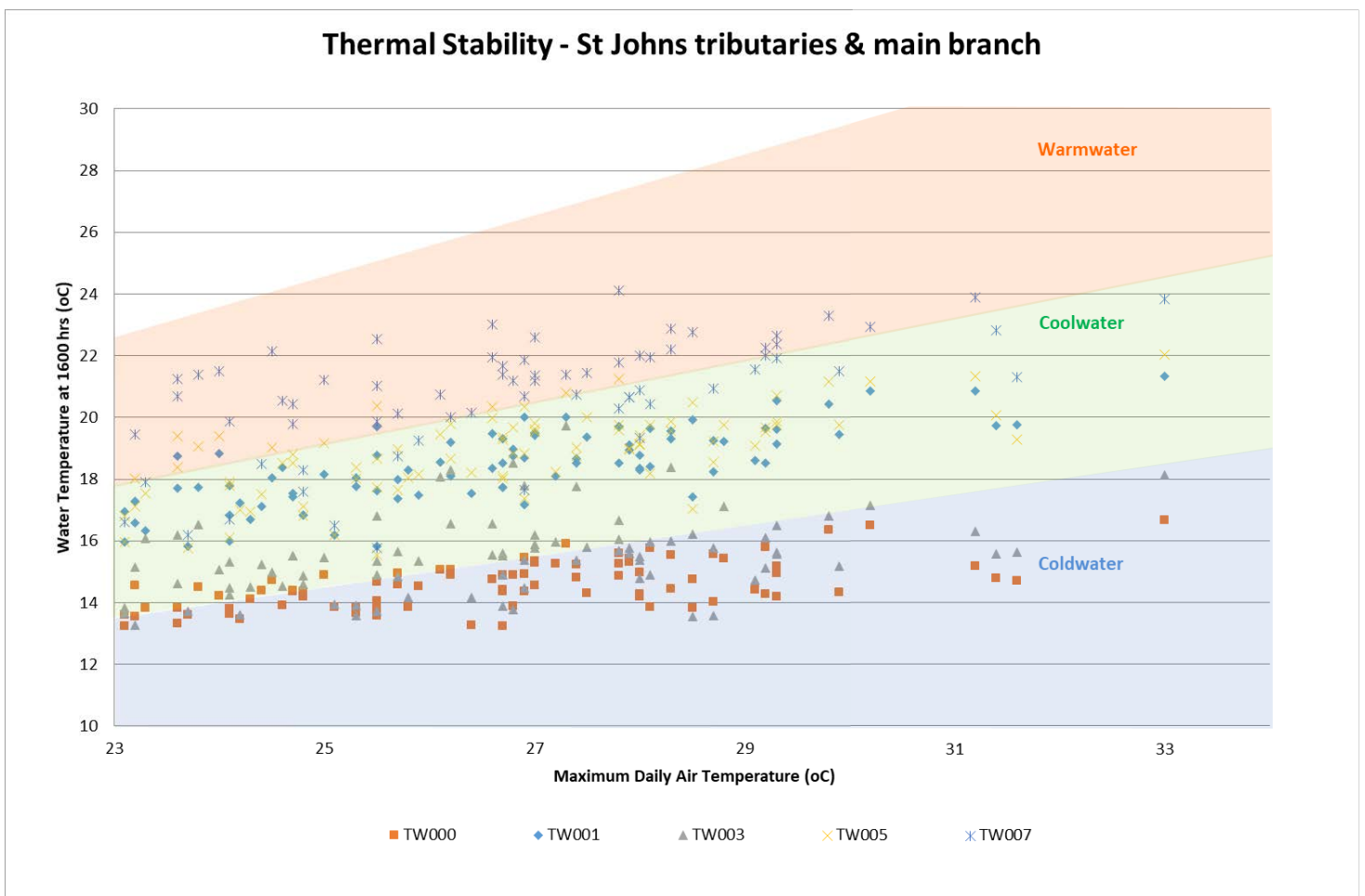


Figure 4: Thermal stability nomograms for St. Johns and main branch

4.2 Effingham tributaries

Stream temperature was monitored at four locations in the Effingham branch of Twelve Mile Creek. Figure 4 below is a box and whisker plot from the four stations with optimal range and lethal limit plotted. TW002, Sulphur Spring Drive, and TW004 fall mostly within the optimal range with maximum air temperatures well below the lethal limit. TW006 near the confluence of both branches sits slightly higher with a significant portion of data falling above the optimal range. The maximum temperature for TW006 falls slightly below the lethal limit.

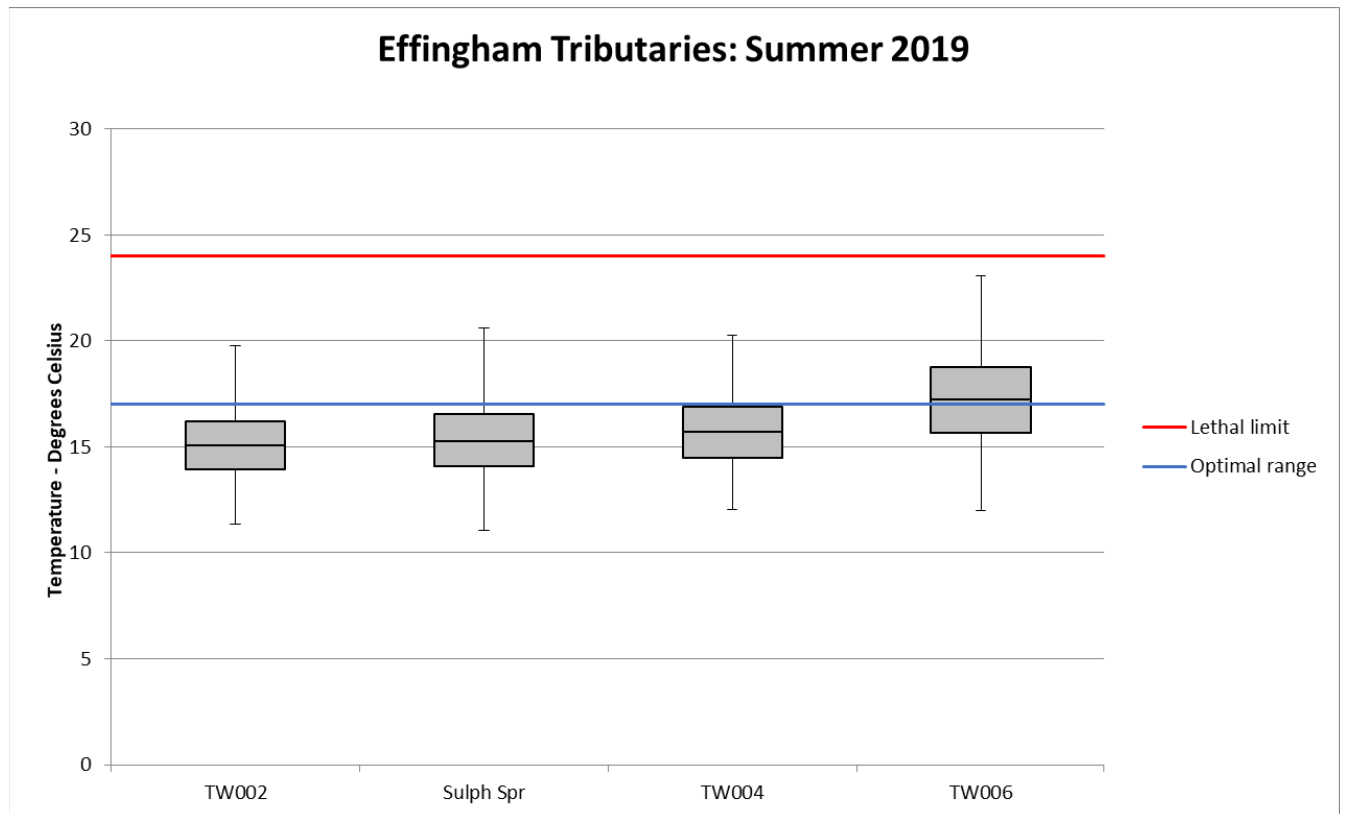


Figure 5: Box and whisker plot for Effingham tributaries

Figure 5 below is the scatter plot nomogram of thermal stability for the Effingham branch. The same protocol was followed as above. All Effingham branch tributaries are classified as coolwater, according to the 2019 nomogram.

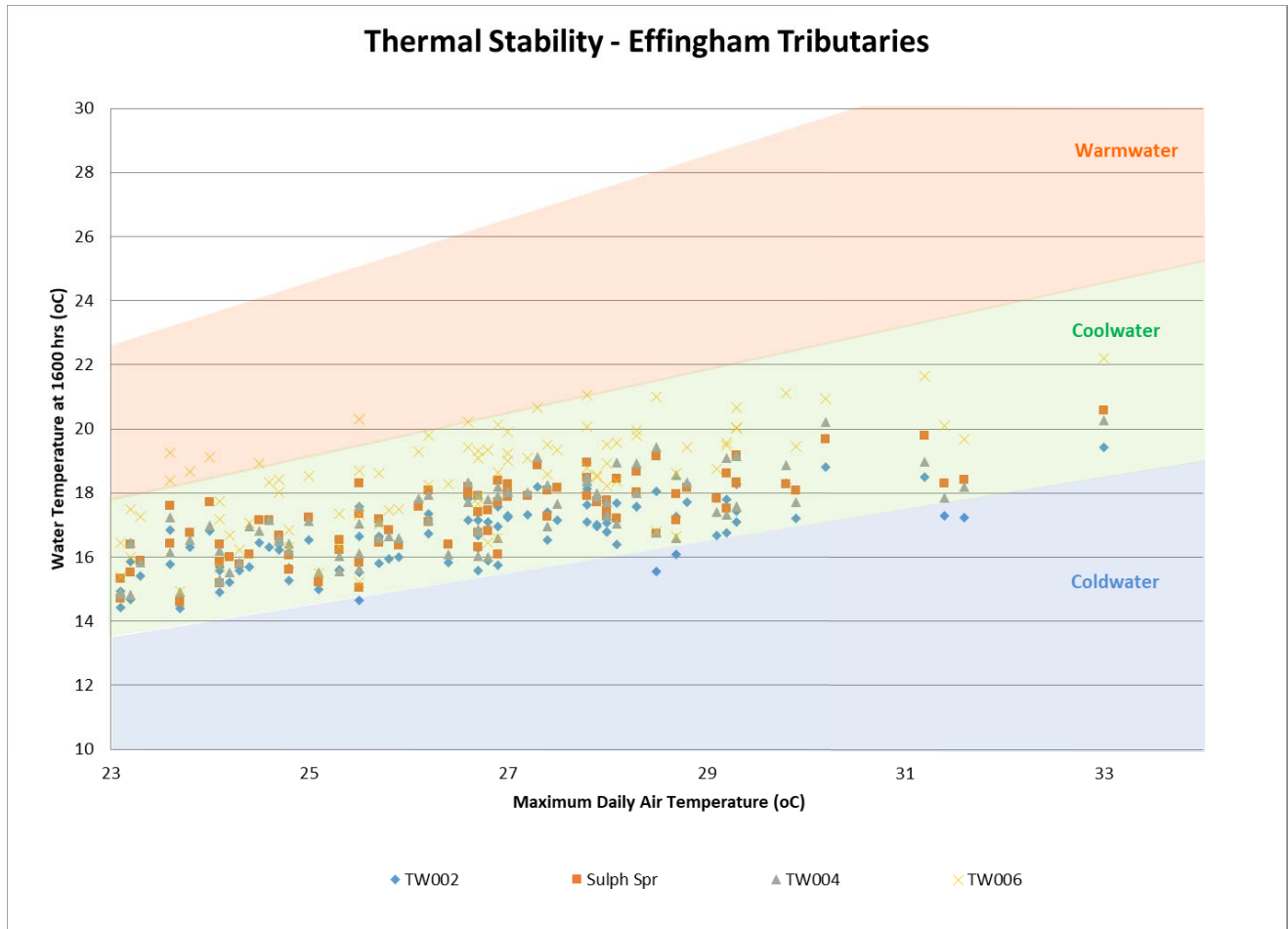


Figure 6: Thermal stability nomograms for the Effingham branch

4.3 Summary of results

Table 3 below is a summary of stream classifications between 2011 and 2019. The summary shows both classifications according to nomograms and indicates whether the maximum temperature exceeded the lethal limit for that summer.

In 2019, only TW007 exceeded the lethal limit and is classified as warmwater. TW000 and TW003 are both classified as coldwater. The only changes in classification are for TW003 and TW007. TW003 is classified as coldwater in 2019 for the first time since 2015. TW007 returns to warmwater classification from coolwater the last time it was monitored in 2017.

Table 3: Stream classification summary 2011-2019

		Hamilton Sanctuary	TW000	TW001	TW002	Sulphur Spring Dr	TW003	TW004	TW005	TW006	TW007
2011	Classification	N/A	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	N/A	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater
	Max over lethal limit		No	Yes	No		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
2013	Classification	N/A	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	N/A	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Warmwater
	Max over lethal limit		No	Yes	No		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
2014	Classification	Coldwater	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coldwater	N/A	Coldwater	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	N/A
	Max over lethal limit	No	No	No	No		No	No	No	No	
2015	Classification	N/A	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	N/A	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	N/A
	Max over lethal limit		No	No	No		No	No	No	No	
2016	Classification	Coldwater	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Warmwater
	Max over lethal limit	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
2017	Classification	N/A	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater
	Max over lethal limit		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
2018	Classification	N/A	N/A	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	N/A
	Max over lethal limit			No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
2019	Classification	N/A	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coldwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Coolwater	Warmwater
	Max over lethal limit		No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

Figure 6 below displays mean stream temperatures since temperature monitoring began in 2006. In some cases, the data has not been consistently collected, but at the locations consistently collected there is no apparent pattern emerging from the data. Mean temperatures appear to go up during hotter summers in all cases and drop back down during cooler, wetter years. All monitoring locations experienced significant increases in temperature in 2016 which can be attributed to a hot and dry year.

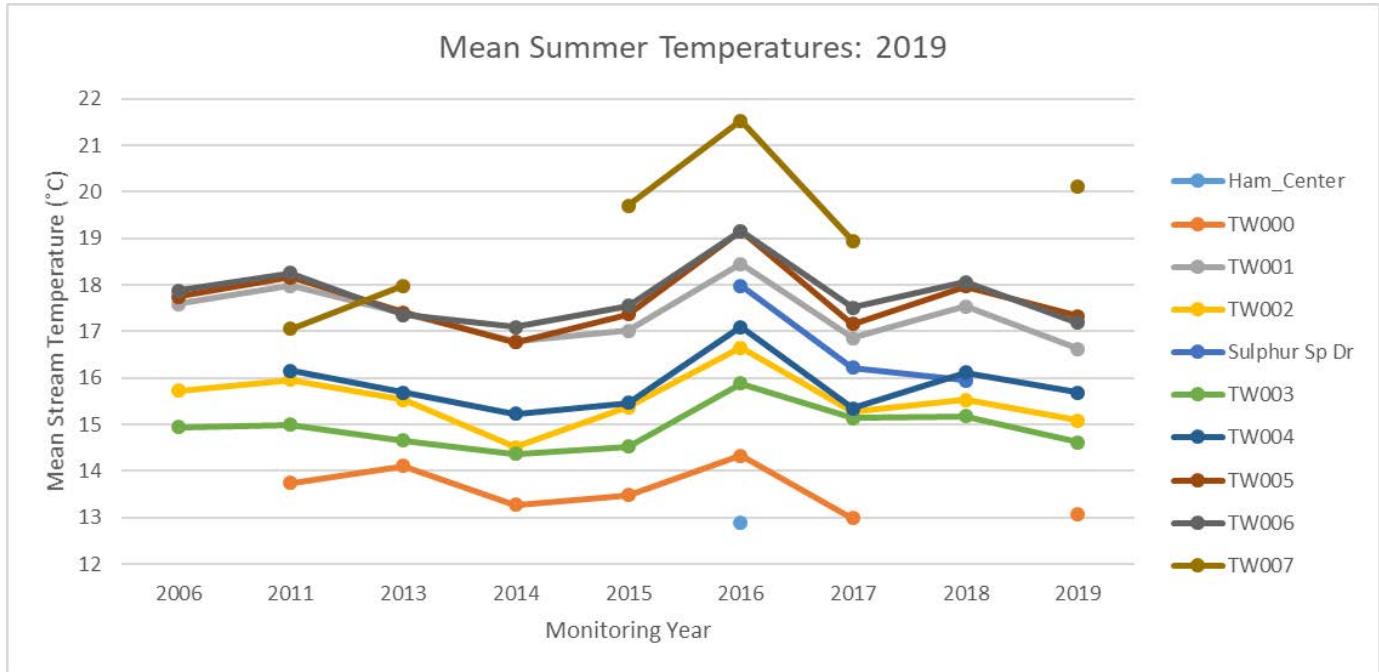


Figure 7: Mean stream temperatures recorded since 2006

5.0 Analysis

There are no obvious patterns emerging in the data, with most results being stable. Classifications remained consistent, with two minor changes that are not entirely unexpected based on past data collection.

Mean stream temperatures are fairly stable with the exception of an abnormally warm and dry summer in 2016. Streams that are classified as coldwater (TW000, TW003) appear to respond slightly less to warmer summers, perhaps being protected by the shaded woodlots they are in or are regulated by more groundwater influence than downstream locations. Downstream locations are the accumulation of upstream land uses and tend to be wider creeks, in some cases being exposed to more sunlight.

TW005 and TW006 remain a concern as they typically hover around or above optimal range and the maximum temperature is near the lethal limit. In 2019, no significant amount of time was spent above the lethal limit at either site, however, more than half time recorded was spent above the optimal range (table 2 above). On Roland Road, these two tributaries combine into one branch and enters Short Hills Provincial Park. Based on the temperature monitoring at these two locations, there is some concern for Upper Twelve Mile Creek as it runs through the park as it is entering already at elevated temperatures in the summer.

TW001 is typically a concern as that location tends to be elevated relative to the monitoring locations around it. This is due to upstream land uses (ponds) that artificially warm this location. This location is classified as coolwater, however, with the ponds upstream it could be in danger of further warming over time.

TW007 main branch appears to be unsuitable for Brook Trout. The upper tributaries are considered suitable based on thermal stability data, however, some locations such as TW001, TW005, and TW006 are close to being considered unsuitable.

6.0 Conclusion

Tributaries in the Upper Twelve Mile Creek watershed are capable of supporting Brook Trout based on temperatures monitoring. Downstream, the main branch is not considered suitable. Some locations are above the optimal range and would cause some stress to Brook Trout. Overall, the upper tributaries are considered safe as they are classified coldwater or coolwater.

Downstream locations are at risk of higher temperatures due to widening of the banks and exposure to sunlight. As the creek enters Short Hills Provincial Park at Roland Road, it is above the optimal range for over 50% of the time. While the park offers significant riparian vegetation and shade, the creek continues to widen due to erosion and bank instability in the park, eventually exiting at the final monitoring location at 1st Street Louth. At this location, the creek is now classified as warmwater and unsuitable for Brook Trout.

Significant stream rehabilitation is required within Short Hills Provincial Park and upstream to ensure that the stream temperatures are in the optimal range for Brook Trout. Current tributaries that are considered suitable must be protected from degradation, and downstream locations must be stabilized.

7.0 Recommendations

Considering the data collected from temperature monitoring of the Upper Twelve Mile Creek watershed, the following recommendations are suggested:

- The NPCA must continue annual temperature monitoring at the same locations.
- Erosion monitoring in susceptible tributaries.
- The NPCA stewardship program along with local partners and landowners must partner to provide information and opportunities for stewardship projects.
- Consider strategies to approach landowners with ponds and propose alternatives.
- Conduct fish studies in the upper tributaries including e-fishing or eDNA sampling, to determine the presence and status of Brook Trout populations to help focus restoration efforts.

References

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section
 2140 East Bank Drive
 DNA Building, c/o Trent University
 Peterborough, ON K9L 1Z8

**Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des
Forêts**

Phone: 1-888-574-6656
 Fax: 705-755-1559
 Email: rabies@ontario.ca

June 15, 2020

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will be conducting Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) bait distribution and trap-vaccinate-release (TVR) programs in the summer and fall of 2020. Baiting and TVR operations will begin early July and continue until the end of October.

The ministry's rabies control operations are essential to public health and to the health of wildlife. With the current COVID-19 outbreak, additional health and safety measures have been put into place using the best available information from Public Health Ontario to deliver this program safely and minimize risks to staff, the public, and wildlife. The ministry will continue to re-evaluate as the response to the COVID-19 outbreak continues.

Please find attached:

- 1) Map of planned baiting area for 2020
- 2) Rabies Vaccine Bait Information Sheet

Per the attached map, rabies vaccine bait distribution will be conducted in rural areas with MNRF aircraft and by hand in urban areas by MNRF wildlife technicians. These are the details of bait distribution work in 2020 (dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions):

- Yellow shaded areas will be completed with a combination of Twin Otter airplane and Eurocopter EC130 helicopter. Twin Otter flights will occur from August 17 through to August 28, with Eurocopter EC130 flights occurring August 10 to 14 and September 8 to 11.
- The brown shaded area will be completed by a Twin Otter airplane between August 17 and 21.
- Urban hand baiting, including the use of temporary feeding stations, will occur in the orange shaded areas starting in the first week of July and continue through to the end of October.
- Live trapping and vaccinating wildlife (trap-vaccinate-release) will occur in the areas surrounding Hamilton shaded in pink starting in the first week of July and will continue through to the end of October.
- Preventative baiting of the purple shaded areas in eastern Ontario will take place in mid-August and will take one day to complete.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, MNRF may conduct localized rapid response baiting and trap-vaccinate-release measures, which would take place in the event of a raccoon or fox strain rabies case outside of the planned baiting area.

The ministry is committed to the research, surveillance, control and elimination of the recent outbreak of rabies in southwestern Ontario to prevent the disease from spreading. Since the start of the rabies outbreak in 2015, the first of its kind in over a decade, MNRF has taken quick action to protect communities, distributing over five million vaccine baits by air and ground. There was a 70 per cent decrease in the number of rabies cases in 2019, from 2018. There were no new cases of rabies in our fox strain surveillance area (brown shaded area on the map), which, in keeping with World Health Organization guidelines, has led to a decrease in the control zone where there have been no reported cases in over two years.

Any warm-blooded mammal can contract rabies. If a human contracts rabies and does not receive treatment, the disease is fatal.

The khaki-green coloured bait being distributed by hand and by aircraft is made of wax-fat with an attractant flavour (vanilla-sugar). A label with a toll-free telephone number (1-888-574-6656) and the message "Do not eat" is located on the exterior of the bait, and a plastic package containing the liquid rabies vaccine is embedded in the centre. If found, the bait should not be touched, but left for raccoons, skunks and foxes to consume. (See attached bait identification hand out for detailed description.) Ontario's rabies vaccine baits have been tested to ensure they are safe for wildlife, people and pets. However, eating a vaccine bait does not replace the regular rabies vaccination provided by a veterinarian for your pet. If your pet has eaten a bait and you are concerned, contact your vet as a precaution.

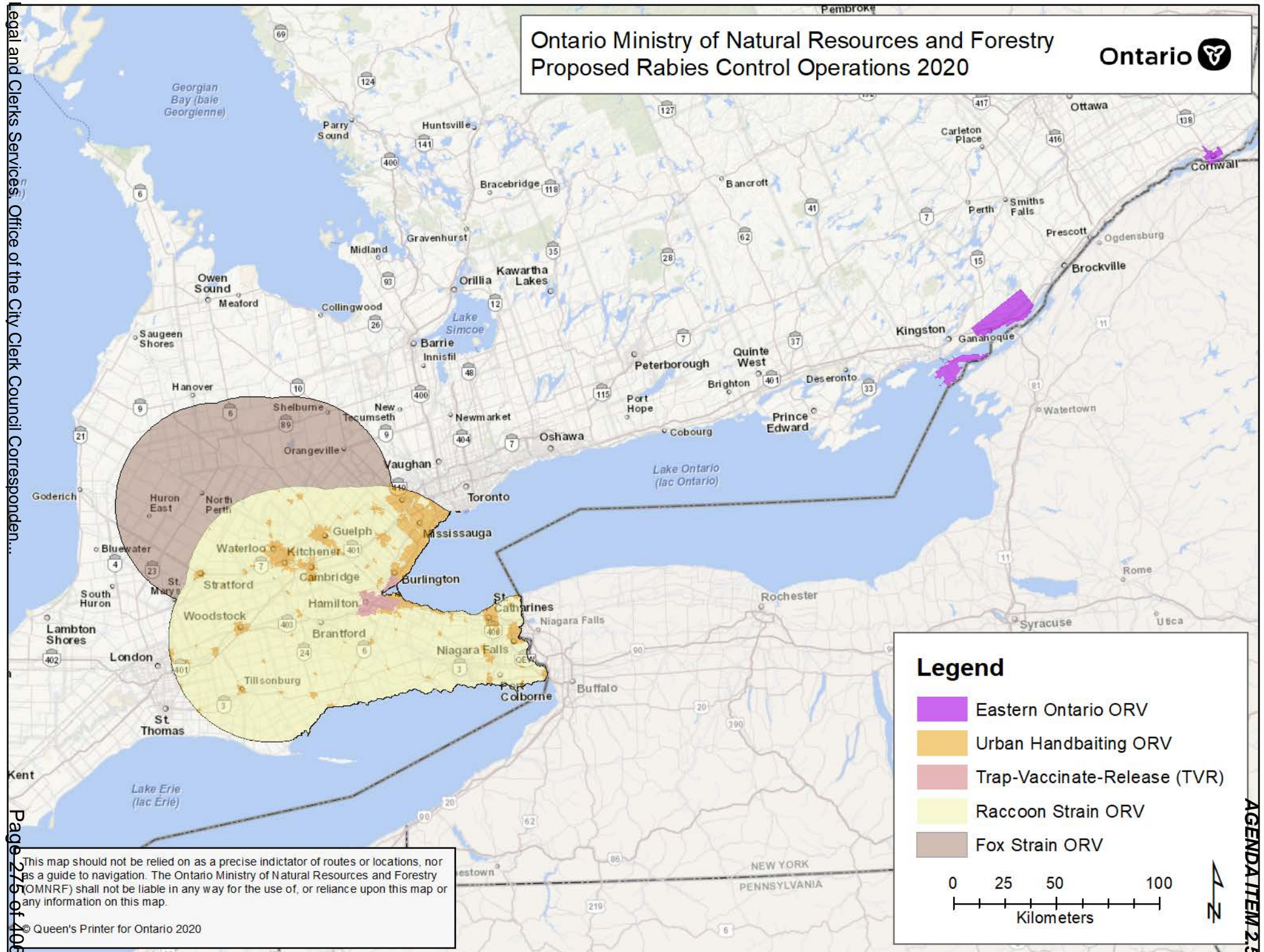
Ontario's rabies control program is a joint effort that receives important input and contributions from a variety of partners across the province. Partnerships with provincial ministries, federal agencies, regional health units, municipalities, wildlife rehabilitators, licensed trappers, wildlife control agents and Indigenous communities are all key to the continued success of Ontario's rabies control program.

For further information about rabies in Ontario, please visit [Ontario.ca/rabies](https://ontario.ca/rabies) or contact MNRF's rabies information line at 1-888-574-6656.

Larissa Nituch
Rabies Science Operations Supervisor

705-313-2043 (cell)
Larissa.Nituch@ontario.ca

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Proposed Rabies Control Operations 2020



This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon this map or any information on this map.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Rabies vaccine bait identification

October 2019

The Ultra-lite vaccine bait, ONRAB®, is used in Ontario for both fox strain and raccoon strain rabies control. Exposure to the bait is not harmful to people or pets; however, in the unlikely event that people or pets come in contact with the vaccine contained in the bait, contacting a doctor or veterinarian as a precaution is recommended.

Bait Ingredients

The bait formula coats the blister pack containing the vaccine. This formula consists of vegetable based fats, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil, artificial marshmallow flavour and dark-green food grade fat-soluble dye.

Ultra-lite blister-pack (Vaccine Carrier)

This is a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) blister pack (40 mm x 22 mm x 10 mm) which weighs approximately 4.3 grams. The blister pack is a teal green polyester flocked container with a heat-sealed laminated polyester lidding. The body of the blister pack is embedded in the bait matrix but the green lidding is exposed and has a black warning label printed on it.



Vaccine inside Baits

ONRAB® oral rabies vaccine

Description: a recombinant live virus liquid vaccine

Volume/bait: 1.8 ±0.1 ml in the blister pack

Other inclusions: vaccine stabilizers

Colour: pale orange to pale pink

Target species: skunk, fox, and raccoon

Contact: Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section

rabies@ontario.ca

1-888-574-6656

Ontario.ca/rabies

Disponible en français

Sub-Item 11

From: Garry Tate [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:22 AM
To: Mayor's Administration <mayor'sadministration@stcatharines.ca>
Subject: Pte. Alexander Watson has been on active duty on the front lawn of St. Catharines city hall for 134 years

Hello Mr. Mayor

I remain disturbed by the fact that in the matter of 5 days of a single citizen starting a petition that Council has hastily made a decision to remove a statue honouring a Canadian war veteran, who died fighting for Canada.

Regardless of how history has changed perspectives regarding the "North West Rebellion", it doesn't tarnish the sacrifice that Private Watson made for his country.

Information (see below) contained in the agenda item (addressing this issue) goes back to 2009 (11 years ago), with a resurfacing in 2018 (2 years ago).

WHEREAS in 2009 the City's Cultural Services Director presented Report 547, regarding War Memorial and Outdoor Art Condition Assessments, which was commissioned to identify how deteriorated some of the City's outdoors structures are and what is needed to maintain and restore them; and WHEREAS the same report identified that the Private Alexander Watson monument at City Hall had urgent deterioration issues that must be addressed and staff were asked to develop a five-year Outdoor Art & Memorial Restoration Strategy to be considered in the 2010 Budget; and WHEREAS since that time the City of St. Catharines on June 25, 2018 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Niagara Regional Native Centre; and WHEREAS Report CAO-156-2018 noted the City's particular responsibilities to implement the Calls to Action outlined in the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's report; ...

How can a matter that was considered so unimportant that it dragged on for 11 years, now be considered of such urgency that in a mere 5 days Council had to discuss and vote on it? This urgency precluded me, and probably others, from being given insufficient time to provide feedback to Council, regardless of their point of view. It's inconsistent actions like this that frustrate people who want to be part of the process. "Move like a glacier when it suits, then move like a bullet train when it suits" is one of the things that turns people off of politics and from participating.

The following are the comments I made to the St. Catharines Standard regarding an article that appeared online. In that article, Councillor Porter was quoted as looking for feedback from the public, oddly followed by the fact that she had already made up her mind. In my opinion, just a bit contradictory.

"I find Karrie Porter's position another example of a lack of due process common in society today. Coming from a politician, it's all the more troubling. Why wait for all of the comments and facts when you can make up your mind first. She is quoted as saying "I hope this creates the discussion that we need. I am looking for feedback from the public, but ultimately my position is the statue needs to go." If we need discussion first, why has she already made up her mind? I hope that it is not her pandering to perceived public opinion. Alexander Watson was killed in the Battle of Batoche during the North West Rebellion as a Canadian veteran. Does the fact that history has changed some people's view of the Rebellion diminish his sacrifice? When his body was returned to St. Catharines, he was given a hero's burial. It was placed on the lawn in front of city hall, at the request of the citizens. The dedication of the statue was attended by the largest crowd ever gathered in St. Catharines at the time. The statue is one of many cenotaphs and memorials for fallen St. Catharines' soldiers, and no longer exclusively represents just those from the North West Rebellion."

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Regards--Garry Tate

June 25, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Council
City of St. Catharines
50 Church Street
St. Catharines, ON, L2R 7C2

Dear Council:

Niagara Region Waste Management Services has developed supporting documentation to address frequently asked questions from constituents about the service level changes related to the new curbside garbage, recycling and organics collection contract starting October 19, 2020. In the first week of July, residents will be receiving postcards with information on these changes in their mail and you may find this document useful for responding to questions arising from this communication.

The document is divided into the following sections:

- Overview of Collection Curbside Collection Changes
- New Collection Contractors
- Every-Other-Week Garbage Collection
- Diaper and Medical Exemptions
- Four Item Limit on Bulky Goods
- Elimination of Curbside Collection of Large Household Appliances and Scrap Metal
- Service Changes for Business Properties
- Service Changes for Apartment Buildings with seven (7) units or more
- Using the Green Bin
- Questions Related to Costs
- Stakeholder Consultation completed in 2018 and 2019

Please find attached the Curbside Collection Changes Frequently Asked Questions for your information and to share in dialogue with constituents. If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact Susan McPetrie by email at susan.mcpetrie@niagararegion.ca

Any waste, recycling or organics related inquiries or complaints should continue to be forwarded to the Waste Info-Line at 905-356-4141 or toll free 1-800-594-5542.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Habermehl', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Catherine Habermehl
Director, Waste Management Services
Niagara Region

Copied: Catherine Habermehl, Director, Waste Management, Niagara Region
Lydia Torbicki, Manager, Waste Policy and Planning, Niagara Region
Sherri Tait, Acting Manager, Waste Collection and Diversion, Niagara Region
Jennifer Wilson, Supervisor, Waste Management, Niagara Region
Susan McPetrie, Waste Management Services Advisor, Niagara Region

Curbside Collection Changes Frequently Asked Questions

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Overview of Curbside Collection Changes

1. What waste collection changes are coming?

Changes to waste collection services will affect service users differently, depending on their property type and location. These changes are summarized in the table below.

These changes are to the base service level of collection. Base services are offered to all property types in Niagara. The Region also provides enhanced services, as requested (and directly paid for) by individual Local Area Municipalities.

Curbside Collection Change	Property Types Affected
Every-other-week garbage collection, as a <u>base</u> service. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly recycling and organics to continue Current garbage container (bag/can) limits would double for all properties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family houses and residential properties with 2-6 units Apartment buildings with 7 or more units with curbside garbage collection Mixed-Use properties (properties with a business and residential component) outside Designated Business Areas (DBAs). Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) properties outside DBAs
Discontinuation of curbside collection of large appliances and scrap metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family houses and residential properties with 2-6 units, which currently receive this service
Establishment of a four (4) item limit per residential unit, per collection, for bulky household items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family houses and residential properties with 2-6 units, which currently receive this service¹
Change in the weekly garbage container limits for IC&I and Mixed-Use properties located inside DBAs from seven (7) containers to four (4) containers per property, as a <u>base</u> service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IC&I properties inside DBAs Mixed-Use properties inside DBAs
Change in garbage container limit for Mixed-Use properties located outside the DBAs from six (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed-Use properties outside DBAs²

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Curbside Collection Change	Property Types Affected
containers weekly to eight (8) containers every-other-week per property, as a <u>base</u> service	

¹Apartment buildings with 7 or units in Niagara-on-the-Lake will receive bulky household item collection as an enhanced service.

²Mixed-Use properties outside DBAs in Niagara Falls will have a container limit of twelve (12) containers every-other-week per property as an enhanced service.

2. When do these changes take effect?

Service level changes take effect for the collection week starting October 19, 2020. However, now is a great time for residents and businesses to make sure they have all of the tools they need to be ready when those changes begin.

Get a Green Bin/Cart

If residents and businesses are not already using a Green Bin/Cart for organic wastes (i.e. food waste, paper towels, tissues), now is the perfect time to start. To help with the transition to every-other-week garbage collection, residents should make sure they have and use a Green Bin before October 19, and learn what goes into one.

Businesses which are eligible for Niagara Region curbside collection may purchase a Green Bin or Cart. Placing food waste and other organic materials in the Green Bin/Cart, which will continue to be collected weekly, will remove the odorous material from the garbage stream. Over half of what is placed in residential garbage can actually be put in the Green Bin or Blue/Grey Boxes! It's worth the effort. Green Bins can be ordered through the Region's website and picked up and/or purchased at a local distribution centre. Visit [Niagara Region's website](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/damaged-boxes.aspx) to find out which locations are currently open (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/damaged-boxes.aspx>).

Find a garbage collection day

Residents and businesses looking to find their garbage collection schedule can access new tools on-line and through the Region's new mobile application coming this August. Make sure you download the application which will not only provide an address specific collection calendar and alert you of interruptions in collection, but will also allow you to sign up for waste collection reminders via text message, email, or phone call, produce a

mobile calendar of collection days, send phone alerts if any changes in collection arise, give tips on sorting material properly and more.

Register for a diaper exemption

Residents who have one or more children in diapers qualify for weekly diaper collection. Registration is required and will be open July 6. Re-registration is not required for those properties that already have a diaper exemption. This exemption is available to single-family houses, properties with 2-6 units and home daycares operated out of these properties. Residents can find more information and register online.

Order carts for apartment buildings, businesses or mixed-use properties

Apartment buildings, mixed-use properties and businesses that are eligible (three storeys or less) to use the Region's curbside collection program can use Blue, Grey and Green Carts. [Visit the Region's cart order form page to order online](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/cart-order-form.aspx) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/cart-order-form.aspx>) or print the cart order form and return by mail, fax or email.

Check out Niagara Region's website for more information

[For more information about Niagara Region's programs and services](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste) visit www.niagararegion.ca/waste

3. Why are changes happening now?

The Region's current collection contracts with Emterra Environmental and Canadian Waste Management are ending on October 18, 2020. The Region will be entering new waste collection contracts on October 19, 2020. This has provided an opportunity for the Region to review and improve collection services. A significant part of this review process involved extensive public engagement and consultation with stakeholders on the options for service changes, including surveys, public open houses and community booths. For more details on the stakeholder consultation see questions 53 -56 of this document.

4. How are these waste collection changes being communicated to residents and businesses?

The Region has engaged the services of Armstrong Strategy Group (ASG) to develop and deliver a comprehensive and multi-faceted public education campaign to promote and raise awareness of the collection changes that start on October 19.

As part of the communications strategy, ASG along with Waste Management and Communications staff have identified diverse tactics for engaging with a broad range of target audiences throughout Niagara. The following list includes examples of key communications tactics that will be employed:

- Postcards to low density residential properties;
- Letters to multi-residential properties and businesses;
- Social media campaign;
- Campaign webpage on the Region's website;
- Engagement with business sector through webinars, video meetings;
- New vehicle wrap with campaign messaging on waste collection vehicles;
- Media releases, media conferences and a Waste Reduction Week photo-op;
- Video series on topics including tips to reduce waste and using the Green Bin;
- Public service announcements;
- Dedicated message e-blast to Niagara Chamber of Commerce;
- Engagement with Local Area Municipality councils and staff;
- Newspaper advertising;
- Journalist ride-along of collection process, facility tours;
- Illegal dumping awareness campaign; and
- On-going monitoring and response to public inquiries and feedback through social media, the Waste Info-Line and the Region's website.

The campaign began in June of 2020 and will continue until November of 2020.

5. Why is the Region not considering using carts for residential garbage, recycling and organics, like other municipalities are using?

The Region has explored the option of using carts for residential curbside collection. The results of that research indicate that the costs of that change would be prohibitive at this time. It is also possible, under the Province's Environmental Plan that the Blue Box Program, will move to a producer responsibility model. As a result, Niagara Region

would no longer be responsible for providing collection and processing of Blue Box materials. This would be the responsibility of the Blue Box industry stewards. Investing in and implementing major program changes at this time is not advisable.

In addition, cart programs utilize single stream recycling collection, which has higher rates of contamination than the two stream recycling program that the Region is currently using. The following lists itemize the key concerns with cart based collection programs and single-stream recycling.

Cart-Based Collection

Key concerns with cart-based service delivery include:

- Significant initial costs for purchase and distribution;
- On-going annual maintenance and replacement costs associated with carts;
- Reliance on residents to place containers properly at the curb for collection (grab bar facing road, properly spaced);
- Storage space requirements for multiple carts;
- Challenges with wheeling carts down long driveways or in snowy/icy conditions;
- Cart-based collection may not be efficient or feasible in certain areas;
- Increased costs for automated collection vehicles and maintenance requirements; and
- Additional staffing and resident education requirements to support the transition to a cart-based system.

Single Stream Recycling Collection

Key concerns with single stream recycling collection include:

- Increased contamination in carts resulting in a decrease in the Region's revenues and difficulty with marketing recyclables;
- Costs associated with retrofitting Niagara Region's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) from the current two-stream operation to a single-stream operation; and
- Increased processing costs for recyclable materials.

With recent declines in commodity prices and stricter end market standards, moving to a single stream recycling system could further decrease revenue, as single stream contamination rates have shown to be higher. It has been reported that the 2019

Ontario average residual rate for single stream recycling is 30.3 per cent and the multi-stream residual rate is 9.5 per cent.

However, staff have been directed to further explore cost saving and operational efficiencies with both the Recycling Facility operator and the new collection contractors.

6. Do I have to put my garbage in a clear plastic bag?

No, residents do not need to use clear garbage bags. The Region proposed several options for changes to collection services during the stakeholder consultation process, including using clear bags for garbage. Moving to mandatory clear garbage bags was one of the options considered. However, based on the results of the stakeholder consultation, this option was not recommended by staff and will not be implemented.

New Collection Contractors

7. Who are the new collection contractors?

The new contract will be split into two areas with a different contractor servicing each area:

Collection Area One: GFL Environmental Inc. (GFL) - Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet and West Lincoln

Collection Area Two: Miller Waste Systems Inc. (Miller) - Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Welland

8. Do you have more information on these new contractors?

GFL

GFL has been operating since 2007 and currently provides solid waste management services across all of Canada and in 23 U.S. states. It has head offices in Vaughan, ON. With more than 15,000 employees, the company also provides services in infrastructure and soil remediation and liquid hazardous waste management.

Miller

Established in 1961, Miller is a family owned business that offers both municipal and commercial waste collection services. Miller currently provides collection services to a number of municipalities including Halton Region, Waterloo Region, City of London, City of Toronto and York Region.

9. Why are there two different contractors?

The Region was split up into two collection areas to alleviate pressure on a single contractor and ensure contingency in the event of future contract performance issues.

10. How were these contractors selected?

Preparation for these new waste collection contracts began in April 2018 when Council approved the proposed service levels to be included in stakeholder consultation. Consultation with Local Area Municipalities, business groups and residents started in May 2018 and continued into February 2019. In March 2019, Council approved the collection service options to be included in the Negotiated Request for Proposal (NRFP), including every-other-week garbage collection. The NRFP for waste collection services was released on August 1, 2019 and closed on September 17, 2019. Council approved every-other-week garbage collection on October 17, 2019 as the chosen collection scenario.

The Region used a multi-stage process to conduct the evaluation, selection and negotiation for the NRFP. With direction from Council on the chosen collection scenario, every-other-week garbage collection, staff invited all short-listed proponents, to submit their best and final offer (BAFO) at less than or equal to their original submitted pricing for Council's chosen scenario. BAFO submissions were evaluated solely on price, but the Total Final Score for the final ranking of proponents was based on the proponent's BAFO pricing score and proponent's original scores for performance based criteria for the chosen Collection Scenario. Pricing was worth 60% and non-price criteria was worth 40%. The highest-ranking proponent for each Collection Area was invited to enter a final round of negotiations with the Region.

11. When will the collection contract starting on October 19 end?

The contract will commence on October 19, 2020 and expire on March 5, 2028.

Every-Other-Week Garbage Collection

12. Who will be affected by every-other-week garbage collection?

All property types outside of the Designated Business Areas will be receiving every-other-week garbage collection starting October 19. These properties will have weekly collection of recycling and organics.

This includes the following properties:

- Single-family detached,
- Semi-detached residential
- Duplex residential structure with 2 self-contained units;
- Residential buildings with three (3) to six (6) units;
- Cottage properties (with the exception of Wainfleet's Lakeshore cottage properties);
- Structures with multiple units that are considered horizontal, row or townhouses or condo housing,
- Boarding homes;
- Bed and breakfast establishments
- Residential and commercial farms.
- Apartments, condominiums, stacked townhouses and rental with seven (7) or units receiving Regional curbside collection service,
- Group homes,
- Nursing and retirement homes,
- All Industrial, Commercial and Institutional properties outside Designated Business Areas
- All Mixed-Used properties outside Designated Business Areas (properties with residential and commercial units)
- Home businesses

13. How does every-other-week garbage collection encourage diversion if the garbage container (bag/can) limit hasn't changed and the same volume of garbage is being collected?

The switch to every-other-week garbage collection will encourage residents and businesses to put their organics (paper towels, food waste, etc.) in the Green Bin for weekly collection to avoid the potential issues with odours and pests that may occur if this material was left to sit in the garbage for every-other-week collection.

It can also help encourage residents and businesses to recycle more, to reduce demands on storage for every-other-week garbage and to have containers with food residue go out for collection with the weekly recycling collection.

Waterloo, one of Niagara's comparator municipalities to most recently switch to every-other-week garbage collection, saw an increase in all curbside diversion programs and a reduction of waste going to landfill. Changes there were as follows:

- Blue Box recycling: increased by 8%;
- Green Bin organics: increased by 120%;
- Yard waste: increased by 4%;
- Waste to landfill: decreased by 29%

14. With the switch to every-other-week garbage collection, will my garbage be collected the week of October 19?

Starting October 19, the Region will switch over to the new service level. However, the Region will be divided with one area receiving garbage collection during the first week and the other receiving garbage collection the following week (Oct. 26). Recycling and organics will continue to be collected weekly.

The Region is offering several ways to help residents and businesses find and track their garbage collection week:

- Starting this August, residents will be able to download an application that will provide an address-specific collection calendar and allow users to sign up for waste collection reminders via text message, email or phone. It will also produce a mobile calendar of collection days, send phone alerts for any changes in collection and give tips on sorting.

- Before the changes start, residents will be receiving a new Collection Guide in their mailboxes that advises which weeks are their garbage collection weeks.
- An online tool will also be available on the Region's website to help residents and businesses find their collection schedules and details.

15. How many garbage containers (bags/cans) can I put out on my collection day?

For residents and those Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) properties located outside the DBAs, the garbage container limits will double on an every-other-week basis. Only the frequency of collection is changing, the same volume of garbage will continue to be allowed. The table below shows the garbage container limit changes for all property types that will be receiving every-other-week garbage collection.

Property Type	Current Garbage Container (bag/can) Limit	New Garbage Container Limit
Single-family houses and residential properties with 2-6 units	1 container per unit weekly	2 containers per unit every-other-week ¹
Apartment buildings with more than 7 units receiving curbside collection	1 container per unit, up to maximum of 12 containers weekly	2 containers per unit to a maximum of 24 containers, every-other-week
Mixed-Use Outside DBAs	6 containers per property weekly	8 containers per property, every-other-week
IC&I Outside DBAs	4 containers per property, weekly	8 containers per property, every-other-week

¹ \$2.50 garbage tags are available for garbage containers greater than two

16. What if I have more than two containers (bags/cans) of garbage on my collection day?

Residents can significantly reduce their garbage by fully utilizing the weekly, unlimited recycling and organics collection services provided by the Region. More than half of the average residential garbage container is material that should go in the Green Bin or Blue/Grey Boxes. It should also be noted that although the frequency of collection is changing, the number of containers allowed has not changed.

For those occasions that residents of single- family homes and residential properties with 2-6 units do need to place out additional garbage, they can purchase garbage tags \$2.50 per tag. Additional garbage containers with tags can be placed at the curb on the regularly scheduled collection day.

Tags can be purchased from a variety of stores throughout the region. [A list of locations](#) can be found on the Region's website at www.niagararegion.ca/waste. Tags are also available for purchase online through the Region's website, along with locations that are currently open for purchase/pick-up of containers. As COVID-19 restrictions change, this list may change as well. Check back for updates.

17. What if I miss my garbage collection day?

Residents and businesses that miss their garbage collection day can place that garbage out for collection on their next, regularly scheduled garbage collection day. If single-family homes and residential properties with 2-6 units have more than two containers (bags/cans) per unit, a garbage tag will need to be purchased for \$2.50 (refer to question 14 above).

Residents and businesses that use their Green Bin for all food and organic waste will find that there is limited material in the garbage to create odours. However, for those who do not want to hold on to the garbage until their next collection day, there is an option to drop off bags at a landfill site. There is a flat fee of \$5 for 0-60 kg of residential and commercial garbage.

18. What happens if my garbage isn't collected on my designated week for garbage collection?

The Region undertook a rigorous Negotiated Request for Proposal (NRFP) process to ensure that waste collection contractors that will provide residents and businesses with a high level of service were selected.

Regardless of collection frequency, the collection contractors are required to collect missed collection the following day. If material is not picked up, contact the Waste Info-Line.

19. Since the garbage container (bag/can) limit is doubling, will residents and businesses be allowed to use a single, larger container?

Restrictions on allowable container sizes will not change with every-other-week garbage collection. Garbage containers may not exceed:

- Height: 91 cm (36")
- Diameter: 61 cm (24")
- Weight: 22.7 kg (50 lbs) when full

20. Won't every-other-week garbage collection create problems with odours and pests?

Placing food waste and food soiled-paper products in the Green Bin, which will continue to be collected weekly, will remove the most odorous part of the garbage stream.

Residents can take simple steps to deter pests, such as rodents, from their Green Bins, including:

- Keeping the Green Bin container securely closed at all times;
- Setting out the Green Bin for collection every week, even if it is not full;
- Setting out the Green Bin by 7am on collection day, not the night before;
- Storing the Green Bin in a shaded, cool area; and
- Lining the Green Bin with paper liner bags, sheets of newspaper or cereal boxes to absorb liquids.

Experiences in other municipalities (i.e. Barrie, Durham, Halton, Markham, Ottawa, Peel, Toronto and Waterloo) have found that, generally speaking, switching over to

every-other-week garbage collection did not contribute to any increases in rodents, provided residents use their Green Bin and store their waste properly.

Additional observations from Peel include a decrease in rodent complaints that occurred after switching to every-other-week garbage collection. Participation in the organics program increased and the organic material that attracts the rodents is now usually found in that cart, which is collected weekly. If residents did call in about rodents, the first question asked was if they were using their organics cart; 9 of 10 times they were not, and those calls are rarely received anymore.

21. Won't every-other-week garbage lead to increases in illegal dumping?

While changes in waste collection services can result in short-term increases in illegal dumping, this behaviour change is typically short-lived and returns to pre-change levels.

Other municipalities that have switched to every-other-week garbage collection have reported that it did not contribute to any significant increases in illegal dumping. For example, Peel reported they did not see an increase in illegal dumping calls after the start of every-other-week garbage collection.

22. Why is the Region switching to every-other-week collection for garbage?

The Region is moving to this collection service for the following reasons:

- **Municipal Best Practice:** Approximately 70% of the Region's municipal comparators (i.e. Barrie, Durham, Halton, Markham, Ottawa, Toronto, Vaughan, Peel and Waterloo) provide every-other-week garbage collection and their residents have adapted to this change.
- **Increase Waste Diversion:** Diversion rates increased between 6% and 16% for these municipal comparators. The Region's waste audit results show approximately 50% of what residents put in their garbage is organic waste which should have been disposed of in the Green Bin. Shifting to every-other-week collection would encourage residents to put these organics in the Green Bin for weekly collection to avoid odours and reduce storage space demands.
- **Regional Landfill Capacity:** If the volume of garbage decreases, this will preserve existing Regional disposal capacity and increase the life of the landfill

23. What are some of the benefits associated with Every-Other-Week garbage collection?

Some of the key financial and environmental benefits of every-other-week garbage collection include the following:

- Extended lifespan for open Regional landfills;
- Potential cost avoidance/cost reduction in the landfill contract with Walker Environmental due to an increase in the diversion of waste from disposal, which may be offset by increased tonnages of organics process, unless the tonnages are reduced through food waste avoidance and other reduction initiatives;
- Increase in the participation and capture rates in the Region's diversion programs:
 - On average, less than one garbage container is placed at the curb weekly. Nearly 50% of the average residential garbage container in Niagara is organic waste and 14% is recyclable material.
 - Only 48% of Niagara's LDR households use the Green Bin program.
 - IC&I and MU audits show the recycling and organics diversion programs are underutilized. Only 34% of IC&I and 61% of MU properties outside DBAs participate in the recycling program. Only 11% of IC&I and 20% of MU properties outside DBAs participate in the organics program.
- Reduction of organics being landfilled will result in less methane emissions, reducing the landfill carbon footprint for climate change reduction;
- Improved leachate quality, which lessens the potential for environmental impact;
- Long term cost reduction with care and control of landfill sites;
- Increased net processing revenue from the sale of more recyclables due to increased volumes;
- Cost avoidance; and
- Conservation of non-renewable resources.

24. Has the switch to every-other-week for garbage collection been successful in other municipalities?

Approximately 70% of the Region's 13 municipal comparators (Barrie, Durham, Halton, Markham, Ottawa, Toronto, Vaughan, Peel and Waterloo) provide every-other-week garbage collection service. Their residents have adapted to this change.

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo was the most recent of the Region's comparator municipalities to switch to every-other-week and reports have demonstrated that

residents adapted well, increasing diversion not only with respect to organics but also in the Blue/Grey Box. Waterloo's report states that "All curbside recycling programs have seen increases since the March 2017 new contract launch, and there has been a reduction of waste going to landfill:

- Blue Box recycling: increased by 8%;
- Green Bin organics: increased by 120%;
- Yard waste: increased by 4%;
- Waste to landfill: decreased by 29%"

Municipalities reported waste diversion rate increases between 6% (Peel) and 16% (Durham). This diversion rate increase depended on whether the municipality introduced other diversion programs (i.e. organics) at the same time as every-other-week garbage.

Experiences in other municipalities (i.e. Barrie, Durham, Halton, Markham, Ottawa, Peel, Toronto and Waterloo) have found that, generally speaking, switching over to every-other-week garbage collection did not contribute to any significant increases in illegal dumping, or increases in rodents, provided residents use their Green Bin and store their waste properly.

Diaper and Medical Exemptions

25. Will diapers and/or additional waste generated as a result of a medical condition continue to be collected weekly after October 19?

Diapers and additional waste generated as a result of a medical condition will continue to be collected weekly. Residents must register (www.niagararegion.ca/waste) in order to qualify for this service. Registration forms can be submitted online. Those properties already registered in the program do not need to re-register for weekly collection service.

26. Who is eligible for the diaper and medical exemption?

The following properties are eligible for the weekly diaper collection exemption:

- Residents with one (1) child under the age of four (4) can place out one (1) clear bag of diapers on the week alternate to their regularly scheduled garbage collection week. These properties cannot set out a clear bag of diapers on their regularly scheduled collection week.
- Residents with two (2) children under the age can place out one (1) clear bag of diapers weekly.
- Residents with three (3) or more children under the age of four (4) can place out two (2) clear bags of diapers weekly.
- Daycares operating out of single-family homes and properties with up to six (6) units may put out two (2) clear bags of diapers weekly.

The following properties are eligible for the weekly medical waste exemption and will receive either 52 or 104 free garbage tags annually:

- Single-family homes, properties with up to six (6) units, and homes for adults with disabilities that have individuals with a medical condition can receive either 52 or 104 free garbage tags annually, depending on the approval from their doctor.
- Group homes, homes for adults with disabilities, and homes for assisted living will receive 52 free medical waste garbage tags annually.

Four (4) Item Limit per Collection for Bulky Household Items

27. Who will be affected by the four (4) item limit per collection for bulky household items?

Single-family homes and properties with 2-6 units that receive the Region's curbside garbage collection, as a base service, will be affected. Additionally, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, apartment buildings with 7 or more units will start receiving bulky household item collection on October 19 and will be subject to the four (4)-item limit.

28. What items are considered bulky household items acceptable for curbside collection?

Bulky household items are large household items that cannot fit into a normal garbage container and may be overweight (excluding construction/demolition material). Some examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Artificial Christmas Trees;
- Box spring, mattress, and bed frame;
- Carpet or rugs in compact rolls/bundles not exceeding 1.5 metres (4.5 ft) in length and 0.76 metres (2.5 ft) in diameter and tied;
- Couches, sofa, chair;
- Floor lamps;
- Furniture (for example, tables, cabinets, dressers);
- Glass Shards packaged in cardboard box labelled "glass";
- Large Toys;
- Pool cover and solar blankets;
- Toilets or sinks that are individual and not part of construction and demolition;
- Water softening units.

29. How can residents arrange for a bulky household item collection?

Residents can book a bulky item collection at any time during the year by submitting an [online request form](http://www.niagararegion.ca/waste) (www.niagararegion.ca/waste).

Residents must submit their request at least two (2) working days prior to their regular garbage collection day to make arrangements. Only items that have been booked for collection will be picked up.

30. Will Bulky Items be collected weekly?

No, bulky items will be collected on an every-other-week basis, on a property's regularly scheduled garbage collection day.

31. What can a resident do with bulky items that exceed the four (4) item limit?

If a resident has more than four (4) items, they can choose one of the following options:

- Book the additional bulky items for the following week's collection;
- Donate any bulky items, which are in good condition, to local reuse organizations;
- Drop off bulky items at a Regional drop-off depot (disposal fees may apply).

32. Are there any other restrictions or limitations on the bulky/large item collection service?

Collection is for large household items; smaller items can be placed in garbage bag. It is not for extra garbage generated from cleaning out a resident's home or as a result of a move.

33. Why is the Region implementing a four (4) item limit per collection for bulky household items?

- **Municipal Best Practice:** The average bulky/large item limit is three (3) per residential unit for those municipalities with weekly garbage collection, and four (4) per residential unit for those municipalities with every-other-week garbage collection.
- **Reflect Service Usage/Need:**
Niagara's low-density residential properties set out, on average, less than two (2) bulky/large items per collection in 2018.
 - 92% of Niagara's total bookings in 2018 were for four (4) or less bulky/large items
 - 99% of Niagara's low density residential properties who use this service place four (4) or fewer items out for collection
- **Encourage Reuse:** A limit per residential unit will encourage households to direct large items to reuse organizations such as Niagara Furniture Bank.

Elimination of the Curbside Collection of Large Household Appliances and Scrap Metal Items**34. Who will be affected by the elimination of the curbside collection of appliances and scrap metal items?**

Single-family homes and properties with 2-6 units that receive the Region's curbside garbage collection service will be affected.

35. Which appliances and scrap metal items would no longer be curbside collected?

- Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, humidifiers
- Refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers
- Metal bedsprings, bathtubs, furnaces
- Washers, dryers, stoves, rangehoods, microwaves, vacuums
- Bikes, exercise equipment
- Hot water tanks, water softeners, water coolers
- Metal swing sets, BBQs, TV antennas
- Wheelbarrows, lawnmowers, pool filters

36. How can residents still recycle these scrap metal items?

Residents have the option to recycle these items, at no cost, at the Region's drop-off depots, or have them picked up by a private scrap metal hauler.

There is a fee for disposal of items containing refrigerant at Regional drop-off depots.

37. Why is the Region proposing to eliminate the curbside collection of appliances and scrap metal items?

- **Municipal Best Practice/Trend:** Approximately half of the Region's municipal comparators (i.e. Barrie, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Peel and Windsor) do not provide curbside collection of appliances and scrap metal items.
- **Reflect Service Usage/Need:**
 - Curbside-collected appliance and scrap metal tonnages have decreased by 94% since 2007.
 - Only 6% of properties are using this service.
 - Of those that are using the service, 60% of the items placed out for booked collection have already been scavenged before municipal contractors arrive to pick them up.

Service Changes for Business Properties

38. Will businesses be affected by every-other-week garbage collection?

All Mixed-Use and IC&I properties outside DBAs will switch to every-other-week garbage collection on October 19. Recycling and organics collection will continue to be collection weekly.

All Mixed-Use and IC&I properties inside DBAs will continue to have weekly collection of garbage, recycling and organics. Garbage container (bag/can) limits and collection frequency may vary by municipality.

39. Are there any other service changes for business properties starting on October 19?

- Mixed-Use properties and IC&I properties outside DBAs will have a garbage container (bag/can) limit of eight (8) containers per property, every-other-week.
- Mixed-Use properties and IC&I properties inside DBAs receiving base collection service will have a garbage container limit of four (4) containers per property, per week.
- Starting October 19, IC&I properties outside DBAs will have a combined eight (8) cart limit for Blue/Grey Carts and a limit of eight (8) Green Carts.

40. Will businesses receiving enhanced collection services be affected by the new garbage container limits?

While businesses that receive enhanced collection services that include additional garbage container limits and/or increased garbage collection frequency will not be affected by the changes to base collection service inside the Designated Business Areas, they may experience changes as a result of the selection of enhanced services in their specific municipalities. Properties can find their services starting October 19 on Niagara Region's website (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/collection/inside-dba.aspx>).

41. Why do properties in DBAs have enhanced collection services?

The Region provides enhanced services as requested (and directly paid for) by individual Local Area Municipalities, which are provided on top of the base collection services provided to all properties. Local Area Municipalities each determine and request enhanced services for their own municipality. Enhanced services are provided to areas with unique collection needs.

42. What happens if a property owner does not/cannot comply with the garbage container limits?

- If a property owner sets out more garbage containers (bags/cans) than the limit allows, the additional garbage containers will be tagged and left behind by the collection contractor.
- Regional staff will follow-up with the property owner regarding the proper set out of material for collection to avoid re-occurrence of uncollected garbage.
- If a property owner is consistently unable to meet the garbage container limit and is not using the Region's diversion programs, it will be recommended that the Region's recycling and organics collection services be fully utilized to reduce the amount of waste being placed in garbage containers.

43. How do I get recycling and organics carts for my business property?

Blue/Grey and Green Carts are available to Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) and Mixed-Use properties and can be ordered online through the Region's [cart order form](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/cart-order-form.aspx) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/cart-order-form.aspx>). Order forms can be also be printed and returned by mail, fax or email.

With current COVID-19 limitations, deliveries of purchased recycling and organic carts are on hold. While cart order requests are being accepted, cart deliveries will be scheduled in order of receipt once the delivery service resumes. Check the Region website for updates as conditions change.

44. How can I expand or improve my recycling and/or organics program at my business?

Businesses that are participating in the Region's diversion programs can join the "Rethink Your Waste in the Workplace" program. Participating businesses receive:

-
- A personalized site visit by Region staff, who can provide coaching and resources to identify any areas for improvement, pending changes to COVID-19 distancing requirement
 - Access to promotional materials (posters, handbooks, stickers), presentations and workshops
 - Recognition in the Pledge Showcase for one year recognizing their bronze, silver or gold achievement
 - A gold, silver or bronze window decal dependent on certification level

45. Why is the Region changing the base garbage container limits for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) and Mixed-Use properties inside the DBAs?

The new garbage container (bag/can) limits align with current garbage container set-out. Curbside audits of properties inside DBAs found that the average number of garbage containers (bags/cans) set out by all IC&I properties using Regional base garbage collection services was 2.1. The average number of garbage containers set out by all Mixed-Use properties using Regional base garbage collection was 2.0.

It also helps encourage participation in diversion programs, which are under-utilized. Based on the results of curbside audits inside the DBAs, of all IC&I properties that use Regional base collection services, 67% of IC&I properties are participating in the recycling collection program and 14% of IC&I properties are participating in the organics collection program. For Mixed-Use properties, 62% of properties are participating in the recycling collection program and 20% are participating in the organics collection program

46. Why is the Region changing the garbage container limits for the Mixed-Use properties outside the DBAs?

The new garbage container (bag/can) limit will align with current average garbage containers set-out.

Based on the results curbside audits outside the DBAs, for all Mixed-Use properties that use Regional garbage collection service, the Regional average number of garbage containers set out per week was 1.8.

It will also encourage participation in diversion programs, which are under-utilized.

Based on the results curbside audits outside DBAs, for all Mixed-Use properties that use Regional recycling and organics collection services, 61% are participating in the recycling collection program and 20% are participating in the organics collection program

Service Changes for Apartment Buildings with Seven (7) or More Units

47. What collection changes are happening at my apartment building?

Buildings with Regional curbside collection services will receive garbage collection every-other-week. There will be a two-garbage container (bags/cans) limit per unit, to a maximum of 24 garbage containers per building. Garbage tags cannot be used for extra garbage containers.

Blue Boxes/Carts, Grey Boxes/Carts and Green Bins/Carts will continue to be collected every week. There is no limit to the amount of recycling and organics that can be placed at the curb.

Every-other-week garbage collection does not apply to apartment buildings receiving Regional front-end or containerized garbage service.

48. Why doesn't my apartment building have a Green Bin/Cart organics program?

The Region requires that all properties using Regional collection services participate in the recycling and organics diversion programs. However, not all apartment buildings in the region are using Regional collection services. If a building has private garbage collection, it would not be subject to this requirement of Niagara Region's Waste Management By-Law. It should be noted, that all apartment buildings with seven or more units in Ontario are required under Provincial regulation to provide recycling collection (Blue/Grey Box/Cart) to tenants.

If your building doesn't have a Green Bin/Cart and/or a Blue/Grey Box/Cart program for organics, you can start one for your building. Property managers and superintendents are responsible for purchasing recycling and organics carts, in-unit kitchen catchers and

replacing broken carts. Carts can be ordered online or order forms can be printed off and returned by mail, fax or email.

At the start of each recycling program, units will receive two free reusable recycling bags, an introductory letter and information package.

Using the Green Bin

49. Do I have to use a Green Bin?

Yes, properties that receive Regional waste collection services are required to participate in the Region's recycling and organics collection program. This is required by the Region's by-law and enforced by collection contractors and Regional on-road staff.

50. How do I use the Green Bin?

Getting started with a Green Bin is simple. Start with a few easy items, like banana peels, egg cartons and paper towel. Once it becomes a habit, start adding more items.

Green Bins and Kitchen Catchers can be purchased on the Region's website and picked up at distribution locations throughout the region. [A list of open locations](https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/container-locations.aspx) can be found on Niagara Region's webpage. (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/containers/container-locations.aspx>). As COVID-19 restrictions change, the list of open locations may change as well. The Region will also replace broken containers for free or provide free new containers to new homeowners and renters.

To line Green Bin or Kitchen Catcher, use any of the following acceptable liners:

- Newspaper or flyers
- Cardboard
- Paper Food Waste Bags
- Certified Compostable Bags

51. What are the Benefits of using the Green Bin

Placing organics and food waste in the Green Bin will keep the materials that decay and create odours out of the garbage and ease the transition to every-other-week garbage collection.

Using the Green Bin also helps reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. As much as 53 per cent of residential garbage is organic and should be composted. Using the Green Bin diverts this organic material from the garbage and saves valuable landfill space. Organic material in the landfill also produces more greenhouse gas, contributing to climate change.

Questions Related to Costs

52. Can I expect my taxes to go down by switching to every-other-week garbage collection?

Net operating costs (expenses minus revenue) are charged back to Local Area Municipalities (LAMS), and in turn, LAMs charge their taxpayers based on property assessment. It should be noted that Waste collection costs are increasing across the province due to increase in expenses such as steel, insurance, trucks, employee wages and gasoline.

Every-other-week garbage collection and increased diversion also have long-term system-wide financial benefits in the form of:

- Deferred capital costs for new disposal infrastructure. As a point of reference, the Humberstone Landfill site vertical expansion will have a total cost of approximately \$11.2 million. The total cost to construct the Durham-York Energy from Waste facility was \$295 million and in 2018, the facility received 140,780 tonnes of waste at a net operating cost of approximately \$9.2 million.
- Long term cost reduction with care and control of landfill sites, due to reduction of organics being landfilled (resulting in improved leachate quality). Based on the Region's Landfill Liability Model, the contaminating life and monitoring would be reduced by approximately 5 years and thus produce an estimated cost avoidance for the two Regional landfill sites of \$1.3 million.

- The cost avoidance/cost reduction in the landfill contract with Walker Environmental, due to an increase in the diversion of waste from disposal, may be offset by increased tonnages of organics being processed, unless the organics tonnages are reduced through food waste avoidance and other reduction initiatives.

53. How much money is the Region saving by doing this switch?

Due to the low bid of the current collection contractor at the start of the contract and the significant inflation in collection related costs (i.e. labour, steel, gasoline, insurance, etc.) there are cost increases. However, shifting to every-other-week garbage collection has resulted in an estimated cost avoidance of approximately \$1 million annually.

54. Why do I have to pay for a Green Bin or recycling box?

The Region charges users for Green Bins and other containers to cover the cost of the bins. Free bins have been provided by the Region over the years, including region-wide deliveries of green bins and grey boxes. It is cost-prohibitive to provide free Green Bins to all residents at this time; however, residents can obtain free bins as follows:

- New resident or tenants within twelve months of the possession date or occupancy of residence
- Replacement of damaged bins

55. Why can't the Region just make a new landfill?

The cost to build, operate, and maintain a landfill is costly and can have negative impacts on the environment. Utilizing weekly, unlimited Blue/Grey Box and Green Bin collection will divert waste away from landfill and substantially reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, preserving existing Region disposal capacity. The reduction of organic waste being landfilled will result in less methane gas emissions that are created when organic waste does not have enough oxygen to break down. This will reduce the landfill's carbon footprint for climate change reduction and improve leachate quality to lessen the potential environmental impact. Increasing participation and capture rates in the Region's diversion programs also conserves non-renewable resources and generates more revenue from the sale of recyclables, which helps offset costs of the Region's waste management programs. We need to be mindful of the long-term needs of Niagara and our overall impact on the environment.

Stakeholder Consultation

56. When did the Region conduct stakeholder consultation?

From August 2018 to February 2019, the Region consulted with various stakeholder groups (i.e. residents, business owners and associations, etc.) to obtain input on proposed garbage collection service options being considered for the Region's next curbside waste collection contract (i.e. garbage, recycling and organics) through Let's Talk Waste Niagara.

57. How did the Region consult with stakeholders?

Residents and businesses were able to:

- Visit the Region's website to complete the online survey at niagararegion.ca/letstalkwaste. The deadline for completing the online survey was midnight on Friday, November 30, 2018.
- Attend one of the public open houses or community booths held in each of the 12 Local Area Municipalities (LAMs). Attendees could complete an online survey at these events
- Call the Region's Waste Info-Line at 905-356-4141 or 1-800-594-5542.
- Via telephone survey to more than 1,200 people utilizing a research company
- More than 6,500 low density residential surveys were completed as part of the online survey
- Presentations were provided to each LAMs Council.

58. How was the consultation promoted?

The Let's Talk Waste campaign was promoted using a variety of communication materials.

- **Niagara Region's website** – a webpage was developed which included a breakdown of the service options and justification, links to the associated surveys, and the time and location for each open house and community booth.
- **Stakeholder meetings** – Region staff met with each of Niagara's Business Improvement Areas, Chambers of Commerce, the Niagara Industrial Association and Tourism Partnership of Niagara, in August and September of 2018, to provide a presentation on the proposed service options.

-
- **Letters** – sent to Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) and Multi-Residential (MR) properties in October, 2018 that use Regional curbside garbage, with the proposed options, link to on-line survey, open house/community booth information, and invitation to contact the Region.
 - **Promotional handout cards** – were provided to municipal offices and to attendees at the community booths which provided them with a link to the online survey.
 - **Newspaper advertising** – used to encourage participation in the online survey, with a link to the campaign webpage. A total of 11 newspaper ads were placed in daily and community newspapers, coinciding with the open house dates.
 - **Poster boards** – a visual aid to summarize the proposed collection service options at the open houses and community booths.
 - **Social media** – used to promote the online survey and the proposed collection service options. A total of 24 social media posts were used from October 30 – November 28 to promote the open houses and community booths, with a daily post reminder to encourage the public to attend. A Facebook paid ad ran from October 25 – November 28, asking residents to complete the online survey.
 - **Open house/community booths** – conducted in each municipality during the month of November, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., including a presentation. Staff were available to assist residents/businesses in filling out an online survey.

59. What were the results from the survey with respect to every-other-week garbage collection?

Residents were split on their feelings about every-other-week garbage collection, 46% of the telephone survey, and 41% of those in the online survey could manage every-other-week garbage collection. A slight majority (52%) feel there would be little to no impact to their household and under half (48%) feel there would be at least “some” impact on their household if the Region switched to every-other-week garbage collection.

Curbside Collection Changes FAQ
June 19, 2020
Page 33

LDR Survey Questions	Telephone Results (n=1,253)	Online Results (n=6,639)
Resident indicating they could manage every-other-week	46%	41%
Residents indicating there will be little to no impact to their household with every-other-week	52%	42%
Residents indicating that waste diversion was very important	72%	52%

The online survey and telephone survey indicated that 7 out of 10 residential households say they participate in the Green Bin program. The two biggest barriers for those residents who are not participating in the Green Bin program, as indicated in the surveys, were the concerns about smell/odours (63% telephone, 35% online) and rodents (39% telephone, 32% online), both of which would be addressed with weekly collection of the Green Bin.

The survey indicated that those who participate in the Green Bin program are more likely to be able to manage every-other-week garbage collection (50% telephone, 50% online) compared to those who are not currently participating in the Green Bin program (37% telephone, 25% online).



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Planning and Building Services
Building and Development

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council
Building Activity Statistics for the Month of January 2020

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	60	1	23	12	\$16,905,645	49
TOTAL	60	1	23	12	\$16,905,645	49

Major Building Projects Over \$250,000: Month of January 2020 (excluding single and two-family dwelling units)	
Construct Three Storey Apartment Building for YWCA Supportive Housing – 24 units 176 Oakdale Avenue \$5,000,000	Fire Alarm System and Alter Existing CACF Room 301 St. Paul Street \$2,200,000
Construct 4-Unit Townhouse Block with Finished Basements/Rear Decks (Units 1-4) 45 Simpson Road \$2,000,000	Alter Interior for Fit 4 Less 221 Glendale Avenue \$900,000
Construct 4-Unit Townhouse 27 Corbin Street \$500,000	Construct New Gas Bar Canopy for ESSO 185 St. Paul Street West \$400,000
Alter Interior of 2 Storey Building and Convert Animal Hospital (Ground Floor) to 2 Dwelling Units 514 Welland Avenue \$300,000	Alter Interior and Exterior of Wendy's 275 Fourth Avenue \$300,000
Interior Tenant Fit Out for Computer Studio Code Ninjas – Suite 21 150 Dunkirk Road \$250,000	

Comparative Building Activity Statistics for the Month of January 2019						
Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	38	5	30	21	\$8,577,446	36
TOTAL	38	5	30	21	\$8,577,446	36



Brian Thiessen, M.A.A.T.O., C.B.C.O.
Manager of Building and Development



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Planning and Building Services
Building and Development

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council
Building Activity Statistics for the Month of February 2020

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	60	1	23	12	\$16,905,645	49
February	36	5	16	10	\$9,653,620	10
TOTAL	96	6	39	22	\$26,559,265	59

Major Building Projects Over \$250,000:
Month of February 2020 (excluding single and two-family dwelling units)

Construct Superstructure Only for Warehouse for Pioneer Farms 1900 Seventh Street \$7,000,000	Construct Four-Unit Rowhouse Block (Units 34 – 37) 525 Niagara Street \$755,000
Construct Superstructure Only for Self Storage Warehouse (Building B) 1 Abbott Street \$300,000	

Comparative Building Activity Statistics for the Month of February 2019

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	38	5	30	21	\$8,577,446	36
February	48	1	20	15	\$22,476,400	58
TOTAL	86	6	50	36	\$31,053,846	94

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Planning and Building Services
Building and Development

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Building Activity Statistics for the Month of March 2020

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	60	1	23	12	\$16,905,645	49
February	36	5	16	10	\$9,653,620	10
March	57	3	30	17	\$7,100,260	6
TOTAL	153	9	69	39	\$33,659,525	65

Major Building Projects Over \$250,000:
Month of March 2020 (excluding single and two-family dwelling units)

Alter Interior of 10 Theatres to Accommodate new seating for Landmark Cinemas 221 Glendale Avenue \$2,700,000	Alter Interior of Eden High School (Science Labs) 535 Lake Street \$750,000
Alter Interior and Convert Retail Space to Exam Centre for Brock University 585 Glendale Avenue \$300,000	Construct One Storey Service Station Addition and Alterations to Front Entry for Performance Hyundai 342 Ontario Street \$300,000
Alter Interior of Unit 1 for Playtown 150 Dunkirk Road \$250,000	Lighting Replacement – Parking Garage 8 Ontario Street \$250,000

Comparative Building Activity Statistics for the Month of March 2019

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	38	5	30	21	\$8,577,446	36
February	48	1	20	15	\$22,476,400	58
March	48	4	28	17	\$7,622,190	16
TOTAL	134	10	78	53	\$38,676,036	110



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Planning and Building Services
Building and Development

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Building Activity Statistics for the Month of April 2020

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	60	1	23	12	\$16,905,645	49
February	36	5	16	10	\$9,653,620	10
March	57	3	30	17	\$7,100,260	6
April	36	4	7	12	\$86,308,500	182
TOTAL	189	13	76	51	\$119,968,025	247

Major Building Projects Over \$250,000:
Month of April 2020 (excluding single and two-family dwelling units)

Construct Superstructure Only for 20 Storey Apartment Building – Homestead – Shipman 1 – 178 units 32 Towering Heights Boulevard \$48,000,000	Construct Superstructure Only for Residence 8 – Brock University 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way \$33,100,000
Alter Interior of Ground and Second Floors at Laura Secord Secondary School 349 Niagara Street \$1,800,000	Construct North Addition to Venest Industries 2032 First Street \$600,000
Construct Shell Building for Starbucks Building D 295 Fourth Avenue \$360,000	Alter Interior for The Sound Bar 42 James Street \$350,000

Comparative Building Activity Statistics for the Month of April 2019

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	38	5	30	21	\$8,577,446	36
February	48	1	20	15	\$22,476,400	58

Comparative Building Activity Statistics for the Month of April 2019						
Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
March	48	4	28	17	\$7,622,190	16
April	63	6	34	22	\$14,985,500	14
TOTAL	197	16	112	75	\$53,646,336	124



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Building Activity Statistics for the Month of May 2020

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	60	1	23	12	\$16,905,645	49
February	36	5	16	10	\$9,653,620	10
March	57	3	30	17	\$7,100,260	6
April	36	4	7	12	\$86,308,500	182
May	59	0	9	17	\$23,806,800	146
TOTAL	248	13	85	68	\$143,774,825	393

Major Building Projects Over \$250,000:
Month of May 2020 (excluding single and two-family dwelling units)

Construct Superstructure (Shell Only) for 8-Storey Apartment Building – Royal Port Condominiums – 49 Units 57 Lakeport Road \$10,000,000	Alter Interior of Office Building and Convert Floor Levels 2 through 10 to Residential Apartments – 137 Units 1 St. Paul Street \$5,200,000
Alter Cafeterias at Lowenberger and Decew Residences – Brock University 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way \$2,500,000	Construct Addition to Ecole L'Heritage for La Boite A Soleil Daycare Facility 35 Prince Charles Drive \$1,270,000
Construct New Fourplex 35 Oakdale Avenue \$600,000	Alter Interior for Mark's 221 Glendale Avenue \$554,000

Comparative Building Activity Statistics for the Month of May 2019

Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
January	38	5	30	21	\$8,577,446	36
February	48	1	20	15	\$22,476,400	58

Comparative Building Activity Statistics for the Month of May 2019						
Month	Number of Building Permits	Number of Demolition Permits	Number of Sign Permits	Number of Plumbing Only Permits	Estimated Value of Construction	Number of New Dwelling Units
March	48	4	28	17	\$7,622,190	16
April	63	6	34	22	\$14,985,500	14
May	109	5	37	12	\$27,226,400	16
TOTAL	306	21	149	87	\$80,872,736	140



Brian Thiessen, M.A.A.T.O., C.B.C.O.
Manager of Building and Development

City Council Outstanding Reports List

Sub-Item 18

Reports by Strategic Pillar

Cultural 1 **Economic** 1
Environmental 3 **Social** 5

Reports Related to Strategic Plan 10

Reports Unrelated to Strategic Plan 13

Updated: July 3, 2020

Relation to Strategic Plan	ORL #	Requested	Requested by	Request	Lead Dept.	Expected Return Date	Comments
Cultural	2019-44	2-Dec-19	Porter	That staff be directed to gather the appeal processes for all grant programs and report back to Council	CRCS	Q2 2020	From BSC minutes of October 28, 2019
Economic	2019-22	15-Jul-19	Townsend	Amend sign by-law to permit digital signage on City-owned properties and buildings, including the appropriateness and ability to include third-party advertising as part of digital signage on City-owned properties.	PBS / COMMS	Q3 2020	Appeal Information Report - Application for Sign By-law Variance; 142 St. Paul Street; Owner: 2400795 Ontario Inc. was deferred 8-12-19 until
Economic	2019-31	09-Sep-19	Garcia	Creation of a new rental category for use of vacant and unused City properties by Community-based Volunteer Groups (not to be used for commercial purpose)	FMS / CRCS	Q1 2020	New category incorporated into 2021 Rates and Fees. Report going to Council July 13
Environmental	2019-20	24-Jun-19	Mayor Sendzik	Corporate waste reduction strategy including best practices for municipal waste diversion and organics at city facilities, parks, beaches, public spaces and events at City facilities, including an implementation strategy and budget for 2020.	EFES / MW	Fall 2020	Report going to Environmental Sustainability Committee prior to going to Council
Environmental	2019-39	4-Nov-19	Townsend	Single-use plastic bag ban	EFES / LCS / EDTS	Q4 2020	
Social	2019-03	11-Feb-19	Porter	Policy and funding methods for how the City could support requests for assistance for affordable housing endeavors in the future	PBS	Q4 2020	To be incorporated in CIP Review Process. Should be considered with 2021 Budget
Social	2019-41	2-Dec-19	Littleton	That staff report back regarding the Conversion of Grantham South to a one-way street heading north from Queenston Street to Eastchester Avenue	EFES	Q3 2020	
Social	2020-05	24-Feb-20	Littleton	Family Care and Accommodation Policy	CSS	August	Develop family care and accommodation policy (including but not limited to barrier-free access to childcare, transportation, dependent care) to improve equitable access and reduce systemic barriers to public participation in all city-initiated public meetings, citizen advisory committees and statutory meetings. Report going to BSC prior to Council
Social	2019-29	09-Sep-19	Littleton	Report back on the existing street naming process with ways to include more public engagement, perhaps similar to the park naming process	PBS	Q3 2020	
Social	2019-33	09-Sep-19	Townsend	Naloxone training for City staff and City Councillors, including availability of Naloxone kits in the trunks of City vehicles and Councillors' vehicles.	CSS	13-Jul-20	Was brought to Feb 10, 2020 meeting. Referred to staff by Coun. Littleton for additional
Social	2019-43	2-Dec-19	Kushner / Phillips	That staff utilize the EngageSTC portal to gather public feedback and report back end of Q1 2020 regarding a national ban on handguns and the joining with other municipalities that are advocating for a national ban on handguns.			Return requested for Q1 2020
None	2019-40	2-Dec-19		That staff report back to Council with a schedule for Deputy Mayors	LCS	Q3 2020	
None	2019-47	16-Dec-19	Miller / Mayor Sendzik	That the request for funds to be used to record in-camera meetings be referred to 2020 for a report including the upgrading of screening services for all meetings (open and closed sessions).	LCS		

Follow Up Reports

Relation to Strategic Plan	ORL #	Requested	Requested by	Request	Lead Dept.	Expected Return Date	Comments
Economic	2020-03	15-Jul-19	Porter	Living Wage Employer Implementation Plan, including financial impacts to the City.	CSS	September	Follow up report. Initial report (CAO-144-2019) approved July 15, 2019

Relation to Strategic Plan	ORL #	Requested	Requested by	Request	Lead Dept.	Expected Return Date	Comments
Environmental	2020-08	03-Jun-20	Porter	That staff prepare a report and budget in advance of the 2021 budget deliberations regarding a cul-de-sac program	MW		Follow up report. Initial report (FMS-085-2020, Sub-Item 10.2) approved June 3, 2020. See minutes of June 3, 2020 General Committee Meeting for additional information requested for inclusion in the report.
Social	2020-02	13-Jan-20	Townsend	E-Scooter report with results of consultation with stakeholder groups and risk management analysis	EDTS / EFES / MW		Follow up report. Initial report (EDTS/CRCS-006-2020) approved January 13, 2020
Social	2020-07	24-Feb-20	Porter	Revised Graffiti Program: Consult with the community, the relevant cultural committees and downtown stakeholder groups to modernize the graffiti program and by-law by 2021.	PBS	Q4 2020	Follow up report. Initial report (PBS-010-2020) approved February 10, 2020
Social	2019-49	16-Dec-19	Mayor Sendzik	That the needle pick-up team be a pilot project that includes tracking of the number of needles picked up, the cost of cleaning up spaces that have been subjected to abuse by people using needles and other drugs; and other issues around homelessness and addictions found in city parks and that the findings be reported back to Council by November 2020; and That data be used to secure future funding from Regional, provincial and federal governments to deal with this epidemic	MW		Update report going to Council in November 2020

Reports Affected by COVID-19

Relation to Strategic Plan	ORL #	Requested	Requested by	Request	Lead Dept.	Expected Return Date	Comments
Economic	2019-45	16-Dec-19	Porter	That staff be directed to consult with the public and report back to Council in Q2 with recommendations for how to use the telephone town hall money	FMS	2021	Due to COVID-19, Council approved deferring the proposed budget engagement plan until the 2022 budget cycle and that the Telephone Town Hall continue for the 2021 budget process.
Social	2019-12	15-Apr-19	Porter	Review of Citizen Appointments to Boards and Committees Policy	LCS	Q4 2020	Postponed due to COVID-19 until Q4 2020
Social	2019-23	15-Jul-19	Littleton	Opportunities and strategies for the City to support neighbourhood associations and neighbourhood-based community groups, including best practices and information gathered from the forum	CRCS	Q2 2020	Staff report will come forward following the neighbourhood association forum. Forum was scheduled for March 28 but was postponed to a later date due to COVID-19
Social	2019-34	23-Sep-19	Mayor Sendzik	That additional staffing be considered for RZone in the 2021 budget deliberations and come back to Council with a report in Q3 2020	CRCS	Q3 2021	Given the financial implications of COVID-19, this report will be deferred to Q3 2021 for the 2022 budget deliberations.



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Financial Management Services, Billing

Report Date: July 9, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: FMS-105-2020 **File:** 77.34.1

Subject: Amendment to Parking By-law and Associated Administrative Monetary Penalty By-law (AMPS)

Strategic Pillar:



Recommendation

That the Staff Recommendation in Report FMS-105-2020, regarding Amendment to Parking By-law and Associated Administrative Monetary Penalty By-law (AMPS) be referred to City Council for consideration after a public meeting to be scheduled as part of the next Regular meeting of City Council for which notice will be duly given. FORTHWITH

Staff Recommendation

That Council approve the proposed amendment to By-law 2014-67, being a By-law to establish a System of Administrative Penalties respecting the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles in the City of St. Catharines, as amended, to create fines for Special Provision Areas; and

That Council approve the proposed amendment to By-law 2014-67- Traffic By-law 89-2000 Schedule A to create a new Administrative Penalty for Parked Where Prohibited – Special Provision applicable only during the months of May, June, July, August and September of each year; and

That Council approve the proposed amendment to By-law 2014-67 Municipal By-law 89-305 Schedule C to create a new Administrative Penalty for Parked Where Prohibited – Special Provision Area applicable only during the months of May, June, July, August and September of each year; and

That Council approve the proposed amendment to By-law 89-2000, being the Traffic and Parking, to create Special Provision Areas applicable only during the months of May, June, July, August and September of each year, as identified in Appendix 1; and

Further, that the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary by-laws.

Summary

With summer upon us, record breaking temperatures and with Niagara in Phase 2, Stage 2 of the Province's COVID-19 Recovery Plan, the City has seen a dramatic increase in visitors and vehicles parking illegally in the Sunset Beach, Jones Beach, Lakeside Park and Morningstar Mill areas. It should also be noted that this is not just occurring during the COVID-19 Emergency Orders; this is a recurring and ongoing annual issue at this time of year.

Report

Over the past weeks, By-law and Parking Enforcement staff have increased their patrol and enforcement in these areas in response to public complaints. Since May 3, 2020, the City has issued an increased number of parking penalty notices. The majority of the infractions are "Parked where Prohibited," "Parked Within 1.5 meters of a driveway," "Parked within 3 metres of a Fire Hydrant" and "Parked on Boulevard."

Staff is recommending that Council create special provision areas and increase the penalties associated with Parked Where Prohibited parking offences. It would be a seasonal violation applicable only during the months of May, June, July, August and September of each year. Currently, the penalties for these infractions are set \$30.00 per violation. It has been found that people attending these areas are treating these parking penalties as a small price to pay while visiting the beach and surrounding areas. Deterrence is one of the primary goals of parking penalties; and staff is of the opinion that the current penalties are no longer sufficient to deter persons from parking illegally in these areas. Staff is therefore recommending that a new Administrative Penalty be created for these areas. The Special Provision areas would include Sunset Beach and surrounding areas, Jones Beach, Lakeside Park and Morningstar Mill (see Appendices 2,3,4 and 5). If approved, the penalties would increase from a \$30.00 Parked Where Prohibited – to a Special Provision - Parked Where Prohibited penalty of \$100.00 applicable only during the months of May, June, July, August and September of each year.

Some municipalities across Ontario have made amendments to their Associated Administrative Monetary Penalty By-law (AMPs) and Parking By-Law. The Town of Wainfleet has increased a number of their infractions from \$30.00 to \$100.00. The City of Barrie has identified special areas, increased set fines and increased their daily parking rates around water front areas. Innisfil has significantly increased their enforcement, with many tickets being handed out and many vehicles being towed when visitors park where they shouldn't park. The City of Toronto is enacting stricter parking rules at their popular beaches.

Staff have delegated authority to implement parking-related prohibitions on City roadways. Through this authority, staff is in the process of implementing restricted parking on one side of each street that does not currently have a prohibition. This would include sections of Arthur Street, Beachaven Drive, Bogart Street, Cumberland Street and Grandview Drive. It would be a full-time prohibition, not a seasonal one, as this is consistent with the southern half of the neighbourhood that already has this in place.

Staff will also be installing “tow away zone” signage on the north side of Lombardy Avenue as well as within the park itself to deter visitors from parking illegally in that area.

Financial Implications

The City has issued approximately 353 tickets in the proposed Special Provision Area since May 2020, with the majority written for the violation “Parked Where Prohibited.” An increase to the penalty amount for this violation from the current \$30 to \$100 can be expected to generate additional parking violation revenues annually. The increase in revenue will offset lost parking revenue with the 2020 parking budget.

Special Provisions Areas	Penalty Notices Issued Since May 2020
Sunset Beach	262
Lakeside Park	4
Morningstar Mill	87
Jones Beach	0

Conclusion

It is staff's recommendation to create Special Provision areas with increased penalties for parking-related infractions applicable only during the months of May, June, July, August and September of each year. Staff feel that visitors will be more likely to comply with parking prohibitions, reducing the impact that visitors have on residents in the area. The proposed recommendations will result in additional parking revenues also.

Prepared and Submitted by

Lisa Read, Manager of Revenue

Approved by

Kristine Douglas, CPA, CMA

Director, Financial Management Services / City Treasurer

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Traffic By-Law Special Provision Area
- Appendix 2 – Sunset Beach and surrounding areas - Map of Special Provision Area
- Appendix 3 – Jones Beach - Map of Special Provision Area
- Appendix 4 – Lakeside Park - Map of Special Provision Area
- Appendix 5 – Morningstar Mill - Map of Special Provision Area

By-law 89-2000 PART I – INTERPRETATION be amended by adding the following Section:

“Special Provision Area” means adjacent streets and municipally owned driveways and parking lots within the vicinity of and including Sunset Beach, Jones Beach, Morningstar Mill and Lakeside Park, as outlined and identified in Schedule XX of the Bylaw.

For the new Schedule:

Schedule XX – No Parking within Special Provision Area

Sunset Beach Special Provision Area includes the following streets and is inclusive of Sunset Beach driveway and parking areas

- Lombardy Ave
- Bogart St
- Beachaven Dr
- Grandview Dr
- Arthur St between Wildwood Rd and Beachaven Dr
- Cumberland St
- Northglen Ave
- Durham Dr
- Melody Trail
- Wildwood Dr
- Jarrow Rd

Morningstar Mill Special Provision Area includes the following streets and is inclusive of Morningstar Mill driveway and parking area

- First Street Louth between Pelham Rd and Decew Rd
- Decew Rd between First St Louth and Cataract Rd

Lakeside Park Special Provision Area includes the following streets and is inclusive of Lakeside Park driveway and parking area

- Lakeport Rd between Main St and Lock St
- Main St between Lock St and Lakeport Rd
- Lock St between Dalhousie Ave and Main St
- Dalhousie Ave between Brock St and Lock St
- Simcoe St
- Gertrude St
- Canal St
- Michigan Ave
- John St
- Lighthouse Rd

Jones Beach Special Provision Area includes the following streets and is inclusive of Jones Beach driveway and parking area

- Broadway between Runcorn St and its northerly terminus
- Lakeside Dr between Broadway and Bromley Dr

Sunset Beach Special Provision Area

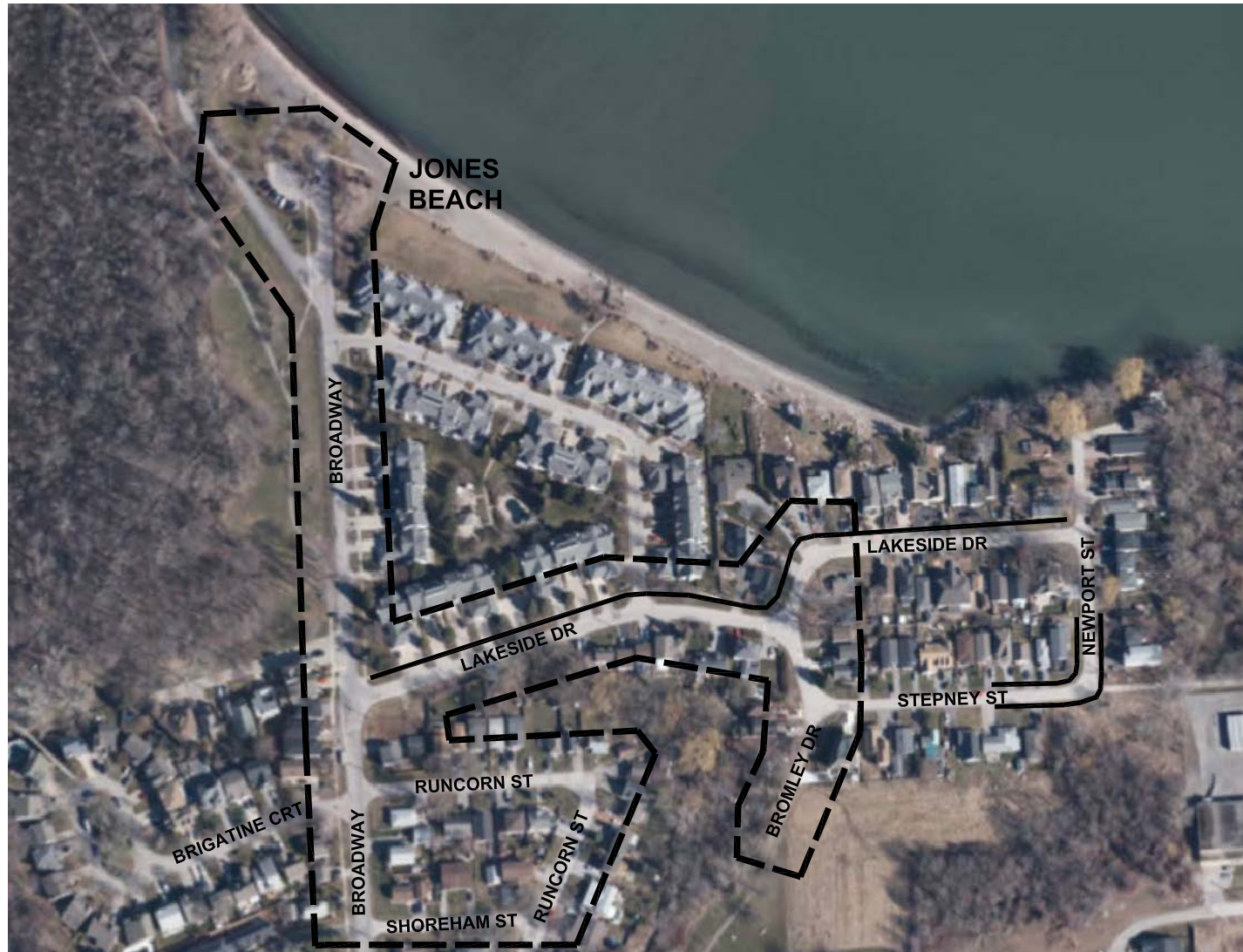


CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

--- Special Provision Area
— Existing No Parking Restrictions



Jones Beach Special Provision Area



- Special Provision Area**
- Existing No Parking Restrictions**





Lakeside Park Special Provision Area



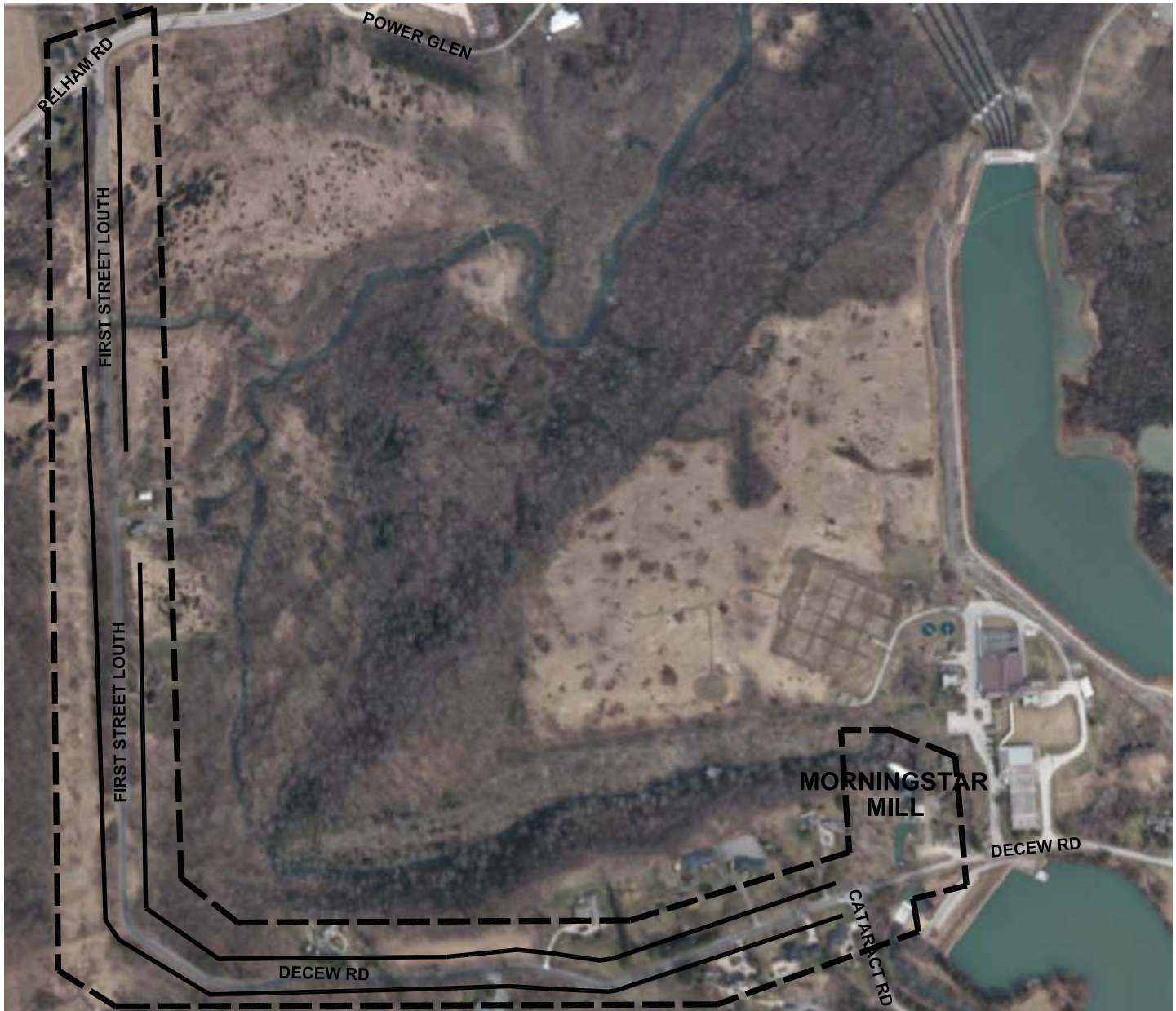
- Special Provision Area**
- Existing No Parking Restrictions**



Morningstar Mill Special Provision Area



5



CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

--- Special Provision Area
— Existing No Parking Restrictions



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Economic Development and Tourism Services
Community Recreation and Cultural Services

Report Date: June 23, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: EDTS-095-2020 **File:** 35.60.20

Subject: Revised Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Fee for Service Agreement

Strategic Pillar:



Recommendation

That Council authorize staff to amend the fee-for-service agreement (the Agreement) with the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival (the Festival) for the period covering 2020, for the provision of services associated with the festival which identifies an annual disbursement plus in-kind fees, as indicated in the Agreement to the maximum amount shown therein, with the understanding that the Festival is responsible for all City related costs over and above; and

That the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary documents and by-laws.
FORTHWITH

Relationship to Strategic Plan

This report supports the following Strategic Plan Goal's identified by council;

- Social Sustainability: connects, people, places and neighbourhoods.
- Economic Sustainability: develop partnerships to enhance the economic vitality of the community.
- Environmental Sustainability: lead in the protection of our environment for future generations.
- Cultural Sustainability: embrace diversity, and celebrate the community's heritage and history.

Background

Since 1998, City staff have negotiated and implemented a fee-for-service agreement between the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival (NGWF) and the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines.

On [August 12, 2019](#), Council approved the following annual disbursements to the Festival subject to satisfactory reports back to Council:

- 2020 - \$55,000
- 2021 - \$60,000
- 2022 - \$65,000
- 2023 - \$70,000

Given the continued impact of COVID-19, NGWF organizers have reformed its plans to support, inform and engage with its audience. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the 2020 action plan for the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival.

Report

The NGWF is Canada's largest wine and food festival, with a mission to bring people together to share and celebrate fine wine, food and the Niagara country lifestyle. Attention will be focused on Niagara's unique offering from premier grape growers, exceptional wine producers and world class consumer experiences. As a founding partner of the Festival, the City plays an integral part of the festival's sustainability

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the closure of public spaces, with many festivals and events being cancelled or postponed. As reported by the province, the tourism and leisure market is one of the hardest hit sectors of the regional economy. The closure of entertainment facilities and the cancellation of renowned festivals has had a devastating impact to the tourism and cultural landscape of St. Catharines. Festival organizers have developed an amended program of events to adapt to the new economic reality.

Through an updated business plan for 2020 (Appendix 1), the festival will focus on the following key activities:

- Festival Guide to Summer (June)
- RBC Brunch in your Backyard (June)
- Cellar Door Program (Fall)
- Grape and Wine Porch Parade (Fall)

2020 Programming

The Niagara Grape and Wine Festival is a significant economic and cultural driver for the City of St. Catharines. The Council approved Economic Development and Tourism Pandemic Recovery Strategy identifies the continued support of the tourism sector through targeted marketing campaigns and revised product development. The amended Festival program aligns with the recovery initiatives by engaging in joint-marketing and exploring new partnerships with the downtown and businesses to enhance a new event experience including but not limited to:

- On-site programming at Montebello Park will be replaced with winery-focused programming and packaged with extended stay opportunities with St. Catharines restaurants and accommodation partners.

- The Grande Parade activities will transition to a Porch Parade campaign that may include local bands, floats and industry partners. A large scale media campaign will showcase the spirit of the city through TV, radio and print.
- Harvest Lounge activities to be replaced with Discovery Passes for the Fall Festival.
- A custom campaign to highlight the downtown core, including winemaker dining series, structured tastings and other opportunities that arise from new City programming.
- Administrative support for the Festival to allow the continued delivery of high impact consumer programs that bolster the Niagara grape and wine industry.

The NGWF disbursement of \$55,000 as per the renewed multi-year Fee-For-Service Agreement is included in the approved 2020 operating budget. The operating budget also budgets for festival-related in-kind services in the amount of \$45,300, which includes park reinstatement, road closures and other City-related services.

Item	2020 Operating Budget Amount	2020 Revised Investment Request
Fee-For-Service Agreement	\$55,000	\$49,500
In-kind Services	\$45,300	\$10,000
Total	\$100,300	\$59,500

Given the change in program direction, the NGWF is requesting an amended investment in the amount up to \$59,500 resulting in a savings of \$40,800.

Financial Implications

The requested disbursement of up to \$59,500 can be accommodated in the approved 2020 operating budget.

Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

With a change in direction in response to COVID-19, the NGWF programming can still have a significant economic and tourism impact, offering value to residents in addition to serving as a key travel motivator for visitors to St. Catharines.

Notifications

It is in order to advise Ms. Dorian Anderson, Executive Director, Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, 8 Church Street, Suite 100, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 3B3.

Prepared and submitted by

Sabrina Maselli
Economic Development Officer

Approved by

Brian York
Director of Economic Development and Government Relations

Phil Cristi
Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Updated Business Plan for 2020

NIAGARA GRAPE & WINE FESTIVAL

2020 Action Plan

Presented to the City of St. Catharines

1

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

- The onset and continued impact of the COVID 19 pandemic has rocked the global economy and had a dramatic effect on Niagara
- Government regulations prohibit the core activities of the Niagara Grape & Wine Festival and our wine industry partners
 - The wine industry has pivoted well, transitioning swiftly and effectively to a delivery/curbside model, but tourism and visitation has changed for the foreseeable future.

What is the role of the Grape & Wine Festival in this new world?

SUPPORT. INFORM. ENGAGE.

This new and challenging reality made the role of the Festival very clear – to be a supporting voice, rather than a competing voice.

SUPPORT: since early May, the Festival has leveraged their sizable social media audiences daily to share industry and winery messages #VOA at home, individual winery promotions and offers

INFORM: social activity has focused on the benefits of home delivery, promoted restaurants including VQA wines in curbside programs, created and promoted content about exploring VQA wines during this period of isolation.

ENGAGE: beginning June 19th, a digital “Homegrown Wine Festival” themed campaign will engage our audience in VQA wine, backyard recipes and summer playlists as a means of reinforcing the VQA at home lifestyle. A Fall Festival campaign that promotes safe participation in the Festival will be launched in August.

VOA AT HOME

**GETTING YOUR FAVOURITE NIAGARA WINE HAS NEVER BEEN
EASIER!**

JUNE 2020 THE FESTIVAL GUIDE TO SUMMER

- Digital campaign pushing unique wine, culinary & lifestyle content to audience
- Wineries opt in with Top 3 wine picks, paired with a song for a Summer Fun Playlist. 30 wineries have participated to date. Strong feedback from winery partners.
- Each winery will be featured on "{name} Winery Day of Summer"
- Chefs provide recipes for easy summer bites or more challenging recipes for newfound culinary interest due to COVID
- Easy, casual approach. All posted on Instagram to act as a "digital magazine"
- Supported with social media posts, website prompts, e newsletter to database of 13,000
- Launches June 19, 2020 and continues all summer

JUNE 2020 RBC BRUNCH IN YOUR BACKYARD

- A new way to experience the RBC Brunch in the Vineyard...right in your backyard!
- Consumers purchase a Brunch Kit from one of 2 partner restaurants. Includes ingredients to prepare a gourmet brunch at home and bottle of VQA wine. Option for curbside pick up or delivery.
- Will feature incho and Wellington Court the 2 winning chefs from the 2019 RBC Brunch in the Vineyard
- Brunch Kit includes a link to a live online cooking lesson from the restaurant Chef, engaging with wine and ingredients and answering guest questions live
- Participants asked to share their experience on social. This is not a battle; a simple consumer engagement experience
 - RBC to include kits for their VIP clients
 - Sunday, June 28, 2020

FALL 2020 CELLAR DOOR PROGRAM

- Deliver programs and promotion to encourage visits to winery partners, communicating safe and memorable experiences.
- NEW guest reservation app allows guests to pre book their tasting (or Discovery Pass) experience on simple app (similar to grocery store pick up). Customizable for each winery, easily edited, very simple to use. Can launch immediately for winery partners
- Discovery Pass extend traditional 3 week discovery pass program to entire month of September, Friday – Sunday. Can be pre booked via reservation system to improve sense of safety and commitment to social distancing:
 - Reservation system will prevent line ups, will encourage consumers to explore new wineries as “traditional favourites” book early
 - Discovery Pass guests can book a tasting room experience immediately following their Discovery Pass tasting to explore and purchase additional wines

FALL 2020 CELLAR DOOR PROGRAM

Self guided vineyard tour following the Discovery Pass or tasting room experience, guests can take their glass of wine and safely tour the vineyard. A digital guidebook will share story of the vineyard, mark special vineyard destinations and share winery history.

Globe dining experience Winery partners rent snow globes and furnishings to provide unique, safe dining experiences in the vineyard.

*supported by Celebrate Ontario funding



FALL 2020 GRAPE & WINE PORCH PARADE

The beloved community Meridian Grande Parade and Pied Piper Parade cannot happen downtown, but the spirit can continue!

- The Festival team goes out into the St. Catharines community to capture video and photos of residents decorating their porches, lawns and themselves in the spirit of Grape & Wine
- Homes and/or neighbourhoods register in advance. A pre parade kit will be sent including a list of VOA wineries (who will create and promote "Parade Packs", decorating tips and ideas, safety protocols for neighbourhood activities.
- Festival staff, board and volunteers divide up route and schedule times to visit neighbourhoods to capture footage. Posts live on Festival IG channel. Families from across Niagara or where the Festival team cannot visit can submit images for inclusion in the campaign.
- Collected footage edited together; aired on Cogeco and digital channels
- Neighbourhoods with the most activation will have a float/marching band come through their neighbourhood
- Contest element with prizing from winery partners and supporting sponsors

FALL 2020 PORCH PARADE WINERY PROGRAM

- A Porch Parade Pack will be promoted with partnering wineries. Each winery will develop their own “kit” with discounts, value adds and spirit elements to help consumers get into the spirit of the parade
- Signage with winery name, logo and VQA logo will be included in each shipment
- Winery spirit contest element with prizing from winery partners

#UNMISSABLE
@niagarawinefest

BLVD BRAND
— NIAGARA —
GRAPE & WINE
FESTIVAL

#UNMISSABLE
@niagarawinefest

FALL 2020 CUSTOM PROGRAMMING

These are times to be nimble.

- Custom campaigns (digital or consumer) can be developed as needed to help realize your objectives. Examples include:
 - Wine and viticulture programming to enhance City of St. Catharines initiatives (street festivals, community festivals, special events)
 - Winemaker's dinners, tasting series at St. Catharines restaurants
 - Use of globes for downtown dining experiences
- The expertise of the team is available at no cost; any programming elements that involve additional costs will be the responsibility of the City of St. Catharines.



A background photograph of people at an outdoor wine festival. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair is seen from the side, holding a glass of red wine. Behind her, a man in a white shirt is seen from the back, and another man with sunglasses is partially visible. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting an outdoor setting.

FALL 2020 CAMPAIGN DELIVERABLES

Festival online audience significant reach

- In 2019 over 42,500 unique users visited niagarawinefestival.com and 33,800 social media users engaged with us during the month of September alone.
- Engaged media since the launch of the #MyWineLife exhibit in September 2019 and the Snow Globe Soiree series in 2020, the Festival has captured the attention of major media outlets, including the Globe & Mail, Toronto Life, Narcity, BlogTO, OneTankTrips, Destination Ontario, Destination Canada, Canada Culinary and more.
- Our “third party” voice allows delivery of VQA messaging lifestyle, wine education, tourism in an edutainment format. Ability to promote without appearance of “selling”

Discovery Pass and reservation system visitation

- Deliver over 5,000 visitors to winery locations during the campaign as a result of the Discovery Pass, vineyard tour and new “safe visitation” program.

LATE FALL 2020 SPARKLING DISCOVERY PASS

- The highly anticipated Spring Sparkles festival will launch in late fall 2020, as a “pre holiday” campaign
- 30 40 wineries participating, highly promoted via social campaigns
- Best practices from Fall Discovery Pass will be implemented to ensure consumer safety and excitement
- Title sponsorship of new program reserved for Wine Marketing Association of Ontario

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

\$49,500 cash + \$10,000 value-in-kind (*if needed*)

As a Founding Sponsor of the Niagara Grape & Wine Festival, the City of St. Catharines is an integral part of the Festival's sustainability

On site programming (Montebello Park) replaced with winery focused programming and extended stay opportunities with St. Catharines restaurants and accommodation partners

Parade activities transitioned to Porch Parade campaign looking to include as many local bands, floats and partners as possible. Large scale media campaign will showcase the spirit of the City of St. Catharines (TV, radio, print)

- Harvest Lounge activities to be replaced with Discovery Passes for Fall Festival (equal in value to Harvest Lounge tickets)

Custom campaign to highlight the downtown core, including winemaker dining series, structured tastings and other opportunities that arise from new City programming

Administrative support for the Festival to allow us to continue to deliver innovative and high impact consumer programs that bolster the Niagara grape and wine industry.



SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

ITEM	EXISTING CONTRACT VALUE	COVID-19 REVISED CONTRACT VALUE	COMMENTS
Value-in-Kind Services (Fall)	\$45,300	\$10,000	Will only be required if Grape & Wine Festival activations are included in City of St. Catharines events (i.e. downtown street festival).
Cash Sponsorship – Icewine Festival allocation (25%)	\$13,750	\$13,750	Program executed as planned
Cash Sponsorship – Homegrown Wine Festival allocation (10%)	\$5,500	\$0	Program cancelled
Cash Sponsorship – Fall Festival allocation (65%)	\$35,750	\$35,750	While the Grande Parade will not be held downtown and the Montebello Park experience will be exchanged for winery-based activities, the Festival has developed compelling and high-impact programming that will deliver significant media attention to St. Catharines, including:
			Grape & Wine Porch Parade in the neighbourhoods of Niagara
			Activation of a Grape & Wine Garden (or similar) at any appropriate downtown events
			Marketing campaign to drive downtown business and accomodation partner revenues for the extended Fall Discovery Pass and the Winter Sparkling Discovery Pass (previously Spring Sparkles)
TOTAL	\$100,300	\$59,500	In order to deliver these events – and to keep the Festival viable – we are requesting this budget remain at current levels.
			Savings of \$40,800

KEY DATES

NIAGARA GRAPE & WINE FESTIVAL 2020

- JUNE 19 Festival Guide to Summer launch. Instagram magazine of Niagara VQA wine, recipes and lifestyle ideas for new physically distant reality
- JUNE 26 Participating wineries launch new tasting reservation app via winery websites as part of "Safe Tasting" program
- JULY 15 Media release announcing Fall Festival programme
- SEPTEMBER 11 OCTOBER 11 (TBC) Fall Discovery Pass
- SEPTEMBER 12 (TBC) Feast of Kings event at vineyard of Grape King
- SEPTEMBER 13 NOVEMBER Vineyard Dining program at partner winery locations
- SEPTEMBER 26 Grape & Wine Porch Parade
- NOVEMBER 26 DECEMBER 21 (TBC) Sparkling Discovery Pass
- JANUARY 2021 Niagara Icewine Festival



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk

Report Date: June 25, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: LCS-097-2020 **File:** 35.65.75

Subject: Motion regarding Body Cameras for Police Officers – comments from Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

Strategic Pillar:

Motion Tabled on June 3, 2020

WHEREAS the topic of body cameras for police officers in Niagara has been discussed in the past; and

WHEREAS in 2018 the NRP indicated in a St. Catharines Standard article that they were deferring to a Toronto Police Services study on the issue; and

WHEREAS since that time there have been instances where body cameras on police officers would have been useful in determining what, exactly, had taken place during confrontations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council call on the Niagara Region, through the Police Services Board, to immediately begin the process of procuring and outfitting officers with body cameras; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to all local municipalities; the offices of all Niagara-area MPPs and MPs; and the offices of the Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey, the Attorney General of Canada David Lametti, Ontario Public Safety Minister Sylvia Jones and Federal Public Safety Minister Bill Blair. FORTHWITH

Background Information and Report

At the Council meeting of June 3, 2020, Councilor Siscoe moved the following motion regarding body cameras for police officers:

“WHEREAS the topic of body cameras for police officers in Niagara has been discussed in the past; and

WHEREAS in 2018 the NRP indicated in a St. Catharines Standard article that they were deferring to a Toronto Police Services study on the issue; and

WHEREAS since that time there have been instances where body cameras on police officers would have been useful in determining what, exactly, had taken place during confrontations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council call on the Niagara Region, through the Police Services Board, to immediately begin the process of procuring and outfitting officers with body cameras; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to all local municipalities; the offices of all Niagara-area MPPs and MPs; and the offices of the Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey, the Attorney General of Canada David Lametti, Ontario Public Safety Minister Sylvia Jones and Federal Public Safety Minister Bill Blair.”

Council referred the motion to the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee for comment regarding the issue of body cameras for police officers.

At its meeting of June 18, 2020, the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee passed the following motion regarding body cameras for police officers:

“WHEREAS body cameras are a tool which can be used for greater police accountability; and

WHEREAS earlier the Niagara Regional Police Services board had delayed a study on body cameras pending a similar study by the Toronto Police Service; and

WHEREAS the Toronto Police Service is now adopting body cameras.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends that City Council ask that the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS): Implement body cameras for all front line officers as soon as possible.”

Having received comment from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, staff is now bringing the original motion back to City Council for its consideration.

Also at its meeting of June 18, 2020, the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee passed several motions regarding police reform recommendations. These recommendations can be viewed in the [minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee](#).

Prepared by
Evan McGinty
Council and Committee Coordinator

Submitted and Approved by
Bonnie Nistico-Dunk
City Clerk



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Report Date: July 10, 2020 **Meeting Date:** July 13, 2020

Report Number: CAO-099-2020 **File:** 10.4.19

Subject: COVID-19 Update – July 13, 2020

Strategic Pillar:



Recommendation

That report CAO-099-2020, regarding COVID-19 Update – July 13, 2020, be received for information purposes. FORTHWITH

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with ongoing updates on the City's Municipal Emergency Control Group's (MECG) planning activities to address the rapidly evolving global COVID-19 pandemic from a strategic and proactive approach. The report illustrates the MECG's ongoing commitment to their four objectives and three considerations for reopening facilities and services.

This report provides an update on the City's recovery process, an overview of the impact of implementation strategies with respect to public outdoor space, and an update regarding the next stage of recovery to be announced by the Province of Ontario.

For the latest information on the City's recovery, visit <http://www.EngageSTC.ca> and the City's social media platforms.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

City staff is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as it has affected the economic, social, environmental and cultural sustainability of the City. City staff have prioritized their objectives to heavily focus on recovery efforts of COVID-19 to mitigate the impact on the community and support the sustainably pillars through new and innovative ways.

Background

On March 12, 2020, the City of St. Catharines partially activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), to support the work of the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) in their response to COVID-19 pandemic and the provision of essential services.

In March 2020, Provincial Orders resulted in the closure of various businesses and services, which impacted municipalities and their communities, to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

As the Province moved into stage one of its recovery, certain businesses and community service providers were able to open and/or provide services in a modified way effective Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

On June 15, 2020, the Province announced that Niagara would be moving to stage two of reopening as of Friday, June 19, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. As a result, a number of businesses and public facilities were able to reopen with measures in place to help prevent the spread of infection.

In anticipation of the Province's reopening announcements, efforts were made through the City's Municipal Emergency Control Group (MEGC), the City's Recovery Team and many staff members, to draft a recovery plan for the City of St. Catharines titled [STC Framework to Recovery](#) (linked here and attached as Appendix 4), which was shared at the June 3, 2020 Council meeting.

This is the seventh update from the MEGC regarding COVID-19. Details regarding preparedness, response, recovery and future planning can be found in the following previous reports to Council:

- [Report CAO-063-2020](#) – April 8, 2020 Council
- [Report CAO-070-2020](#) – April 22, 2020 Council
- [Report CAO-072-2020](#) – May 6, 2020 Council
- [Report CAO-077-2020](#) – May 20, 2020 Council
- [Report CAO-083-2020](#) – June 3, 2020 Council
- [Report CAO-087-2020](#) – June 22, 2020 Council

Report

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a serious threat to the community as well as the City's ability to provide all levels of service in the same manner as they were previously delivered.

The MEGC continues to respond to the pandemic proactively and has been diligently planning for potential future developments. The MEGC continues to be dedicated to the safety of staff and the community, while ensuring essential services continue to be delivered without interruption and is focusing on recovery.

The MEGC remains committed to their four objectives with a heavy focus on the STC Framework to Recovery as the Province continues to lift restrictions and move into stage two of reopening.

MECG's planning and decisions are guided by their four key objectives:

1. To focus on recovery while continuing to provide essential services.
2. To ensure the health, safety and security of the public and staff during the pandemic and through the recovery process.
3. To continue to be able to support Niagara Health, Public Health, Niagara Region and our other partners.
4. To ensure the organization remains in a financially stable condition during this pandemic.

Provincial Stage Three Announcement

On July 3, 2020, Premier Doug Ford was asked about the Province moving to Stage three. While no official announcement has been made regarding Stage three, the Premier indicated that data is still being collected and that while an exact date has not been determined, the end of July 2020 would be "pretty close" to the current expectation. The Premier also noted that with respect to businesses, "everything except large, large venues" would be allowed to open in Stage three.

Staff will continue to prepare for a stage three announcement from the Province and continue to follow the timelines indicated in the STC Framework for Recovery (Appendix 4).

STC Framework to Recovery Update

Facility Opening

At the June 3, 2020 Council meeting, staff provided the STC Framework to Recovery as an appendix. The framework included a list of action items as part of City's recovery as well as a list of facilities and services and their planned reopening dates based on assumptions of when the Province will enter the various stages of recovery.

The following list highlights the status of various facilities throughout the city.

Facilities Reopening in Stage 2

Outdoor Amenities	Reopening	Notes
Beaches	OPEN	Washrooms open, Niagara Region posting beach monitoring / water quality results.
Victoria Lawn Cemetery	OPEN	Mausoleum open, with occupancy limits. Administration building available by appointments only.
Splash pads	OPEN	Washrooms open.
Garden City Golf Course	OPEN	Individuals must book tee times. No cash payments. Snacks and beverages sold, grill not open.
Happy Rolph's	Passive Use Only	No confirmed date yet on when washrooms will be opened. No animals this season.
Sports fields	Staged Opening based on demand	Kiwanis Field and McCaffery Park open.
Playgrounds	No confirmed date	Will reopen when provincial orders allow.

City Administration Buildings	Reopening	Notes
City Hall	No confirmed date	Services continue to be delivered in a modified format. Under review by recovery team.
Fire Prevention office		
Buchanan		

Corporate Communications has designated an area on the City's [engagestc.ca](https://www.engagestc.ca) website with detailed information on facilities and future planned openings, which is available at: <https://www.engagestc.ca/facilitiesrecovery>

Street Closures

At its meeting of June 3, 2020, Council unanimously approved staff to explore temporary street closures to support business and economic recovery efforts and further delegated staff authority to initiate, collaborate and oversee a plan for a series of municipally-owned road and lane closures. To pilot this effort, staff have worked with St. Catharines Downtown Association (DTA) to manage weekend closures of St. Paul Street between William Street and Carlisle Street through the provision of a special event permit, which began on June 26. The pilot closure remains subject to re-evaluation and will be based on business and public feedback to allow the DTA to adjust accordingly.

To date, the closure has been met with mixed reactions from merchants. While restaurants with patios are seeing an uptick in patronage, retailers and service businesses continue to struggle. In addition, staff and the DTA have received requests for the north-end of St. Paul Street (beyond Academy Street) and James street to be included in the closure. As previously reported, there is a challenge with staffing and costs to expand the closures. City staff and the DTA will continue to work with all downtown businesses to explore further opportunities for residents to enjoy all that downtown has to offer under Stage 2 in a safe and responsible manner.

Beaches

On Friday, June 26, 2020, the City of St. Catharines officially opened their beaches to the public. Beaches are open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

There have been a variety of issues that have occurred on City beaches, including drinking, smoking, inappropriate behaviour, dogs off leash, bonfires, parking excess and infractions (blocking neighbourhoods and emergency access), littering, utilizing beaches as a public washroom, lack of social distancing and disregard of beach closure times.

To help moderate some of these issues, the City engaged an external security company, which commenced duties on Friday July 3, 2020. Their service includes dedicated on-site guards as well as vehicle and foot patrols. The scope of their duties include:

- Personal bag checks;
- Enforcing no drinking / smoking and social distancing;
- Ensuring Dogs are on a leash and owners are with dogs;

- Ensuring boaters are not blocking the boat ramp, not parking trailers and vehicles in the water's edge and leaving them there, and that boaters are not encroaching into the swimming areas;
- Keeping emergency access routes clear of vehicles;
- Fire watch;
- Controlled access and monitoring parking;
- Requesting service from parking enforcement and NRPS, as required;
- Providing daily reports to staff on issues and efforts.

Staff met after the July 4, 2020 weekend to debrief on events and what further actions need to be taken. Although there were many wins, there are still concerns surrounding parking, drinking and overall behaviour. The below actions have been taken by staff to address the ongoing concerns.

Security

Increased security presence at beaches. Quantity and durations of patrol and guards for the City's external vendor has been increased to better align with when issues are most prevalent.

Parking

Limit access and closing beach entrances once parking has reached capacity. "Tow Away Zones" signage will be displayed along existing prohibited areas and vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

A further report has been prepared, which recommends that parking fines in beach areas be increased from the current \$30 per violation to \$100 per violation, mainly as a result of the existing fine level not achieving its objective to be a deterrent.

The below tables capture parking tickets distributed in the Sunset Beach area for the months of May to July 6, 2020.

Date	Violations
May	83
June	95
July (up to July 6)	71
Total	249

Violations	Count
Parked on boulevard	3
Parked where prohibited	234
Parked where restricted	4
Parked within 1.5M Driveway	3
Parked within 3M Fire Hydrant	5
Total	249

Staff will continue to review parking prohibitions in residential beach areas.

Increased Signage

Overall signage regarding behaviour, hours of operation, personal belongings being checked and parking will be increased. Below captures some signage being installed at beaches.



Social Media Campaign

The City's Communications division is developing a social media campaign specific to beaches that will focus on reminding beachgoers to social distance, be respectful of neighbours, not to park where prohibited and that smoking and drinking are not permitted on the beaches.

Niagara Regional Police Services (NRPS)

Staff continue to work in partnership with NRPS to tackle ongoing issues at beaches. NRPS has been setting up Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) programs to assist. Residents are to contact NRPS at any time when activities that are illegal in nature are taking place. This will help address issues as they occur, opposed to after the fact.

Activity at City beaches will continue to be monitored by staff and mitigation efforts will be adjusted accordingly.

Funding Opportunities and Requests

COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations

As approved by Deputy CAO David Oakes, under the delegated authority, staff in the Community, Recreation and Culture Services department have applied for funding for the COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations. The Museum is eligible for up to \$82,524 based on their operating expenses. If approved, funds from this grant may be used towards expenses related to the daily operations at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre. Staff will keep Council informed of the status of this funding application.

MTO-Transit Cleaning Funding

On June 29, 2020, the City was notified by the Provincial Ministry of Transportation that the City of St. Catharines is eligible to receive up to \$108,228 for enhanced cleaning. The Province is providing this funding to municipalities across the province to support enhanced cleaning of their public transit systems and help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This funding will assist with the municipality's public transit health and safety measures. See Appendix 1 for the letter from the Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney.

Funding Request for Municipalities – Joint Statement

To date the Federal and Provincial governments have provided limited assistance to municipalities. Therefore, on July 6, 2020, a joint statement from Ontario municipalities represented by AMO, LUMCO, and MARCO was sent to the provincial and federal governments requesting COVID-19 relief is needed now to stave off significant tax hikes and service cuts to municipalities across the province. Staff support this request. The statement can be found in Appendix 2.

COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020

On July 8, 2020, the City received a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and housing, Steve Clark, informing the head of Council that the Ontario government introduced the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, to help get Ontario back on track. The proposed bill will address three critical needs facing Ontario: restarting jobs and development; strengthening communities; and creating opportunity for people.

The letter further states the recognition of municipalities' key role in restarting the economy, and because of this, the Ontario government is continuing to negotiate with federal partners to ensure communities in Ontario receive the urgent financial support needed.

The bill includes proposals that will allow municipal councils and local boards to meet electronically on a permanent basis and allow municipal councils to decide if they wish to have proxy voting for their members. The letter can be found in Appendix 3.

Financial Implications

The most recent updated financial forecast provided to Council at the June 3, 2020 meeting estimated the 2020 year-end net tax levy deficit to be \$6.6M (\$10.5M total tax levy impact for 2020 less \$3.9M cost containment implemented). Although, the estimated net tax levy impact for 2020 has remained at the \$6.6M, the total estimated

Report Page 7 of 8

tax levy impact has reduced to \$10.2M due mainly to building and investment revenues tracking ahead of expected levels. However, this total impact is offset by cost containment amounts which have reduced to \$3.6M mainly due to the impact of recalling staff sooner than anticipated to assist with re-opening beaches, splash pads, sports parks and the municipal golf course.

In addition, the financial impacts of the parking services budget net deficit for 2020 has declined slightly from \$539,000 to \$562,000 due lower parking revenues and the increased enforcement required in the beach areas. The water and wastewater 2020 budget is trending towards a breakeven yearend position for 2020 from a small surplus forecasted previously.

Given the fluidity of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as the City continues to respond to COVID-19 and mitigate issues, such as those experienced at beaches, the 2020 yearend financial position of the City will continue to be unfavourable. Regular updates will be provided to Council as required.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and is still a threat to the community. The MCEG will continue to implement proactive responses and plan for potential developments with the safety and well-being of the community and staff at the forefront.

The MCEG will continue to focus on recovery for the City of St. Catharines while remaining committed to the four objectives and three considerations for reopening facilities and services.

For the latest information on the City's recovery, visit <http://www.EngageSTC.ca> and the City's social media platforms.

Prepared and Submitted by

The City of St. Catharines Municipal Emergency Control Group (MCEG)

Approved by

Shelley Chemnitz

Chief Administrative Officer

David Oakes

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Minister of Transportation Letter Re: Funding to Support Transit Cleaning
- Appendix 2 – Joint Statement for Financial Support from AMO, LUMCO, MARCO
- Appendix 3 – Letter to Head of Council from Minister Clark
- Appendix 4 – St. Catharines Framework to Recovery

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Minister

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Monday, June 29, 2020

107-2020-2482

His Worship Walter Sendzik
 City of St. Catharines
wsendzik@stcatharines.ca

Dear Mayor Sendzik:

Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to contain the spread of this new virus.

The health and well-being of public transit passengers and employees is a top priority, and Ontario's public transit systems are critical to supporting the economy and getting people where they need to go.

The province is providing \$15 million to municipalities across the province to support enhanced cleaning of their public transit systems and help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This funding will assist with the municipality's public transit health and safety measures. I am pleased to advise you of your funding allocation.

City of St. Catharines will be eligible to receive an allocation of up to \$108,228 for enhanced cleaning.

In the coming days, we will be forwarding the program details to the primary contact for the Gas Tax Program.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Jamie Pearce, Director, Strategic Investments & Programs Branch, at MTO-Transit_Cleaning_Funding@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Caroline Mulroney'.

Caroline Mulroney
 Minister of Transportation

Ontario Mayors and Chairs issue emergency call for financial support Municipalities face difficult choices: major tax hikes and cuts to services

July 6, 2020 - Today, Mayors and Chairs from across Ontario, represented by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, and the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario, met to discuss the COVID-19 financial emergency.

Ontario municipalities are speaking with one voice to deliver one important message: Our residents cannot wait any longer. To protect municipal services, we need immediate provincial and federal support to cover lost revenue and additional costs caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

This call for action by Ontario municipalities is part of a national effort, led by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to secure at least \$10 billion dollars in emergency relief for Canadian municipalities to be funded 100% by the federal and provincial governments.

Municipalities across Ontario have been on the frontlines of keeping people safe during COVID-19. This has meant hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs and lost revenues. The FCM proposal would provide approximately \$4 billion to Ontario municipalities to offset lost transit revenues and added service costs, but so far, there has been no clear signal on the timing and level of a joint federal-provincial financial assistance program.

Time for a commitment is running out. Now, halfway through the budget year, municipalities have no choice but to consider plans to balance the budget by raising property taxes, user fees and charges or cutting services. Difficult conversations about cost-saving service reductions are taking place at Council meetings across the province, including:

- supports to children, families and seniors,
- reducing or cancelling transit services,
- staffing adjustments including layoffs and delaying or cancelling hiring,
- reducing essential services including public health, fire, paramedic and police services,
- closing parks and cultural sites and cancelling recreation programs,
- slower land use planning reviews and development approvals, and
- cancelling or deferring critical infrastructure and affordable housing projects, costing construction jobs.

By acting now to confirm relief for municipalities, senior governments can avoid these unforeseen property tax increases and destructive cuts to frontline municipal services. Cuts or property tax increases will unfairly hurt the very same people that the federal and provincial governments have spent billions helping during the pandemic.

Municipal services are also key to safely re-opening the economy. Investing in municipalities will ensure they continue to provide services needed to help restart their local economies.

We truly appreciate the commitments that both Premier Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau have already made to support municipal service delivery during this crisis. The millions of Ontarians we collectively serve are counting on all governments to work together now to address this urgent problem.

Our residents need support now. The time is up for federal-provincial wrangling about how to share the costs. We strongly encourage the federal government to address this in their fiscal update this week.

For more information:

Mayor Cam Guthrie, City of Guelph
Chair of LUMCO
519-837-5643
mayor@guelph.ca

Chair Karen Redman, Region of Waterloo
Chair of MARCO
Contact: Theresa Mendler
226-753-3414
tmendler@regionofwaterloo.ca

Mayor of Toronto John Tory
Chair of GTHA Mayors and Chairs
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Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17e étage
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234-2020-2680

July 8, 2020

Dear Head of Council:

The COVID-19 outbreak has touched everyone in the province, creating personal and financial hardship, and resulting in losses far greater than anyone could have imagined. We are making steady progress in the safe reopening of the province, and we acknowledge and celebrate those who went above and beyond through this crisis.

I am writing to inform you that on July 8, 2020, our government introduced the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, to help get Ontario back on track. Our proposed bill will address three critical needs Ontario faces: restarting jobs and development; strengthening communities; and creating opportunity for people.

Our government recognizes the key role that municipalities play in restarting the economy, and that their efficient functioning and economic sustainability is critical to Ontario's future success. We are also continuing to negotiate with our federal partners to ensure communities across Ontario receive the urgent financial support they need. We know that municipalities require fair and flexible investment to protect front line services and help restart the economy.

This bill includes proposals that will enable municipal councils and local boards to meet electronically on a permanent basis and allow municipal councils to decide if they wish to have proxy voting for their members. Our government also proposes to finalize the community benefits charges framework; enhance the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing's existing zoning order authority to provide more certainty when fast tracking the development of transit oriented communities; make it faster to update and harmonize the Building Code so that we can break down interprovincial trade barriers, and permanently establish the office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator to help solve complex land use issues. We are also working on optimizing provincial lands and other key provincial strategic development projects that will help facilitate economic recovery efforts.

My ministry will be hosting a technical information briefing on the proposed community benefits charges framework, including proposed changes to development charges and parkland dedication, so that municipal staff can gain a better understanding of the proposal. The technical briefing will take place in the near future and invitations from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Local Government and Planning Policy Division to municipal Chief Administrative Officers, Treasurers and Chief Planners will be forthcoming.

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Head of Council
Page 2

In addition to initiatives that I have outlined above from my ministry, there are several other proposals included in our proposed legislation that will support your communities. Changes proposed will modernize our outdated environmental assessment framework, provide more local say on future landfill sites, and ensure strong environmental oversight, while supporting faster build-out of vital transport and transit infrastructure projects to support our economy. Municipally-run courts will be able to use technology to deliver services remotely and we are also moving to fill justice of the peace vacancies faster and more transparently.

We will be extending the validity period of unused marriage licences and protecting the province's most vulnerable consumers who rely on payday loans, by proposing limits on related interest rates and fees.

Also proposed is the reduction of regulatory burdens on farming while preserving the environmental rules that will support this vital part of our economy. Businesses will be able to count on clear, focused and effective rules that do not compromise people's health, safety or the environment through our changes that continue to focus on cutting red tape. At the same time, our changes will allow health and safety standards to be updated more quickly to ensure worker safety in a changing economy.

As the province continues to reopen and the economy recovers, it's more critical than ever to position Ontario as a top-tier destination for investment, domestic growth, and job creation. A key measure to support this objective is the creation of a new investment attraction agency, Invest Ontario, that will promote the province as a key investment destination and work closely with regional partners to coordinate business development activities.

Our proposed changes will also help our communities respond in part to the challenges that this outbreak has brought to our education system. Changes proposed would allow school boards to select the best candidates for director of education for their respective communities. We will also reduce red tape that is preventing access to school for some First Nation students and by limiting unproductive suspensions for our very youngest students. Students with severe learning disabilities will have an opportunity to complete their studies in the upcoming school year and by broadening the mandates of TVO and TFO, our broadcasters will be able to support students' learning needs better during these challenging times.

Through this proposed legislation, we will take the first step towards a strong restart and recovery. More information on our proposals can be found on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's [website](#).

Our greatest challenges lie ahead of us, and we know we cannot overcome them alone. It's time for everyone to play a role in rebuilding Ontario together. We will ensure no community or region is left behind. Every community must recover if all of Ontario is to grow and prosper again.

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Head of Council
Page 3

Municipalities are encouraged to continue to review our Government's Emergency Information webpage at: [Ontario.ca/alert](https://ontario.ca/alert). I thank you for your continued support and collaboration in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Chief Administrative Officers
Municipal Clerks
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

[STC FRAMEWORK FOR RECOVERY]



OUR PATH FORWARD FROM COVID-19

OUR PATH FORWARD

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OUR PATH FORWARD

STC FRAMEWORK FOR RECOVERY: OUR PATH FORWARD

Our community will be forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Its impact on our residents, businesses and City operations will be felt for years to come. Even as we continue to grapple with the continued presence of the virus in our community we are charting a course forward, a shared path to recovery.

The STC Framework for Recovery outlines the next stages in responding to the COVID-19 emergency. This document sets our path forward for a gradual, safe and measured reopening of municipal facilities and services.

Prior to the spread of COVID-19 in St. Catharines, the City began taking steps to prioritize the health and safety of its residents and employees. As the risk levels increased in Niagara, the City responded accordingly by closing municipal facilities and suspending various services. Where possible, the City modified the delivery of necessary services.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over and its impacts on our community will continue for months. This framework charts the course the City will take to ensure we keep our residents and employees safe, while returning to a full level of services, programs and operations.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO'S REOPENING FRAMEWORK

The STC Framework for Recovery aligns with the Province's Framework for Reopening. The stages of the City's plan are consistent with the Province's phased in approach, mirroring the stages of reopening set out by the Province. The focus will remain on ensuring appropriate measures are in place to reopen safely during each stage to avoid a resurgence of COVID-19 transmission.

St. Catharines will take guidance from the Province of Ontario and Niagara Region Public Health as we transition through each stage. Depending on the local prevalence of COVID-19, and guidance from Niagara Region Public Health, we may choose to move through the stages of reopening at different speeds than the province.

UPDATES TO THE STC FRAMEWORK FOR RECOVERY

The STC Framework for Recovery will be updated regularly as the COVID-19 situation evolves in our City. This plan will be flexible and adaptable as more information related to COVID-19 is made available. This framework may also change and evolve as the Province of Ontario or Government of Canada makes announcements or updates.

For the latest updates on the COVID-19 emergency and recovery efforts in St. Catharines, please check engageSTC.ca.

OUR PATH FORWARD

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City of St. Catharines plan for reopening municipal facilities and resuming City services will be guided by direction from the Province of Ontario and Niagara Region Public health.

The STC Framework for Recovery is built on three pillars — Health and Wellness; Organizational; and Economic — each focusing on several core principals / questions to guide the recovery process both internally and externally.



Health and Wellness

- How do we improve the safety of our facilities?
- How do we improve the health and safety of our residents?
- How do we improve the health and safety of our staff?
- How do we engage our staff and compile their feedback?
- How do we protect the mental health of our staff?
- How do we support the families of our staff?



Organizational

- How do we continue to deliver services safely to residents?
- How do we communicate with residents and keep them educated regarding updates caused by COVID-19?
- How do we enable flexible work arrangements for our staff?
- How do we educate our staff regarding COVID-19?

Economic

- How do we support our residents financially?
- How do we support our economy?
- How do we ensure financial stability for the City?

OUR PATH FORWARD

RECOVERY STAGES

The STC Framework for Recovery includes three overarching stages which align with the [Province of Ontario's Reopening Framework](#), plus a fourth marking a complete recovery and return to a full complement of City services and programs.

Through each stage, the health and safety of residents and staff will be the primary focus, with additional considerations for the needs of the community and the City.

The STC Framework for Recovery will be gradual, safe and measured. Any dates related to the framework are tentative based on current situation and provincial guidelines.

Everyday actions to protect the health and safety of residents and staff will continue through all stages. This includes social distancing, frequent handwashing and home isolation during illness.

The following pages provide a high-level breakdown of the stages contained within the STC Framework for Recovery.

OUR PATH FORWARD



Stage 1

Stage 1 of the STC Framework to Recovery is focused on delivering the highest priority municipal services.

During Stage 1:

- All City work continues remotely where possible
- Only employees whose work necessitates a physical presence in the workspace can return to working on site
- Screening protocols are in place upon entry to workspaces
- Public Health guidelines are followed
- Work-related travel is not used / permitted
- All job interviews are conducted remotely
- Critical services are reinstated / continued where possible
- Social distancing measures for operational services continue
- Council meetings remain virtual
- Restrictions limiting gatherings continue in line with Provincial Orders
- Recreation programs and events remain cancelled

Stage 1

Initially, consider:



For businesses that were ordered to close or restrict operations, opening select workplaces that can immediately meet or modify operations to meet public health guidance and occupational health and safety requirements (e.g., curbside pick-up or delivery).



Opening some outdoor spaces like parks and allow for a greater number of individuals to attend some events, such as funerals.



Continued protections for vulnerable populations and the continued practice of physical distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene, and significant mitigation plans to limit health risks. Hospitals beginning to offer some non-urgent and scheduled surgeries and other health care services.

Illustration from the Ontario Framework for Reopening.

OUR PATH FORWARD



Stage 2

Stage 2 of the STC Framework for Recovery is focused on safely expanding the municipal services available to residents, while returning more staff to work.

During Stage 2:

- Divisions may have some staff work from home where possible
- Employees that are part of vulnerable or at-risk populations continue to work from home if needed
- Screening protocols are in place upon entry to workspaces
- Select City facilities will open to the public with passive screening alongside best health and safety precautions
- Implementation of social distancing measures for those working on site, including for stairs and elevators
- Enhanced office cleaning schedules are more frequent, especially in high-traffic areas
- Council meetings remain virtual
- Restrictions limiting gatherings continue in line with Provincial Orders
- Most recreation programs and events remain cancelled
- Many City services are available both online and in person with enhanced health and safety measures in place for those accessing City services in person and staff

Stage 2

If Stage 1 of reopening the province is successful, Ontario will consider:



Opening more workplaces, which may include some service industries, and additional office workplaces.



Opening more community and outdoor spaces and allowing some larger public gatherings.



Continuing to get back to full services with restrictions, such as more care services, courthouse and tribunal services, and more community spaces and visits. Maintaining protections for vulnerable populations and the continued practice of physical distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene, and significant mitigation plans to limit health risks.

Illustration from the Ontario Framework for Reopening.

OUR PATH FORWARD



Stage 3

Stage 3 of the STC Framework for Recovery is focused on continuing to deliver municipal services in a safe and responsible manner while the risk of COVID-19 remains in our community. This stage will likely remain in place until mass vaccination has been completed.

During Stage 3:

- Some staff continue to work from home where possible
- Employees that are part of vulnerable or at-risk populations continue to work from home if needed
- Physical-distancing measures for those who work on site continue
- Most City facilities will be open to the public with passive screening alongside best health and safety precautions
- Enhanced office cleaning schedules to be more frequent / in-depth, especially in high-traffic areas
- Interviews are modified to allow for candidates who do not want to travel to complete the process remotely
- Work related travel resumes, but only if safe and approved
- On-site Council meetings resume with physical distancing maintained and additional modifications

Stage 3

If Stage 2 of reopening the province is successful, Ontario will consider:



Opening all workplaces responsibly.



Further relaxing the restrictions on recreational spaces and public gatherings. Large public gatherings such as concerts, night clubs and sporting events will continue to be restricted for the foreseeable future.



Allowing full services to resume, such as fully opening libraries to the public and jury proceedings. Maintaining protections for vulnerable populations and the continued practice of physical distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene, and significant mitigation plans to limit health risks.

Illustration from the Ontario Framework for Reopening.

OUR PATH FORWARD



Stage 4

The final stage of the STC Framework for Recovery will initiate once vaccination has been completed or the risk of COVID-19 is deemed to no longer exist. During Stage 4 all programs and services can be resumed; buildings can open to the public without screening; and all staff can return to their offices.

If required, the City is prepared to pull back from advancements across stages and move to earlier stages if risk returns or increases, in an effort to keep residents and staff safe. Some elements may advance across stages in a timelier fashion than others based on the local situation and advice from Niagara Region Public Health.



STC FRAMEWORK FOR RECOVERY

OUR PATH FORWARD

RECOVERY TEAM ROLE

The role of the recovery team is to help the City resume full service delivery and support local economic recovery, in a way that respects the health and well-being of staff and citizens, and reflects a post COVID-19 operating environment.

RECOVERY TEAM BREAKDOWN



Health and Wellness

Focused on the physical and mental well-being of citizens and staff.



Organizational

Focused on the operations necessary to provide services to citizens.

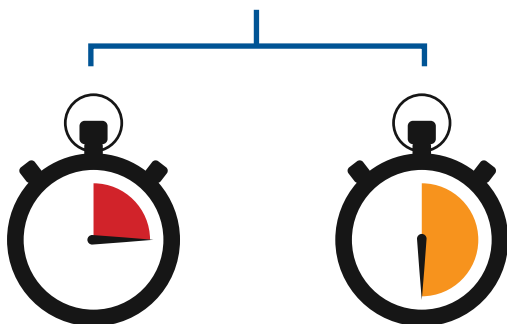


Economic

Focused on the financial well-being of the City and its citizens.

IMPLEMENTATION STAGING KEY

Short-Term



Stage 1

Stage 2

Medium-Term



Stage 3

Long-Term



Stage 4

EXTERNAL PATH FORWARD



HOW DO WE IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF OUR FACILITIES?

Implement measures in facilities that promote safe and sanitary environments



- Sanitizer at entrances and exits
- Follow and enforce Health Canada guidelines at all facilities for social distancing
- Limit the number of entrances to access facilities
- Install communications throughout facilities indicating social distancing guidelines
- Add security at entrances of popular facilities to enforce policies



- Review and adjust traffic patterns in facilities (queues, concessions, etc.)
- Installation of physical elements to help promote health and safety of residents



HOW DO WE IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR RESIDENTS?

Direct residents to available resources that support mental and physical health



- Clearly communicate available resources for physical and mental health
- Support Niagara Health and Public Health recommendations and guidelines
- Safely reopen outdoor public spaces



- Investigate hosting self-care sessions through a virtual platform for residents

EXTERNAL PATH FORWARD



HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO DELIVER SERVICES SAFELY TO RESIDENTS?

Identify and implement delivery methods that adhere to social distancing guidelines



- Review online service options currently delivered in other jurisdictions
- Review public engagement opportunities and identify virtual substitutions
- Ensure essential services are staffed and remain operational
- Develop a policy and procedure document outlining virtual delivery rules and regulations
- Train staff on tools designed for virtual service delivery



- Explore community partnership opportunities for service delivery
- Establish online payments for all services, fees, taxes through credit card

HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR RESIDENTS FINANCIALLY?

Provide financial assistance and relief to residents



- Provide flexibility in payment schedules for tax and water such as the option to skip a payment, monthly billing, delayed billing, etc.
- Review FAIR program and the affordability of rates and fees for residents

EXTERNAL PATH FORWARD



HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE WITH RESIDENTS AND KEEP THEM EDUCATED REGARDING UPDATES CAUSED BY COVID-19?

Develop communication and education tools targeted towards residents



- Produce a guide outlining popular City services and facilities and how they have been impacted by COVID-19
- Design and install communications and signage for facilities that promotes safety and physical distancing guidelines, and identify any service changes

HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR ECONOMY?

Develop initiatives to support the restarting of economic activity



- Implement fee waivers, fee reductions and tax deferrals for businesses
- Direct businesses to support services that provide information on coaching, promotion and advocacy
- Encourage businesses to operate in new ways that enable physical distancing, including curb-side pickup and pop-up shops
- Enable businesses to promote products and services online



- Promote safe forms of tourism
- Provide meeting spaces (virtual and physical) and event spaces (virtual and physical) for businesses
- Initiate "place-making" efforts such as creating pedestrian spaces for businesses to operate safely

INTERNAL PATH FORWARD



HOW DO WE IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR STAFF?

Implement tools promoting the health and safety of our staff



- Increase the frequency of cleaning in staff areas at all facilities
- Designate “staff only” areas in all facilities
- Implement a “clean workspace” policy requiring staff to clear their workspace each day for thorough cleaning
- Initiate departmental risk assessments prior to staff returning to work and bringing services online
- Establish a policy and standard operating procedures for staff who have been tested for, or have tested positive for, COVID-19
- Implement a screening policy and procedure for staff returning to work for the first time



- Make physical changes to facilities to better protect staff and encourage social distancing
- Introduce a “flexible work policy” to enable staff to work remotely
- Reduce the need to share workstations, tools, and equipment
- Review sick day policy and consider increasing sick days for full-time and part-time staff



HOW DO WE ENGAGE OUR STAFF AND COMPILE THEIR FEEDBACK?

Develop an engagement plan for staff



- Provide staff with a tool to send feedback, questions and concerns directly and anonymously to the Senior Leadership Team
- Survey staff regularly to understand concerns and comfort level
- Designate a task-force to take action on any major concerns
- Provide managers with coaching tools to help engage staff one-on-one

INTERNAL PATH FORWARD



HOW DO WE ENABLE FLEXIBLE WORK ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR STAFF?

Implement the policies and infrastructure required to enable a flexible working environment



- Establish an IT support line dedicated for employees working remotely
- Establish policy and procedures for flexible work arrangements and working remotely



- Move staff services (training, onboarding, IT support, contact centre)
- Provide training for remote access software and virtual meeting software



- Establish a reimbursement policy for expenses related to working remotely
- Move employees from stationary personal computers to laptops with remote access software



HOW DO WE EDUCATE OUR STAFF REGARDING COVID-19?

Develop communication and education tools targeted towards staff



- Organize information sessions and invite subject matter experts to speak about different topics related to COVID-19 virtually
- Update department standard operating procedures to reflect any necessary changes required because of physical distancing requirements
- Develop a communication plan to keep staff up to date on COVID-19 related news and information
- Continue to maintain activity logs to track actions taken during COVID-19

INTERNAL PATH FORWARD



HOW DO WE PROTECT THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR STAFF?

Identify and create resources for staff to reduce stress and anxiety



- Rotate staff who are in high-stress functions to lower-stress functions
- Introduce team building activities
- Clearly communicate resources to support services for mental health
- Organize support groups for staff
- Encourage staff to use vacations and consider adding additional vacation or flex days
- Establish a virtual lunch room / break area for staff to engage with each other



HOW DO WE SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF OUR STAFF?

Create a support structure for staff and their families



- Establish expectation regarding family obligations while working remotely
- Review and promote the EOP program to ensure staff are supported post COVID-19
- Encourage managers to discuss child care and remote work arrangement options with staff
- Organize support groups for staff
- Identify partners or facilities that could assist in hosting day programs for the children of staff

INTERNAL PATH FORWARD



HOW DO WE ENSURE FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR THE CITY?

Review the budget and the financial impact of service delivery changes due to COVID-19



- Financial Management Services tracking of projected revenue and expense changes with regular reports to Council.
- Department submissions of cost estimates for reopening facilities and bringing services back online.
- Department calculations of return on investments for specific products and services
- Lobby for funding related to recovery and infrastructure projects



- Consider contracting non-essential services
- Review the possibility of divesting from specific assets
- Designate a task force focused on new revenue generation



- Strategically invest in new technology that will increase efficiency and create long-term cost savings

OUR PATH FORWARD

STC FRAMEWORK FOR RECOVERY: CITY SERVICES

The City of St. Catharines delivers a broad range of services to its community, many of which have been impacted by COVID-19. During the State of Emergency some services have continued, some have been modified, while others have been cancelled or suspended due to various resourcing and/or health and safety concerns.

Under the STC Framework for Recovery the City uses a risk-based approach to guide decisions for resumption of services and reopening of facilities. Each City service has been assessed based on the criteria of safety, feasibility and community impact.

SAFETY: Can the service be delivered safely? Can the service be modified to achieve safety in delivery?

FEASIBILITY: What is the cost associated with safely delivering the service? Is it fiscally responsible to expend those financial resources?

COMMUNITY IMPACT: How does this service and related cost fit in the larger context of recovery for the community? Will it serve a broad section of the community? Is the service available through other partners?

It should be noted resumption of some City services, and their delivery, is dependant on actions, restrictions and guidelines set down by the Province of Ontario.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

Under the STC Framework for Recovery levels of service during the pandemic, and as we recover, have been categorized based on service availability as it pertains to the public, and actions taken to ensure the service can be delivered safely. Services are categorized as:

NO CHANGE: The service is continuing to be offered with no changes for residents and staff as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Services under this category are offered as they were prior to the State of Emergency.

NEW MODEL: The service is continuing to be offered with no changes for residents, but with different processes and procedures for staff delivering the service. Services under this category are continuing, but staff may be working from home or doing their work in a different way in accordance with enhanced health and safety guidelines.

MODIFIED: Delivery of this service has been altered as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Some parts of this service continue to be offered, but residents may notice an impact.

CANCELLED: This service has been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.

Continue reading for a full breakdown of City services, their levels of service, and a timeline for reintroduction.

OUR PATH FORWARD

SERVICE AVAILABILITY BY STAGE

Office of the CAO, Mayor and Communications

Office of the CAO



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Corporate Communications



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Office of the Mayor



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Majority of staff return to the office; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Legal and Clerks Services

Legal Services



MODIFIED: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



MODIFIED: Some staff working from home; no prosecution services offered; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home; prosecution services resume if / when courts reopen; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Clerks Services



MODIFIED: Most staff working from home; public counter closed; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



MODIFIED: Some staff working from home; public counter open; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas; all clerks and legal services return to pre-COVID-19 service levels

Licences



MODIFIED: Business licences; lottery licencing and FOI requests processed in altered format



NEW MODEL: Business licences; lottery licencing and FOI requests return to pre-COVID-19 service levels

OUR PATH FORWARD

Burial Permits



MODIFIED: Burial permits continue to be issued in altered format

NEW MODEL: Issuing of burial permits returns to pre-COVID-19 service levels

Marriage Licences and Ceremonies



MODIFIED: Marriage licencing resumes with modifications to service; marriage ceremonies suspended



MODIFIED: Marriage licencing continues with modifications to service; ceremonies resume based on Provincial direction



NEW MODEL: Marriage licences and ceremonies return to pre-COVID state

Council



MODIFIED: Council meetings continue via electronic participation



NEW MODEL: Council returns to in-person meetings at City Hall in council chambers with physical distancing and some additional modifications



NEW MODEL: Council meets in-person at City Hall in council chambers

OUR PATH FORWARD

Community, Recreation and Cultural Services Administration



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Business Planning and Strategic Services



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Programs and Cultural Services



MODIFIED: Museum, splash pads, community centres, aquatics centre, outdoor pools, Lakeside Park Carousel, Older Adult Centres, Morningstar Mill remain closed; Farmers Market reopened with enhanced safety measures; most staff working from home; workforce reduction remain in place



MODIFIED: Museum, community centres, aquatics centre, outdoor pools, Lakeside Park Carousel, Older Adult Centres, Morningstar Mill remain closed; Farmers Market remains open; splash pads reopen based on Provincial directives; most staff working from home; workforce reduction remain in place



MODIFIED: Outdoor pools, Lakeside Park Carousel, Morningstar Mill remain closed; Farmers Market remains open; splash pads open based on Provincial directives; potential opening of Older Adult Centres based on Provincial and Niagara Region Public Health guidance; most staff working from home; staff called back based on operational needs



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas; return to full staff complement if feasible

OUR PATH FORWARD

Planning and Building Services

Planning, Committee of Adjustment



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas; some staff may continue to work from home on rotation

Administration



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas; some staff may continue to work from home on rotation

Building, By-law Enforcement, Development Engineering, and Zoning Examination



MODIFIED: Resumption of all services except inspections of occupied dwellings (pending corporate / Regional response), with enhanced health and safety guidelines; most staff working from home on rotation; increase in by-law enforcement staff to enforce / monitor Provincial Orders



NEW MODEL: Resumption of all services under enhanced health and safety guidelines; some staff working from home on rotation; increase in by-law enforcement staff to enforce / monitor Provincial Orders



NEW MODEL: All services offered under enhanced health and safety guidelines; some staff working from home on rotation; increase in by-law enforcement staff to enforce / monitor Provincial Orders



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas; some staff may continue to work from home on rotation

OUR PATH FORWARD

Economic Development and Tourism Services

Economic Development, Government Relations and Tourism



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Small Business Enterprise Centre



NEW MODEL: All staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Protective barrier / vestibule installed; all staff have the ability to return to designated work areas; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Corporate Support Services

Citizens First



NEW MODEL: Public counter closed; phone inquiry line remains open and staffed during business hours; municipal service centres closed to the public; some staff working from home on rotation; workforce reductions remain in place; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Public counter open with protective barriers, physical distancing guidelines and related floor markings / signage; phone inquiry line remains open and staffed during business hours; municipal service centres open with enhanced screening and limited occupancy; some staff working from home on rotation; workforce reductions remain in place; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Return to pre-COVID customer service expectations, workforce recalled

Information Technology



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; service levels sustained



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; service levels sustained



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Human Resources



MODIFIED: Hiring for essential services and critical support continue virtually; non-essential hiring deferred; all staff working from home with the ability to visit work sites as required; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



MODIFIED: Hiring for essential services can be completed in person; non-essential hiring deferred; some working from home with the ability to visit work sites as required; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



MODIFIED: Hiring can be completed in person; non-essential hiring deferred; some working from home with the ability to visit work sites as required; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Hiring practices restored to pre-COVID-19 standards; all staff can return to their designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Fire Services

Licences



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Fire Prevention



MODIFIED: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; legislated inspections and investigations prioritized; public education continues in an altered format



NEW MODEL: Pre-COVID-19 public education and prevention activities restored

Communication



NO CHANGE: Operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NO CHANGE: Return to pre-COVID-19 emergency communications

Suppression



NO CHANGE: Continued delivery of emergency response operations with additional health and safety procedures to protect staff

Training



NEW MODEL: Training activities continue in an altered format with additional health and safety considerations



NEW MODEL: Training activities return to pre-COVID-19 standards

OUR PATH FORWARD

Financial Management Services

Budget and Corporate Asset Management



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Administrative, Revenue and Parking



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; workforce reductions remain in place



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; staff called back as needed



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Procurement, Accounting and Payroll



NEW MODEL: Most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Realty and Insurance Services



MODIFIED: Services reduced; most staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; workforce reductions remain in place



NEW MODEL: Resumption of reduced services with processes and schedules in place; some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; staff called back as needed



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Engineering, Facilities and Environmental Services

Administration



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Environmental Services



MODIFIED: Services reduced; some staff working from home and/or on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; workforce reductions remain in place; non-essential activities suspended or deferred



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; phased restart of non-essential activities and projects



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Facilities and Energy – Arena and Pool Operations



MODIFIED: Recreational facilities remain closed; precautionary measures implemented for eventual reopening of facilities



MODIFIED: Incremental reopening of recreational facilities; incremental return of staff complement; enhanced cleaning introduced at occupied facilities; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Incremental reopening of recreational facilities; enhanced cleaning introduced at occupied facilities; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Geomatics



NEW MODEL: Survey crew completing on-site surveys; some staff working from home; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Survey crew completing on-site surveys; some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Transportation



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas; operations continue to pre-COVID-19 state

Engineering and Construction



MODIFIED: Construction of all municipal infrastructure resumed; full design and study services continue; program and budget development continue; asset management continues; staff working from home



MODIFIED: Construction of all municipal infrastructure continues; full design and study services continue; program and budget development continue; asset management continues; some staff working from home on rotation



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

OUR PATH FORWARD

Municipal Works Administration



NEW MODEL: Some staff working from home on rotation; operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: All staff have the ability to return to designated work areas

Supervisors



NEW MODEL: Operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines; Municipal Works supervisors continue to assist with by-law enforcement of Emergency Orders



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 state

Operations Planning, Equipment Maintenance



NEW MODEL: Operations continue under enhanced health and safety guidelines



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 state

OUR PATH FORWARD

Parks, Cemeteries, Forestry and Horticulture Division



MODIFIED: All parks, sports fields, dog parks, skate parks open with signage to encourage physical distancing; park amenities remain closed; park washrooms and beaches remain closed; workforce reductions remain in place



MODIFIED: All parks, sports fields, dog parks, skate parks open with signage to encourage physical distancing; park amenities remain closed or open based on Provincial direction; select public washrooms open with additional health and safety guidelines in place



NEW MODEL: All parks, sports fields, dog parks, skate parks open with signage to encourage physical distancing; park amenities remain closed or open based on Provincial direction; public washrooms open with additional health and safety guidelines in place



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 state

Cemeteries



MODIFIED: Cemeteries open for cemetery business and walk-through use only; operations in line with direction from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario



MODIFIED: Cemeteries open for cemetery business, with limitations on gatherings set by Province of Ontario; operations in line with direction from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 state

OUR PATH FORWARD

Forestry



MODIFIED: Reduction in forestry services provided; workforce reductions remain in place; enhanced health and safety guidelines in place



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 state

Horticulture



MODIFIED: Reduced services provided; workforce reductions continue; 2020 annual planting program cancelled; minimum maintenance to existing planting beds continues; enhanced health and safety guidelines in place



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 levels

Road Operations



MODIFIED: Road operations services reduced to provide minimum maintenance and address safety issues; workforce reductions continue; enhanced health and safety guidelines in place



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 levels

Utility Operations



MODIFIED: Utility operations services reduced to provide minimum maintenance and address safety issues; workforce reductions continue; enhanced health and safety guidelines in place



NEW MODEL: Operations return to pre-COVID-19 levels

OUR PATH FORWARD

STC FRAMEWORK FOR RECOVERY: FACILITIES

The City of St. Catharines manages a diverse array of facilities and outdoor areas, through which numerous services are delivered. During the COVID-19 emergency the vast majority of outdoor areas were closed at least temporarily, and all City facilities were closed to the public. As we embark on the recovery process we will take a phased approach, with facilities and areas categorized on the recovery stage in which they will tentatively reopen to the public.

Please note reopening dates are based on the local context as it relates to COVID-19 risks and on guidance / directives from the Province of Ontario.

Much like the reintroduction of service delivery the City is using a risk-based approach to guide decisions for the reopening of facilities. Each City service has been assessed based on the criteria of safety, feasibility and community impact.

Based on these criteria some facilities will not reopen to the public until the risk of COVID-19 has been completely eliminated. Safety concerns, such as the necessity to use shared surfaces and limitations on the ability to provide for physical distancing, pose challenges for reopening facilities during the pandemic. Others may be delayed due to the costs associated with reopening, and how those costs compare with the community impact delivered by the facility.

Please continue reading for a full breakdown of plans to reopen facilities categorized by stage, please note all dates are tentative and subject to change based on the risk levels related to COVID-19 and direction from the Province of Ontario.

OUR PATH FORWARD

FACILITY REOPENING BY STAGE

Stage 1



- St. Catharines Farmers Market and Market Square
- Parks, open for passive use

Please note, all dates are tentative and subject to change

- Happy Rolph's Animal Farm, open for passive park use, no animals

Stage 2



- Buchanan Hall Administrative Building: **July 2, 2020**
- Fire Prevention Office: **July 2, 2020**
- Victoria Lawn Cemetery: **July 2, 2020**
- City Hall: **July 2, 2020**
- City Splash Pads: **July 1, 2020**

- City Sports Fields for user groups: **July 1, 2020**
- City Beaches: **July 1, 2020**
- Parks, open for regular use: **July 1, 2020**
- Garden City Golf Course: **July, 2020**
- Happy Rolph's Animal Farm, washrooms open, no animals

Stage 3



- Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- Bill Burgoyne Arena: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- Garden City Arena Complex: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- Kiwanis Field: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre: **Sept. 1, 2020**

- Port Weller Community Centre: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- Russell Avenue Community Centre: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- St. Catharines Enterprise Centre: **Sept. 1, 2020**
- Older Adult Centres: **Oct. 1, 2020**

Stage 4



- Lakeside Park Carousel: **2021**
- Morningstar Mill buildings: **2021**
- Harriet Tubman Public School programming space: **2021**

- Outdoor City Pools: **2021**
- Happy Rolph's Animal Farm: **2021**