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# AGENDA

Council

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(agenda was republished 2026-06-15 to include report FIN.26.15)

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - 10:00 AM**

Page

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

3 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3.1 If required:

Amendments to the Agenda (note: should be time sensitive or urgent)

Requires 2/3 vote

**That Council agree to add the following item to the agenda:**

3.2 Approval of Agenda

**That the agenda be approved as circulated/amended.**

4 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

5 OPEN FORUM

Register for Open Forum: [www.greyhighlands.ca/register](http://www.greyhighlands.ca/register)

Electronic registrations for Open Forum must be submitted prior to the commencement of the meeting and are requested at least 1 hour before the start of the meeting.

6 PRESENTATION AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Emily Williamson - Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority  
SVCA Watershed Water Quality Report

8 - 118

**That Council receive the delegation from Emily Williamson of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority on the topic of the SVCA Watershed Water Quality Report for information.**

[2026-05-29-001](#)

[2023 Annual Surface Water Report](#)

[2026 WQ GREY HIGHLANDS](#)

6.2	Jarvis Strong - Escarpment Corridor Alliance The Emerging South Georgian Bay Ecological Corridor	119 - 135
	<p><b>That Council receive the delegation from Jarvis Strong of Escarpment Corridor Alliance on the topic of the Emerging South Georgian Bay Ecological Corridor for information.</b></p> <p><a href="#">2026-06-01-001</a> <a href="#">Grey Highlands 2026.pdf-compressed</a></p>	
7	ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING	
7.1	Minutes of the previous meeting	136 - 148
	<p><b>That the minutes of the 2026-06-03 Council meeting be adopted as circulated.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Council - 03 Jun 2026 - Minutes - Html</a></p>	
	ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION	
8	CLS AND PLANNING Chaired by Councillor Allen	
8.1	By-law 2026-055 - Amend Appointment By-law	149
	<p><b>That Council approve By-law 2026-055, being a by-law to amend By-law 2022-103, the 2022-2026 Appointment By-law.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Draft By-law No. 2026-055 - Amend By-law 2022-103 (2022-2026 appointment by-law) - Pdf</a></p>	
8.2	By-law 2026-058 - Lease Agreement - Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. (related to Council resolution 2026-356, passed at the June 3, 2026 Council meeting)	150 - 160
	<p><b>That Council approve By-law 2026-058, being a by-law to authorize the execution of a lease agreement between Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. and the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Draft By-law No. 2026-058 - Lease Agreement - Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. - Pdf</a></p>	
8.3	Markdale Ag. Society - Ball tournament Noise exemption request	161 - 162
	<p><b>That Council receive staff report CLS.26.11 - Ball Tournament Noise exemption request for information; and</b></p> <p><b>That Council <span style="color: red;">approve/deny</span> the request from the Markdale Ag. Society for a noise exemption on July 24th, 2026 from 6pm - 12am and July 25th, 2026 from 7am to 10pm.</b></p> <p><a href="#">CLS.26.11-Markdale Ag. Society - Ball tournament Noise exemption request - Pdf</a></p>	
8.4	Bill 97 – Changes to Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) and Impacts on Grey Highlands	163 - 170

- That Council receive report CLS.26.12, Bill 97 – Changes to MFIPPA for information; and  
That Council direct staff to report back with options to support compliance, including resourcing, process improvements, and records management modernization.**  
[CLS.26.12-Bill 97 – Changes to Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(MFIPPA\) and Impacts on Grey Highlands - Pdf](#)
- 8.5 Request for Extension for Part Lot Control By-law (Rayville Developments) 171 - 173
- That Council receive report PL.26.131, Request for Extension for Part Lot Control By-law (Rayville Developments); and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-059, being a by-law to amend By-law 2024-007 to extend the time period of a Part Lot Control By-law for an additional three years for those lands known as Centre Point South (Devonleigh).**  
[PL.26.131-Request for Extension for Part Lot Control By-law \(Rayville Developments\) - Pdf](#)  
[Draft By-law No. 2026-059 - Amend By-law 2024-007 - Part Lot Control By-law - Rayville Developments Centre Point South - Pdf](#)
- 8.6 Z22.2025 - 734626 West Back Line 174 - 177
- That Council receive report PL.26.132, Z22.2025 - 734626 West Back Line for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-060 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z22.2025.**  
[PL.26.132-Z22.2025 - 734626 West Back Line - Pdf](#)  
[Draft By-law No. 2026-060 - Z22.2025 734626 West Back Line 420818000112100 - Pdf](#)
- 8.7 Z30.2025 - Canyon Hill Developments 178 - 181
- That Council receive report PL.26.126, Z30.2025 - Canyon Hill Developments for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-061 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z30.2025.**  
[PL.26.126-Z30.2025 - Canyon Hill Developments - Pdf](#)  
[Draft By-law No. 2026-061 - Z30.2025 Canyon Hill Developments Ltd. 420818001025710 - Pdf](#)
- 8.8 Z12.2026 - Grey Road 40 (Meaford) 182 - 185
- That Council receive report PL.26.127, Z12.2026 - Grey Road 40 (Meaford) for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-062 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z12.2026.**  
[PL.26.127-Z12.2026 - Grey Road 40 \(Meaford\) - Pdf](#)  
[Draft By-law No. 2026-062 - Z12.2026 825391 Grey Road 40](#)

[Meaford 420839000805800, 420839000805900 - Pdf](#)

8.9 Z13.2026 - 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road 186 - 189

**That Council receive report PL.26.128, Z13.2026 - 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road for information; and  
That Council Council approve By-law 2026-063 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z13.2026.**

[PL.26.128-Z13.2026 - 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road - Pdf](#)  
[Draft By-law No. 2026-063 - Z13.2026 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road \(Gene Martin, VanRooyens\) 420818000920500 - Pdf](#)

9 COMMUNITY SERVICES  
Chaired by Deputy Mayor Nielsen  
None.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
Chaired by Councillor Dubyk

10.1 2026-06-01 - Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board Meeting Minutes 190 - 192

**Recommendation #1:**

**That Council receive the unapproved minutes of the 2026-06-01 Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board meeting for information.**

**Recommendation #2 RE: JWDB2026-11**

**That Council direct staff to bring back a report to the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board on the provision of Household Hazardous Waste services at the Markdale-Holland Waste and Diversion Site, covering the necessary approvals and financial implications to both municipalities of offering the service.**

[Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board - 01 Jun 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

10.2 By-law 2026-057 - Amend Adopt-A-Road Policy A09-T-01 193 - 203  
(related to Council resolution 2026-367 passed at the June 3, 2026 Council meeting)

**That Council approve By-law 2026-057, being a by-law to amend By-law 2012-69 and to adopt the updated Adopt-A-Road Policy A09-T-01.**

[Draft By-law No. 2026-057 - Amend Adopt-A-Road Policy A09-T-01 - Pdf](#)

11 FINANCE  
Chaired by Councillor Allwood

11.1 By-law 2026-056 - Amend By-law 2022-050 - Procurement By-law 204 - 225  
(related to Council resolution 2026-369 passed at the June 3, 2026 Council meeting)

**That Council approve By-law 2026-056, being a by-law to amend Procurement By-law No. 2022-050.**

[Draft By-law No. 2026-056 - Procurement By-law Amendment - Pdf](#)

- 11.2 Development Charges Reduction Program 226 - 231  
\*Agenda was republished on 2026-06-15 to include the addition of this report

**That Council receive report FIN.26.15 Development Charges Reduction Program for information**

[FIN.26.15-Development Charges Reduction Program - Pdf](#)

- 12 FIRE, POLICE AND SAFETY  
Chaired by Councillor Loughead

- 12.1 Community Emergency Preparedness Grant Update 232 - 234

**That Council receive report FES.26.07, Community Emergency Preparedness Grant for information**

[FES.26.07-Community Emergency Preparedness Grant Update - Pdf](#)

- 13 TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACES  
Chaired by Councillor Wickens

- 13.1 By-law to Regulate the Speed on 3rd Line A 235 - 238

**That Council receive report TPS.26.20, By-law to Regulate the Speed on 3rd Line A for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-054 being a by-law to Regulate the Speed on 3rd Line A.**

[TPS.26.20-By-law to Regulate the Speed on 3rd Line A - Pdf](#)

[Draft By-law No. 2026-054 - Reduce Speed Limit - 3rd Line A - Pdf](#)

- 13.2 Ceylon Site Alteration and Fill Project Update 239 - 240

**That Council receive report TPS.26.21, Ceylon Site Alteration and Fill Project Update for information.**

[TPS.26.21-Ceylon Site Alteration and Fill Project Update - Pdf](#)

- 14 CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION  
Chaired by Mayor McQueen

- 14.1 Update on Grant Applications and Awards 241 - 243

**That Council receive report CAO.26.05, Update on Grant Applications and Awards for information.**

[CAO.26.05-Update on Grant Applications and Awards - Pdf](#)

- 15 MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN  
None.

- 16 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- 17 CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Approval

**That the items on the Consent Agenda be approved with the exception of the items extracted for alternate consideration.  
Items extracted:**

17.1 2026-05-25 - Public Planning Hearing Minutes 244 - 247

**That Council receive the 2026-05-25 Public Planning Hearing minutes for information.**

[Public Planning Hearing - 25 May 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

17.2 2026-04-29 - Grey Highlands Public Library Board Meeting Minutes and May CEO Report 248 - 259

**That Council receive the 2026-04-29 Grey Highlands Public Library Board meeting minutes and May 2026 CEO report for information.**

[May 2026 CEO Report](#)

[April 2026 Approved Minutes](#)

17.3 2026-04-22 - Grey Sauble Conservation Authority - Meeting Minutes and 2025 Financial Statements 260 - 296

**That Council receive the 2026-04-22 Grey Sauble Conservation Authority meeting minutes and 2025 Financial Statements for information.**

[04 GSCA BOD MINUTES 22APR2026 FINAL](#)

[GSCA AUDITED-FINANCIAL-STATEMENTS 27MAY2026](#)

17.4 2026-05-22 - Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Meeting Highlights 297 - 298

**That Council receive the 2026-05-22 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Meeting Highlights for information.**

[Highlights 5-22](#)

17.5 2026-02-25 - Bruce Trail Conservancy and 2026-03-16 - City of Burlington Correspondence regarding Conservation Severances (McQueen) 299 - 329

**That Council receive the 2026-02-25 Bruce Trail Conservancy and 2026-03-16 City of Burlington correspondence related to conservation severances for information.**

[Bruce Trail Conservancy - Streamlining Conservation](#)

[Sample Letter Mayor Meed Ward Letterhead- Municipal Letter of Support Burlington](#)

17.6 2026-06-01 - MMAH Correspondence re: Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026 (McQueen) 330

**That Council receive the 2026-06-01 MMAH Correspondence regarding Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026 for information.**

[234-2026-1746 HOC Bill 119 Notification Letter English SIGNED](#)

17.7 2026-06-06 - Thorpe Correspondence regarding Cat Regulations (Allen) 331

**That Council receive the 2026-06-06 Thorpe Correspondence regarding Cat Regulations for information.**

[2026-06-06 Thorpe Correspondence](#)

17.8 2026-06-06 - Croft Correspondence regarding Sproule and Mark Street Safety (Allen) 332

**That Council receive the 2026-06-06 Croft Correspondence regarding Sproule and Mark Street Safety for information.**

[2026-06-06 Croft Correspondence](#)

18 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

19 CLOSED SESSION  
None.

20 CONFIRMING BY-LAW

20.1 Confirming By-law 333

**That By-law 2026-064, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on June 17, 2026, be read a first second and third time, and finally passed; and That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign and seal the same notwithstanding any contrary provision of Council.**

[Draft By-law No. 2026-064 - 2026-06-17 - Confirming By-law - Pdf](#)

21 UPCOMING MEETINGS

21.1 Upcoming Meetings

2026-06-22 @ 5:00 pm - Public Planning Hearing  
2026-06-24 @ 9:00 am - Committee of the Whole  
2026-06-25 @ 5:00 pm - Lake Management Task Force  
2026-07-08 @ 10:00 am - Council meeting

22 ADJOURNMENT

22.1 Adjourn

**That Council adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting or until the call of the Chair.**

**Time:**

# Delegation Request Form

Delegation requirements are provided for by the Municipal Procedural By-law and completion of this form facilitates administration of delegation/presentation requests. Once the completed application is submitted to the Clerk, you will be contacted by staff to confirm your placement on the appropriate agenda. Incomplete applications will be returned. Please note that all meetings are open to the public except where permitted to be closed to the public under legislated authority.

You can print this form at anytime by right clicking and selecting print. A copy will automatically be emailed to you once you submit.

I wish to appear before Council on:

**Preferred Date: (click the link below to access Council Calendar) \***

6/17/2026



**Alternate Date: (click the link below to access Council Calendar) \***

7/22/2026



[Grey Highlands Council Calendar](#)

Be sure to filter the Calendar meeting type to show Council only.

**Name of Group/Organization/Business:**

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

**Individual/Spokesperson \***

Emily Williamson

**Street Number:**

1078

**Street Name:**

Bruce Road 12

**P.O. Box**

**Town/City:**

Formosa

**Province \***

Ontario

**Postal Code**

N0G 1W0

**Phone Number: \***

5193641255

**Email Address: \***

e.williamson@svca.on.ca

**Provide a written brief outlining the reason(s) for Delegation Request (subject matter to be discussed):**

Saugeen Conservation has prepared a water quality report summarizing 20 years of data in the Saugeen watershed. Staff would like the opportunity to share this information with Grey Highlands council.

**Please provide us with your digital copy of your presentation.**

[Rules and Regulations of Delegation.](#)

**By clicking below, you acknowledge, understand and agree, either on behalf of yourself or the group you are representing, to the rules regarding Delegations as provided per Section 42 of By-law 2024-097**

I agree

---

Notice of Collection: Personal information collected on this form is authorized under the Municipality's Procedural By-law and will be used to contact individuals and/or organizations requesting an opportunity to appear as a delegation before Council. The Delegation Request Form, as well as the information submitted therewith, will become part of the public record through the published Agenda on the Municipal Website. Questions about this collection can be directed to the Director of Council and Legislative Services/Clerk, 206 Toronto St. S., Unit 1, Markdale, ON N0C 1H0 or by calling 519 986 1216 Ext 233

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# Water Quality Annual Report (2002 - 2023)

## An Analysis: Current Conditions & Trends

*Presented by Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority*

*July 2024*

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## 1. Introduction

The Saugeen watershed is one of the largest drainage basins in the region. Spanning 4,675 km<sup>2</sup> of southwestern Ontario, it comprises three primary river systems that stretch from the Osprey Wetlands to the Lake Huron shoreline: Pine River, Penetangore River, and the Saugeen River. These watercourses are influenced by underlying soil types, and land use such as agriculture and development. The Saugeen watershed can be divided into ten distinct subwatersheds, each with unique natural and human-made features (Figure 1). Most of the land within the Saugeen watershed is dedicated to agricultural use.



Figure 1. Map of the Saugeen watershed boundary, also known as the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. Featured are each of the 10 subwatersheds, major watercourses and neighbouring authorities.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) actively monitors surface water quality at 14 sites within the Saugeen watershed through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), a collaborative effort with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The PWQMN program is a crucial source of water quality data for the Saugeen watershed; however, information gaps existed. In 2012, SVCA addressed this through an internal monitoring program that included 15 additional sites throughout the watershed. Together, there are 29 monitoring sites that are used to gather the data required to understand the health of our watershed.

SVCA conducts a biomonitoring program which involves the collection of benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling aquatic organisms) at 20 locations across the watershed.

These sites are aligned with other surface water sampling locations to offer a better understanding of watershed health.

Monitoring and management of surface water conditions has become increasingly important with population growth, agricultural intensification, and shifting climate patterns. Water quality monitoring programs collect valuable information to quantify current and long-term water quality conditions.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Surface Water

Surface water samples are collected using in-stream grab techniques throughout the year. Sampling occurs in the first week of every month during ice free periods (April to November). These samples are collected in accordance with PWQMN sample protocols. Additionally, field measurements of water temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen are taken at the time of sample collection. Sampling was conducted regardless of rainfall events, or temperature fluctuations.

In 2023, surface water samples were collected at 29 sites within SVCA’s watershed. All samples collected under the PWQMN program were analyzed at the MECP laboratory, while SVCA samples were sent to SGS laboratories located in Lakefield, ON. Sample collection in 2020 was variable due to laboratory shutdowns associated with the pandemic.

All surface water samples were analyzed using a standard set of water quality parameters. A complete list of sample parameters for PWQMN and SVCA sampling programs can be found in Appendix A.

For this report, five parameters were selected for discussion: total phosphorus, nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite, chloride, total suspended solids, and *E. coli*. The results for each parameter were compared to the Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO) or the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines (CWQG) (Table 1).

The PWQO and CWQG were established to protect public health (*E. coli*), as well as aquatic life and aquatic life cycles.

Parameter (Unit)	Water Quality Objectives/Guidelines (Unit)	PWQO or CWQG
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.03 mg/L	PWQO
Nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite (mg/L)	2.93 mg/L	CWQG
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/L)	30 mg/L	CWQG
Escherichia coli ( <i>E. coli</i> ) cfu/100mL)	(100 cfu/100mL) for swimming	PWQO
Chloride (mg/L)	120 mg/L	CWQG

Table 1. PWQO & CWQG for the five parameters covered in this report.

## 2.2 Benthic Macroinvertebrates

Benthic macroinvertebrates were collected at 20 sites throughout the Saugeen watershed using the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) stream sampling protocol. Samples were collected every other year in the springtime using the kick-and-sweep method with a D-net.

As per the OBBN protocol, three samples were collected per site to cover different sections of the watercourse. At each site, two riffles (fast/shallow area) and one pool (slow/deep area) were sampled. A minimum of a 100-individual count was obtained across the width of the river, at each sample area. Samples were then sieved and placed into plastic containers and preserved with 95% ethanol. Large debris and organic material were discarded. Finally, samples were transported and stored in a cool environment until sorting was completed.

Identification of benthic macroinvertebrates requires specific skills and certification under the OBBN. Generally, samples were mixed, and a subsample viewed under a microscope. Samples were then analyzed until a minimum of 100 individual organisms were obtained. At minimum, all organisms were identified to the 27-group taxonomic level. The 27-group level is the minimum requirement for identification under the OBBN protocol.

## 3. Parameters

### 3.1 Total Phosphorus

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for the growth and productivity of aquatic plants and animals. Phosphorus is naturally found in weathering rocks, but is also a common element in fertilizers, livestock manure, industrial emissions, and wastewater discharges. Phosphorus can act as a pollutant in high concentrations.

Phosphorus can easily enter a watercourse following events such as storms or spring melt. High total phosphorus concentrations in a watercourse can lead to eutrophication, which is an increased supply of nutrients. This can cause excess algae growth, dead zones, and the suffocation of aquatic organisms due to lack of oxygen in the water.

PWQO recommends total phosphorus concentrations below 0.03 mg/L to limit excessive plant and algae growth.

### 3.2 Nitrogen; Nitrate-Nitrite

Like phosphorus, nitrogen is an essential nutrient for aquatic plants and animals. Although naturally occurring, additional nitrogen can be introduced through fertilizers, livestock manure, and septic systems.

Nitrogen occurs in various forms, including:

- Nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ ): dissolved inorganic nitrogen that can be toxic at low concentrations, especially when sewage is present
- Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ): is the most common dissolved inorganic nitrogen used by bacteria and algae. Nitrates are not absorbed by plants and can enter a watercourse through runoff. High concentrations can cause excess plant and algae growth, which can be toxic to aquatic life

To protect aquatic life, CWQG recommends nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite concentrations below 2.93 mg/L.

### 3.3 Chloride

Chloride can be naturally occurring and is generally present at low concentrations. According to Health Canada, drinking water concentrations are normally less than 10 mg/L.

Chlorides runoff into watercourses through human activities, such as applying road salt and industrial production. Chloride does not readily absorb onto surfaces, and therefore concentrations can be high in surface water and shallow aquifers.

High chloride concentrations can be toxic to aquatic life. The CWQG has two guidelines for chloride: acute, or short term (640 mg/L), and chronic, or long-term (120 mg/L). In this report, the guidelines for long-term chloride concentrations were considered.

### 3.4 Total Suspended Solids

Total suspended solids are a measure of the number of suspended particles in water. The particles that contribute to total suspended solids come from a wide variety of materials including sediment, silt, sand, clay, organic and inorganic matter, and microscopic organisms.

Total suspended solids can exist naturally through erosion and high watercourse flows but can also be increased by stormwater runoff, development, and agricultural processes. If total suspended solids concentrations are high, sunlight will not reach the lower depths of a watercourse, thereby impacting aquatic plants and animals. Organics and metals can attach to suspended solids and may be absorbed by aquatic organisms when the particles settle.

The CWQG suggests total suspended solids should be no more than 30 mg/L higher than background concentrations to protect aquatic life.

### 3.5 *E. coli*

*Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) are a group of bacteria often found in the digestive systems of warm-blooded animals. *E. coli* are commonly used to indicate the presence of fecal contamination in water as they do not occur naturally in aquatic ecosystems.

*E. coli* can affect human health by causing serious gastrointestinal illnesses, which can lead to death. SVCA's *E. coli* data helps to determine overall water quality for aquatic organisms and should not be used to assess water conditions for human consumption.

The PWQO suggests that water is safe for swimming when *E. coli* concentrations are less than 100 colony-forming units (cfu) per 100mL. The maximum acceptable concentration of *E. coli* in drinking water is nondetectable.

### 3.6 Benthic Macroinvertebrates

Benthic macroinvertebrates (benthics) are the most common group of freshwater organisms used in assessing water quality. They are an important food source for numerous fish species and are partially responsible for recycling nutrients in a watercourse. Benthics are common and diverse, with a range of sensitivities to environmental stressors. Certain species are more sensitive to pollution than others, and therefore their presence can indicate the quality of water in which they are found.

## 4. Data Analysis

### 4.1 Surface Water

An annual and long-term data analysis was completed for each of the 10 subwatersheds. The data collected was compared to the water quality objectives listed in Table 1.

### 4.2 Benthic Macroinvertebrates

A review of benthic data was conducted for each of the 10 subwatersheds using local abundance, species richness and Hilsenhoff's Family-level Biotic Index (FBI).

- Local abundance refers to the number of individual organisms per species in each sample.
- Species richness is the number of different species collected in each sample. Generally, species richness increases with improved water quality, habitat diversity, and habitat suitability.
- The FBI summarizes overall pollution tolerances of benthic communities with a single value (0-10) (Table 2). Only species with an assigned pollution tolerance value were used in this calculation.

Through their biology, the benthic data was analyzed using each of these methods to understand watercourse health.

Family Biotic Index Values	Water Quality	Degree of Organic Pollution
0.0 - 3.75	Excellent	Organic pollution unlikely
3.76 - 4.25	Very good	Possible slight organic pollution
4.26 – 5.00	Good	Some organic pollution probable
5.01 – 5.75	Fair	Fairly substantial pollution likely
5.76 – 6.50	Fairly poor	Substantial pollution likely
6.51 – 7.25	Poor	Very substantial pollution likely
7.26 – 10.00	Very poor	Severe organic pollution likely

Table 2. Evaluation of the family-level Hilsenhoff Biotic Index as an indication of water quality (Hilsenhoff 1998).

## 5. Subwatershed Results

### 5.1 South Saugeen River

With a drainage area of 798 km<sup>2</sup>, the South Saugeen subwatershed primarily consists of agricultural land, which constitutes 72% of its expanse. With a length of 97 km, the South Saugeen River features tributaries such as Carrick, Meux, Bell's, and Fairbanks Creeks, along with smaller, unnamed watercourses. The South Saugeen River outlets into the Main Saugeen River, south of Hanover.

Three long term water quality monitoring sites are established in the South Saugeen subwatershed (Figure 2). These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q10 and Q14) and SVCA's internal monitoring program (S13). Two benthic biomonitors are located at two of the water quality sites (S13 and Q14).

All graphical data representation for the South Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix B.

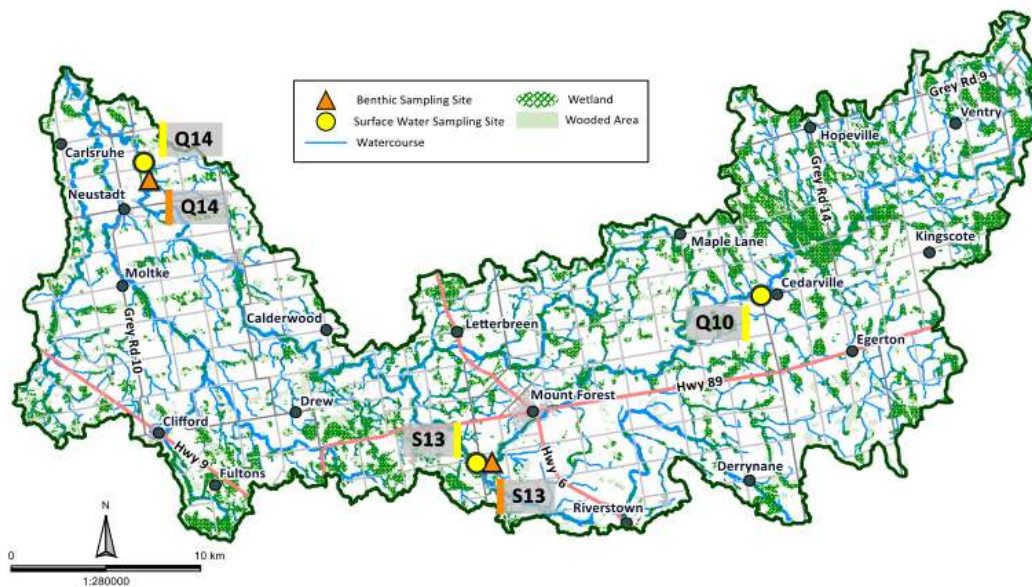


Figure 2. Map of the South Saugeen subwatershed showing locations of surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highways 9, 6 and 89, and Grey Road 10), towns (including Neustadt, Clifford and Mount Forest), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

#### 5.1.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review of the South Saugeen subwatershed indicated overall concentrations generally well below water quality objectives for total suspended solids and chloride.

Total phosphorous had three exceedances and *E. coli* had five exceedances in 2023. Nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite concentrations were highest in the Spring and Fall. There were ten nitrogen;

nitrate-nitrite exceedances in 2023, this value was in exceedance 42% of the time. There were two suspended solids exceedances across the subwatershed in 2023.

There were no recorded exceedances for chloride across all three sites.

### 5.1.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

The long-term review of this subwatershed revealed annual average exceedances for total phosphorus, *E.coli*, and nitrogen.

Across all three sites, there were five average total phosphorus exceedances (from 2002 to 2023) and nine average annual *E. coli* exceedances (from 2012 to 2023).

There was one average annual nitrogen exceedance at Q14 in 2020 (3.35 mg/L). At Q10, nitrogen has generally shown an increasing trend since 2002. S13 has also shown a gradual increase in nitrogen while Q14 data suggests no significant changes are occurring. There were two annual total suspended solids exceedances at Q14 in 2010 and 2014 (29.87 mg/L and 37.05 mg/L respectively).

There were no average annual chloride exceedances.

### 5.1.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2020)

From 2015 to 2020, the local abundance of species observed varied widely, ranging from 153 to 509. Since 2015, the species richness, or the number of different species, remained relatively stable with an average of 13.8 species per sampling event.

There has been a significant decline in the FBI for this subwatershed since 2015, which suggests an improvement in water quality. In 2015, the FBI stood at 6.51, indicating that the water quality was poor. By 2020, the FBI has dropped to 2.67, which is considered excellent.

## 5.2 Beatty Saugeen River

The Beatty Saugeen subwatershed drains an area of approximately 274 km<sup>2</sup>. The Beatty Saugeen River originates in wetlands within the Township of Southgate, and spans 46km in length. Drainage within this subwatershed occurs slowly, leading to the formation of swamps, and poorly drained depressions. The system outlets into the South Saugeen River, west of Hanover.

Two long-term water quality monitoring sites are established in the Beatty Saugeen subwatershed (Figure 3). These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q13) and SVCA's internal monitoring program (S14). One benthic biomonitoring site exists (Q13).

All graphical data representation for the Beatty Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix C.

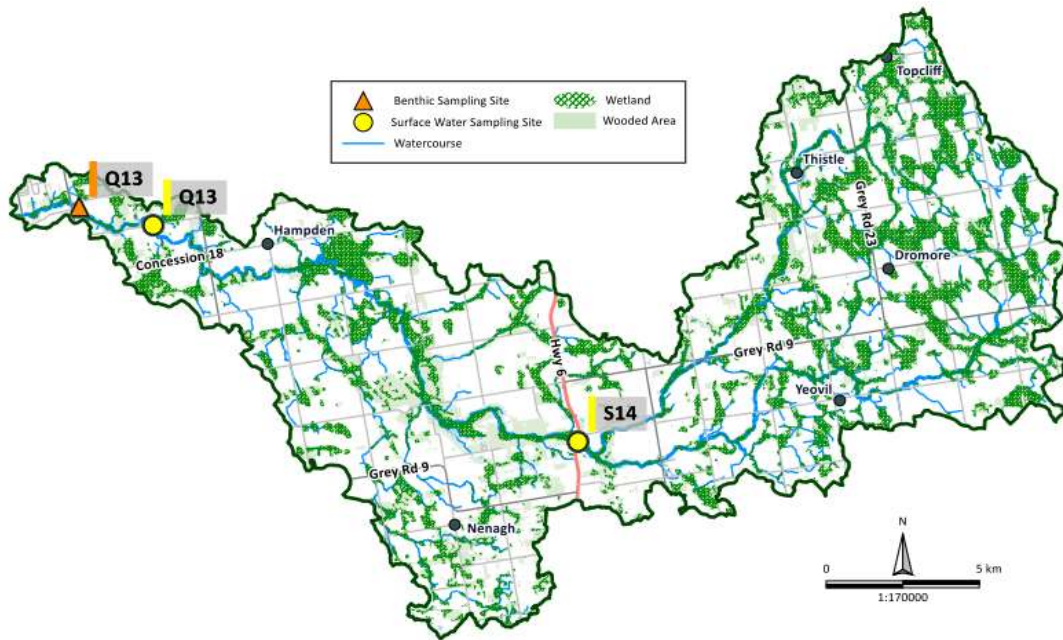


Figure 3. Map of the Beatty Saugeen subwatershed showing the locations of the surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Grey Road 9 and 23 and Concession 18), towns (including Hampden and Yeovil), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

### 5.2.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review of the Beatty Saugeen subwatershed indicated overall concentrations generally below the water quality objectives, with no exceedances reported for nitrogen, total suspended solids, or chloride.

Total phosphorus showed exceedances in one S14 sample (July). There were six *E. coli* exceedances: three Q13 samples (September, October, November), and three S14 samples (July, September, October). The highest recorded *E. coli* concentration was at S14 in July, at 1280 cfu/100mL.

At S14, nitrogen concentrations peaked in June before decreasing throughout the summer. Q13 nitrogen concentrations remained relatively stable until November.

### 5.2.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

The long-term review of this subwatershed revealed no annual average exceedances for total suspended solids, nitrogen, and chloride. A slight trend suggests that nitrogen levels have increased throughout the years for both Q13 and S14.

At S14, there was one average annual total phosphorus exceedance, recorded in 2022 (0.0424 mg/L).

Since 2012, *E. coli* had eight exceedances above the PWQO, four at each sample site (Q13 and S14). Both sites had exceedances of the PWQO in 2014, 2018 and 2023.

### 5.2.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2019-2021)

The local abundance of species present in this subwatershed has increased from 98 to 219 individuals from 2019 to 2021. Species richness increased from 13 species to 27 between 2019 and 2021.

The FBI has decreased from 5.33 to 4.21, suggesting an improvement in water quality. The three-year average of 4.07 suggests overall water quality in this subwatershed is in very good condition.

### 5.3 Upper Main Saugeen River

Approximately 782 km<sup>2</sup> of land is drained in the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed. The river spans 116 km in length, with key tributaries including Habermehl and Camp Creek, as well as the Styx River. The subwatershed is primarily composed of agricultural land.

Five long-term monitoring sites are established in the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed (Figure 4). These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q9 and Q11) and SVCA's internal monitoring program (S9, S10, and S15).

All graphical data representation for the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix D.

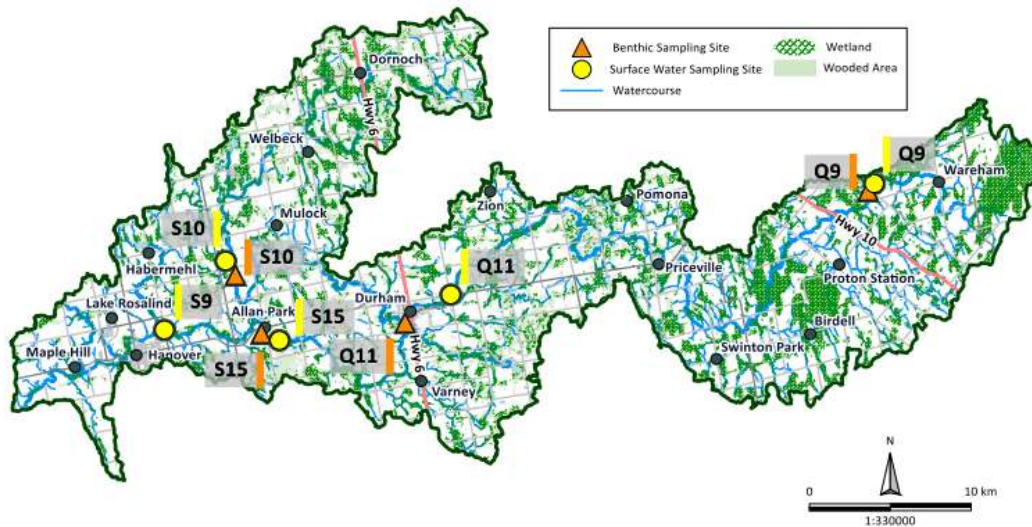


Figure 4. Map of the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highways 6 and 10), towns (including Dornoch, Durham, Priceville and Proton Station), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

### 5.3.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review of the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed indicated exceedances for total phosphorus, nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite, and *E. coli*.

Total phosphorus concentrations at S15 exceeded the PWQO five times in 2023, between June to November. There was one exceedance at Q9 in July. Nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite had one exceedance at Q11 in November (3.13 mg/L).

Total suspended solids and chloride concentrations remained below the water quality objectives with no exceedances detected.

*E. coli* concentrations exceeded PWQO objectives at multiple sites from June to November (seven exceedances).

### 5.3.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

The long-term review of the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed indicated exceedances for annual average total phosphorus, and *E. coli* concentrations.

At S15, annual average total phosphorus concentrations exceeded the PWQO in 2022 for the first time, since monitoring began in 2012. An exceedance was also noted in 2023 at S15.

Nitrogen, chloride, and total suspended solids concentrations remained well below the water quality objectives with no exceedances. Nitrogen concentrations displayed a gradual increase at Q11, Q9, and S9.

There was a total of eleven exceedances for annual average *E. coli* concentrations: one at Q11, five at Q9, three at S10, and two at S15.

### 5.3.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

The local abundance of species in this subwatershed, ranged from 308 to 400 individuals per sample. The lowest species richness was recorded at 14 species in 2015 and 2016. The highest species richness was recorded at 20 species in 2018.

The FBI has decreased from 6.07 to 3.75 from 2015 to 2021. This suggests water quality has improved from fairly poor to excellent.

## 5.4 Rocky Saugeen River

The Rocky Saugeen River stretches for 51.4km and drains an area of 282 km<sup>2</sup>. Its tributaries include McKechnie, Blacks, Traverston, and Barhead Creeks, as well as the West Arm Rocky Saugeen River. As one of the most forested watersheds, this system is known for its rolling landscape, rocky outcrops, and winding streams. The river's source can be traced to significant wetlands (Bells Lake and the Beavertdale Bog); primarily owned by Saugeen Conservation.

Two long term monitoring sites are established in the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed (Figure 5). These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q12) and SVCA's internal monitoring program (S12).

All graphical data representation for the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix E.

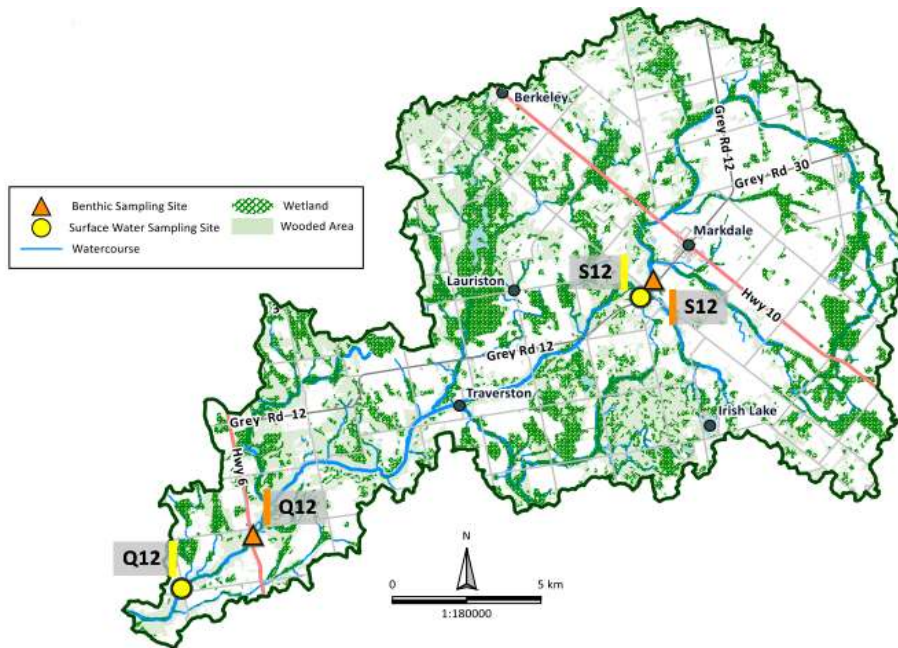


Figure 5. Map of the Rocky Saugeen River subwatershed and locations of the surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highways 6 & 10, Grey Roads 12 and 30), towns (including Markdale and Traverston), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

#### 5.4.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review of the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed indicated water quality objective exceedances for total phosphorus and *E. coli*.

Total phosphorus concentrations exceeded the PWQO at S12 in July, reaching 0.036 mg/L.

*E. coli* concentrations were typically below the PWQO, with exceedances noted in July (S12 and Q12).

No exceedances occurred for nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite, chloride, and total suspended solids in 2023.

#### 5.4.2 Surface Water – Long-term

The long-term review of this subwatershed indicated parameter exceedances for total phosphorus and *E. coli*.

There were no annual average total phosphorus exceedances at Q12. In 2014 and 2022, S12 had exceeded PWQO at 0.032mg/L and 0.037mg/L, respectively.

From 2012 to 2023, average *E. coli* concentrations were frequently elevated at S12, with 66% of annual averages exceeding the PWQO. There were no *E. coli* exceedances at Q12.

There were no exceedances recorded for nitrogen, chloride, and total suspended solids for either site. Although below objectives, nitrogen at S12 has shown a slight increase since 2012.

### 5.4.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

From 2019 to 2021, the local abundance of species per sample has decreased significantly. However, the 2021 abundance was still above the minimum 100 animal count. Species richness has been variable, ranging from 22 to 13 species per sample.

Since 2015, FBI has shown a general decrease from 5.83 to 3.35. This suggests significant improvement has occurred during the review period, with water quality now in very good condition.

## 5.5 North Saugeen River

The North Saugeen subwatershed drains an area of 269 km<sup>2</sup> and is primarily composed of agricultural and forested land. The North Saugeen River spans 52 km in length, with tributaries including Negro and Hamilton Creeks, as well as several smaller unnamed creeks. The watershed is home to natural ponds and lakes, including Robson Lake and McCullough Lake.

Three long term monitoring sites are established in the North Saugeen subwatershed (Figure 6). These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q5 and Q8) and the SVCA's internal monitoring program (S11).

All graphical data representation for the North Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix F.

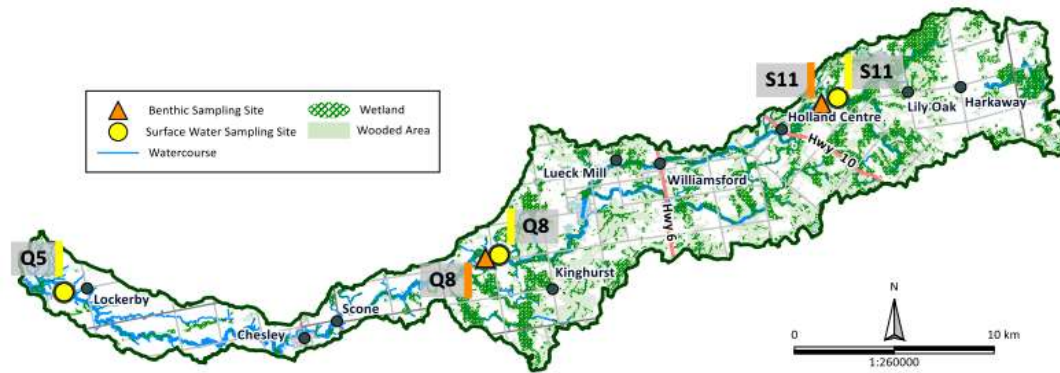


Figure 6. Map of the North Saugeen subwatershed and the location of the surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highways 10 and 6) towns (including Lockerby, Chesley and Holland Centre), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

### 5.5.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review of the North Saugeen subwatershed indicated concentrations were generally below the water quality objectives, with exceedances noted for total suspended solids, total phosphorus and *E. coli*.

Q5 exceeded objectives for total suspended solids in July and November reaching 30.7 mg/L and 56.6 mg/L, respectively.

Total phosphorus has three exceedances in 2023 in February, October, and November. All exceedances occurred at Q5.

*E. coli* exceeded objectives at Q5 (September, October and November), Q8 (September), and S11 (July).

Nitrogen and chloride were both well below water quality objectives.

### 5.5.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

A long-term annual average review of parameters reveals exceedances for total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and *E. coli*.

There were nine annual average total phosphorus exceedances, most occurring at Q5 (89% of the time). S11 had one average total phosphorus exceedance in 2022 at 0.034mg/L. There were no total phosphorus exceedances at Q8.

There were two annual average total suspended solids exceedances: Q5 in 2014 (68.22mg/L) and Q5 in 2003 (31.58 mg/L). All Q5 samples were elevated when compared to Q8 and S11.

Between 2012 and 2023, average *E. coli* concentrations at Q5 exceeded the PWQO 66% of the time (eight exceedances total). Q8 had two annual average *E. coli* exceedances, in 2019 and 2022.

Annual average chloride and nitrogen concentrations were below the CWQG for all sites. Although below the objectives, S11 has showed a slight, steady increase in nitrogen since 2012.

### 5.5.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2020)

Since 2015, local abundance of individuals present per sample has been consistent, with a slight increase in 2020.

Species richness ranged from 28 to 16 species from 2015 to 2020.

The average FBI score for this subwatershed is 4.73, suggesting the overall water quality is good. FBI ranged from 5.42 (2019) to 3.83 (2020).

## 5.6 Teeswater River

Spanning 75 km in length, the Teeswater River drains an area of 683 km<sup>2</sup>. Its tributaries consist of Greenock, Formosa, Alps, Plum, Kinlough, Schmidt, and Allen Creeks. The Teeswater subwatershed contains the Greenock Swamp, the largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario.

Four long term monitoring sites are established in the Teeswater subwatershed (Figure 7). These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q6) and the SVCA's internal monitoring program (S1, S2, and S7).

All graphical data representation for the Teeswater subwatershed can be found in Appendix G.

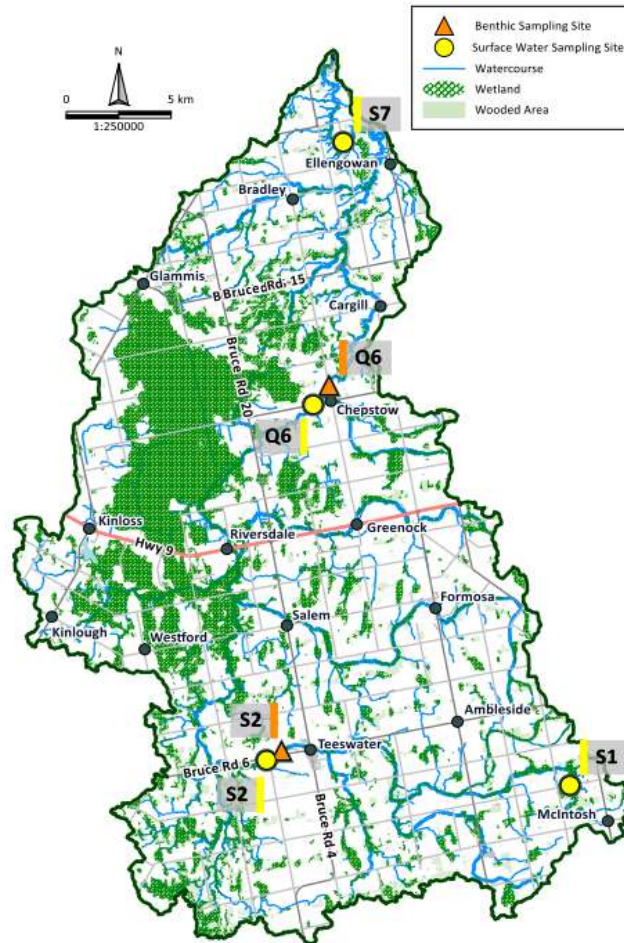


Figure 7. Map of the Teeswater subwatershed surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highway 9, Bruce Roads 6 and 15), towns (including Chepstow, Teeswater and Formosa), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

### 5.6.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review of the Teeswater subwatershed indicated numerous total phosphorus, *E. coli*, and nitrogen exceedances. There were also two total suspended solids exceedances.

There were a total of four total phosphorous exceedances in 2023: October and November (S2 and S7).

All nitrogen samples at S2 exceeded the CWQG in 2023. S7 had exceedances in October and November, Q6 had one exceedance in January and S1 had one exceedance in April.

Chloride concentrations were well below the water quality objectives for all sites.

*E. coli* exceedances were observed at Q6, S2 and S7 from September to November. These results occurred following rain in the 3 days leading up to the sampling event, 10mm in September, 20mm in October, and 6.8 mm in November.

### 5.6.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

The long-term review within the Teeswater subwatershed showed numerous exceedances for total phosphorus, nitrogen, and *E. coli*.

There were nine annual average exceedances for total phosphorus: three at Q6, two at S2, and four at S7. S1 consistently remained below objectives.

Average nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite concentrations were generally below the CWQG, except for S2 which had eleven annual exceedances. Concentrations at S2 and S7 suggest a gradual average increase from 2016 to 2022.

Average chloride and total suspended solids concentrations were below the water quality objectives with no exceedances. Chloride concentrations at S2 indicated an overall increase.

From 2012 to 2023, *E. coli* concentrations were frequently elevated, with multiple exceedances. S1 had the highest number of exceedances (six), followed by S2 (five). S7 had four annual exceedances and Q6 had three annual exceedances.

### 5.6.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

The local abundance of species observed generally increased from 336 to 383 from 2015 to 2020. Species richness has been consistent, with an average of 16 species per sample.

The FBI has decreased from 6.67 to 4.48 from 2015 to 2021. This suggests water quality has improved in this subwatershed.

## 5.7 Lower Main Saugeen River

With a drainage area of 908 km<sup>2</sup>, the Saugeen River within this watershed spans 76 kilometers in length. Its main tributaries consist of Mill, Burgoyne, Snake, Vesta, Pearl, Deer, Otter, Willow, and Silver Creeks, along with numerous smaller watercourses.

Four long term monitoring sites are established in the Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed. These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q3, Q4, and Q7) and the SVCA's internal monitoring program (S8). (Figure 8).

All graphical data representation for the Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix H.

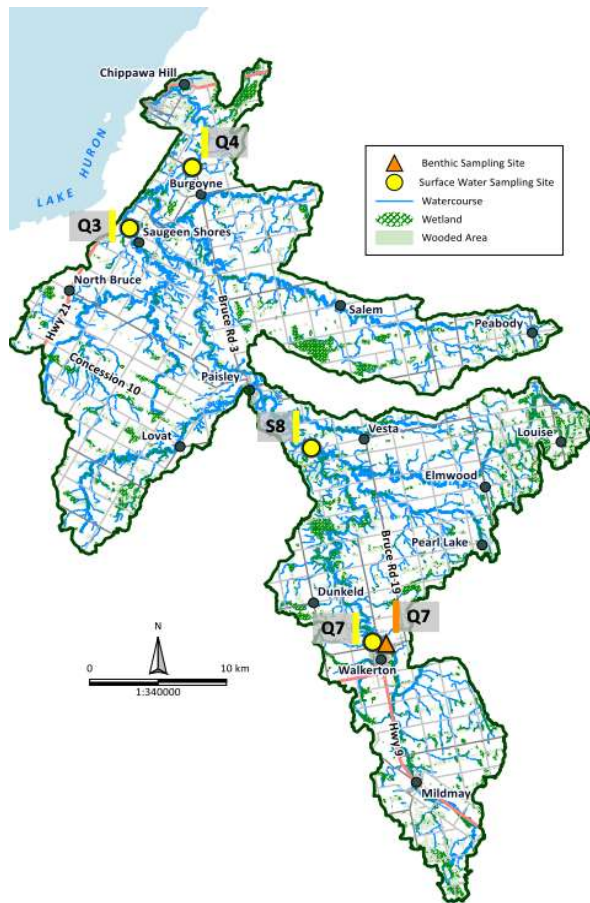


Figure 8. Map of the Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed and the locations of the surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highways 21 and 9, Bruce Roads 3 and 19), towns (including Saugeen Shores, Paisley, Elmwood and Walkerton), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

### 5.7.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review indicated concentrations exceeded water quality objectives for all parameters except chloride.

There were seven total phosphorus exceedances at Q3 in 2023. Q4 had three exceedances and S8 had 2 exceedances.

All sites had nitrogen; nitrate- nitrite, *E. coli* and total suspended solids exceedances.

### 5.7.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

Between 2002 and 2023, average total phosphorus concentrations at Q3 exceeded PWQO 81% of the time. During this time, Q4 had six exceedances and S8 had two exceedances.

Average nitrogen concentrations were below the CWQG for all sites except for Q3 in 2015, 2018, 2021, and 2023. Average total suspended solids had annual exceedances at all sites apart from Q7. Q3 and Q4 had three exceedances, and S8 had one.

From 2012 to 2023, Q3 exceeded average *E. coli* concentrations for PQWO 32% of the time. Exceedances occurred at Q4 (2015, 2020, and 2023), Q7 (2022), and S8 (2020 and 2023). In 2014, Q3 had the highest average *E. coli* concentration at 2366 cfu/100mL, 23 times higher than the PWQO.

There were no chloride exceedances.

### 5.7.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

The local abundance of species decreased from 318 to 273 from 2015 to 2021. Species richness has increased from 11 to 17 species from 2015 to 2021.

In 2015 the FBI score was 6.07, suggesting water quality was in fairly poor condition. By 2021, the FBI dropped to 4.63, suggesting water quality has improved. Over the review period, the average FBI was 5.37.

## 5.8 Lake Fringe

Stretching from north of Kincardine to Southampton, the Lake Fringe subwatershed has a drainage area of 254 km<sup>2</sup>. Small tributaries flow directly into Lake Huron, including Lorne, Andrews, Tiverton, and Underwood Creeks, as well as the Little Sauble River. This subwatershed is predominantly agricultural, with intense development along the lakeshore. Lake Fringe subwatershed contains the coastal wetland, Baie du Dore.

Three long term monitoring sites are established in the Lake Fringe subwatershed (S4, S5, S6) (Figure 9). These sites are part of the SVCA's internal monitoring program established in 2012.

All graphical data representation for the Lake Fringe subwatershed can be found in Appendix I.

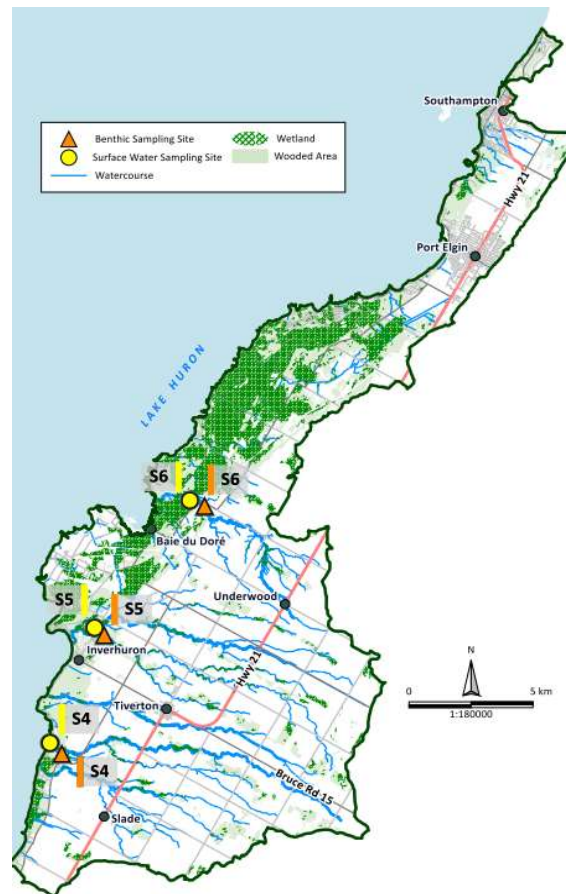


Figure 9. Map of the Lake Fringe subwatershed surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highway 21, Bruce Road 15), towns (including Southampton, Port Elgin and Tiverton), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

### 5.8.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review indicated exceedances for all parameters apart from chloride which had none.

In 2023, nitrogen concentrations exceeded the CWQG at five times at S4, three times at S5 and once at S6. S4 had the highest recorded concentration at 10.1 mg/L in July.

Total phosphorus exceeded the PWQO ten times, twice at S4, and four times each at S5 and S6.

Total suspended solids were generally below the CWQG with only one exceedance at each site. There were no exceedances in chloride concentration.

*E. coli* concentrations exceeded the PWQO three times at S5, twice at S4 and twice at S6. S4 had the highest *E. coli* concentration in October at 3100 cfu/100mL. All three sites exceeded the PWQO in September and October.

### 5.8.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

The long-term averages in the Lake Fringe subwatershed indicate concentrations were generally below the objectives for each parameter except for total phosphorus, nitrogen, and *E. coli*.

Since 2012, there were five total phosphorous exceedances at S6 (2014, 2015, 2020, 2022, 2023). S6 had the highest average concentration of total phosphorus at 0.06 mg/L in 2022, double the PWQO. S4 had two exceedances (2015, 2023), and S5 had two (2015, 2023).

Average nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite concentrations were typically below the CWQG, except for S4 in 2015 and 2023, S6 in 2015, and S5 in 2018. Nitrogen concentrations were variable and did not show any trends.

There were six *E. coli* exceedances at S6, five at S5, and five at S4.

All three sites exceeded objectives for *E. coli* in 2015, 2020, and 2023. S5 had the highest average for *E. coli* counts at 1385 cfu/100mL in 2014, 13 times higher than the PWQO.

Chloride and total suspended solids did not have any average exceedances.

### 5.8.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2020)

The local abundance of individuals collected has been generally consistent. However, the 2018 sample event had a significant increase in individuals (520, up from 364 in 2016). Species richness was fairly consistent, ranging between 12 to 17 species per sample.

From 2015 to 2020, the FBI decreased from 6.86 to 5.12. This suggests water quality has improved in this subwatershed. The average FBI score is 5.95, indicating overall water quality in this subwatershed is in fairly poor condition.

## 5.9 Pine River

The Pine River in southern Bruce County flows through agricultural and densely developed lakeshore areas, before outletting into Lake Huron. Its main tributaries are Royal Oak and Clark Creeks, and the South Pine River, with a drainage area of 195km<sup>2</sup>. The region's fertile soil has supported agricultural development, leading to removal of wetlands and forests for land use purposes.

Two long term monitoring sites are established in the Pine River subwatershed. These sites are a combination of the PWQMN (Q1) and the SVCA's internal monitoring program (S3). (Figure 10).

All graphical data representation for the Pine River subwatershed can be found in Appendix J.

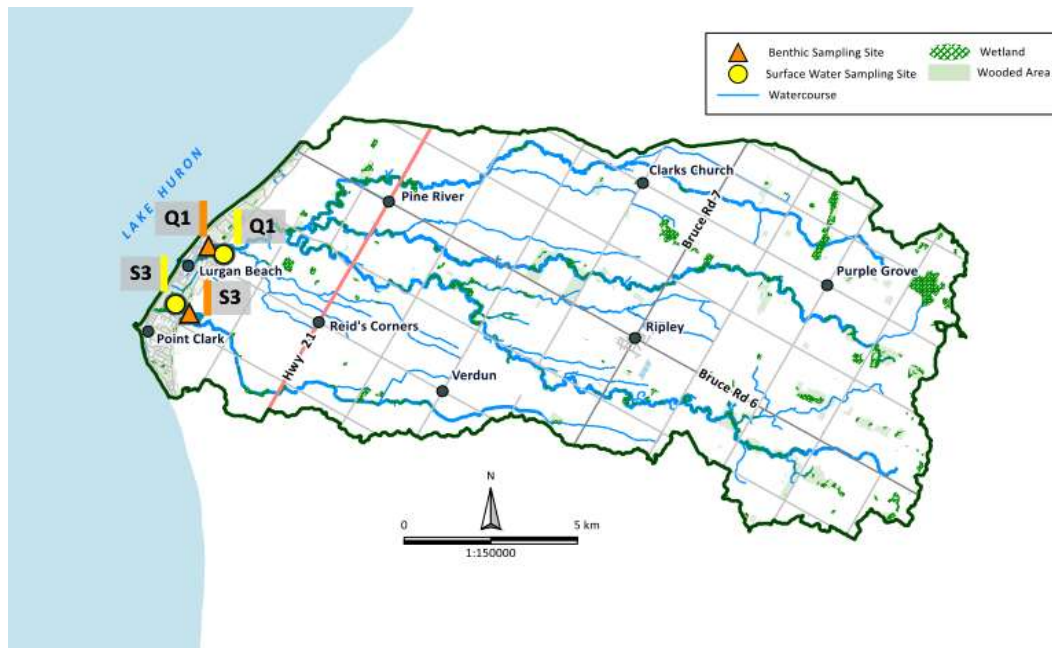


Figure 10. Map of the Pine River subwatershed showing locations of surface water and benthic sampling sites. A major roadway (Highway 21), towns (including Point Clark and Ripley), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

### 5.9.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review of surface water indicated overall concentrations were frequently above the water quality objectives for each parameter except for chloride, which had no exceedances.

Total phosphorus exceeded the PWQO at Q1 three times, and five times at S3. S3 displayed the lowest results in the spring and increased through to October before decreasing in November. Q1 had the highest concentration at 0.18 mg/L in October.

Nitrogen concentrations exceeded the CWQG several times at each site; Q1 had 3 exceedances (April, October, November) and S3 had 6 exceedances (April, May, June, July, October, November). S3 had the highest concentration of nitrogen at 12 mg/L in May, four times higher than the CWQO.

*E. coli* counts indicated three exceedances at Q1 (September, October, November), and five at S3 (June, July, August, September, October). Q1 had the highest *E. coli* concentration recorded of 3260 CFU/100mL in October.

Chloride concentrations across both sites recorded no exceedances in water quality objectives in 2023.

### 5.9.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

The long-term review revealed similar findings to the 2023 period with concentrations generally above the water quality objectives.

There were exceedances for total phosphorus at Q1 for 27% of the samples. S3 exceeded the PWQO for 91% of the yearly averages. Q1 had the highest average concentration of total phosphorus at 0.25 mg/L in 2005, eight times higher than the PWQO.

Average nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite concentrations at S3 consistently exceeded the CWQG, except for 2016. Average concentrations at Q1 exceeded objectives 77% of the time. S3 had the highest average concentration of nitrogen at 9.32 mg/L in 2021.

Average *E. coli* exceedances occurred at Q1 (66% of samples) and S3 (92% of samples). S3 consistently exceeded the PWQO since 2017. The highest sample at S3 was 1301.50 cfu/100mL in 2017, thirteen times higher than the PWQO.

There were no exceedances for chloride in the Pine River subwatershed. Chloride concentrations at S3 showed a slight increase from 2012 to 2023.

### 5.9.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

The local abundance of individuals in this subwatershed has decreased since 2015. Abundance has ranged from 359 to 107 (2016 to 2020, respectively). Species richness has remained consistent, with an average of 13.7 species per sample event.

The FBI had an average score of 5.7 over the reporting period. This indicates water quality in fair condition. In 2020, the FBI decreased to 3.71, but increased again in 2021.

### 5.10 Penetangore River

The Penetangore River subwatershed, consists of two main tributaries, the North and Main Penetangore Rivers, and two intermediate ones, Millarton and Kincardine Creeks. The river drains a 192 km<sup>2</sup> area and spans 51.2 km in length. The subwatershed, mainly used for agriculture (83%), is smooth, gently sloping terrain.

One long term monitoring station is established in the Penetangore subwatershed, as part of the PWQMN, Q2. (Figure 11).

All graphical data representation for the Penetangore River subwatershed can be found in Appendix K.

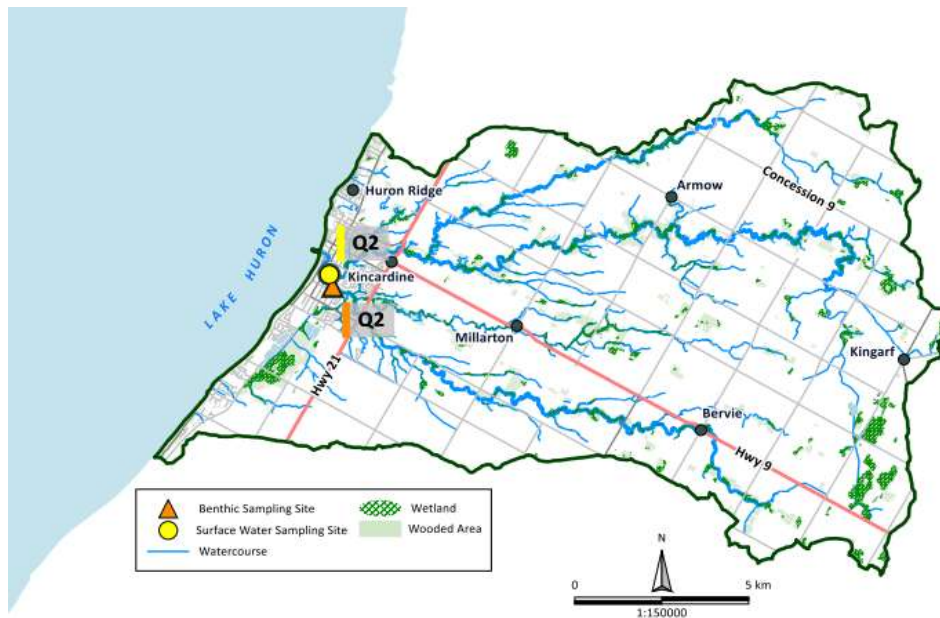


Figure 11. Map of the Penetangore subwatershed and the locations of the surface water and benthic sampling sites. Major roadways (Highways 21 and 9), towns (including Kincardine and Bervie), wooded areas, wetlands and watercourses are also featured.

#### 5.10.1 Surface Water Results – 2023

The 2023 review indicated concentrations were generally below the water quality objectives, except for a few events where exceedances were recorded. There were no chloride exceedances in 2023.

There were four total phosphorus exceedances in 2023. There were also four nitrogen exceedances.

Chloride concentrations were slightly elevated from June to September, although all samples remained below the CWQG. Total suspended solids were below the CWQG for 2023.

*E. coli* concentrations exceeded the PWQO in September and October.

#### 5.10.2 Surface Water Results – Long-term

The long-term review indicated that concentrations for all parameters, except chloride, were often above the water quality objectives.

Average total phosphorus concentrations frequently exceeded PWQO from 2002 to 2023, 52% of the time. The highest average concentration of total phosphorus was 0.133 mg/L in 2020, over four times higher than the PWQO.

Average nitrogen concentrations were generally below the CWQG, except for three exceedances in 2010, 2015, and 2023.

Average chloride concentrations had no exceedances. Total suspended solids were also typically below the CWQG, with three exceedances in 2004, 2010, and 2014.

*E. coli* concentrations were frequently elevated, with 75% of yearly averages exceeding the PWQO.

### 5.10.3 Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

The local abundance of individuals per sample increased from 2019 to 2021 (from 304 to 2108). Although the species richness has decreased since 2015, it has been consistent the past two sample years of 2019 and 2021.

FBI has gradually been decreasing since 2017. The average FBI for this subwatershed is 5.79, indicating water quality is fairly poor.

## 6. Summary of Results

### 6.1 2023 Results – All Subwatersheds

In 2023, surface water quality in the Saugeen watershed was fair to poor. Total phosphorus concentrations often exceeded the PWQO, a common occurrence in agricultural watersheds. Of the 29 sampled sites, 18 exceeded the PWQO at least once. The highest exceedance was in the Lower Saugeen subwatershed. Total phosphorous concentrations tended to be more variable from July through September.

Nitrogen levels exceeded the PWQO in seven out of ten subwatersheds during at least one sample event. Sample sites in Beatty Saugeen, North Saugeen, and Rocky Saugeen did not show any nitrogen exceedances. The highest nitrogen concentration was in the Pine River subwatershed. Studies have demonstrated commonality between fluctuations in nitrogen levels and seasonal agricultural practices, other contributing factors may exist.

*E. coli* concentrations at all sites exceeded the PWQO at least once during 2023. The highest number of exceedance events occurred in the Pine River subwatershed (five events). Rainfall events could be connected to increased *E. coli* counts in all subwatersheds.

Total suspended solids concentrations were generally below the CWQG in most subwatersheds. Total suspended solids exceedances were observed closer to river outlets, along with other parameter exceedances, potentially indicating a transport mechanism for other nutrients. There were no identifiable trends for total suspended solids.

Chloride concentrations stayed below the CWQG across all subwatersheds, with the highest concentration event in the Pine River subwatershed. High chloride concentrations are commonly related to road salt application. Based on the report findings, the Saugeen watershed appears to be largely unaffected by this application. This could be attributed to the presence of riparian buffers in the SVCA watershed. As climate change intensifies, winter storms and urban development expands, chloride levels might be impacted.

### 6.2 Long-Term Results – All Subwatersheds

A long-term assessment of the Saugeen watershed's surface water quality has now been completed, extending the reporting made through Watershed Report Cards. This 2002-2023 study has the following general findings:

#### **Total Phosphorous**

- Annual average total phosphorus concentrations exceeded the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L every year.
- Q1 in the Pine River subwatershed had the highest annual average in 2005 at 0.25 mg/L, eight times higher than the PWQO.
- In 2023 all subwatersheds exceeded the PWQO for total phosphorus.

#### **Nitrogen: Nitrate-Nitrite**

- Six out of the ten subwatersheds (Lake Fringe, Lower Saugeen, Penetangore River, Pine River, South Saugeen, Teeswater River) exceeded the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L for nitrogen from 2002 to 2023.
- S3 in the Pine River subwatershed had the highest average nitrogen concentration at 14.8 mg/L, five times higher than the CWQG.

#### **Chloride**

- All subwatersheds maintained chloride concentrations below the CWQG of 120 mg/L.
- S6 in the Lake Fringe subwatershed had the highest chloride concentration at 35.8 mg/L.
- Chloride concentrations remained relatively stable over time, with no noticeable trend.

#### ***E. Coli***

- From 2012 to 2023, 90% of the sampling sites exceeded the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for annual average *E. coli* concentrations.
- The highest *E. coli* concentrations were at Q2 (Penetangore subwatershed) with 2400 cfu/100mL, twenty-four times the PWQO.

#### **Total Suspended Solids**

- Most sites remained below the CWQG of 30 mg/L for total suspended solids since 2012. Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, S8, Q1, and Q14 exceeded the CWQG at least once.
- Q1 (Pine River) had the highest total suspended solids concentration in 2010 at 100.17 mg/L, three times the CWQG.

### **6.3 Benthic Macroinvertebrates**

The Saugeen watershed demonstrates fluctuations in species abundance and richness. Species richness varies from 12.7 in Penetangore to 19.8 in North Saugeen. All but North Saugeen and Upper Main Saugeen had increased richness, although they maintain a higher richness than other subwatersheds. Despite a decline in species abundance at 70% of subwatersheds, all samples contained a minimum of 100 individuals. (OBBN standard).

The FBI decreased in all but Pine River and Beatty Saugeen subwatersheds. Beatty Saugeen has the lowest average FBI of 4.07, indicating excellent water quality. The Lake Fringe subwatershed has the highest FBI of 5.95, indicating possible pollution.

## 7. Discussion

### 7.1 Surface Water

The Saugeen watershed has both short and long term trends observed in total phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations. Agriculturally dominant areas can commonly experience high phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations through over-fertilization, excess manure, and soil erosion (Burdon, McIntosh & Harding, 2013). Research suggests cropping systems, particularly row crops like corn and soybeans, have more significant nutrient losses compared to perennial crops such as hay (Randall et al. 1997; Schilling & Spooner, 2006). Over-fertilization can lead to excess phosphorus and nitrogen in the soils, eventually entering our surface waters through erosion.

High *E. coli* concentrations can come from sources such as livestock manure, rural area wastewater treatment and leaking septic systems (Brendel & Soupir, 2017). Excessive manure application or post-application rainfall can also lead to *E. coli* transportation into streams via tile drains.

How might farming practices and waste management systems be altered to mitigate nutrient pollution and *E. coli* contamination in the Saugeen watershed?

### 7.2 Benthic Macroinvertebrates

Aquatic organisms are crucial for maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems. Biodiversity, reflected by high species presence and variability, can be indicators of good water quality, especially when the species present have a low pollution tolerance.

Wooded riparian zones often have a positive influence on benthic diversity due to lower runoff potential and the ability to capture water in plants and soils (Stauffer et al. 1999). For example, the North Saugeen subwatershed, characterized by managed forests and buffered watercourses, has demonstrated an average species richness of 19.8 species from 2015 to 2020. In contrast, the more urbanized and agriculturally intensive Penetangore subwatershed, shows an average species richness of 12.7 species from 2015 to 2021.

Previous studies found that implementing conservation tillage practices yielded higher species richness and lower FBI scores than conventional tillage streams (Barton and Farmer); this further highlights the influence of land use on benthic diversity.

How could land management strategies be effectively implemented to improve water quality?

### 7.3 Agricultural Best Management Practices

Implementing best management practices (BMPs) in agriculture can improve water quality. Practices include riparian buffer strips, alterations in tillage practices, planting cover crops, proper nutrient management, and livestock exclusion fencing:

- Riparian buffers (i.e., vegetation surrounding a watercourse) are instrumental in filtering out nutrients and bacteria, moderating water temperature, providing habitats, and reducing erosion.
- Livestock exclusion fencing prevents livestock from entering watercourses, which can degrade water quality and damage riparian vegetation (Agriculture and Agri-Food

Canada, 2019). Heavy livestock presence around a watercourse can lead to increased soil erosion and high *E. coli* concentrations. Despite the initial costs, the long-term environmental and livestock health benefits make it a worthy investment.

- Over tilling can leave soil bare and susceptible to soil erosion and moisture loss; this can cause water pollution and degraded soil health through reduced infiltration and high runoff potential. Soil erosion can further cause significant nutrient inputs into our watercourses as well as high total suspended solids concentrations. Implementation of conservation tillage practices can leave crop residue on the soil surface, thereby reducing erosion and nutrient runoff (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2019; Busari et al. 2015). Conservation tillage can range from no tillage to minimum tillage or mulch tillage.
- Cover crops provide benefits similar to those of riparian buffers, including increased water infiltration and retention, decreased surface runoff, and reduced nutrient loss through soil erosion. They also can reduce wind erosion, recycle soil nitrogen and control weeds without the use of herbicides (Dabney, Delgado & Reeves, 2001).

Historically, a large percentage of southern Ontario's small streams were in poor condition, and the subsequent 32 years have witnessed significant scientific advancements and improvement in water quality through implementation of BMPs (Barton and Farmer).

Given these findings, what can be done to improve awareness and implementation of these best management practices?

#### 7.4 Economic Benefits to the Community

Key economic drivers in the Saugeen watershed are energy, agriculture, and tourism. These economic drivers all benefit from water quality monitoring:

- Regular water monitoring helps safeguard our watershed's environmental resources for energy operations and ensure no negative impact to our local aquatic ecosystems. Energy production is a substantial economic driver in the Saugeen watershed.
- Agriculture thrives on clean water for optimal crop and livestock health.
- Lake Huron's shoreline and recreational river systems are very appealing to tourists. This industry also benefits from a healthy watershed.

How can our watershed further optimize the use of water quality monitoring to boost these economic sectors?

### 8. Conclusion

SVCA's water quality monitoring programs are an integral part of understanding the health of the watershed. The purpose of this report is to identify trends in present water quality data and prepare for the future.

As development increases across the Saugeen watershed, the ongoing monitoring of water quality becomes increasingly important. Urban expansion drastically transforms the natural environment. SVCA staff provide insight on ecosystem health that will guide decision-making processes, foster sustainable development, and help adapt to evolving climate change.

This data analysis can be used to support municipal land use planning and development. Since SVCA subwatershed boundaries do not correspond to municipal boundaries, we must continue to collaborate at the watershed level.

The 2023 Water Quality Annual Report equips decision-makers with the knowledge needed to promote sustainable growth while protecting the natural resources within the Saugeen watershed.

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## Appendix A – Sample Suite of Parameters

*Parameters analyzed for PWQMN and SVCA sampling sites.*

Parameter	Units	PWQMN ('Q') Sites (Y/N)	SVCA ('S') Sites (Y/N)
<b>Alkalinity, Total as CaCO<sub>3</sub></b>	mg/L	Y	Y
Carbon, dissolved inorganic carbon	mg/L	Y	N
Carbon, dissolved organic	mg/L	Y	N
<b>Chloride</b>	mg/L	Y	Y
<b>Conductivity</b>	Varies	Y (μS/cm)	Y (mS/cm)
<i>E. coli</i>	[cfu/100mL]	Y	Y
Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium	mg/L	Y	N
<b>Nitrogen, Nitrite</b>	mg/L	Y	Y
<b>Nitrogen, Nitrate</b>	mg/L	Y	Y
<b>Nitrogen, Nitrate + Nitrite</b>	mg/L	Y	Y
<b>Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl</b>	mg/L	Y	Y
<b>pH</b>		Y	Y
Phosphorus, phosphate	mg/L	Y	N
Temperature	°C	N	Y
<b>Total Phosphorus</b>	Varies	Y (μg/L)	Y (mg/L)
<b>Total Suspended Solids</b>	mg/L	Y	Y
Silicon, reactive silicate	mg/L	Y	N
Sulphate	mg/L	N	Y

\*Metals are analyzed at select sites: Q1, Q4, Q12, and Q14

## Appendix B – South Saugeen Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

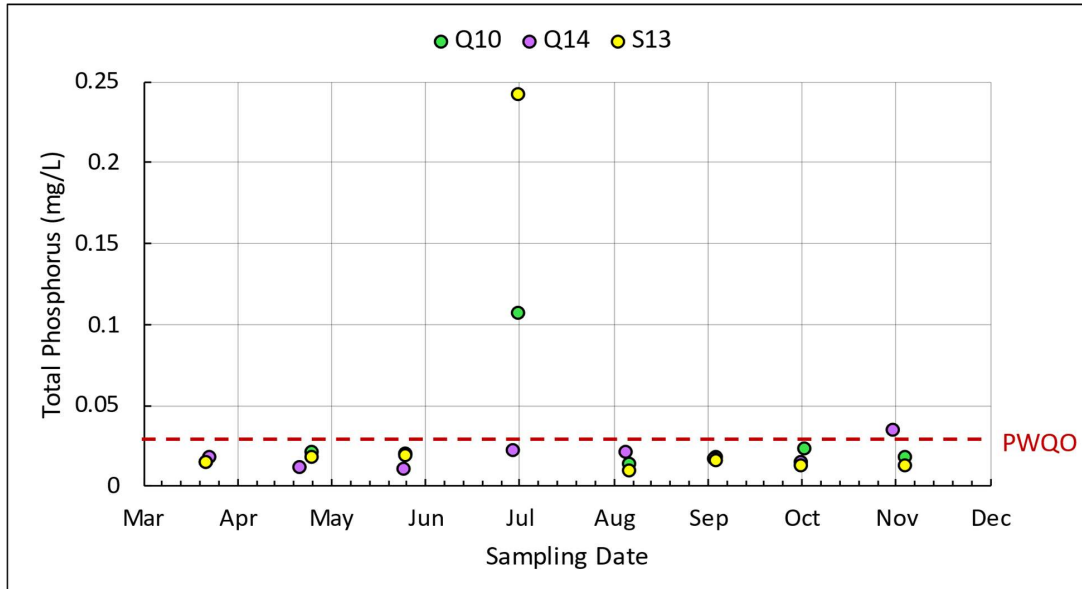


Figure B.1 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 3 exceedances of the PWQO.

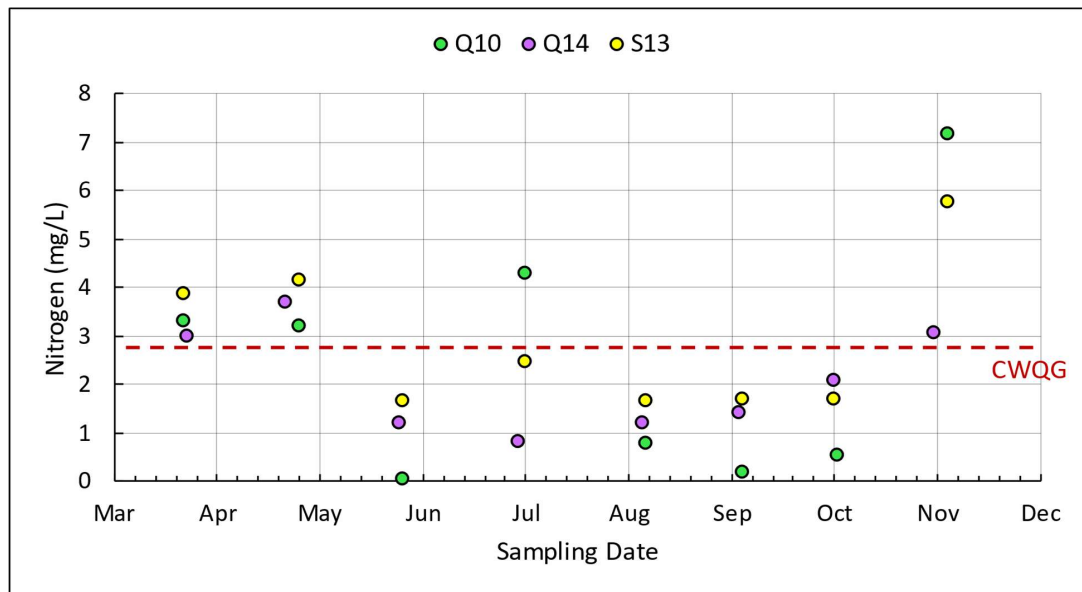


Figure B.2 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 10 exceedances of the CWQG.

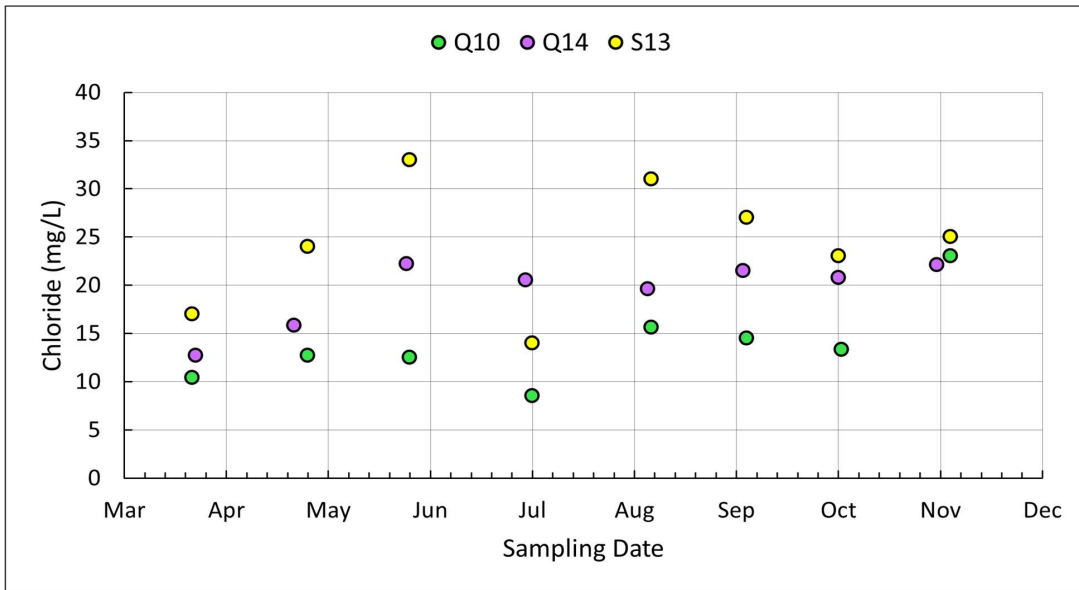


Figure B.3 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

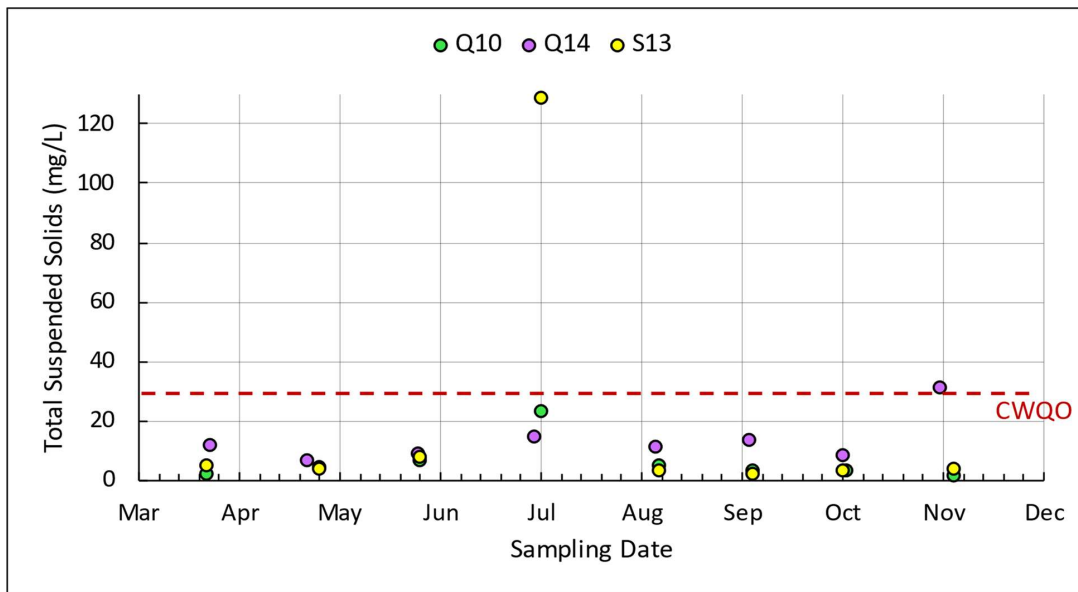


Figure B.4 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 2 exceedances of the CWQG.

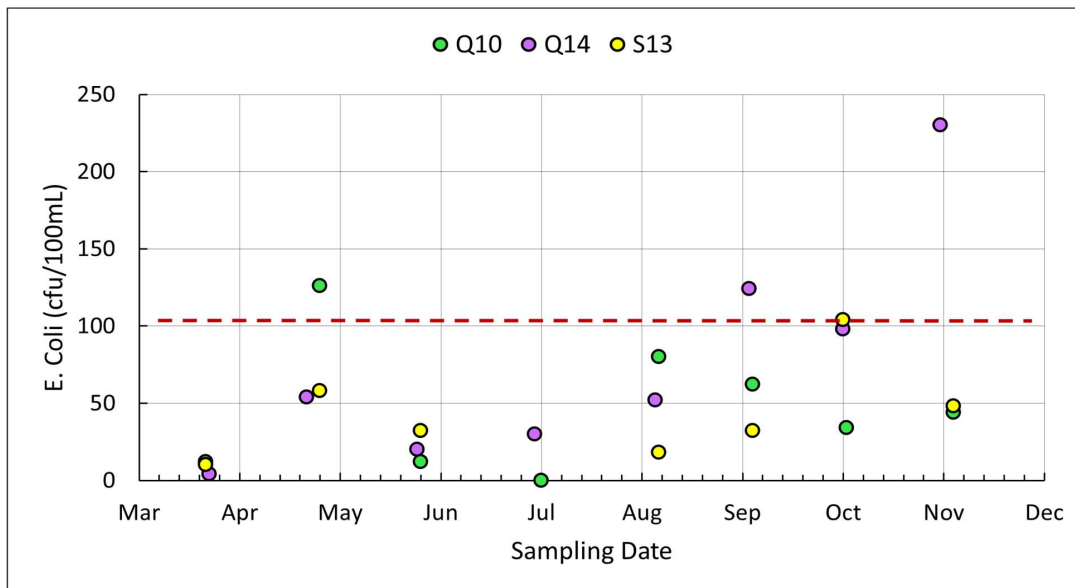


Figure B.5 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 5 exceedances of the PWQO, one exceedance in July at S13 is not shown on this graph (3900 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

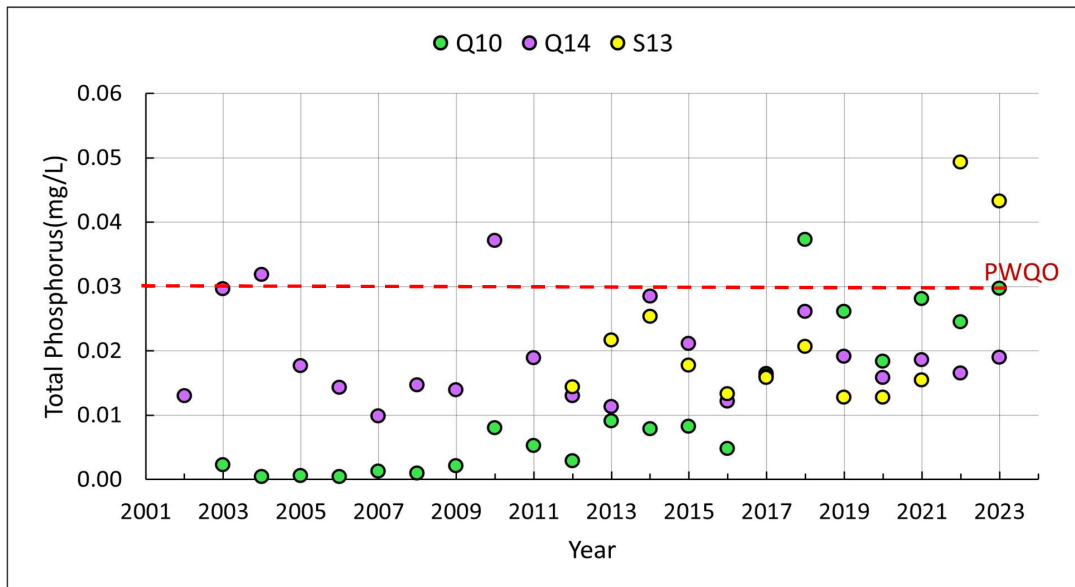


Figure B.6 2002 to 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 5 exceedances of the PWQO.

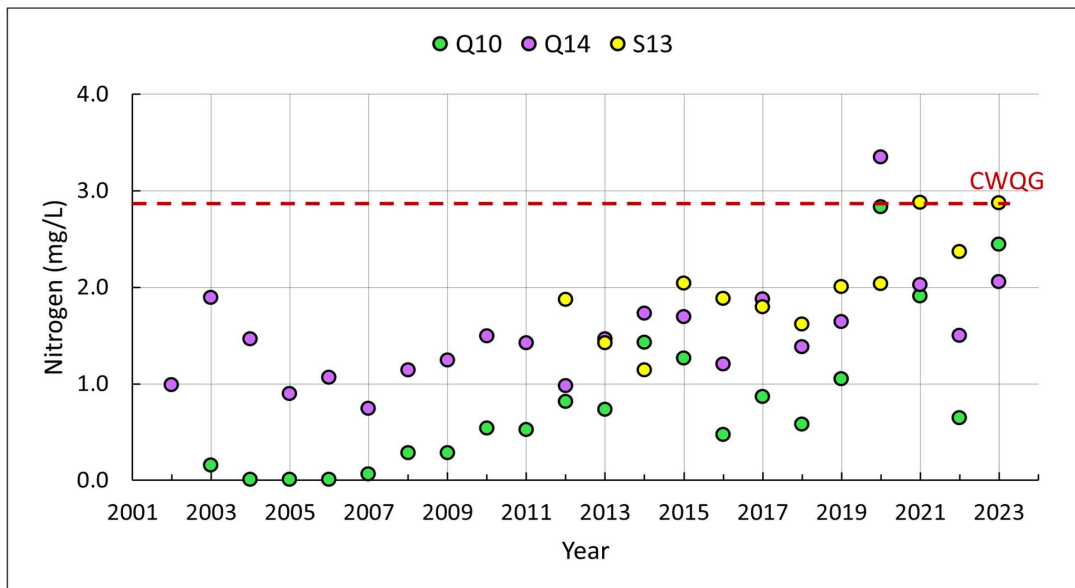


Figure B.7 2002 to 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There is 1 exceedance of the CWQG.

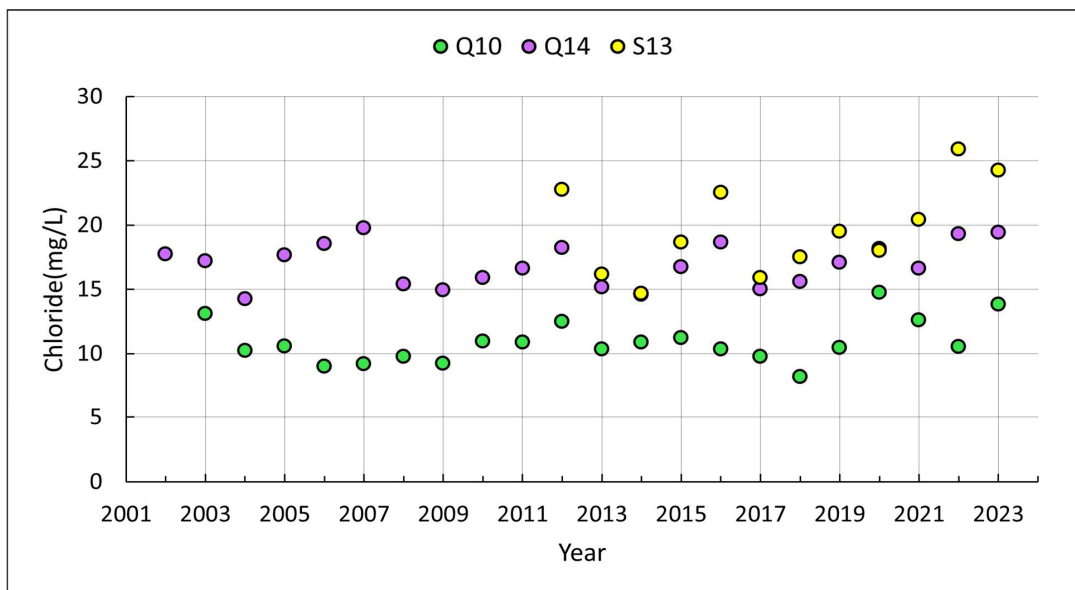


Figure B.8 2002 to 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

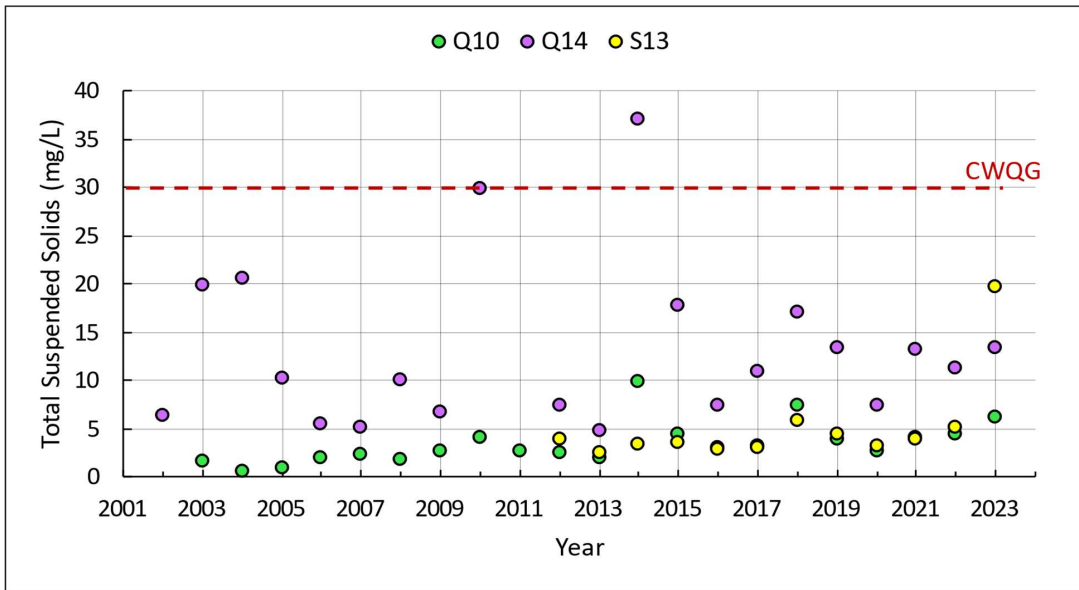


Figure B.9 2012 to 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 2 exceedances.

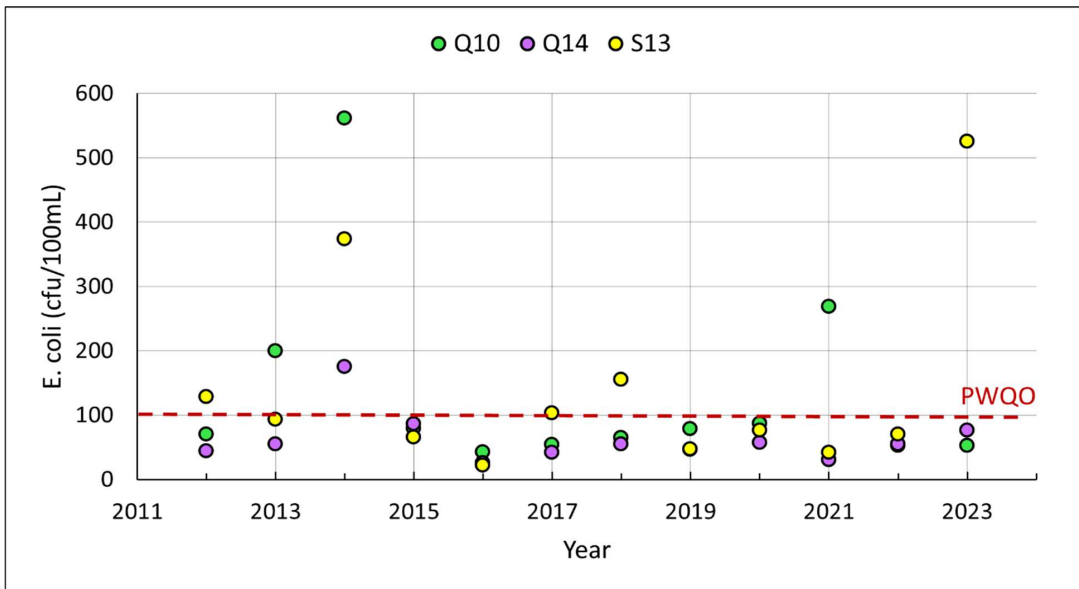


Figure B.10 2012 to 2023 South Saugeen subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q10, Q14 and S13 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 9 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2020)

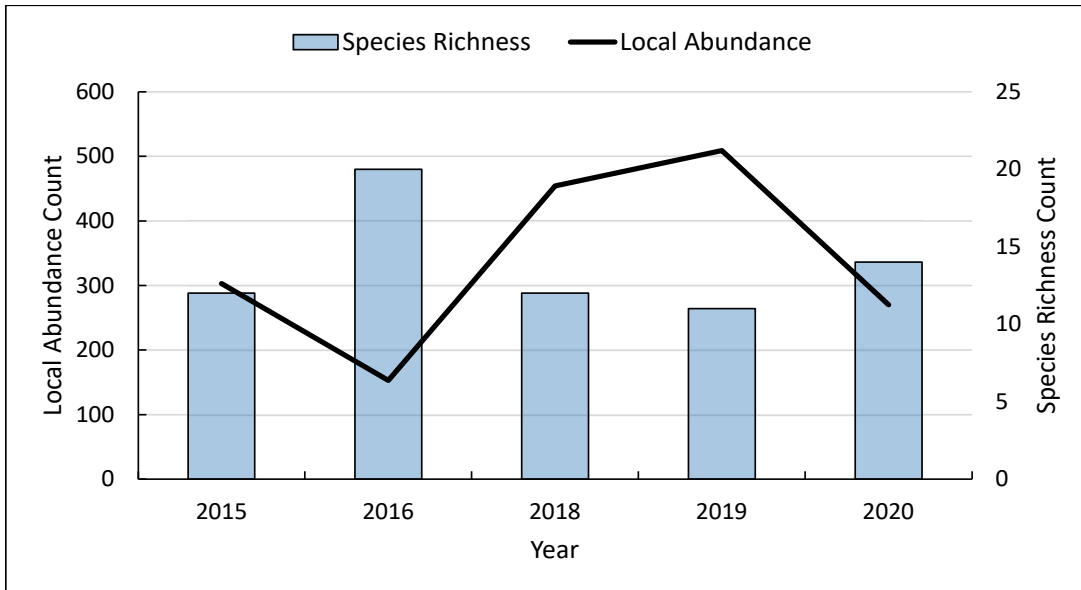


Figure B.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the South Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2020.

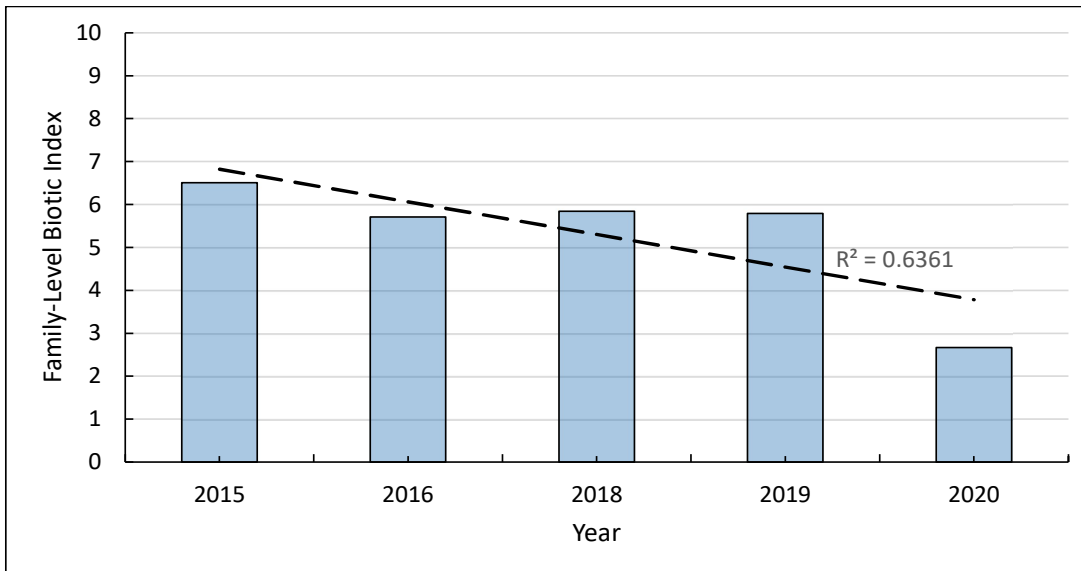


Figure B.12 Family-level biotic index scores for the South Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2020.

## Appendix C – Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

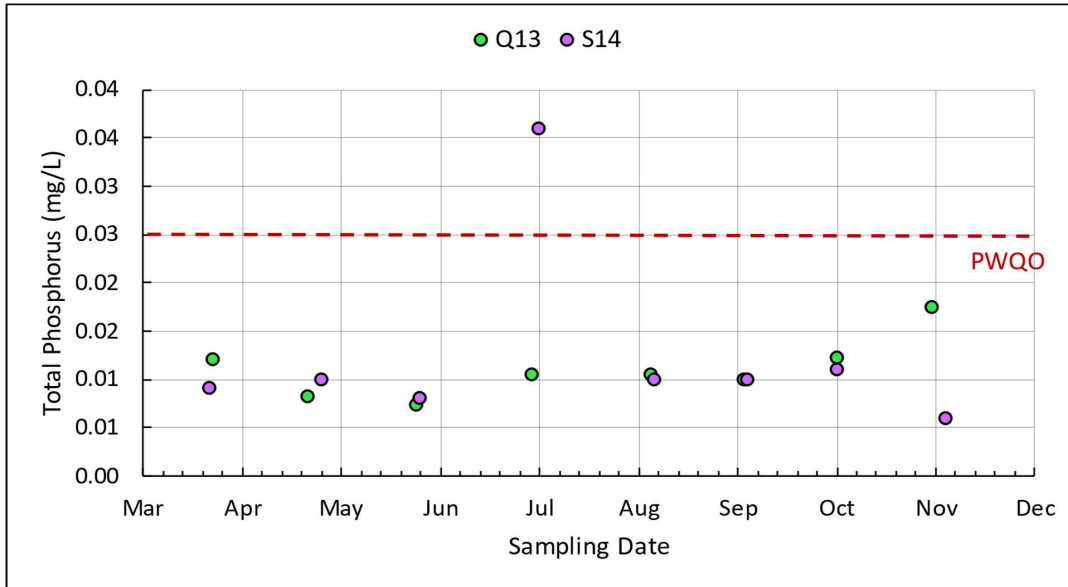


Figure C.1 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There is 1 exceedance of the PWQO.

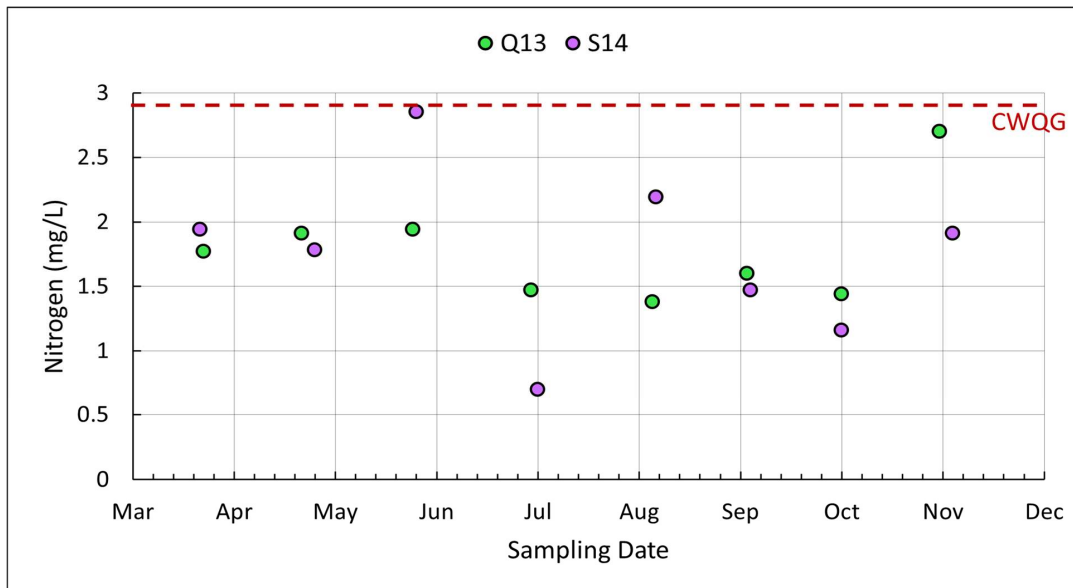


Figure C.2 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and Q14 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

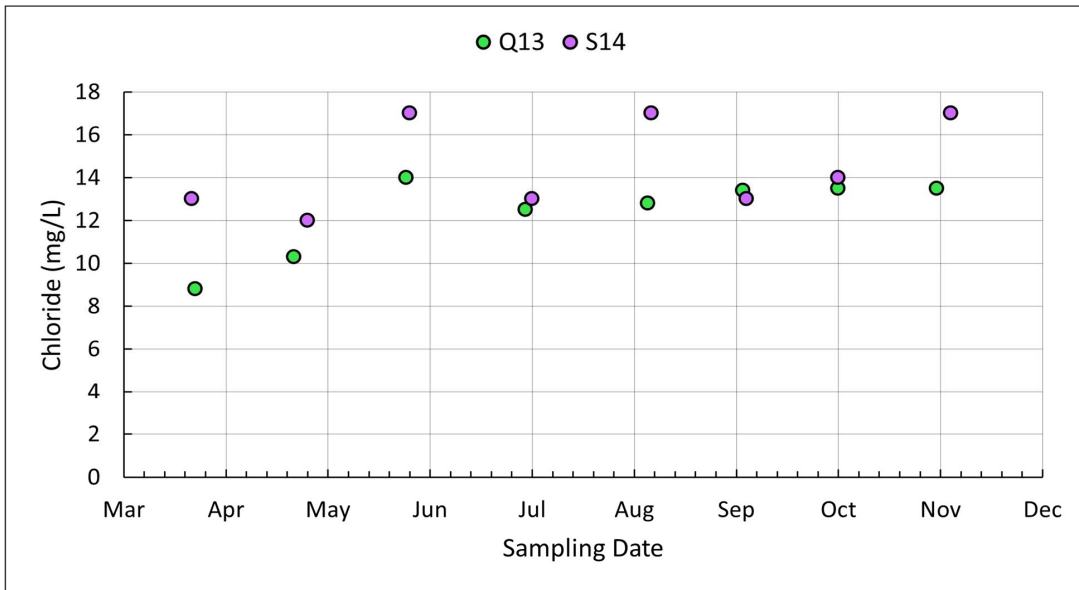


Figure C.3 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and Q14 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

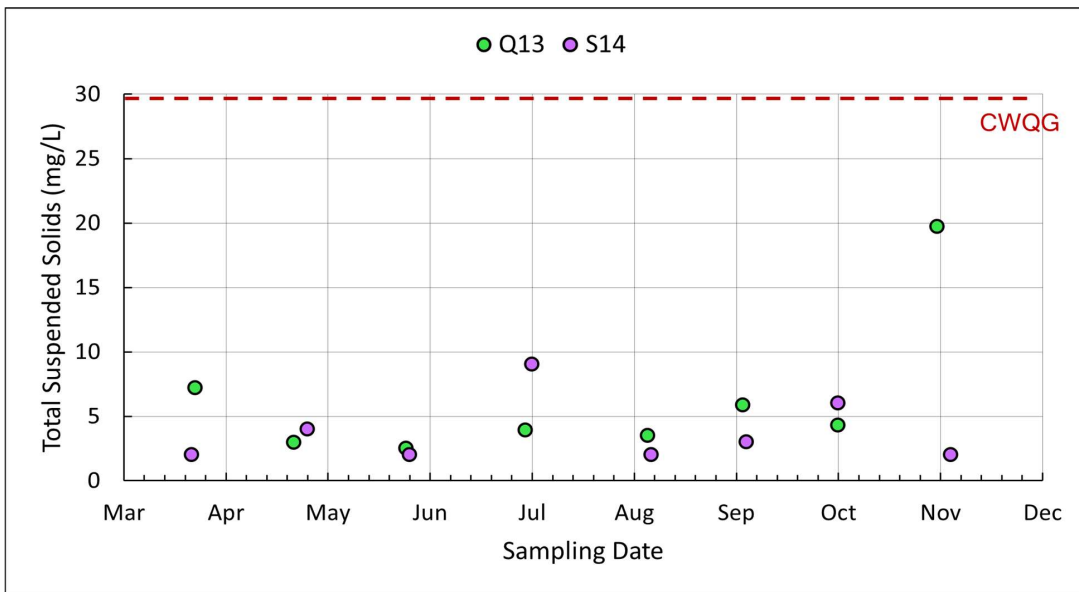


Figure C.4 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

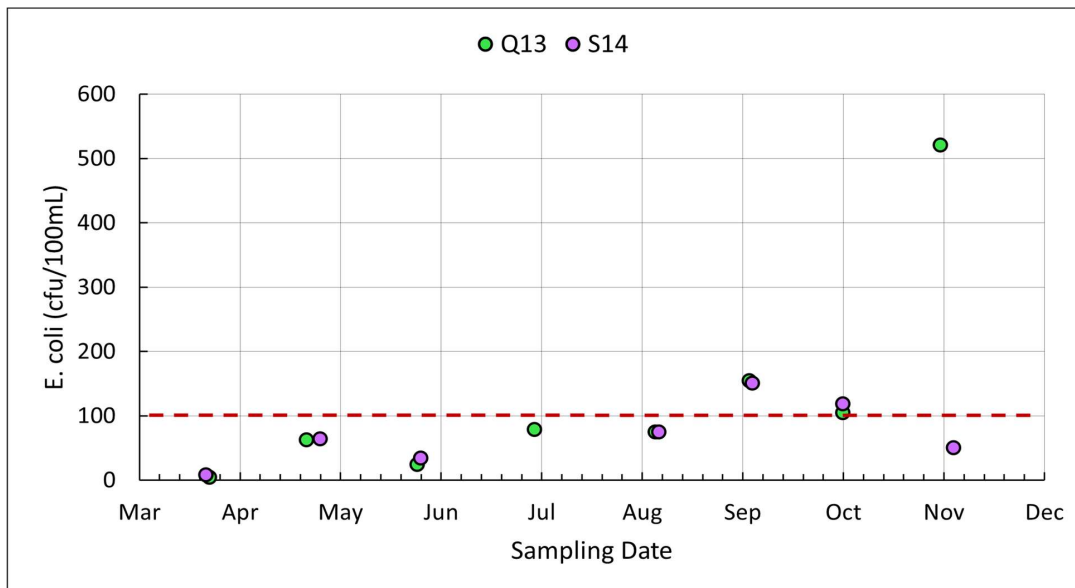


Figure C.5 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and Q14 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are six exceedances of the PWQO, the exceedance for July is not shown on this graph (1280 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

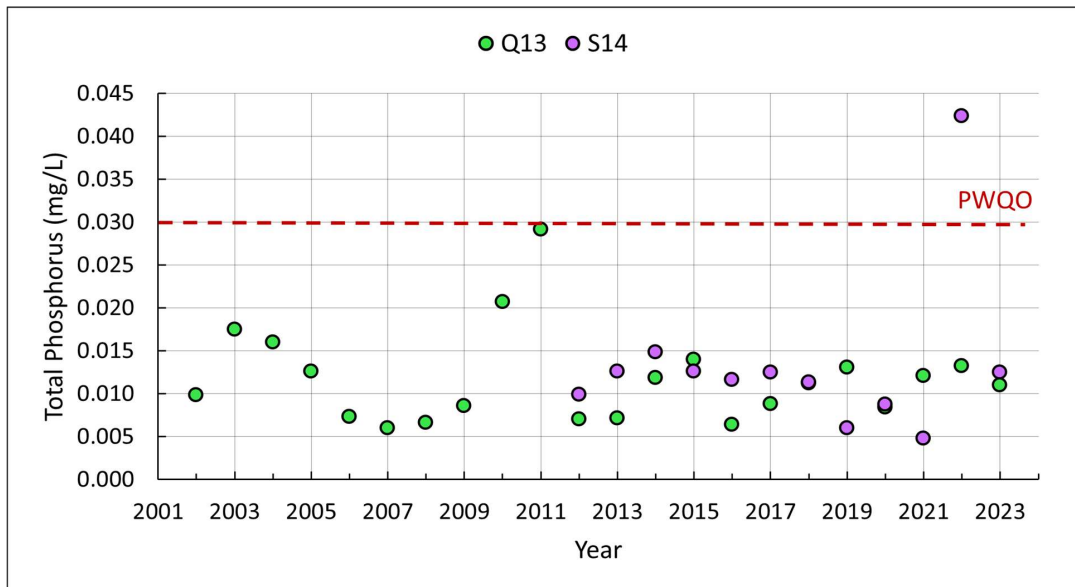


Figure C.6 2002 to 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There was 1 exceedance of the PWQO.

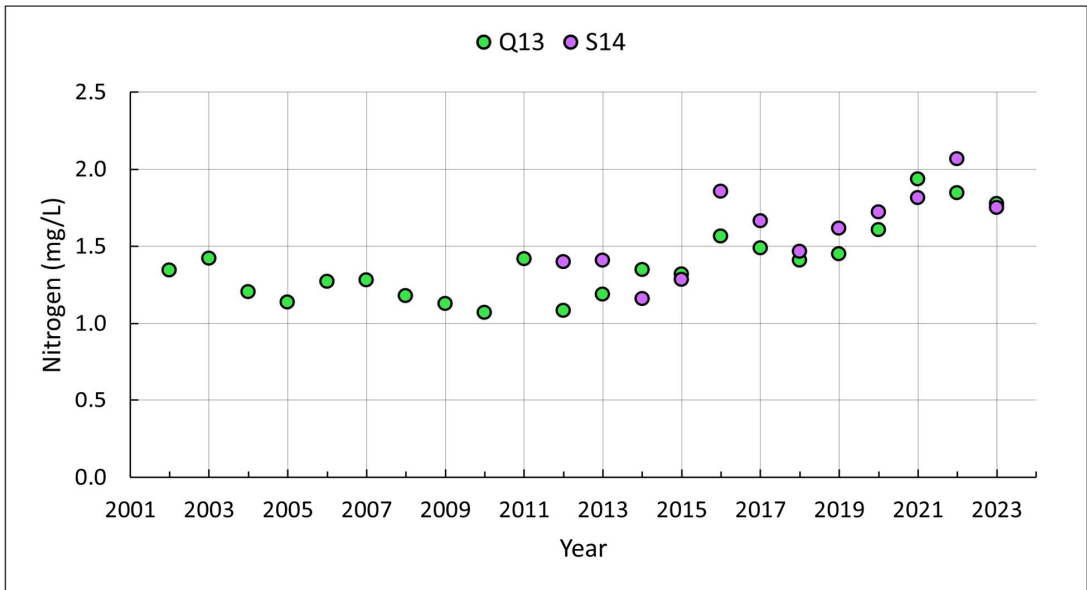


Figure C.7 2002 to 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites. The CWQG is 2.93 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

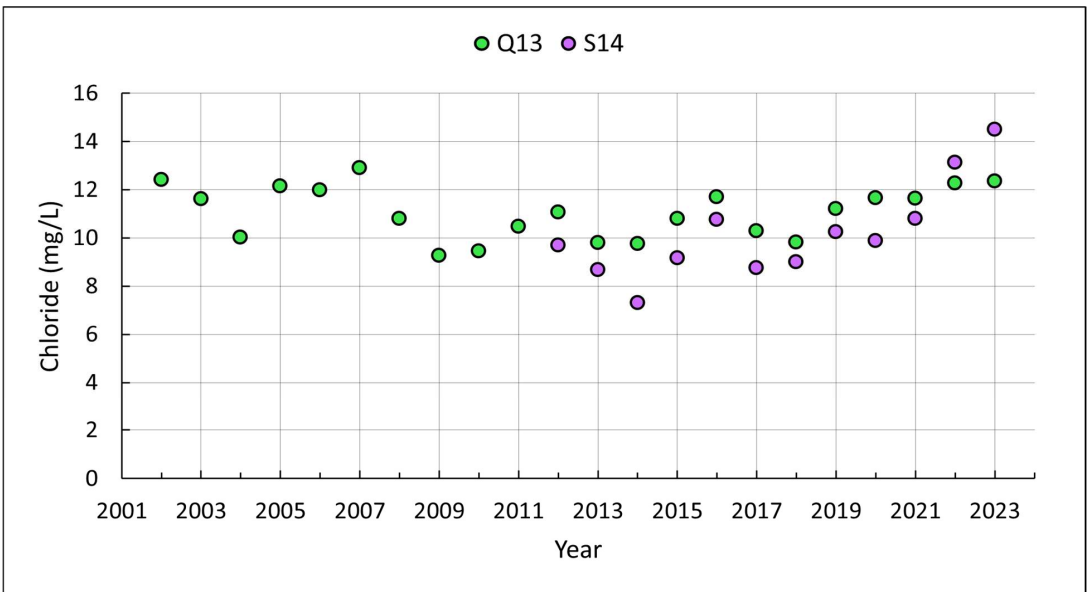


Figure C.8 2002 to 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

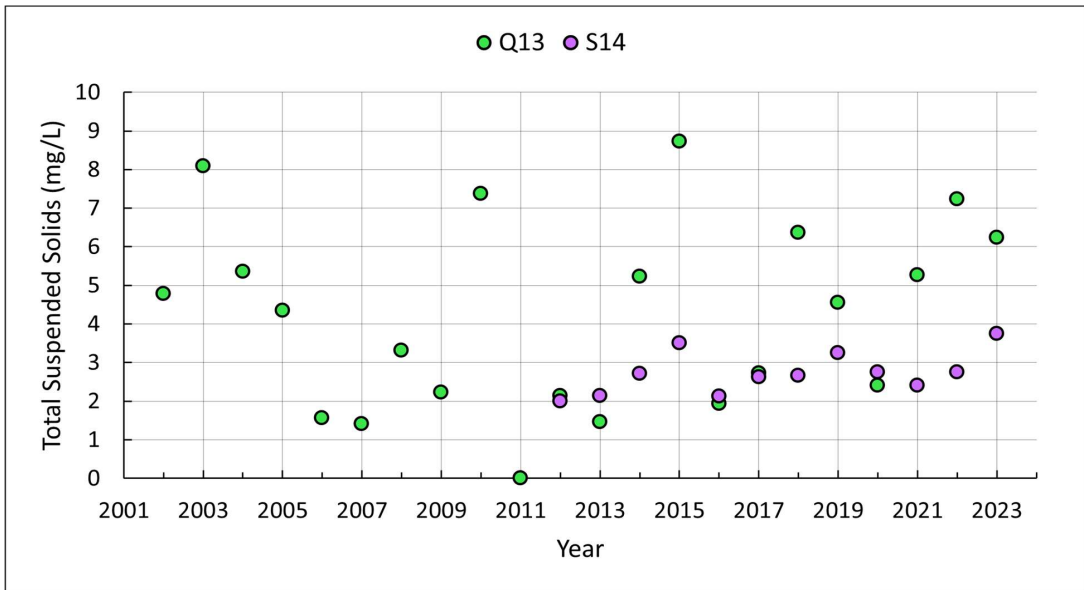


Figure C.9 2012 to 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and Q14 sampling. The CWQG is 30 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

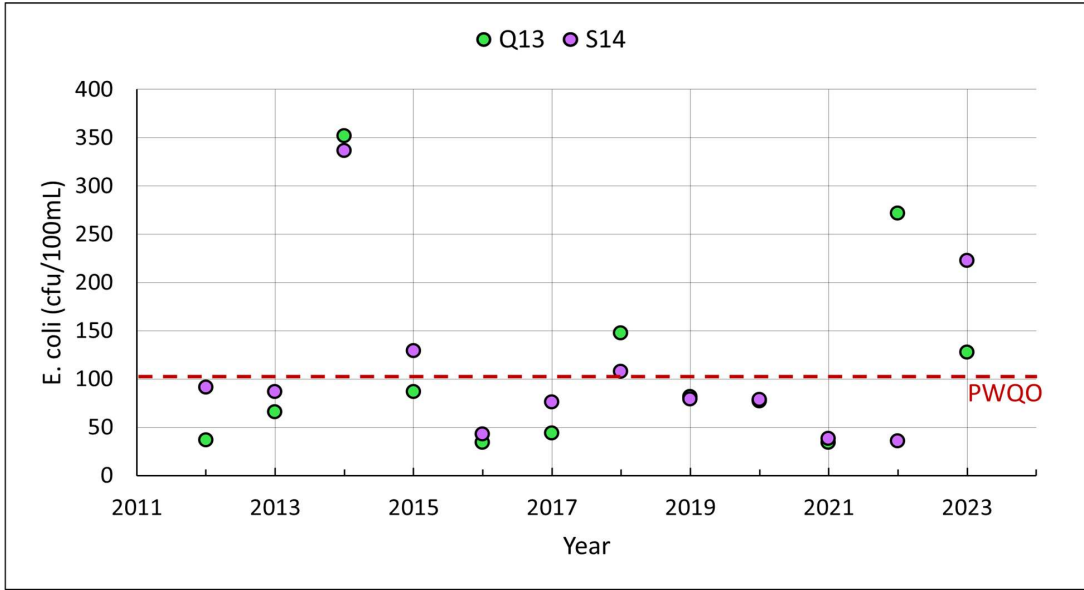


Figure C.10 2012 to 2023 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 8 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2019-2021)

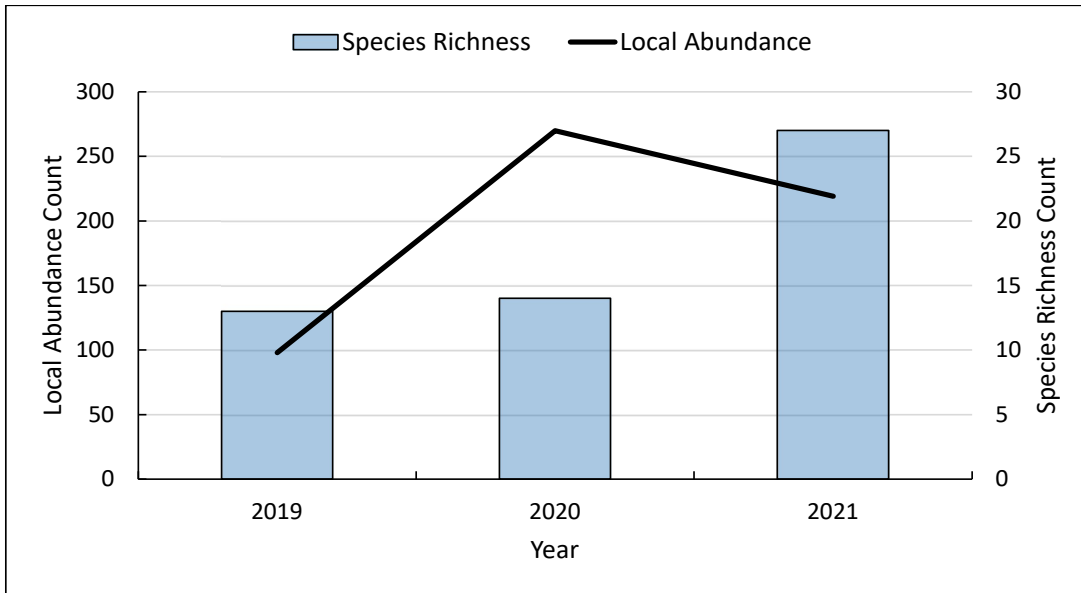


Figure C.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Beatty Saugeen subwatershed from 2019 to 2021.

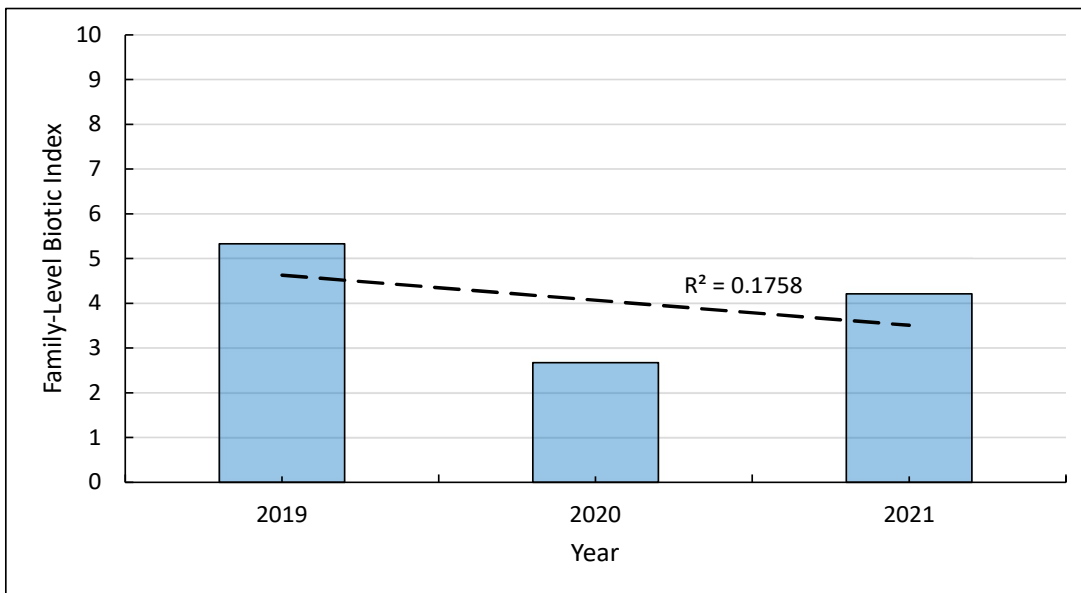


Figure C.12 Family-level biotic index for the Beatty Saugeen from 2019 to 2021.

## Appendix D – Upper Main Saugeen Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

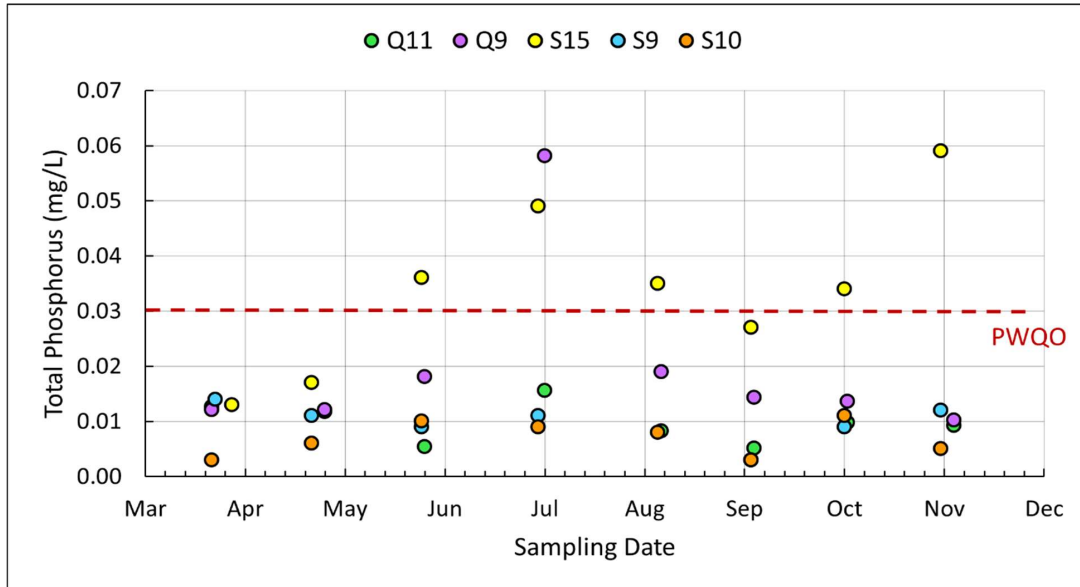


Figure D.1 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 6 exceedances of the PWQO.

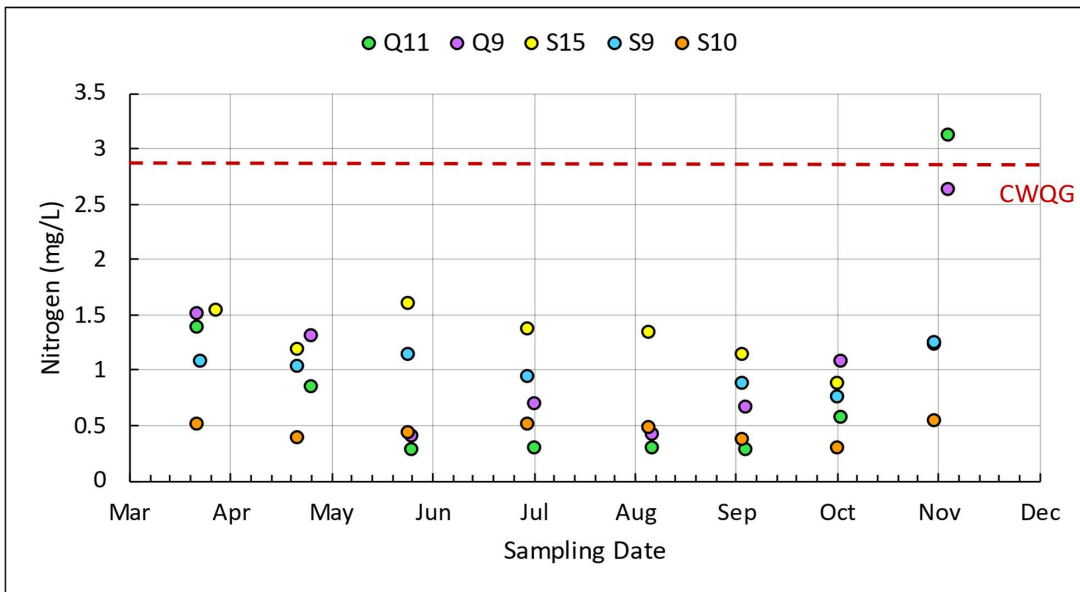


Figure D.2 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There was 1 exceedance of the CWQG.

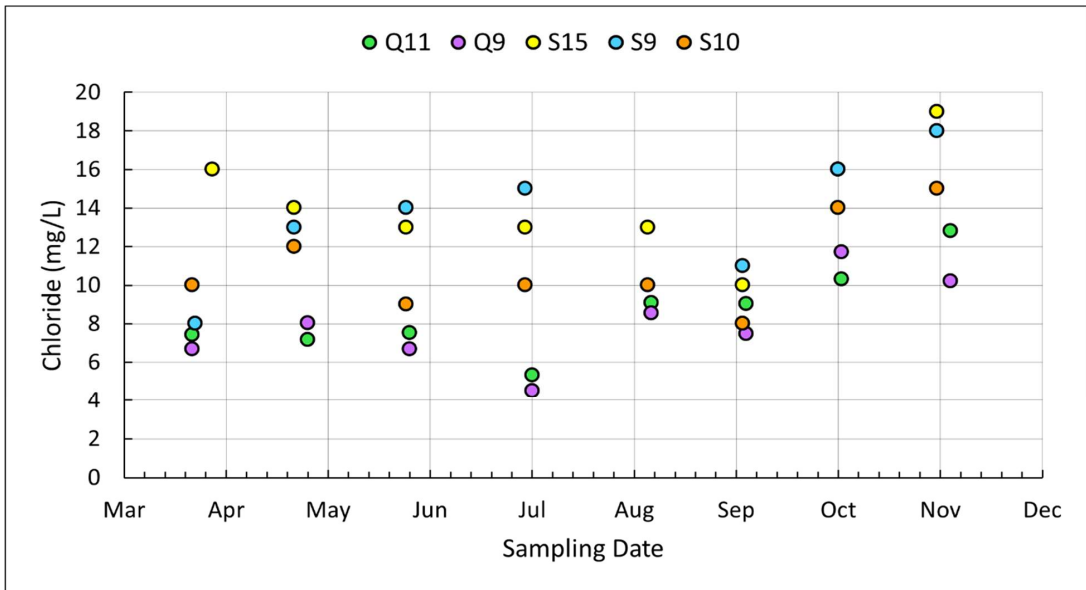


Figure D.3 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

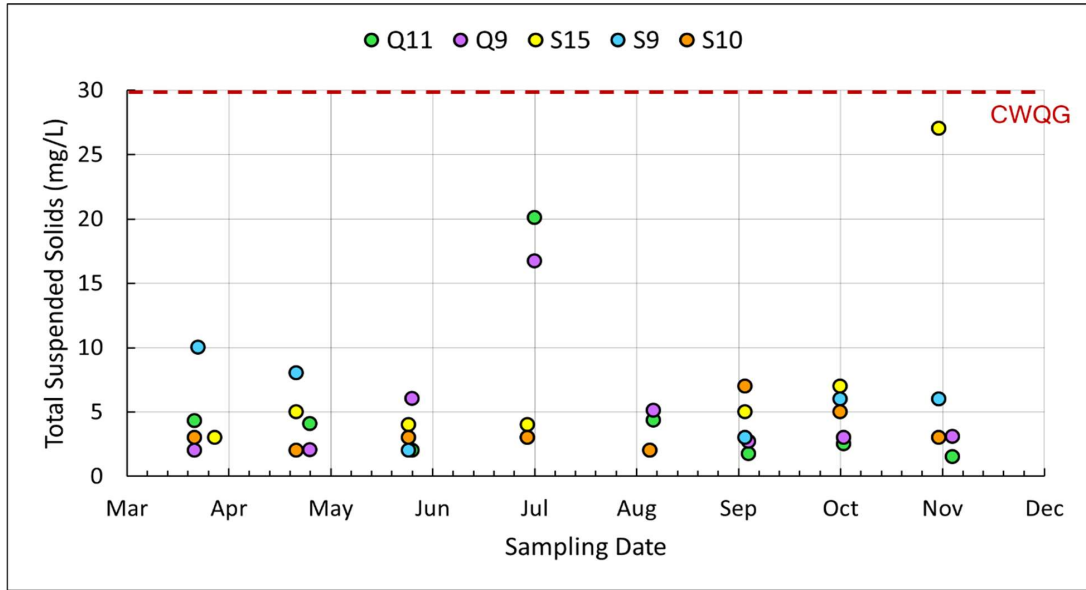


Figure D.4 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are no exceedances of the CWQG.

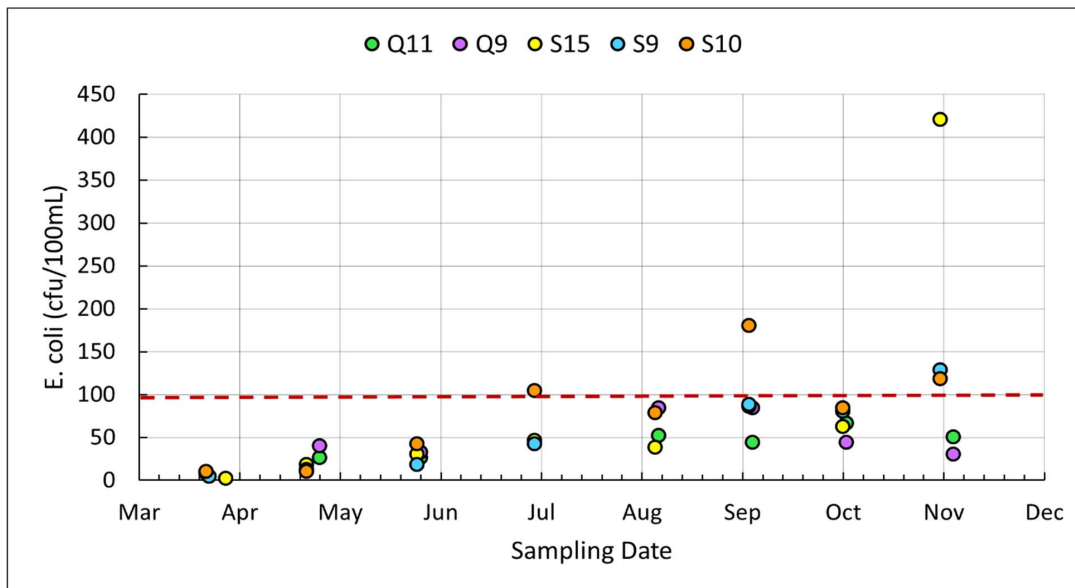


Figure D.5 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 7 exceedances of the PWQO. Two exceedances from July are not shown on this graph (Q11 at 1760 cfu/100mL, Q9 at 8000 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

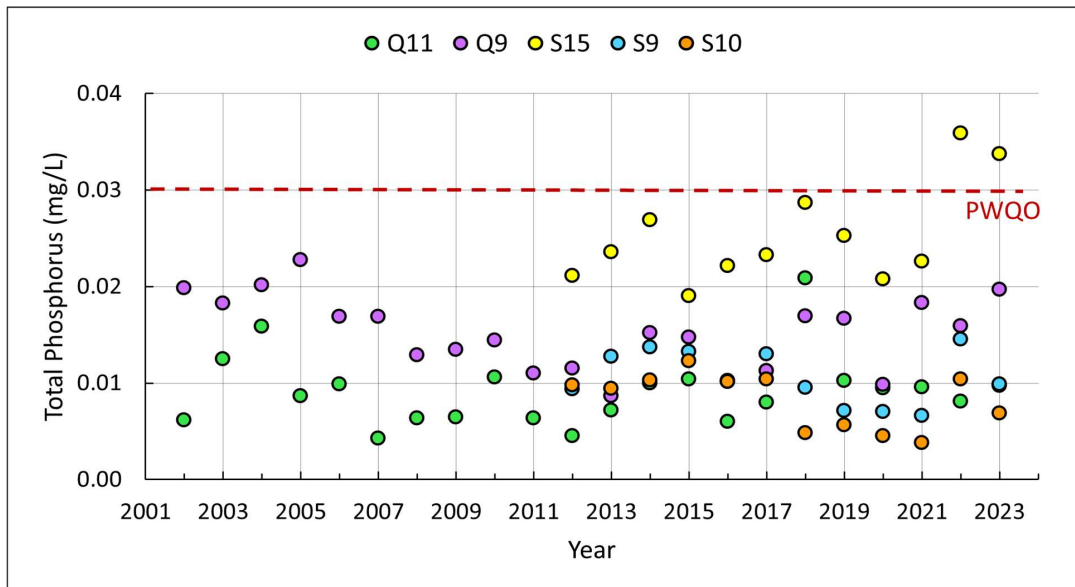


Figure D.6 2002 to 2023 Upper Main Saugeen annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 2 exceedances of the PWQO.

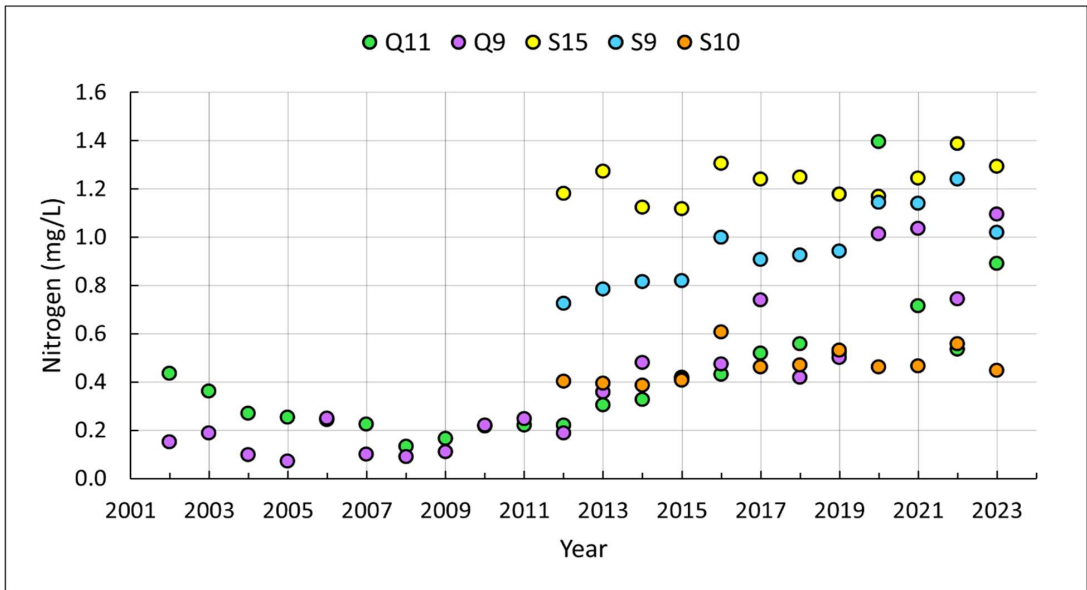


Figure D.7 2002 to 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites. The CWQG is 2.93 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

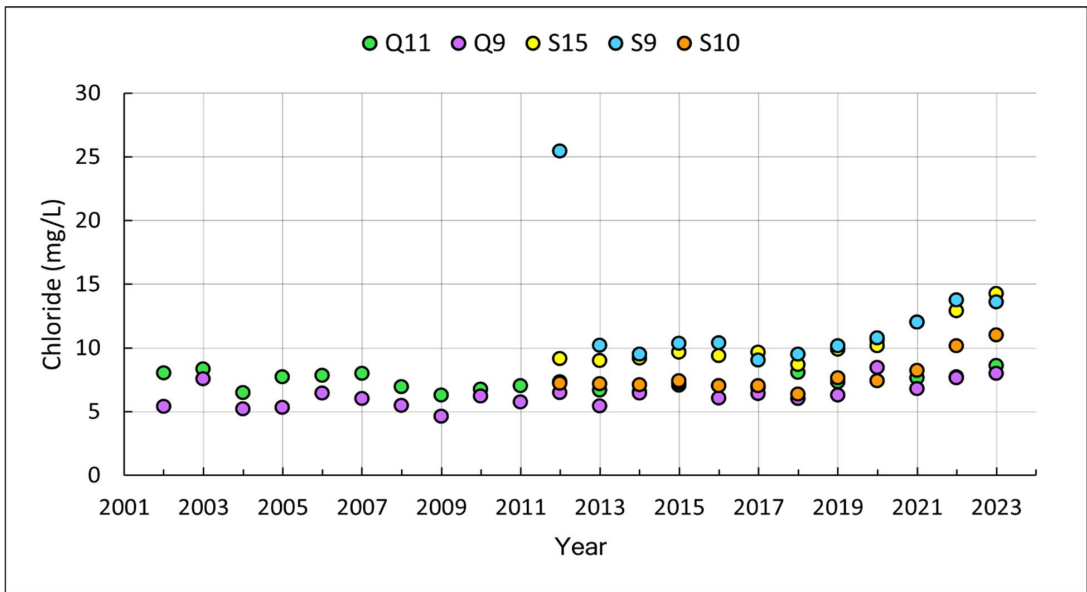


Figure D.8 2002 to 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

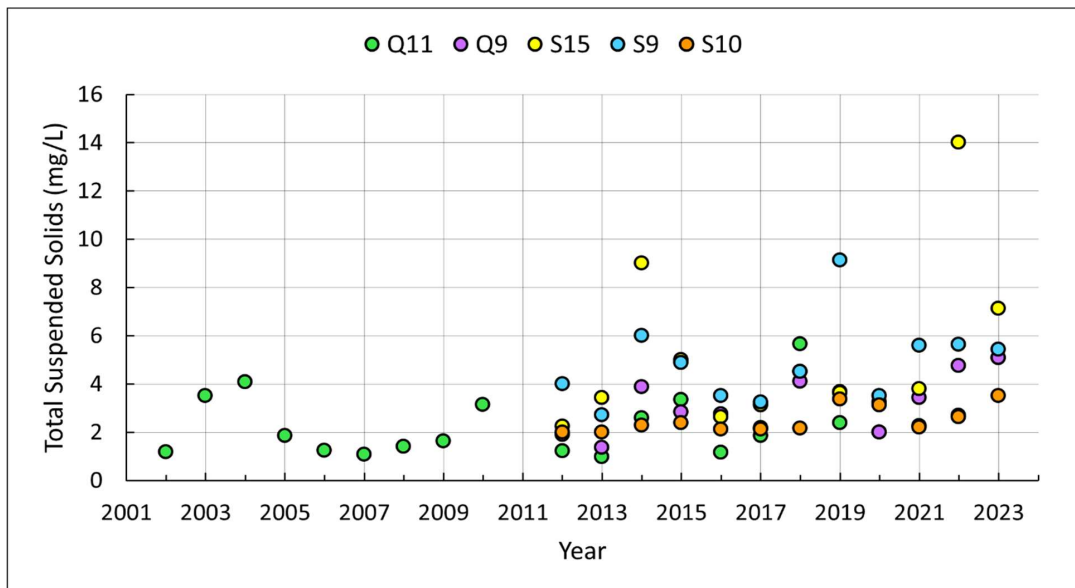


Figure D.9 2002 to 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites. The CWQG is 30 mg/L. There are no exceedances. Results for Q11 in 2011 are not available.

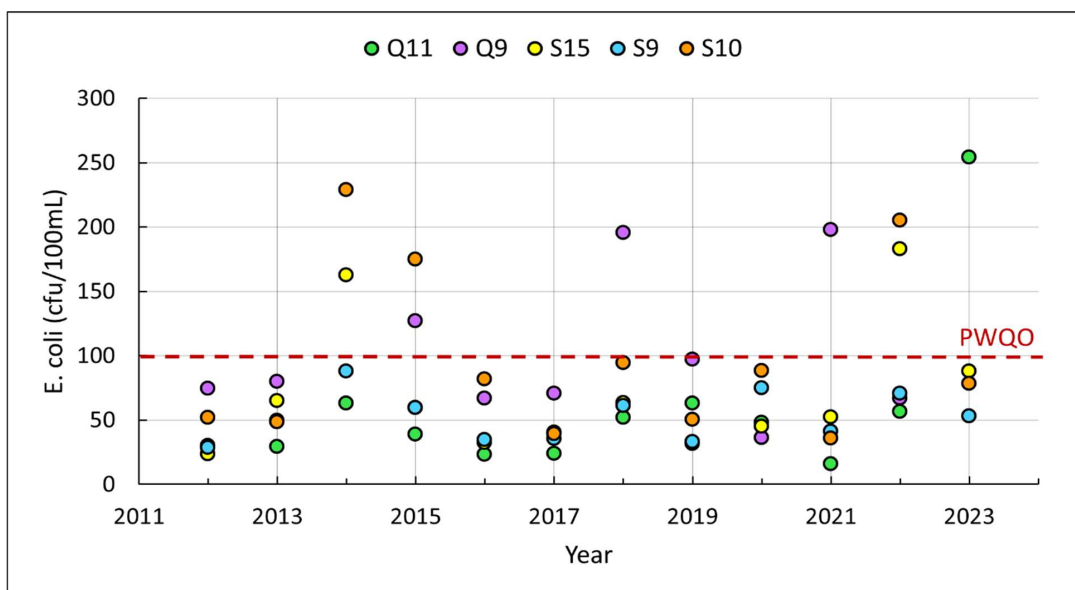


Figure D.10 2012 to 2023 Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 11 exceedances of the PWQO; there are two exceedances at Q9 in 2014 and 2023 that are not shown on this graph (805 and 1040 cfu/100mL, respectively).

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

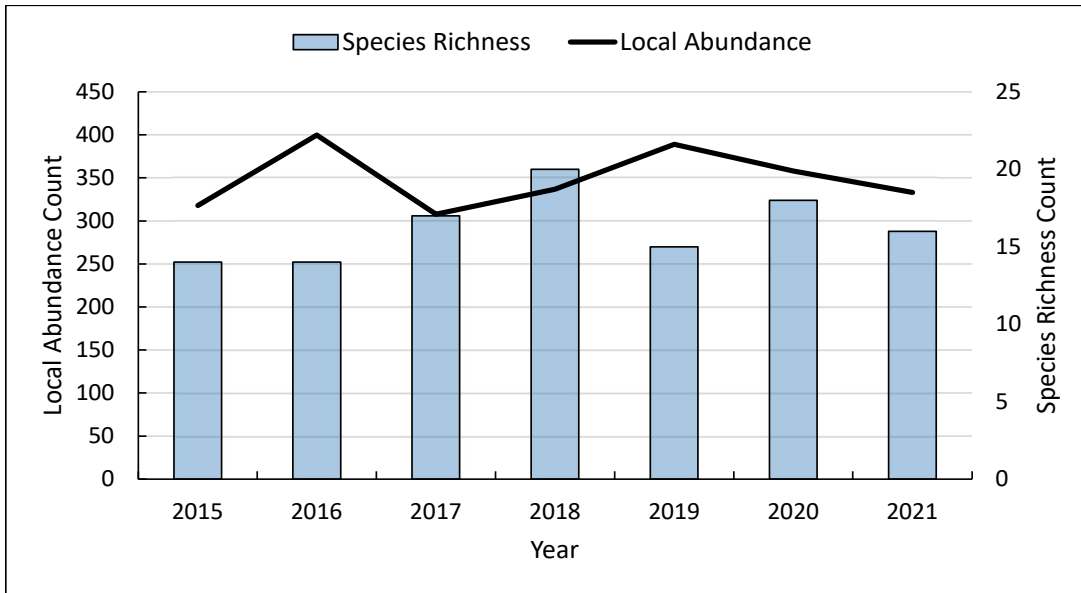


Figure D.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

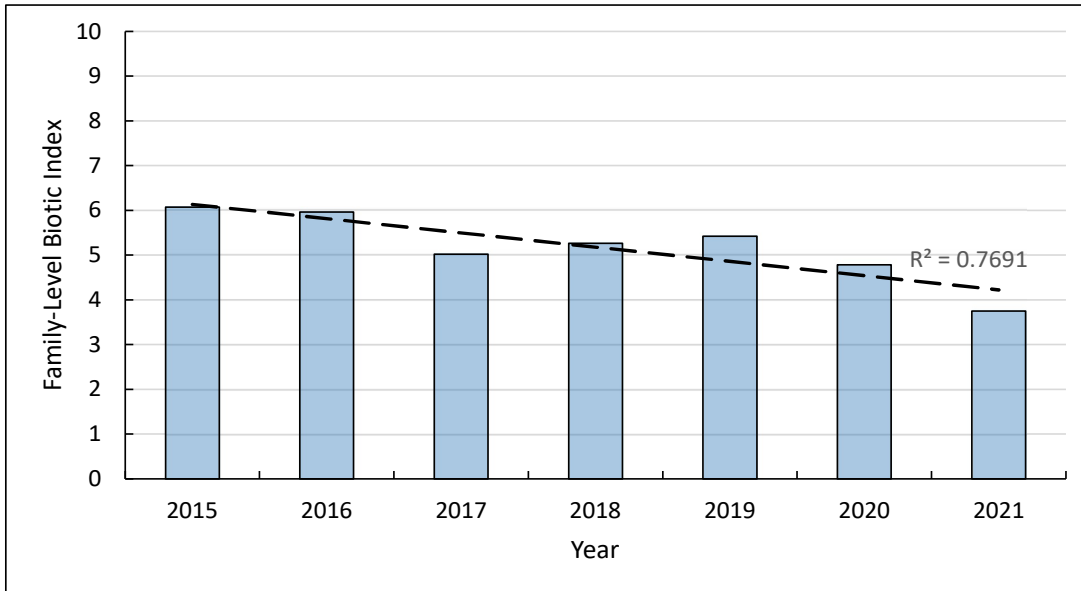


Figure D.12 Family-level biotic index for the Upper Main Saugeen from 2015 to 2021.

## Appendix E – Rocky Saugeen Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

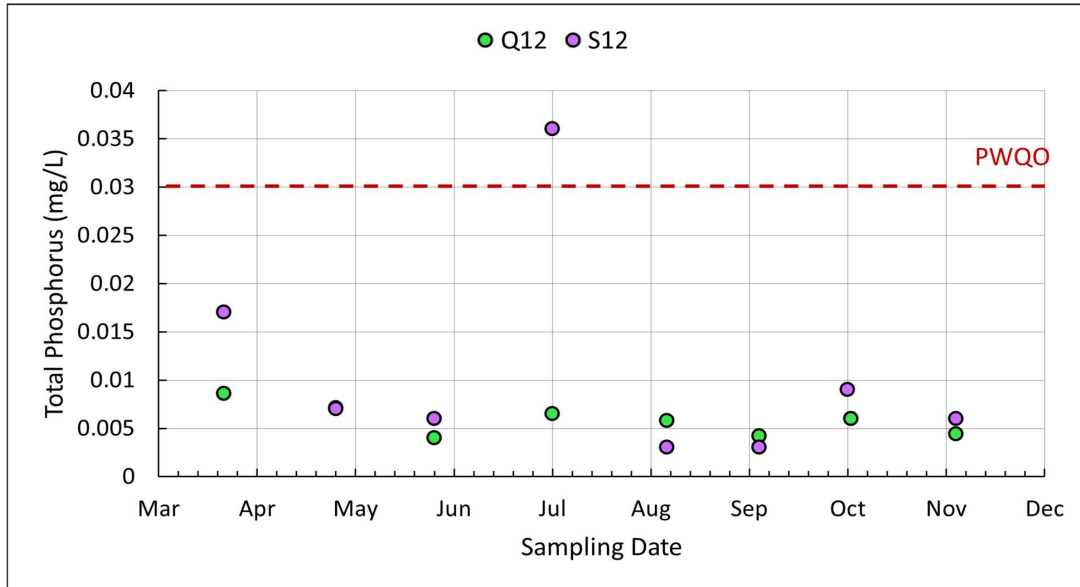


Figure E.1 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03mg/L. There is 1 exceedance of the PWQO.

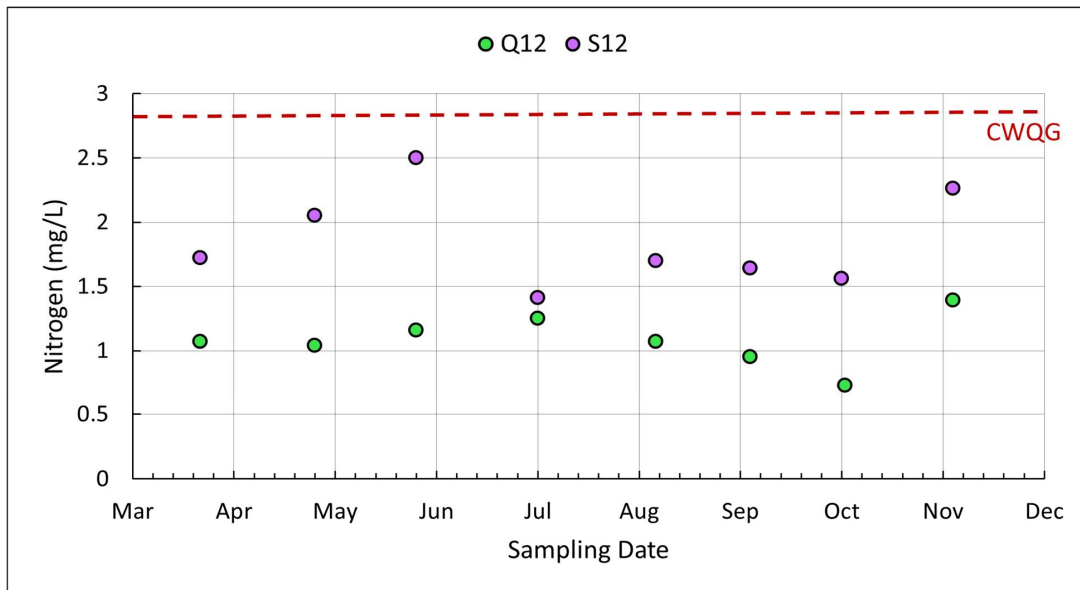


Figure E.2 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

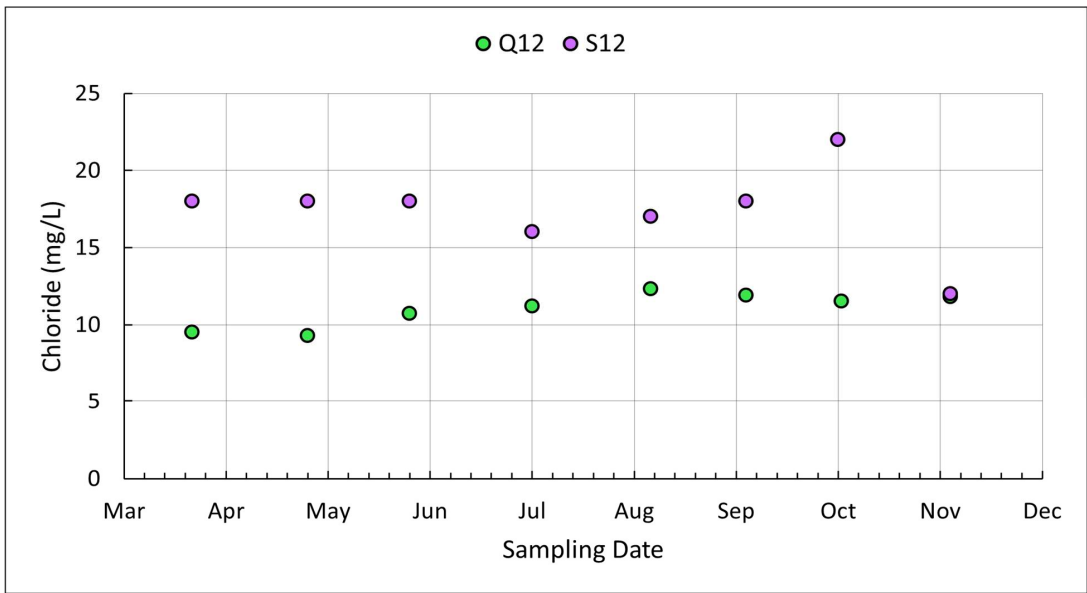


Figure E.3 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120mg/L. There are no exceedances.

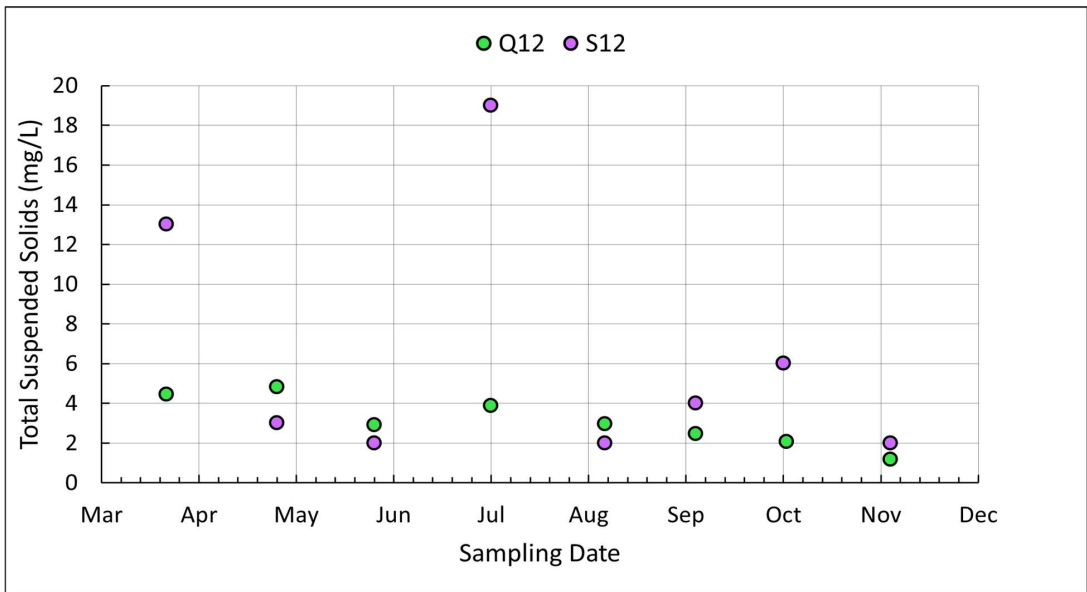


Figure E.4 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites. The CWQG is 30mg/L. There are no exceedances.

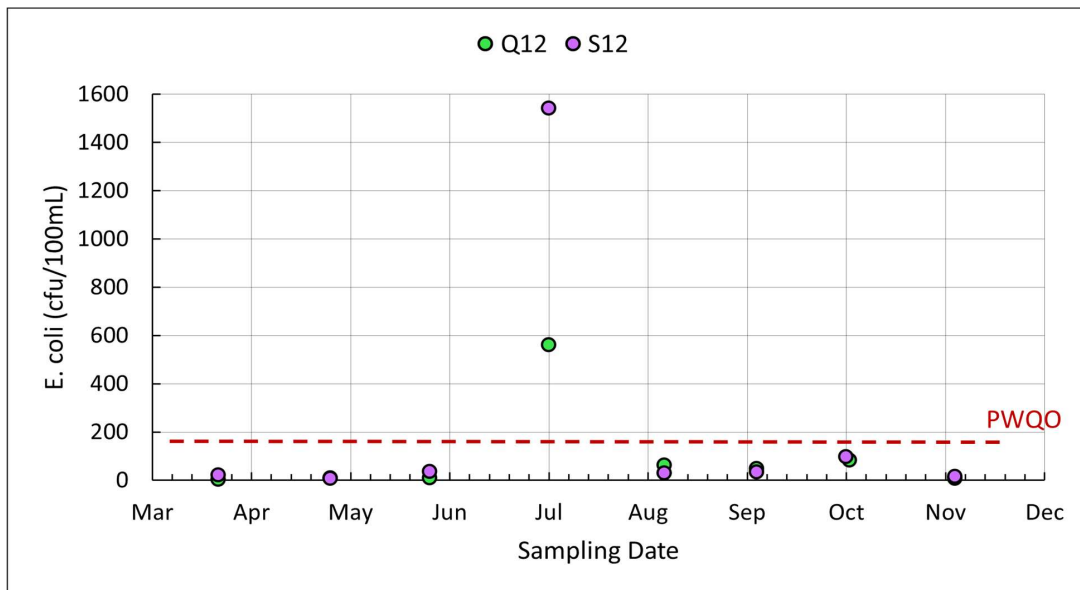


Figure E.5 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 2 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Long-term Results

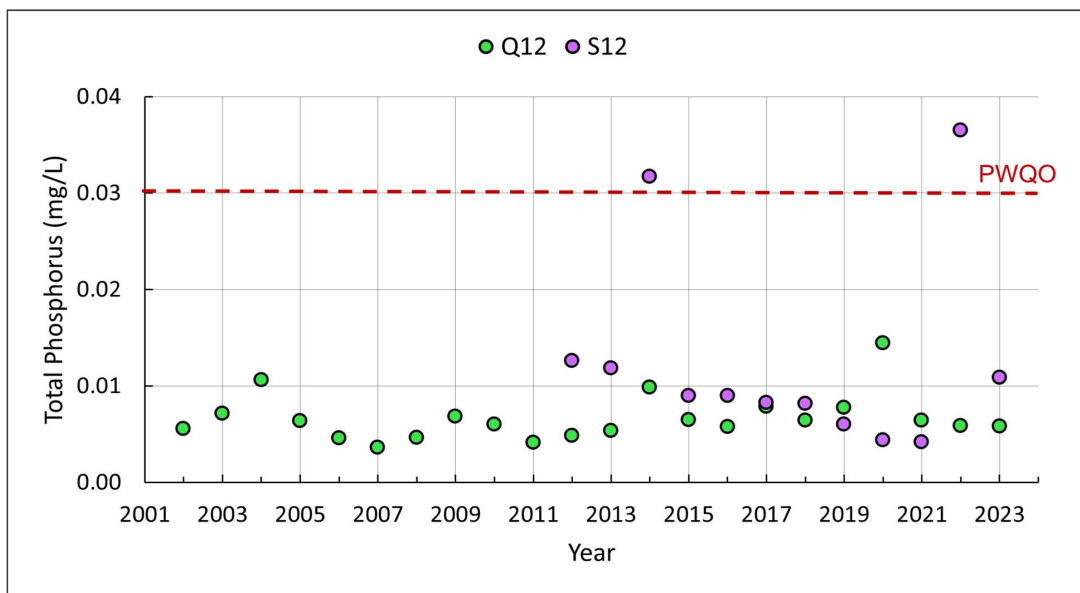


Figure E.6 2002 to 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 2 exceedances of the PWQO.

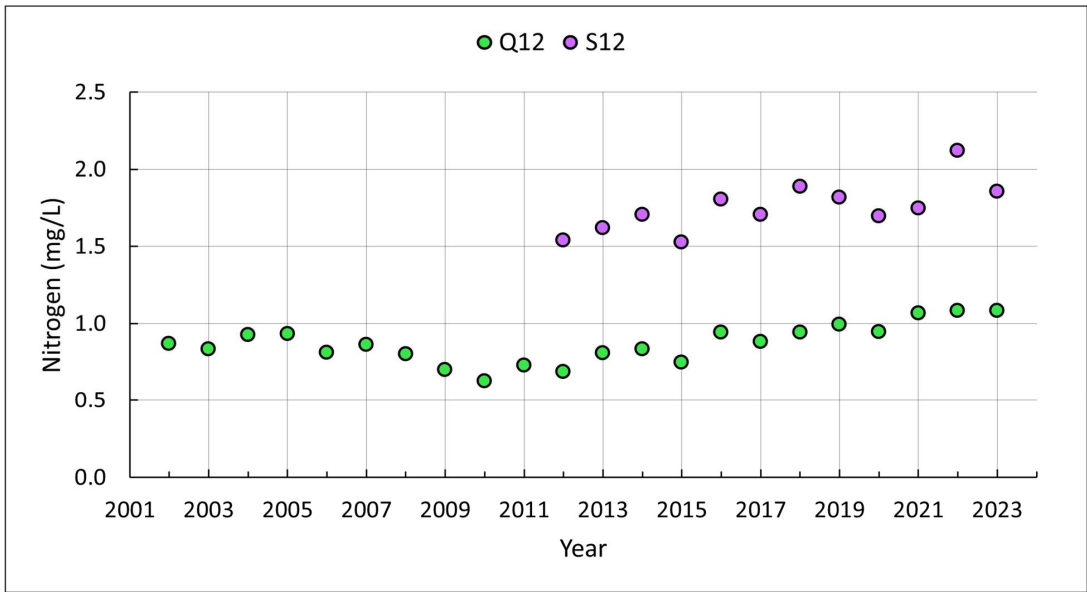


Figure E.7 2002 to 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites. The CWQG is 2.93 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

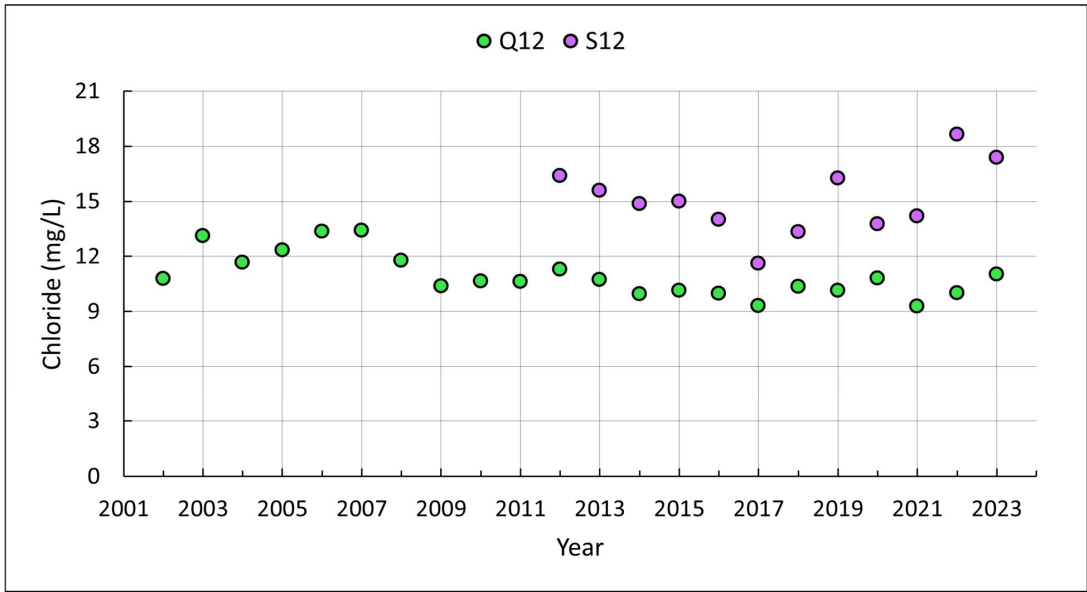


Figure E.8 2002 to 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

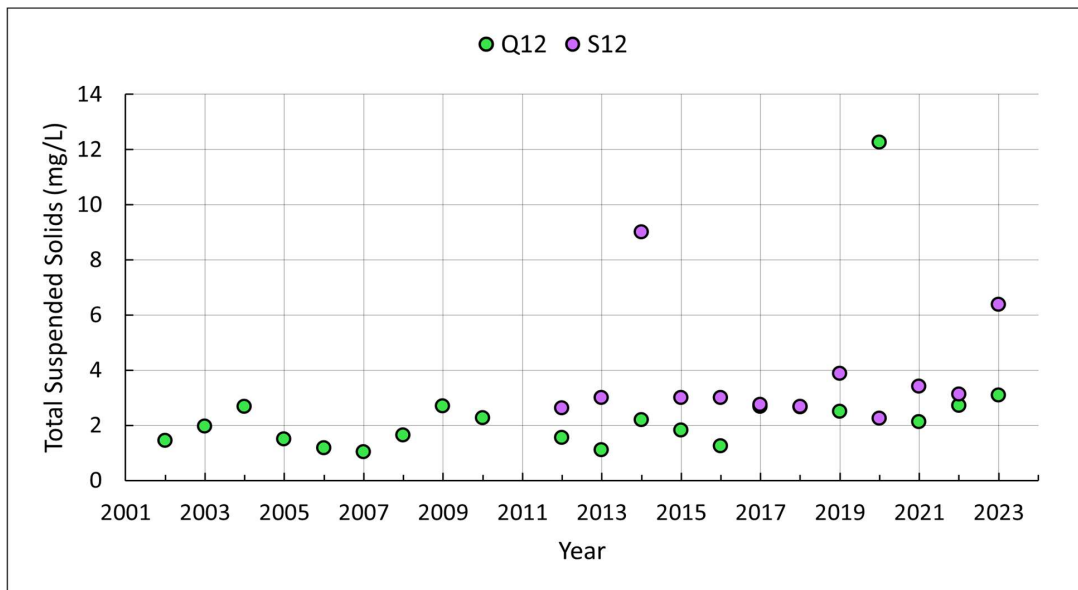


Figure E.9 2012 to 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites. The CWQG is 30 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

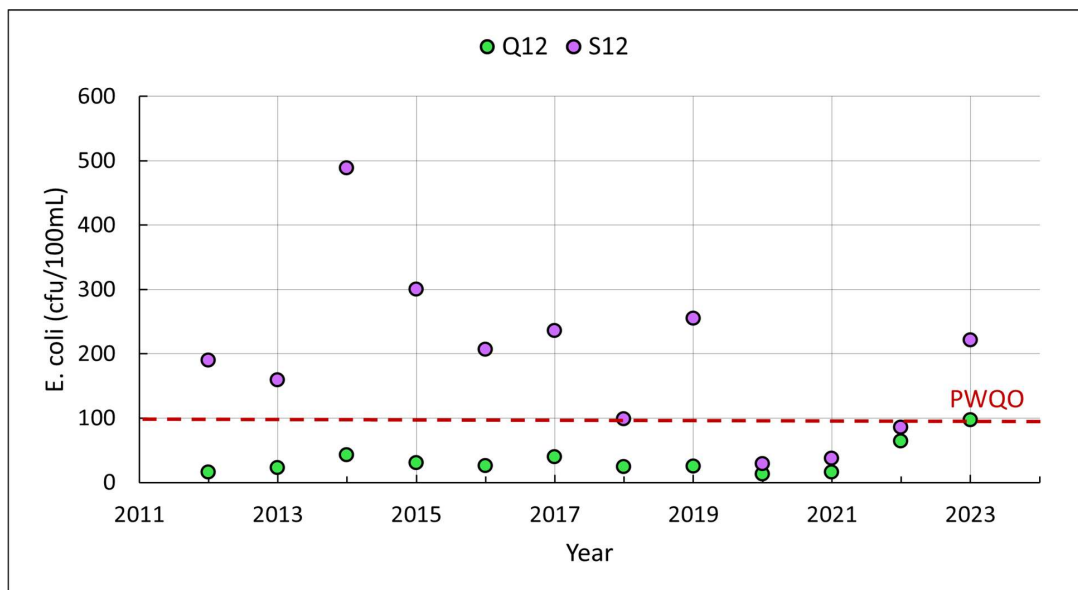


Figure E.10 2012 to 2023 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q12 and S12 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 8 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2022)

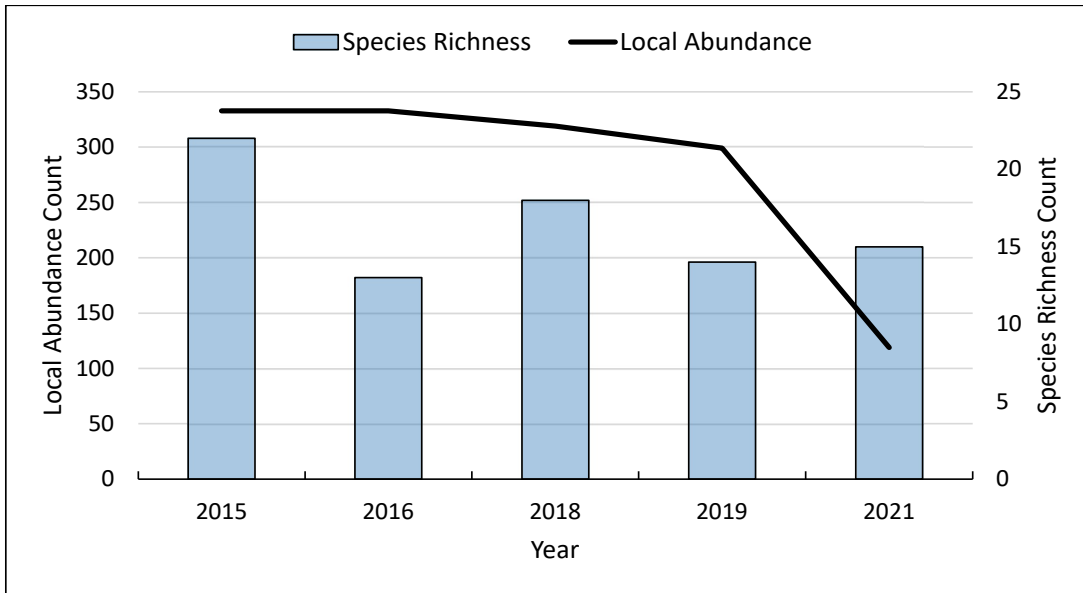


Figure E.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

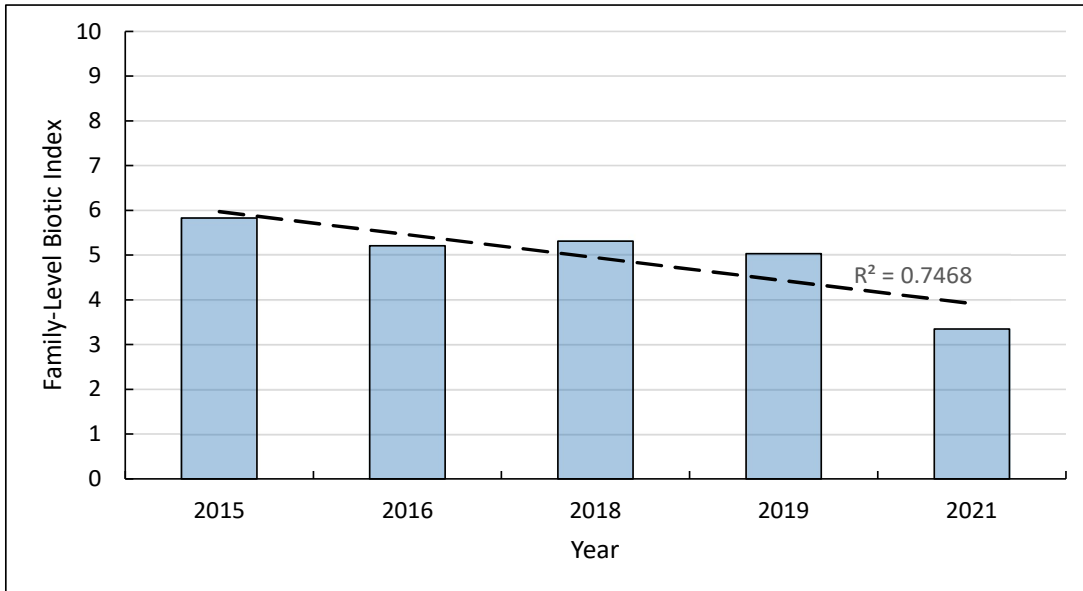


Figure E.12 Family-level biotic index for the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

## Appendix F – North Saugeen Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

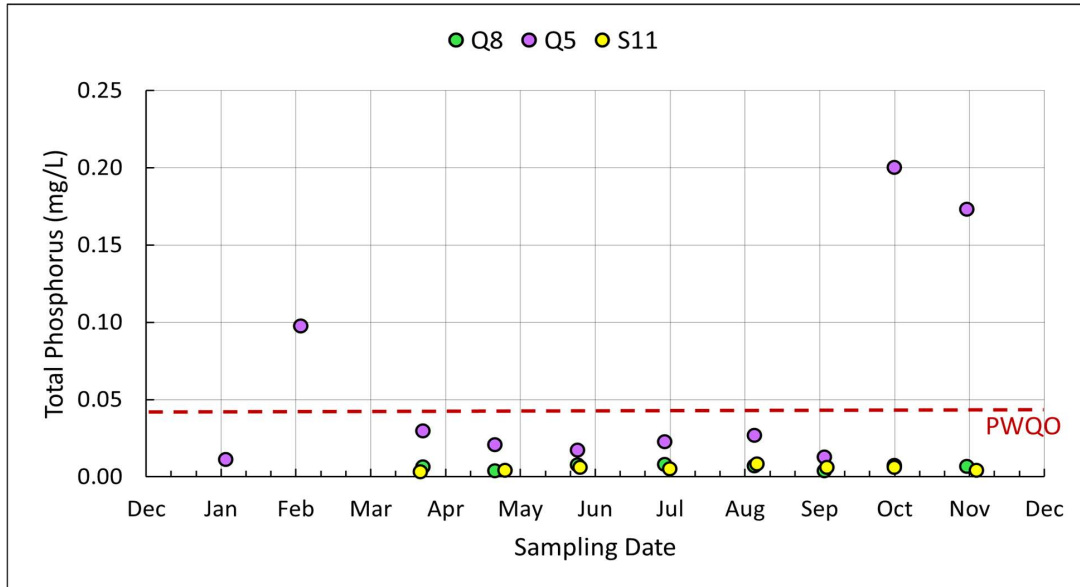


Figure F.1 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 3 exceedances of the PWQO.

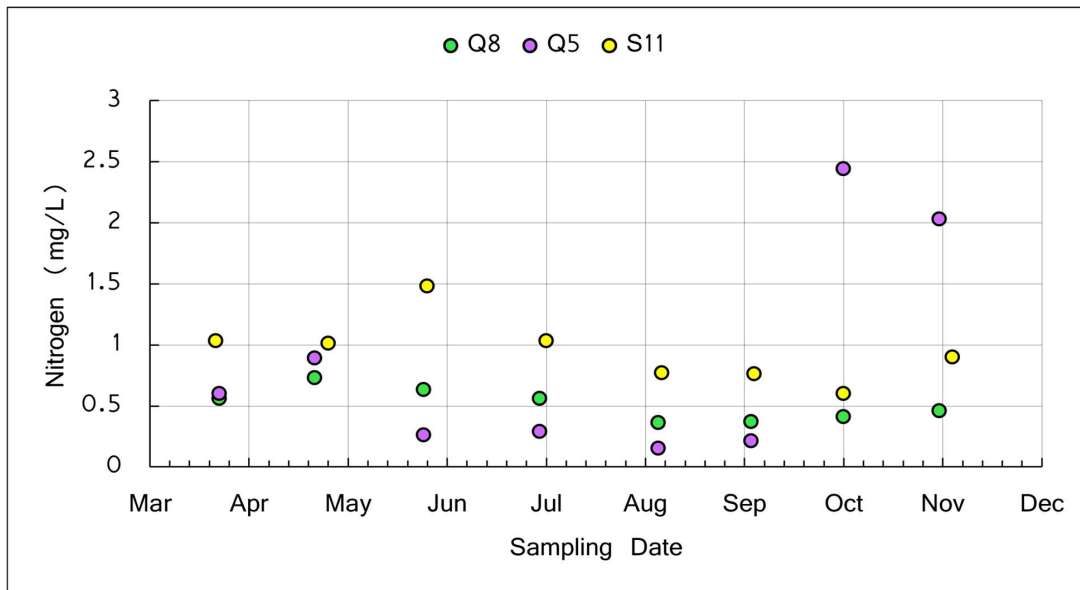


Figure F.2 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites. The CWQG is 2.93 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

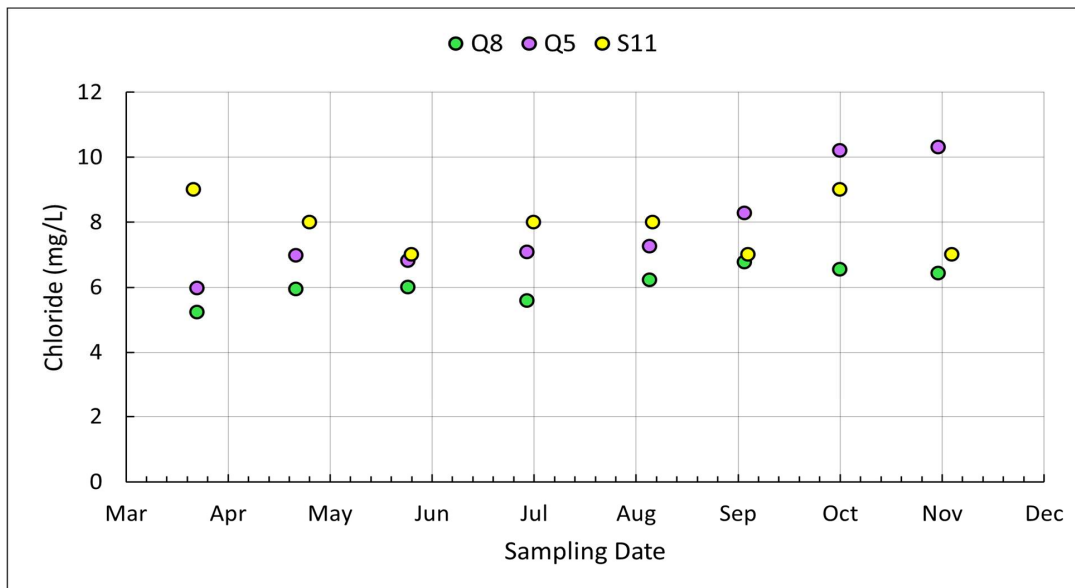


Figure F.3 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

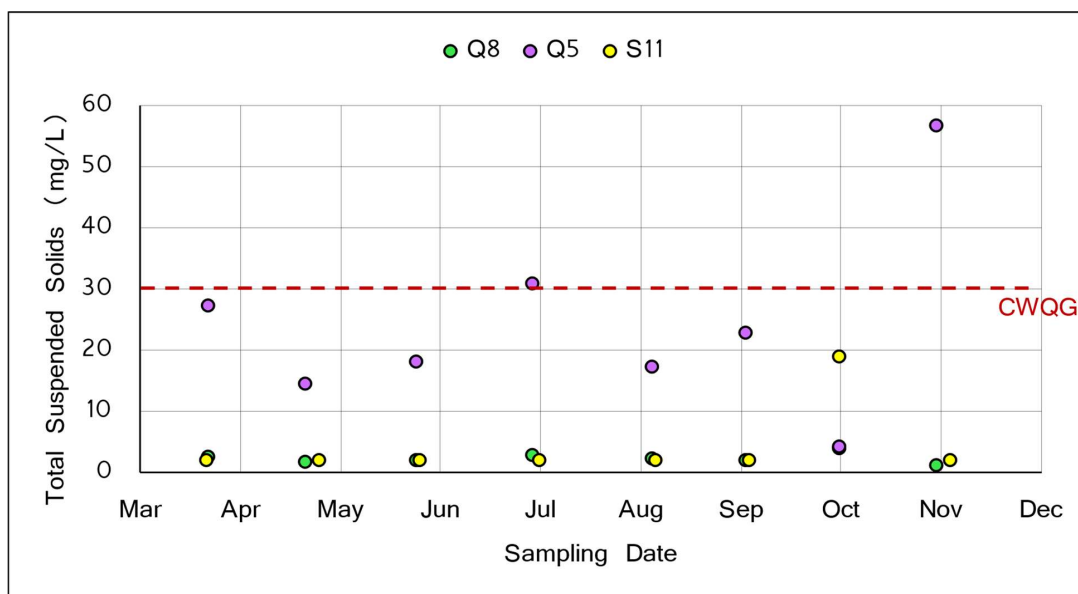


Figure F.4 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 2 exceedances of the CWQG.

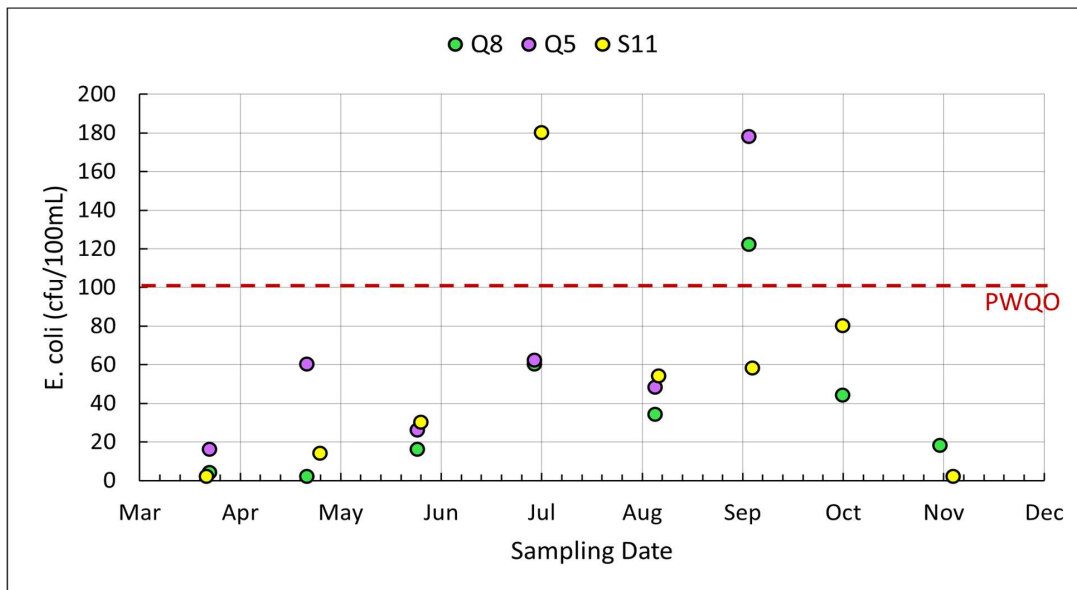


Figure F.5 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 5 exceedances of the PWQO, two Q5 exceedances are not shown on this graph (October at 2600 cfu/100mL, November at 4500 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

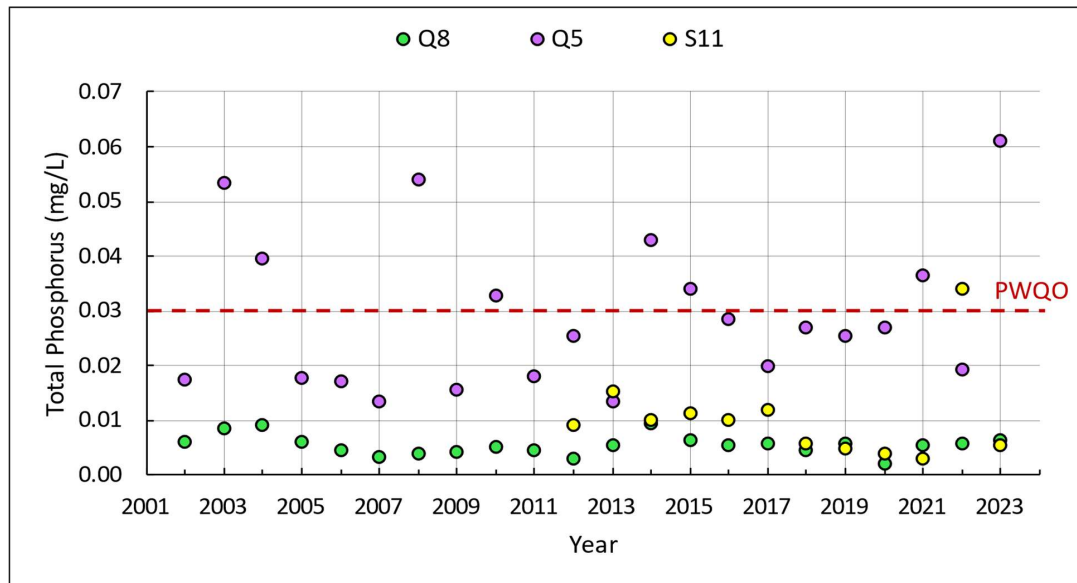


Figure F.6 2002 to 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 9 exceedances of the PWQO.

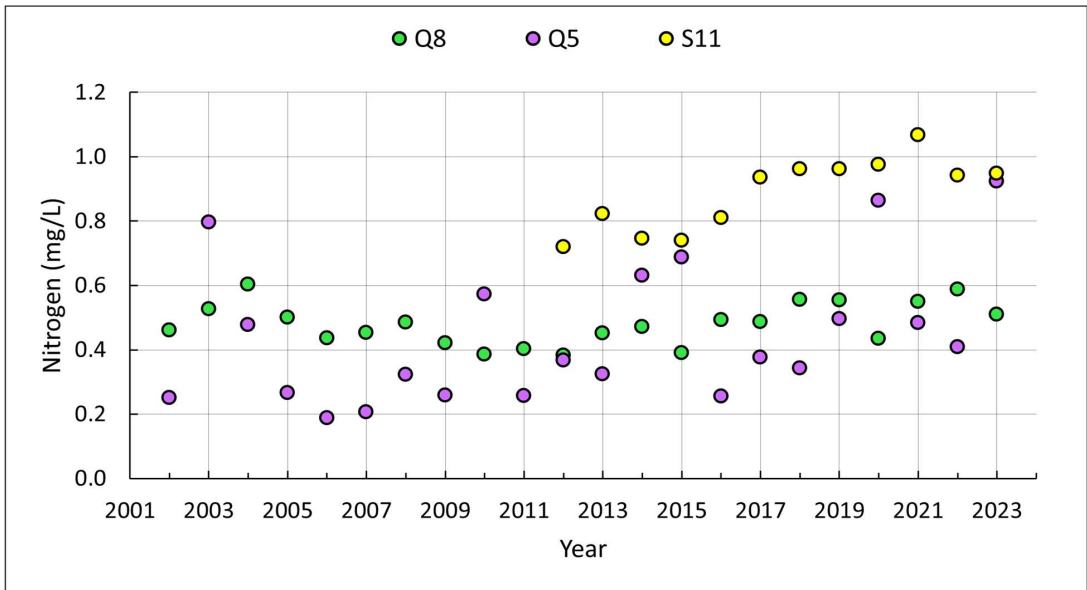


Figure F.7 2002 to 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites. The CWQG is 2.93 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

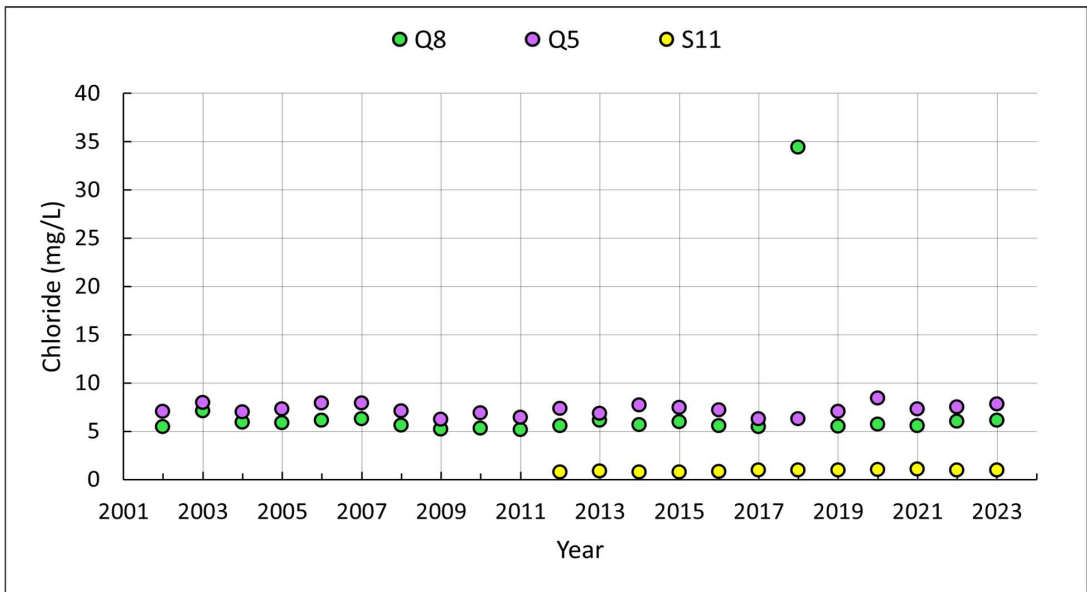


Figure F.8 2002 to 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

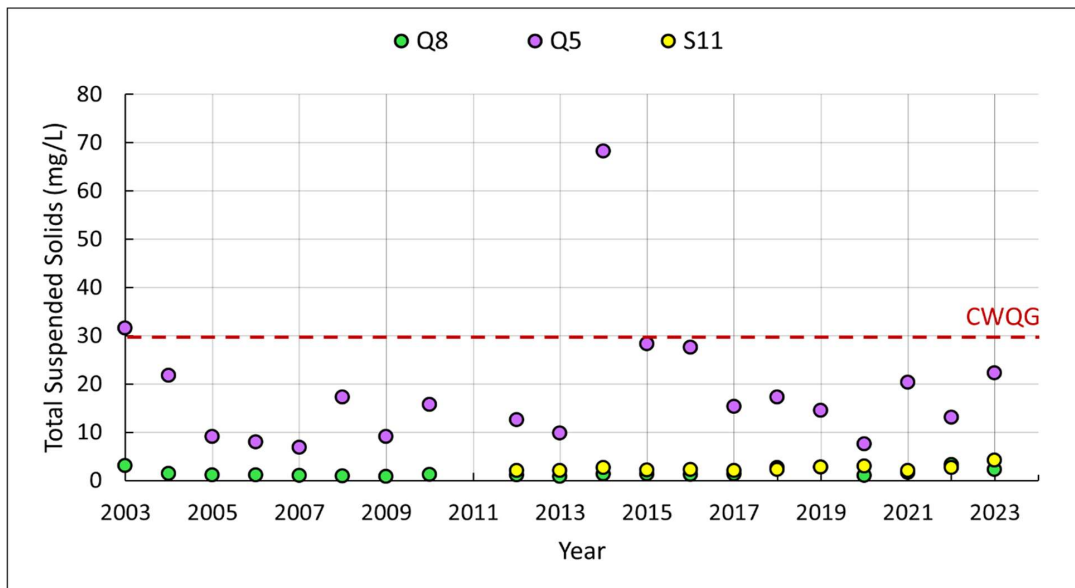


Figure F.9 2012 to 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 2 exceedances of the CWQG.

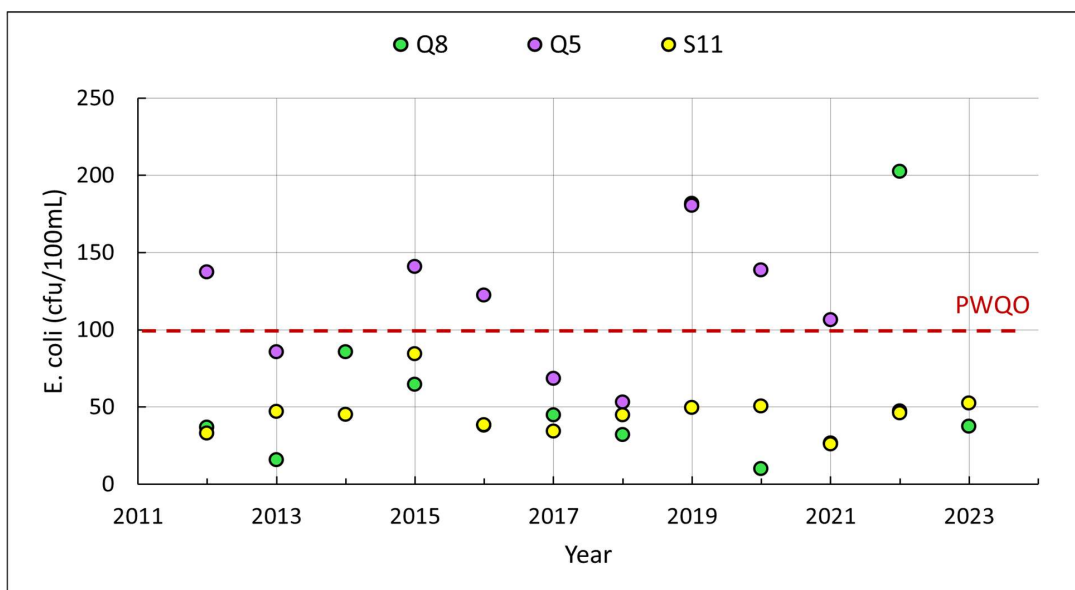


Figure F.10 2012 to 2023 North Saugeen subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q8, Q5, and S11 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 10 exceedances of the PWQO; there are two exceedances at Q5 in 2014 and 2023 that are not shown on this graph (1595 and 936 cfu/100mL, respectively).

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2020)

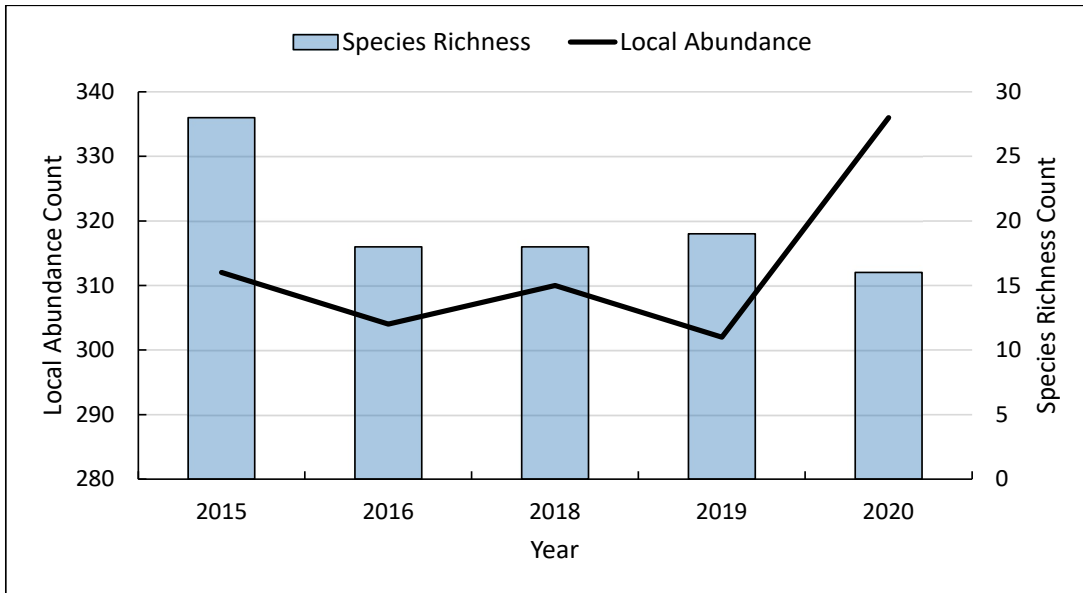


Figure F.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the North Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2020.

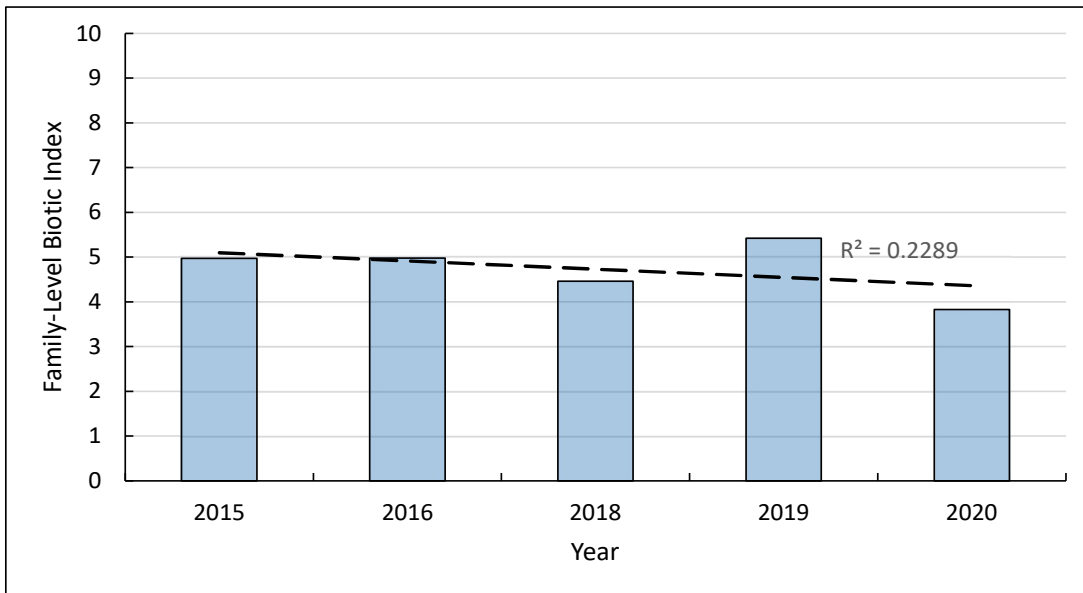


Figure F.12 Family-level biotic index scores for the North Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2020.

## Appendix G – Teeswater Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

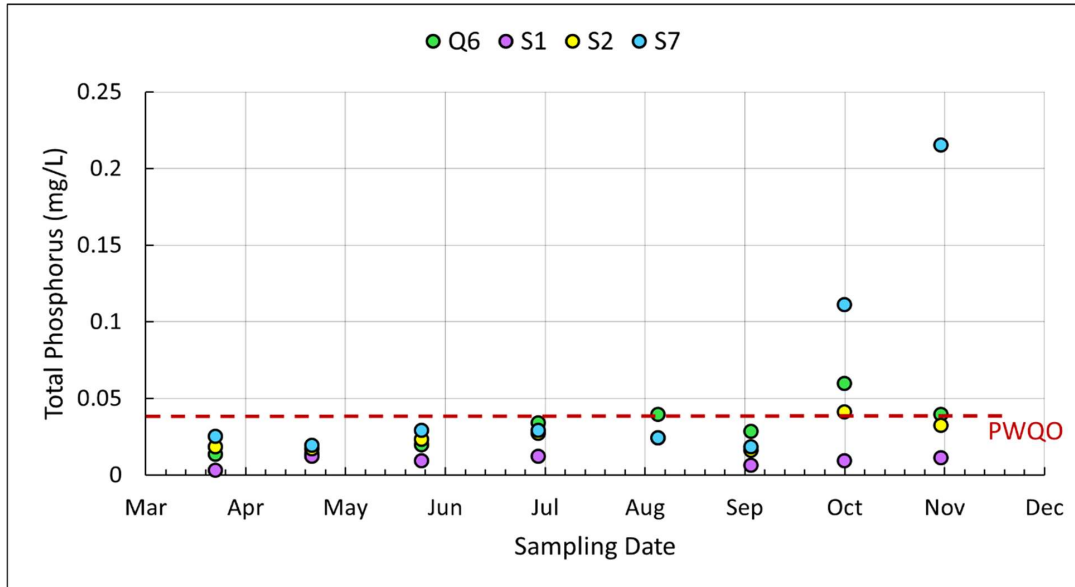


Figure G.1 2023 Teeswater subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 4 exceedances of the PWQO.

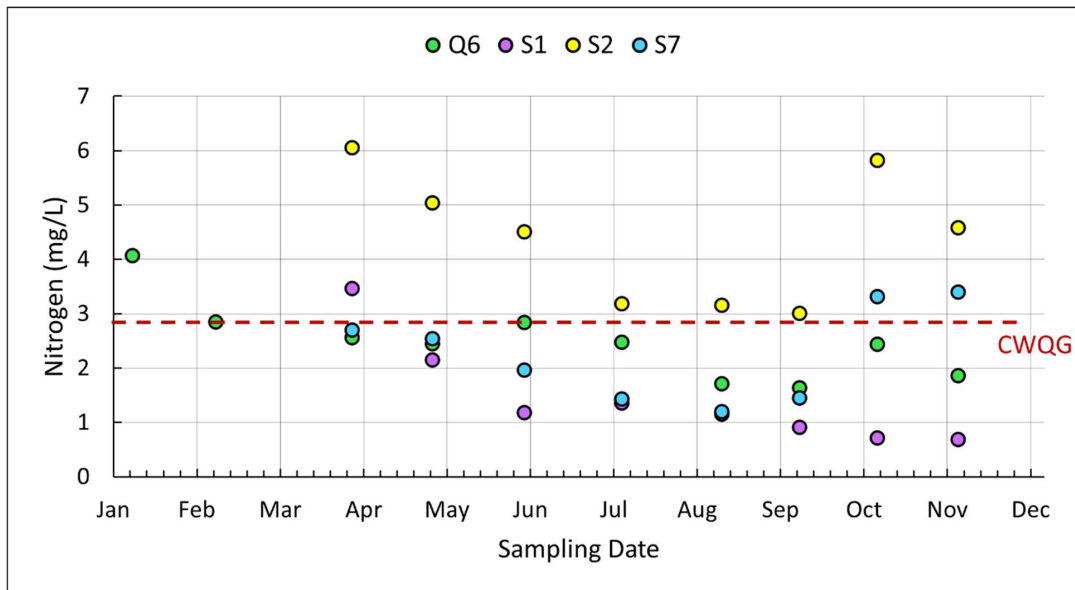


Figure G.2 2023 Teeswater subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 12 exceedances of the CWQG.

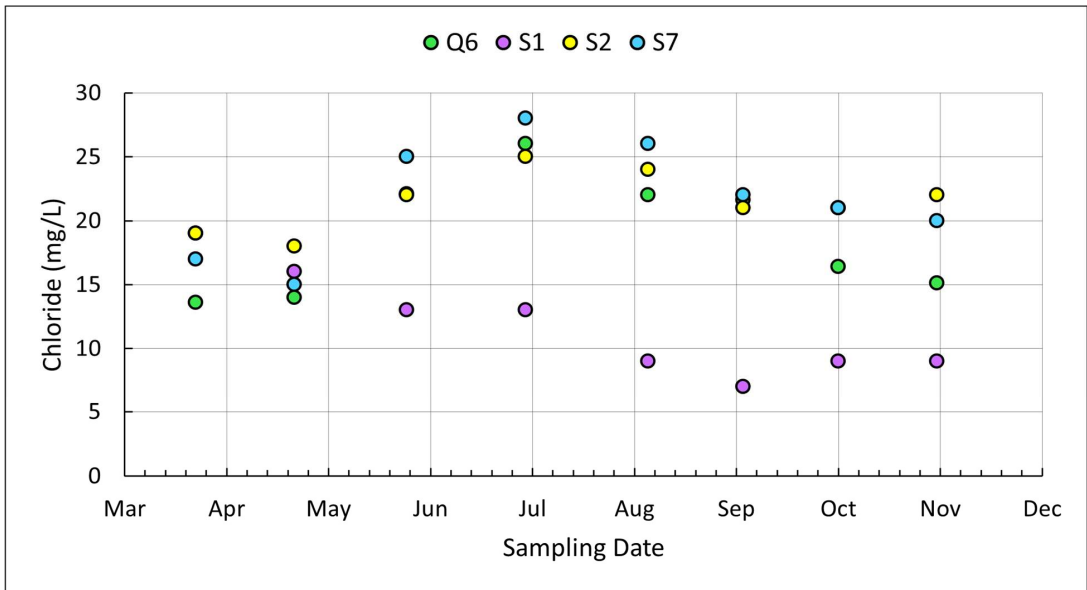


Figure G.3 2023 Teeswater subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

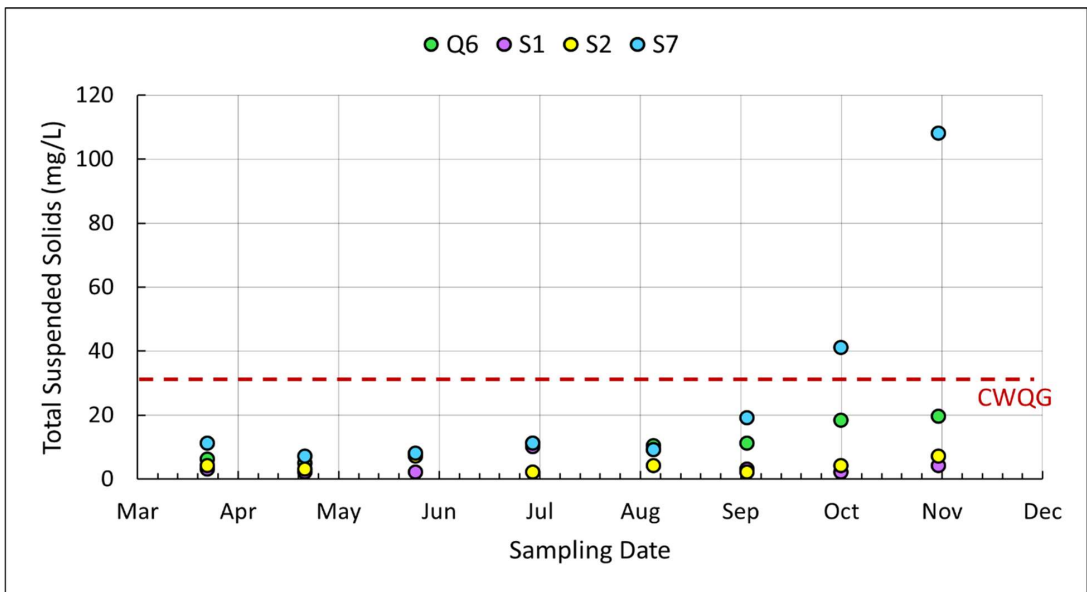


Figure G.4 2023 Teeswater subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 2 exceedances of the CWQG.

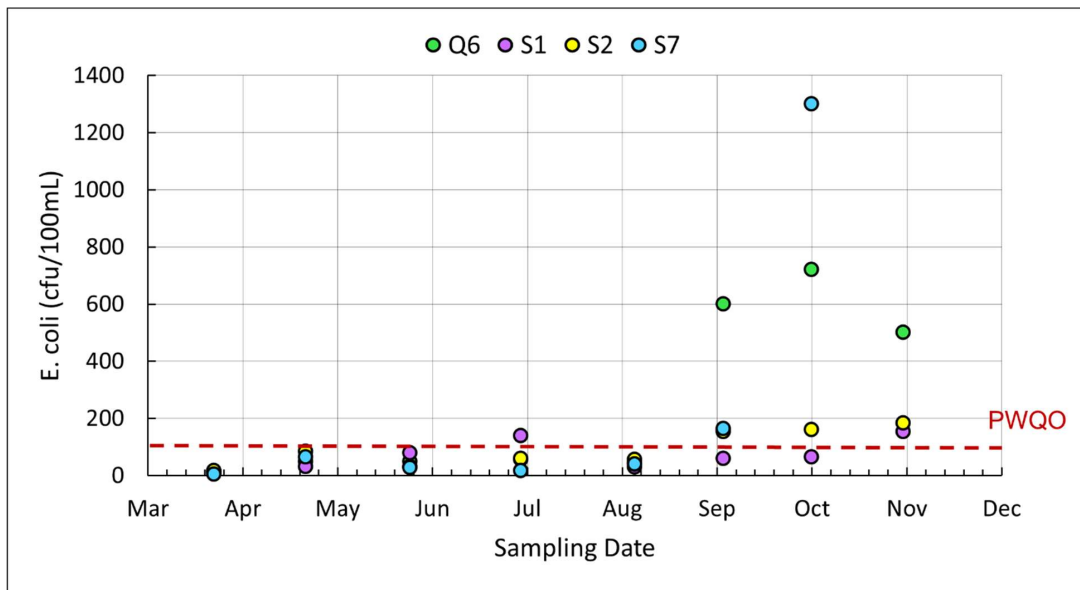


Figure G.5 2023 Teeswater subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 11 exceedances of the PWQO, one exceedance in November is not shown on this graph (S7 at 3300 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

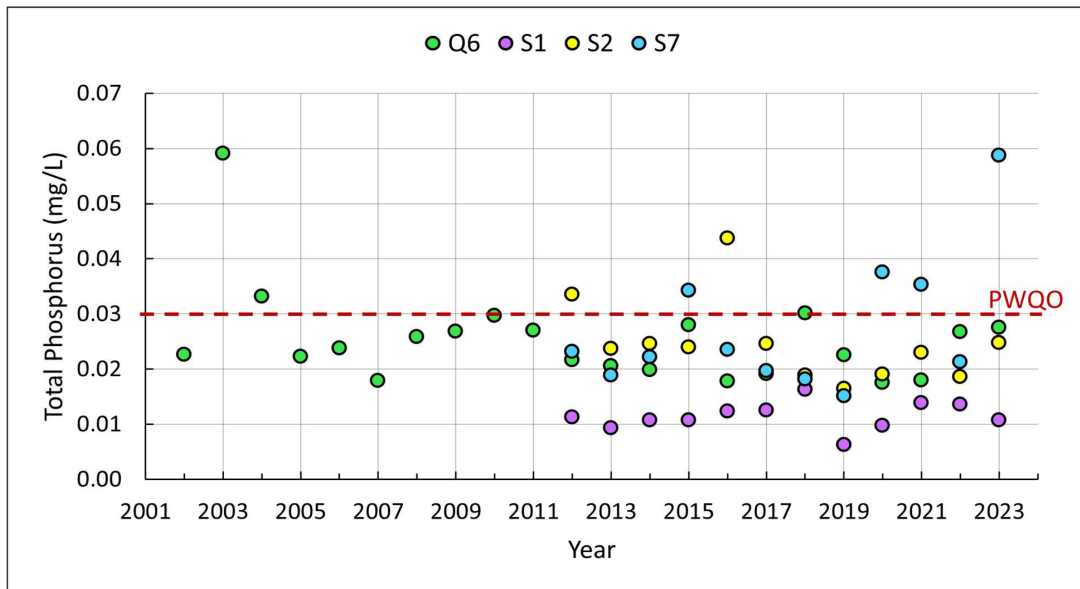


Figure G.6 2002 to 2023 Teeswater subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 9 exceedances of the PWQO.

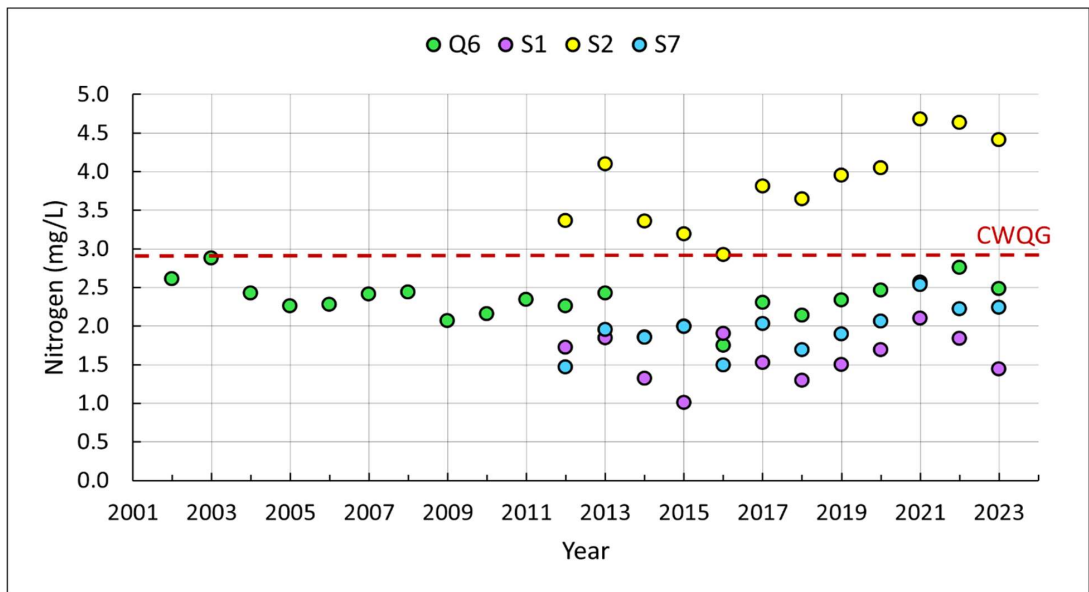


Figure G.7 2002 to 2023 Teeswater subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 11 exceedances of the CWQG.

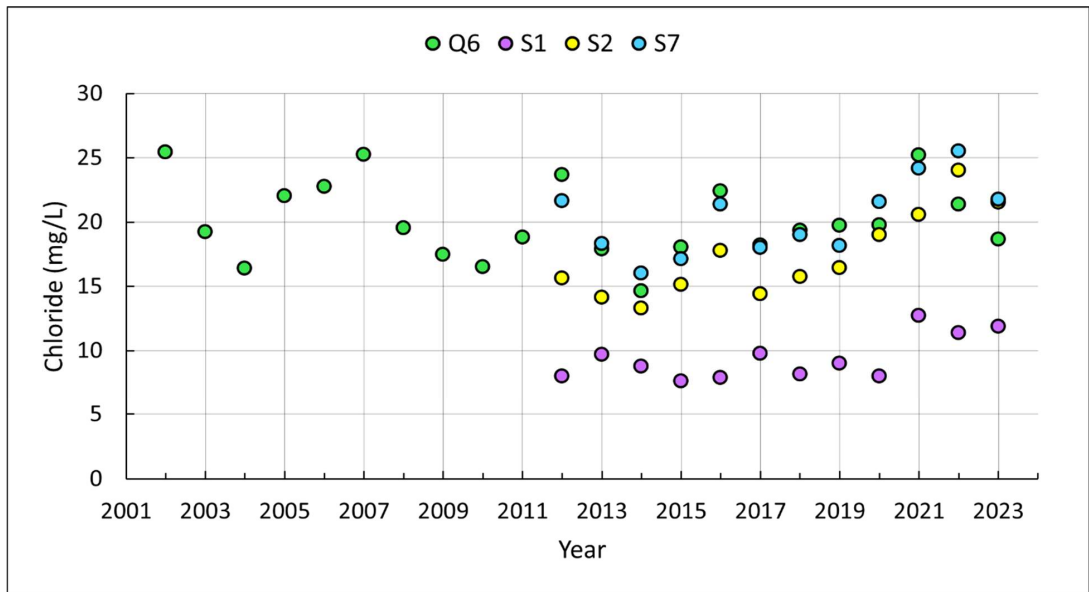


Figure G.8 2002 to 2023 Teeswater subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

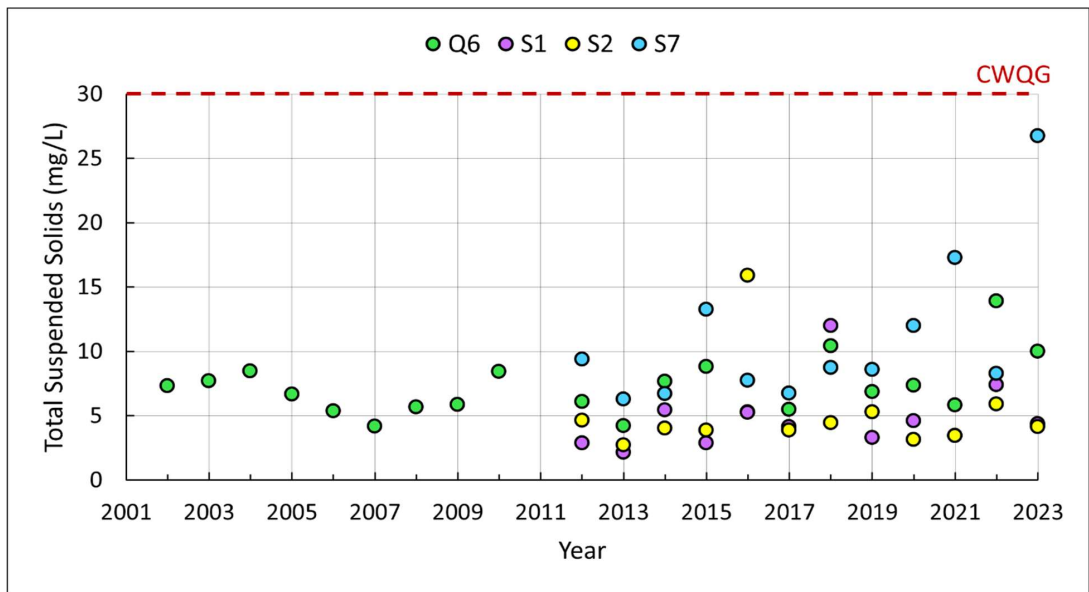


Figure G.9 2012 to 2023 Teeswater subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are no exceedances. Results for Q6 in 2011 are not available.

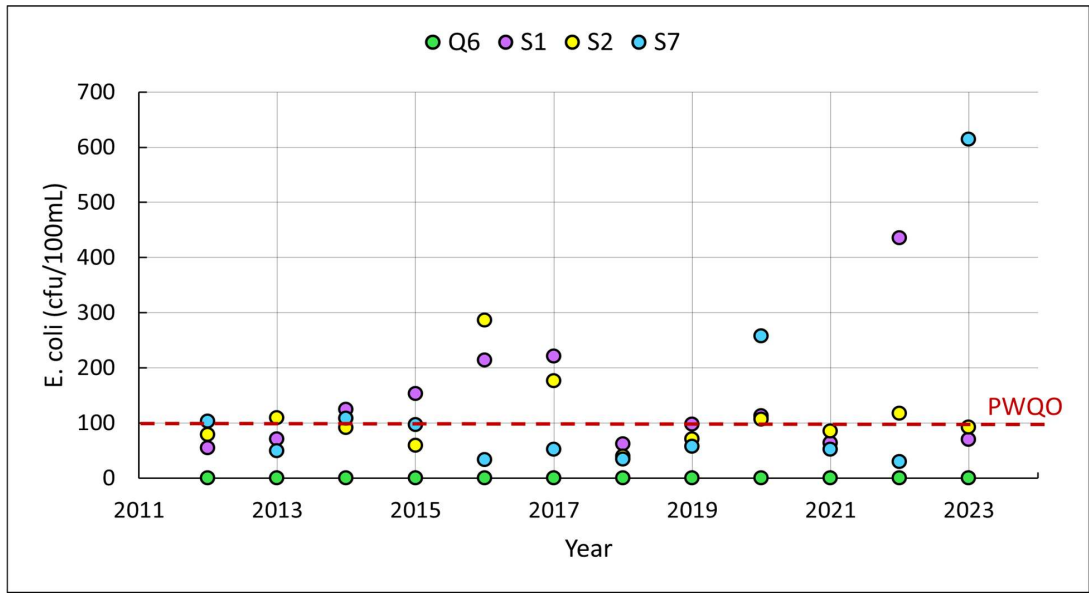


Figure G.10 2012 to 2023 Teeswater subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q6, S1, S2, and S7 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 18 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

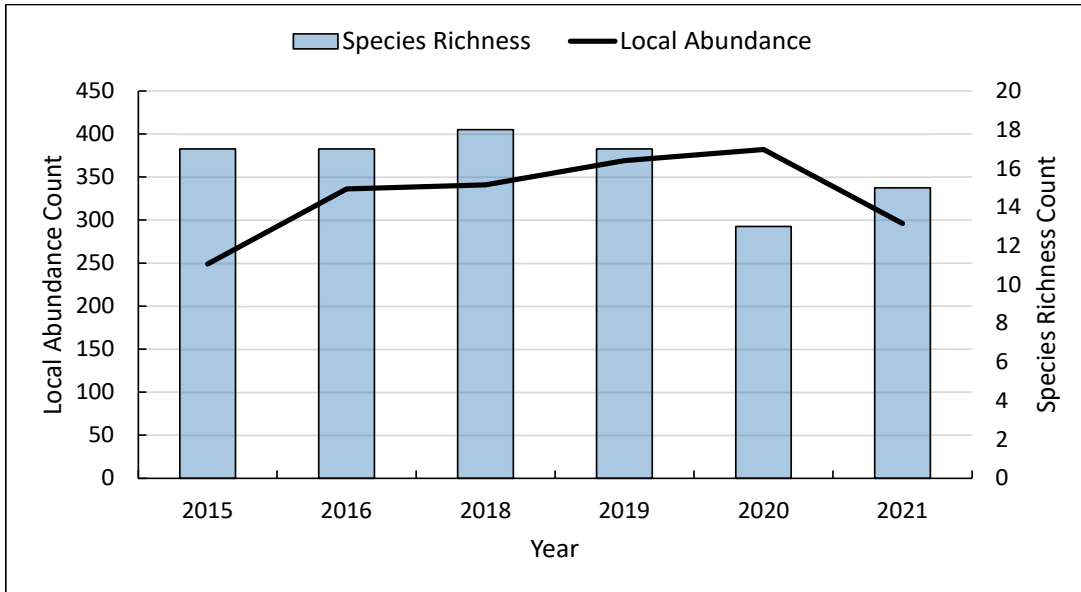


Figure G.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Teeswater subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

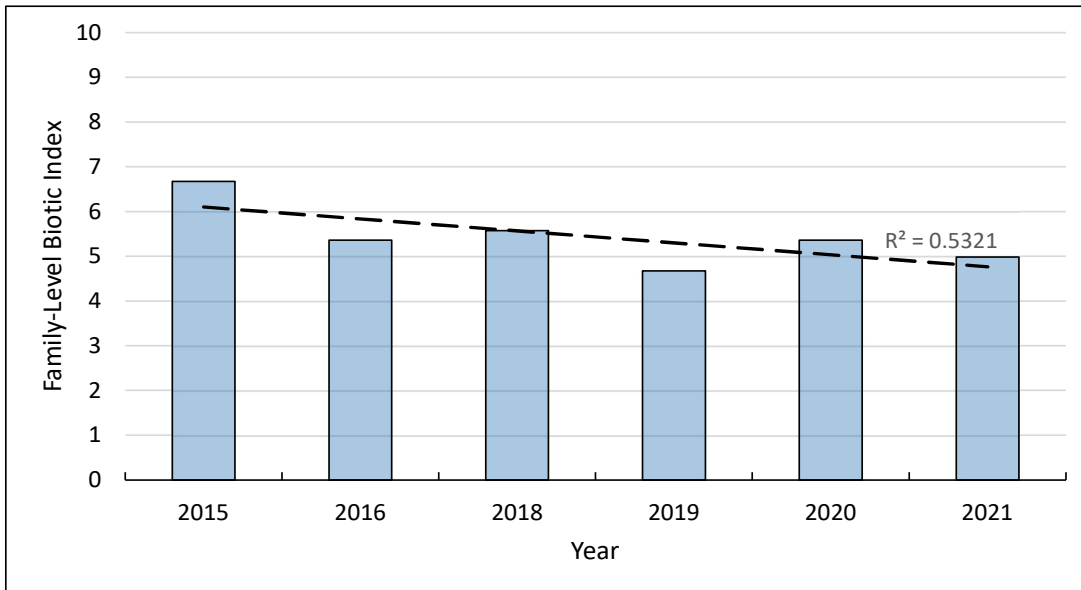


Figure G.12 Family-level biotic index for the Teeswater subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

## Appendix H – Lower Main Saugeen Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

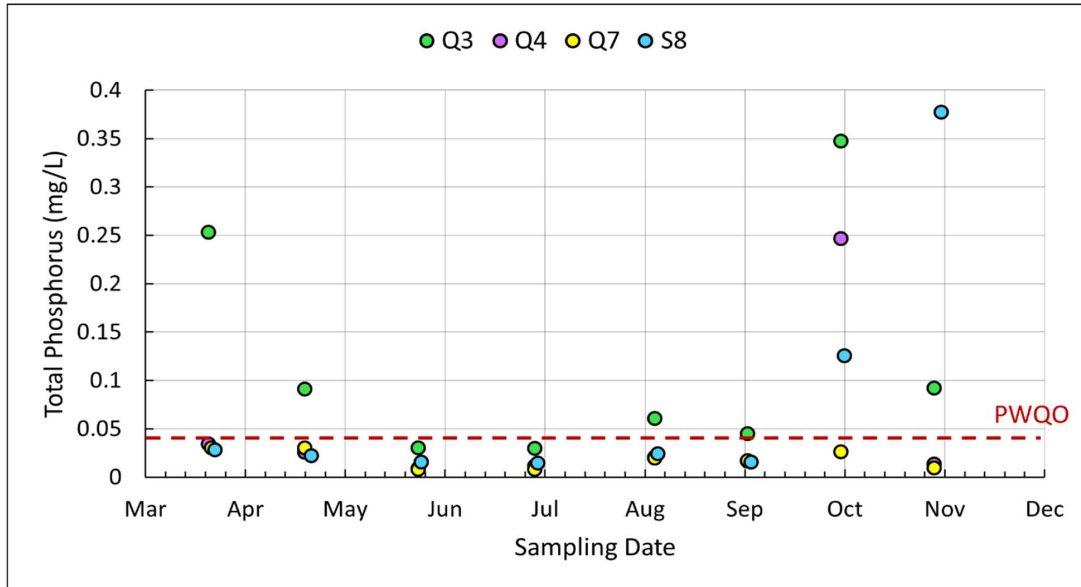


Figure H.1 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 12 exceedances of the PWQO.

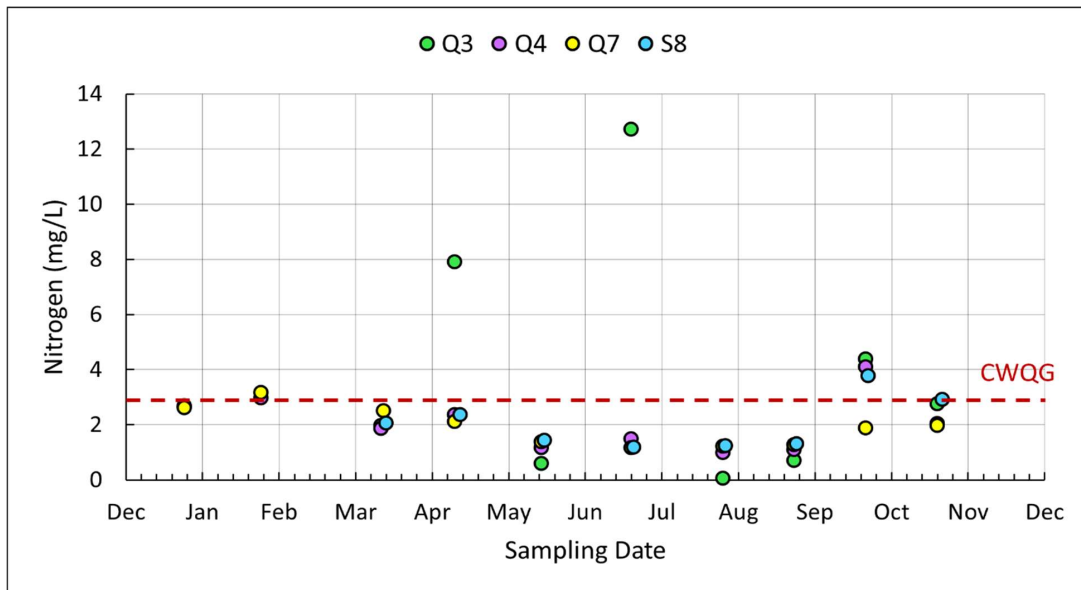


Figure H.2 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 7 exceedances of the CWQG.

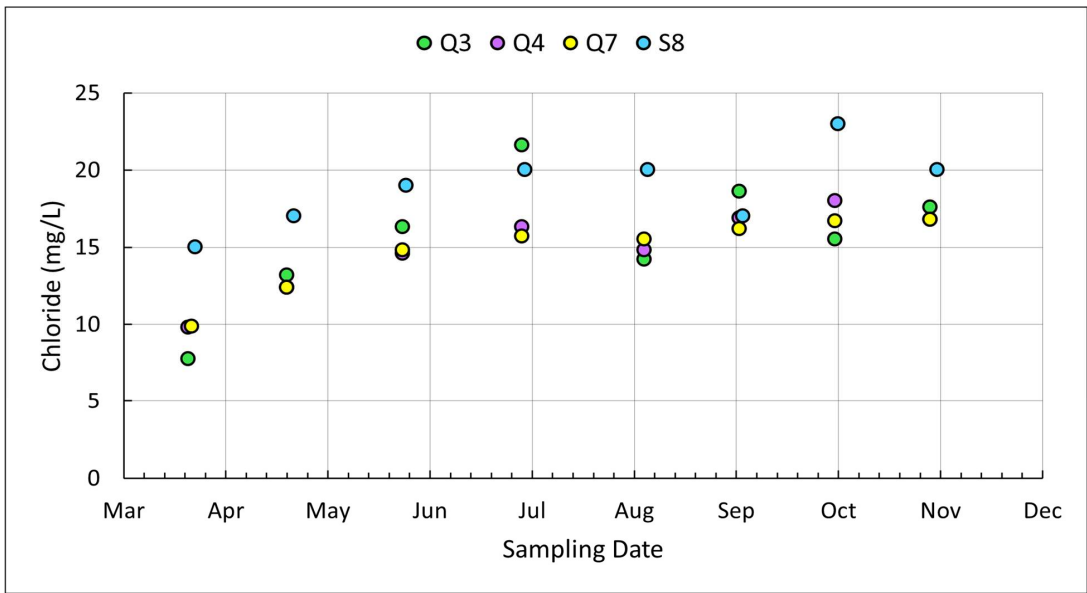


Figure H.3 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

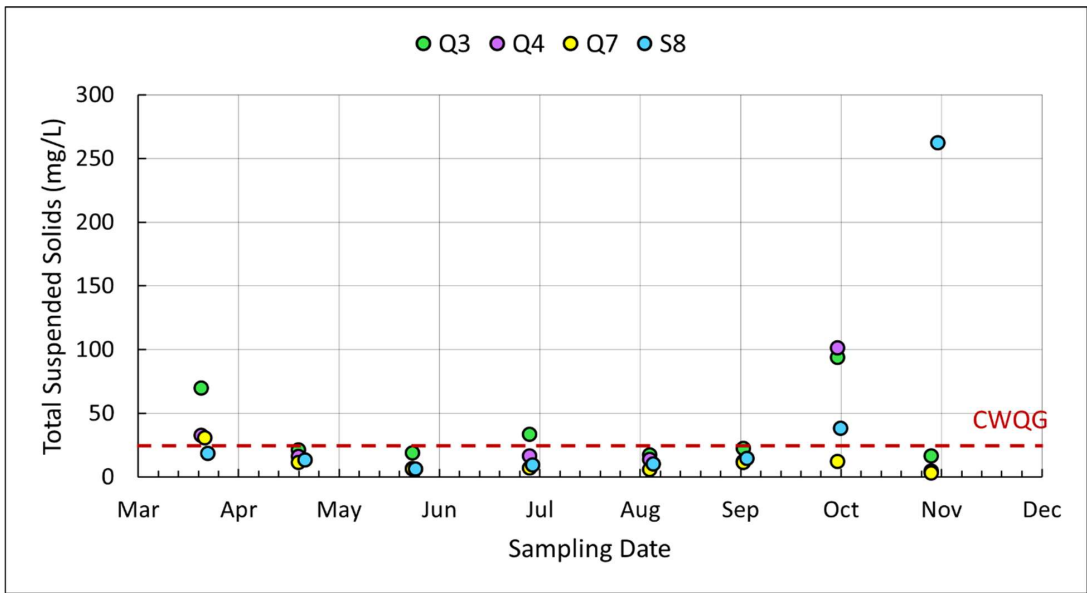


Figure H.4 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 8 exceedances of the CWQG.

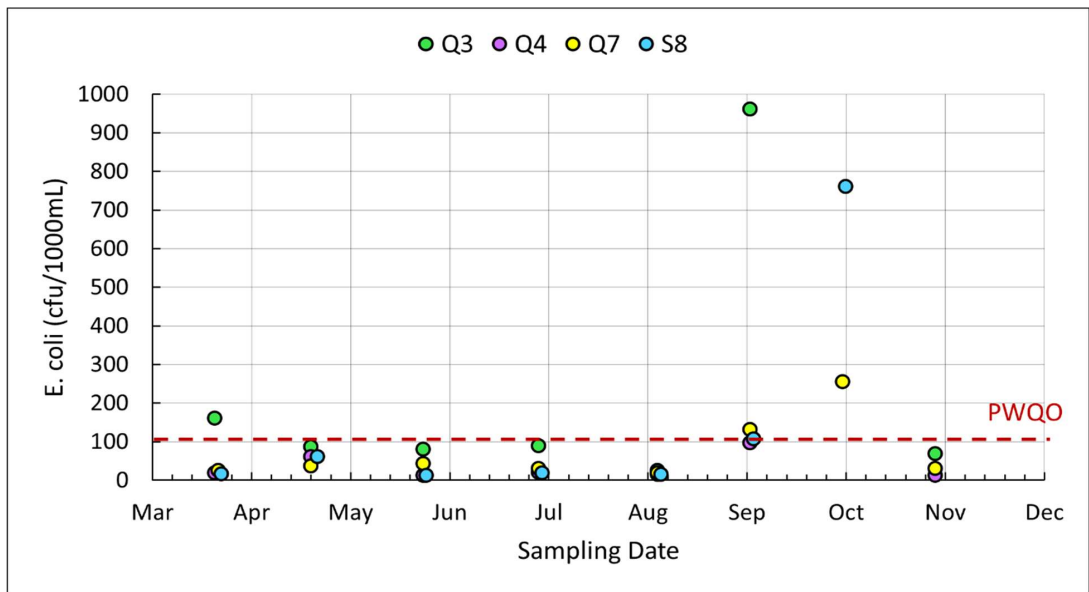


Figure H.5 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 9 exceedances of the PWQO. Three exceedances are not shown in this graph (Q3 at October 2860 cfu/100mL; S8 at November 2700 cfu/100mL; and Q4 at October 2040 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

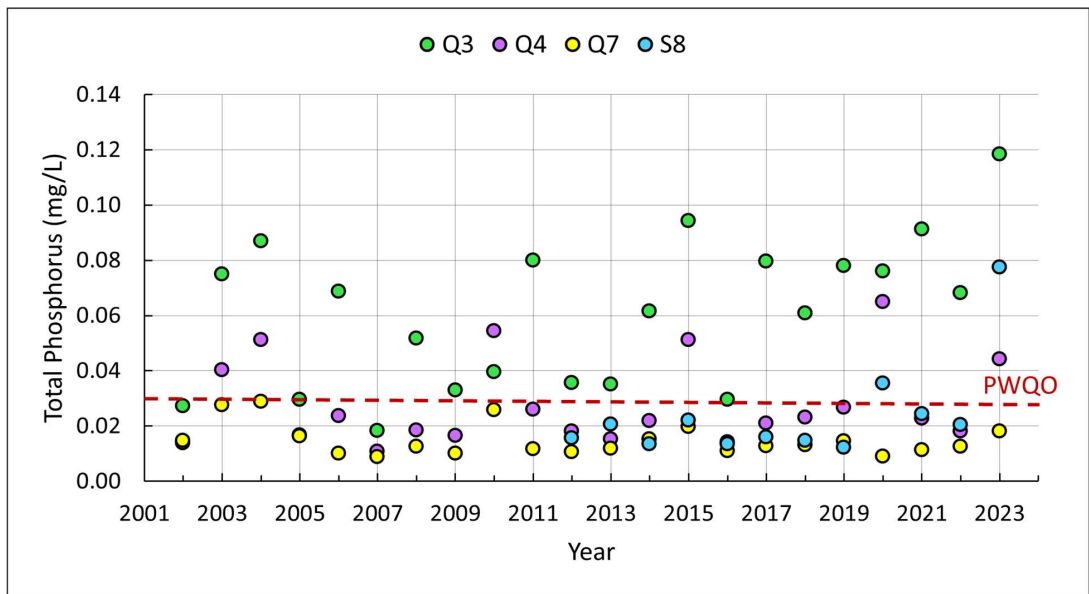


Figure H.6 2002 to 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 26 exceedances of the PWQO.

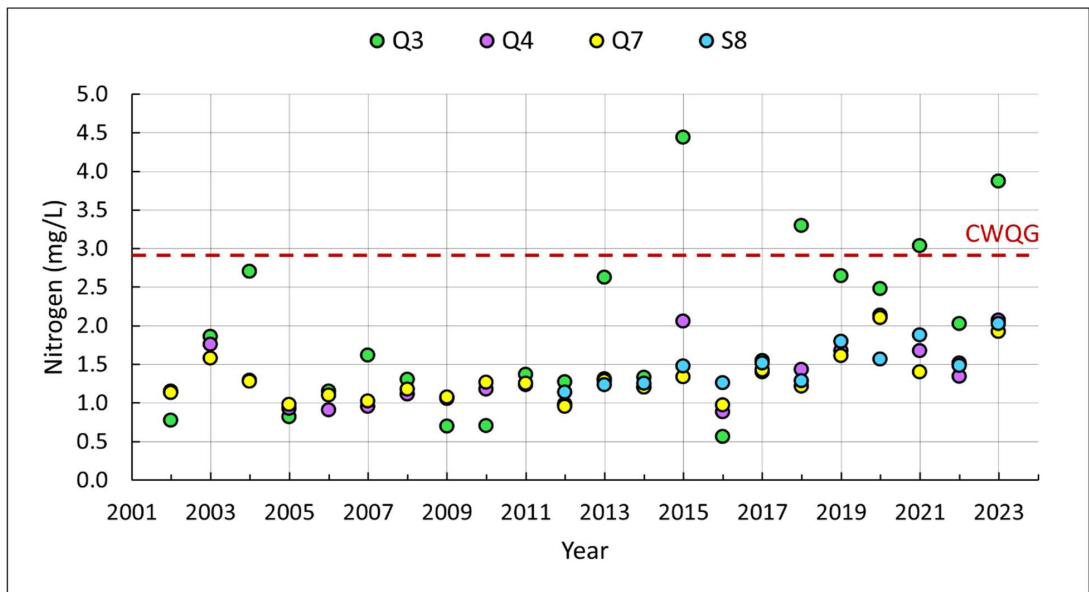


Figure H.7 2002 to 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 4 exceedances of the CWQG.

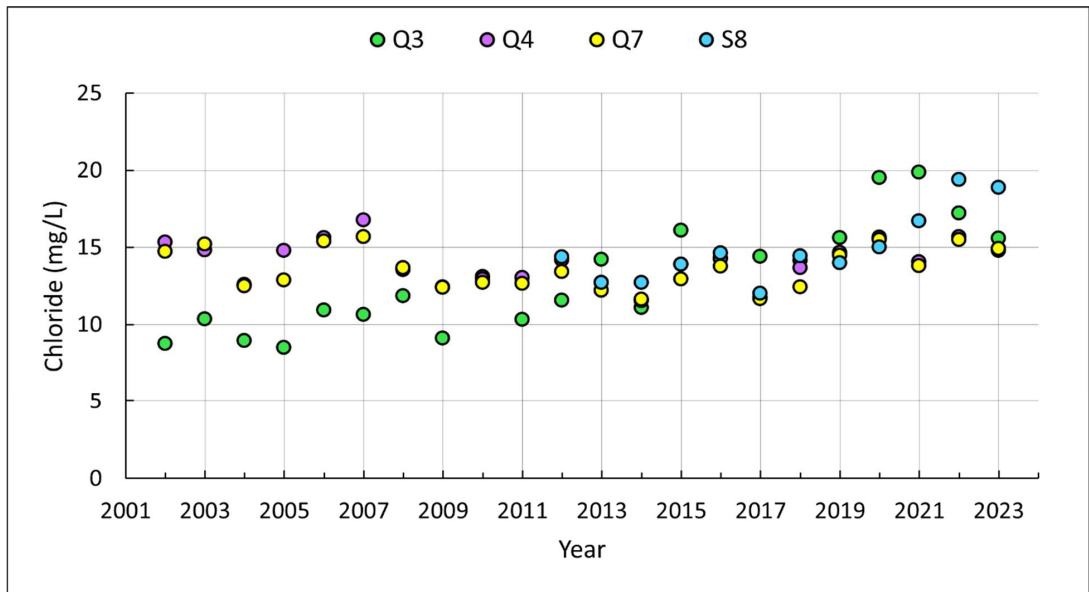


Figure H.8 2002 to 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

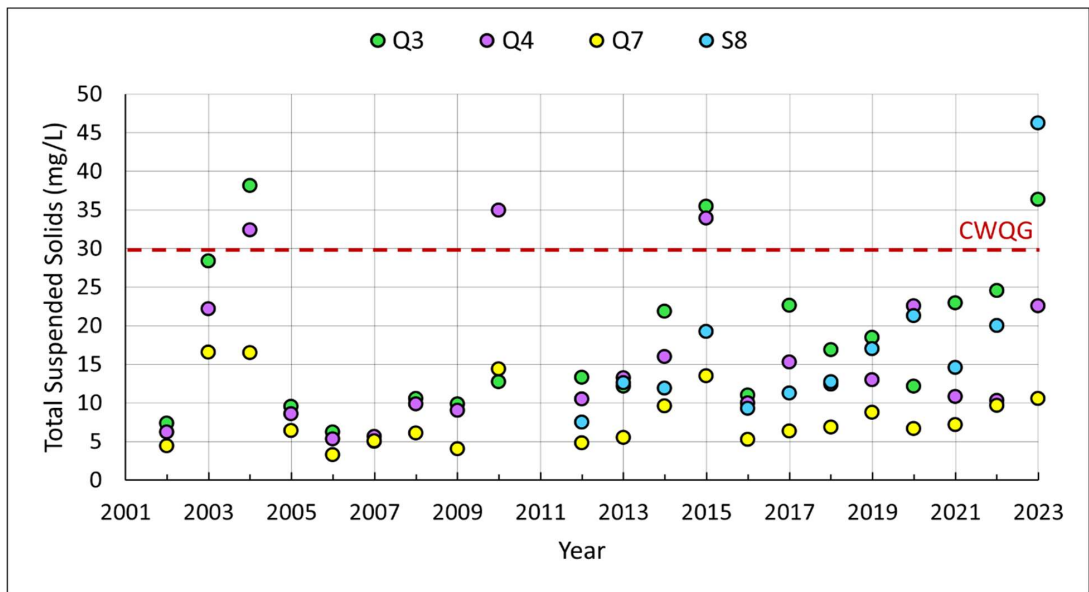


Figure H.9 2012 to 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 7 exceedances of the CWQG.

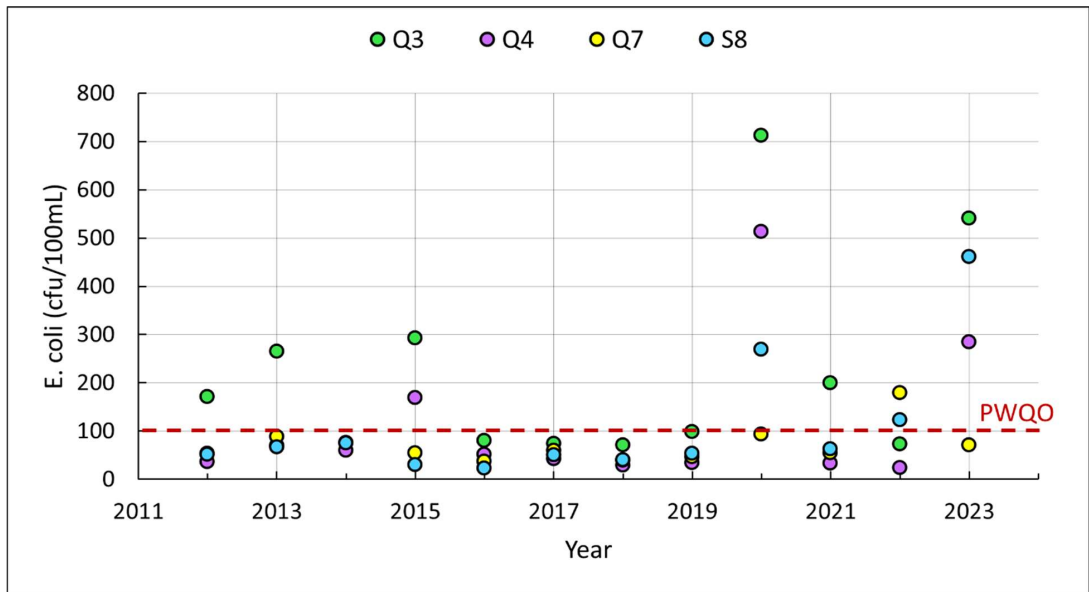


Figure H.10 2012 to 2023 Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7 and S8 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 14 exceedances of the PWQO; there is one exceedance at Q3 in 2014 that is not shown on this graph (2367 cfu/100mL).

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

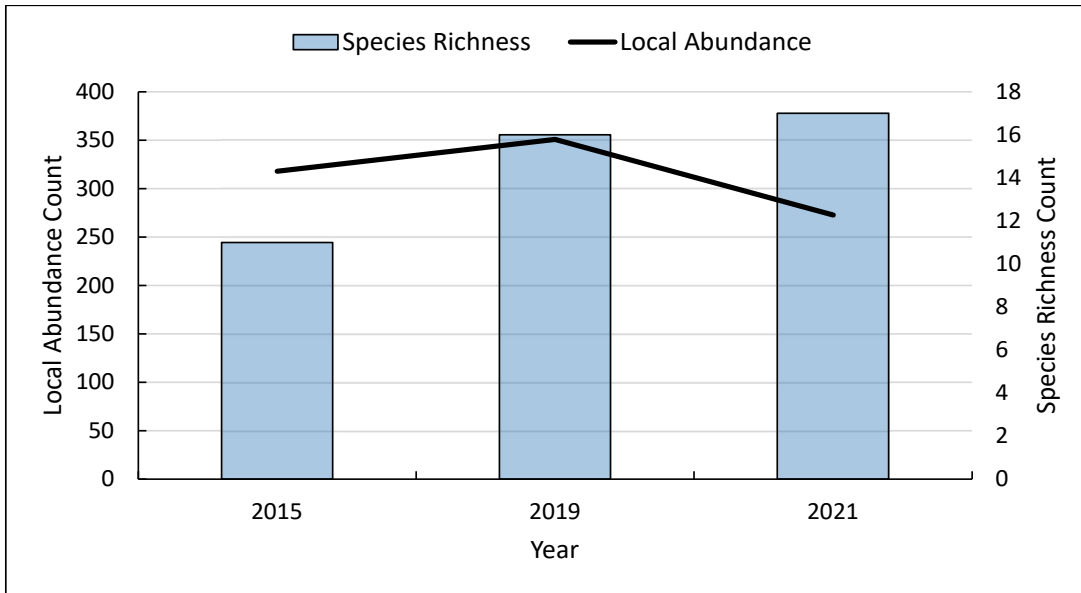


Figure H.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

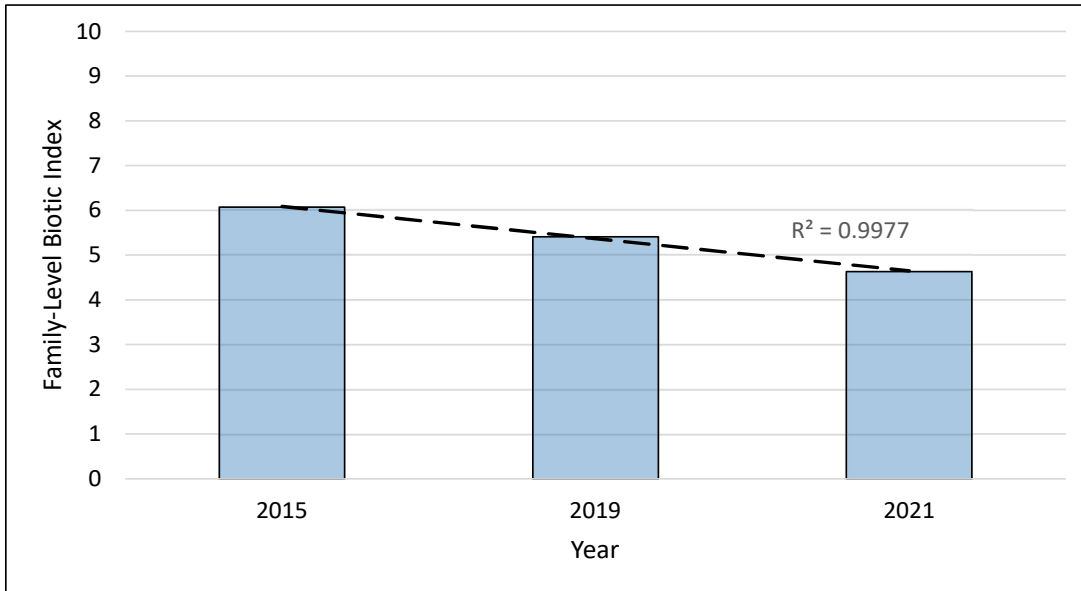


Figure H.12 Family-level biotic index for the Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

## Appendix I – Lake Fringe Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

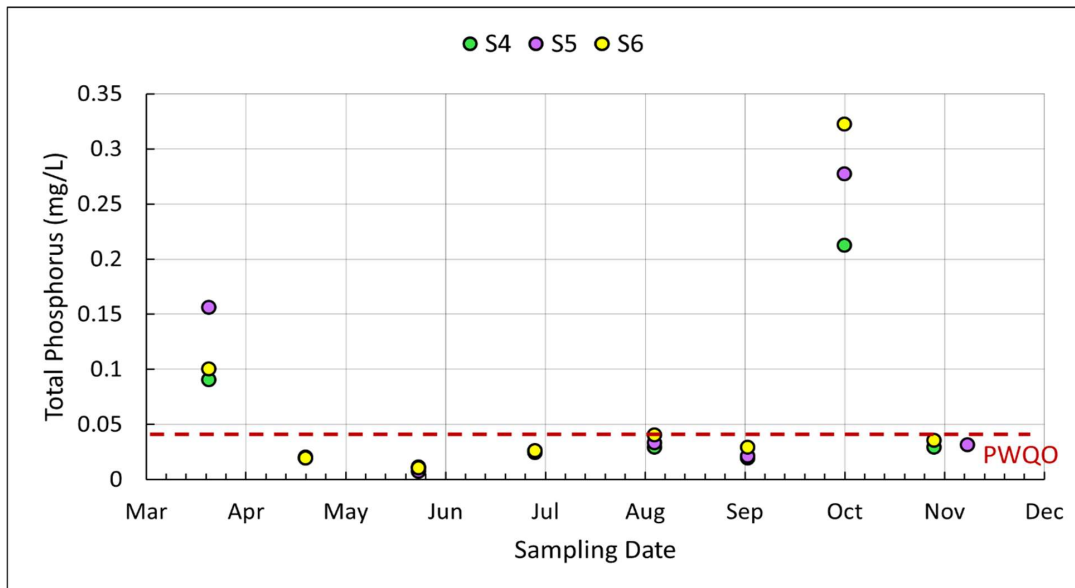


Figure I.1 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 10 exceedances of the PWQO.

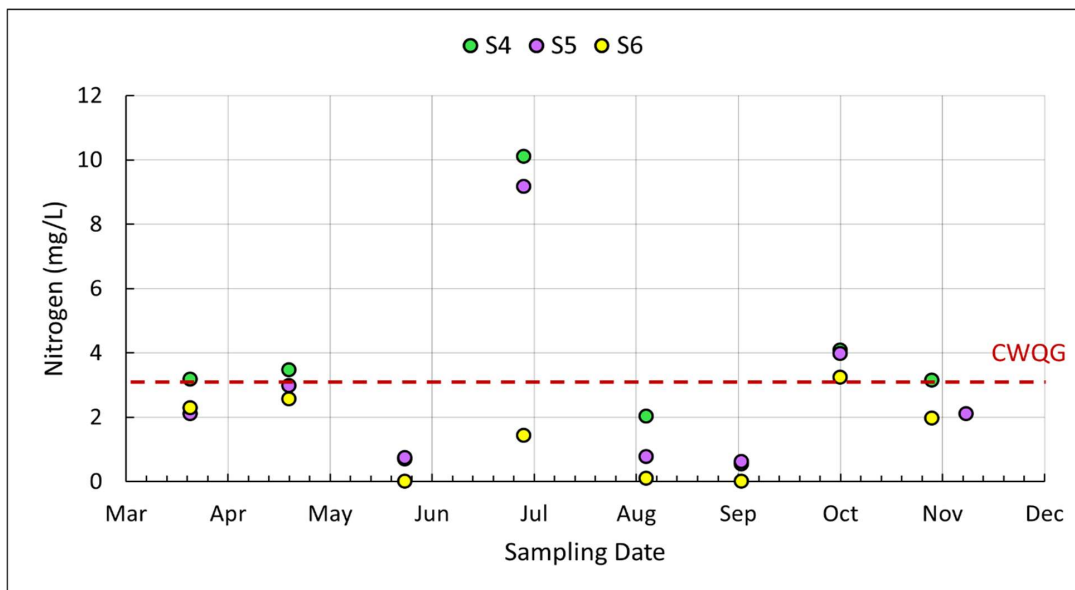


Figure I.2 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 9 exceedances of the CWQG.

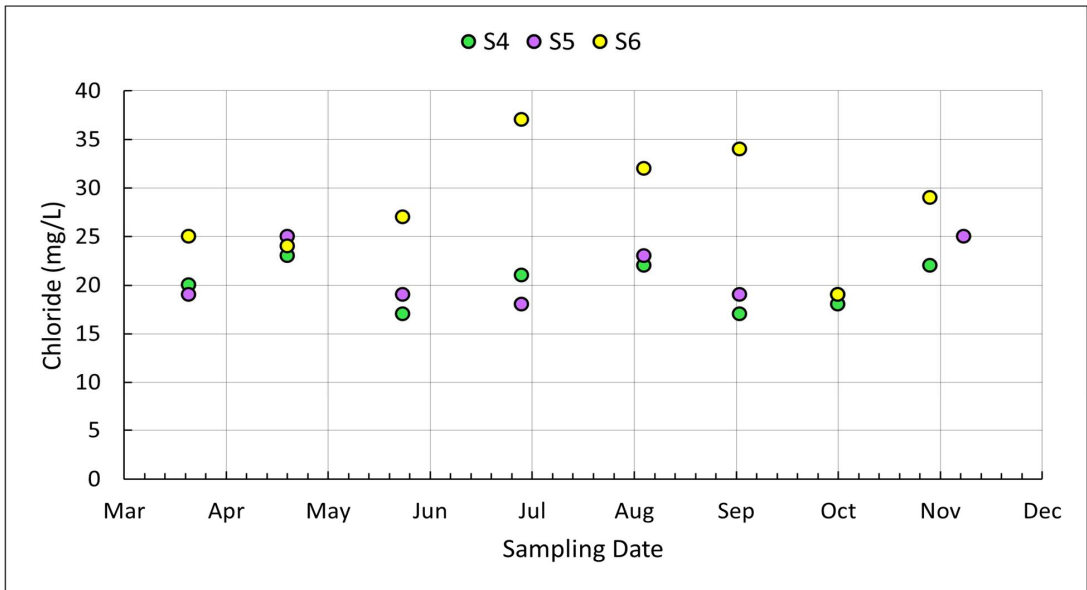


Figure I.3 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

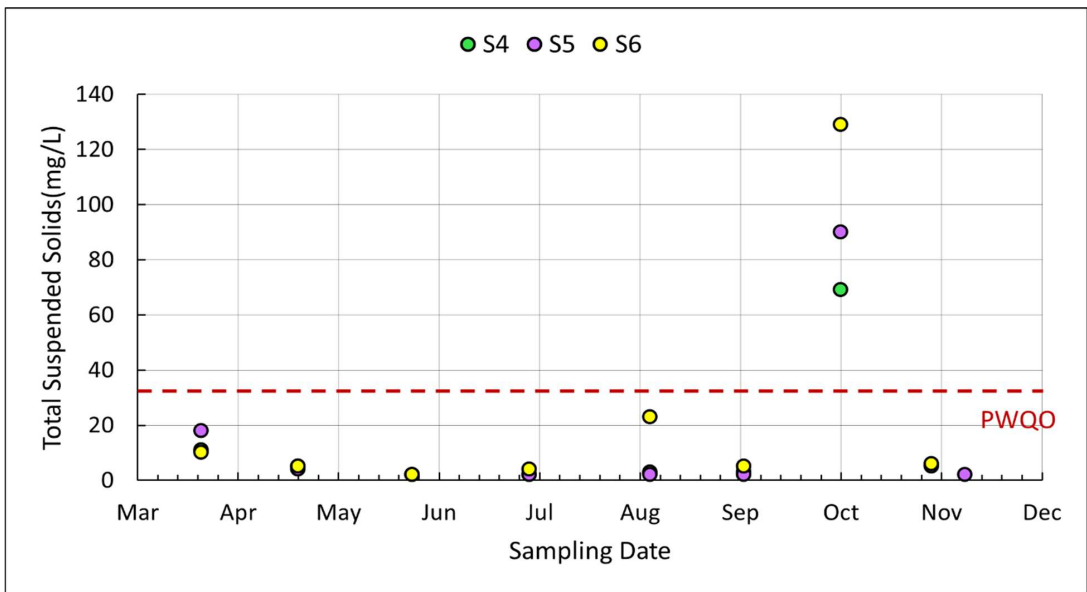


Figure I.4 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 3 exceedances of the CWQG.

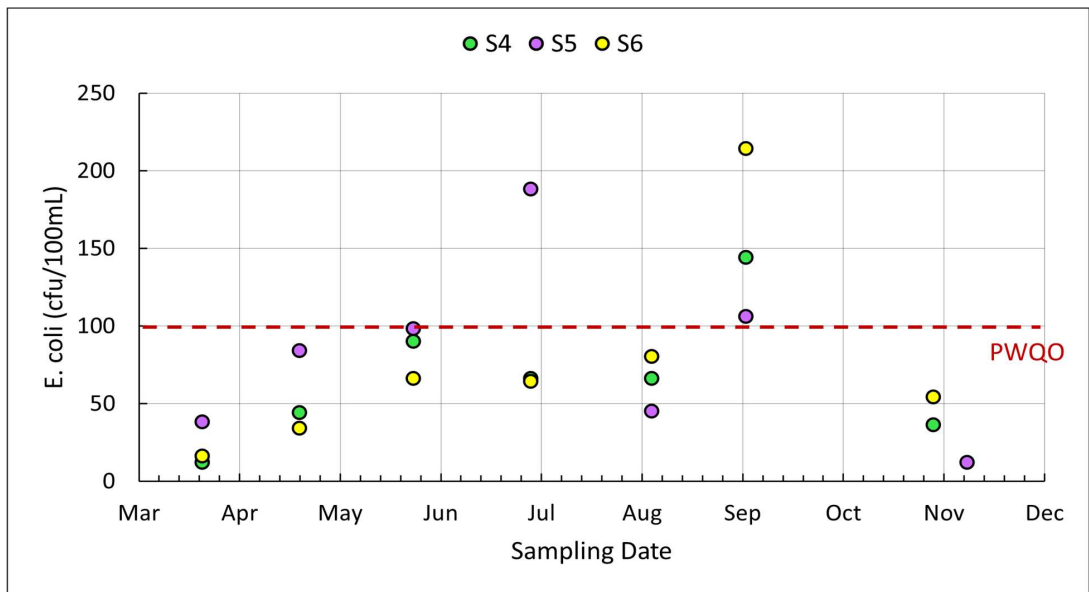


Figure I.5 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 7 exceedances of the PWQO, three exceedances from October are not shown on this graph (S4 at 3100 cfu/100mL; S6 at 2300 cfu/100mL; and S5 at 1700 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

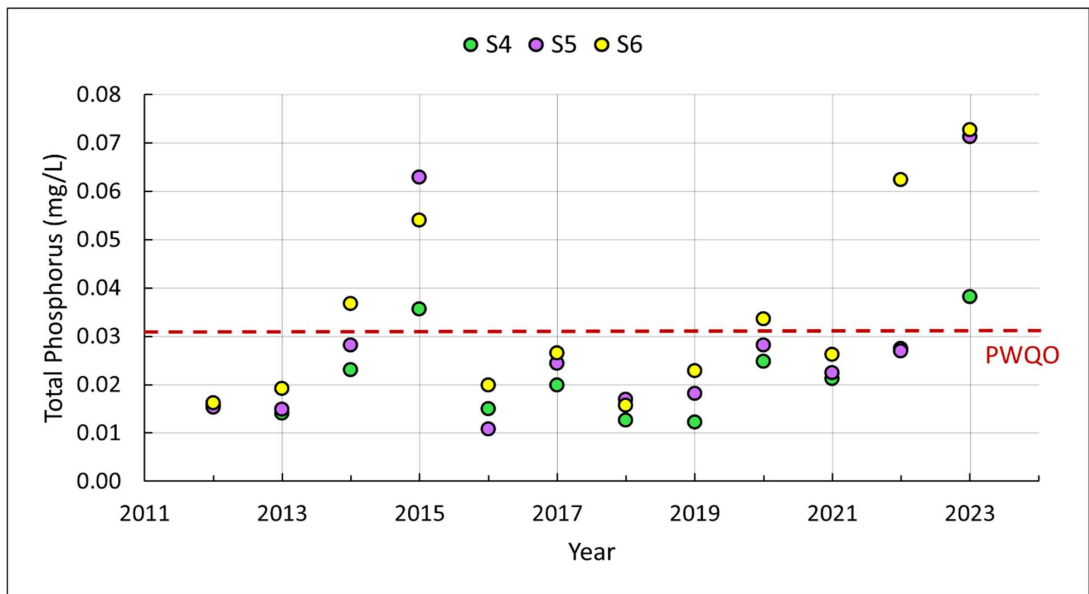


Figure I.6 2012 to 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 9 exceedances of the PWQO.

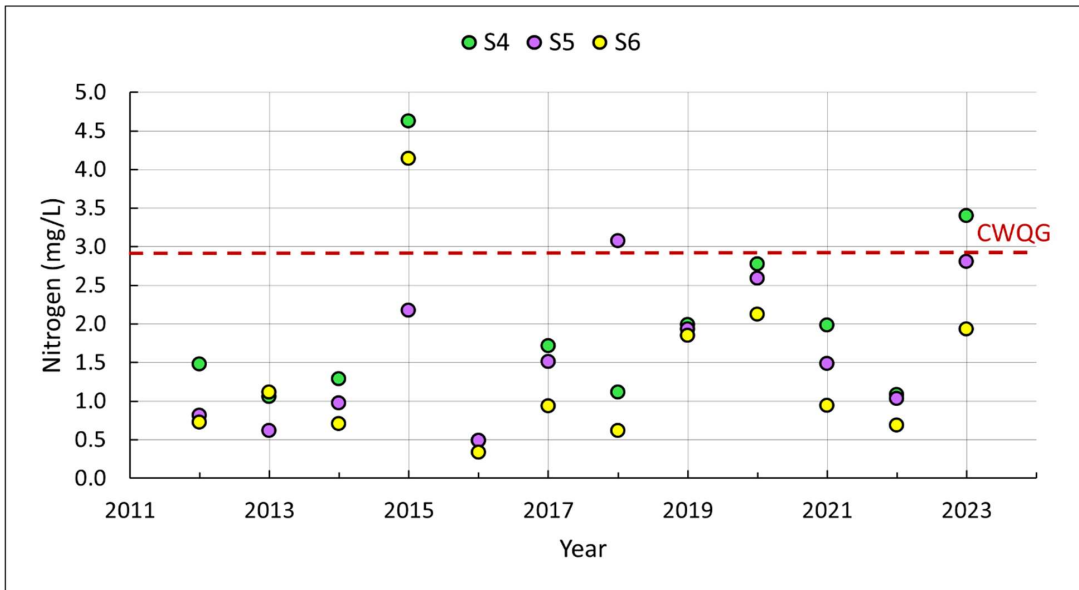


Figure 1.7 2012 to 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 4 exceedances of the CWQG.

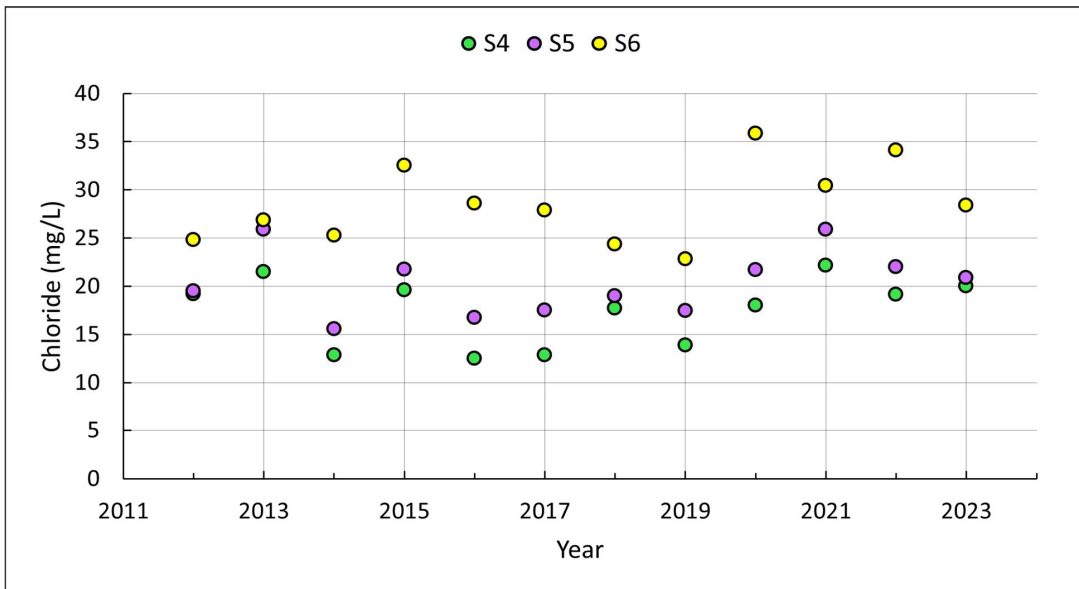


Figure 1.8 2012 to 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

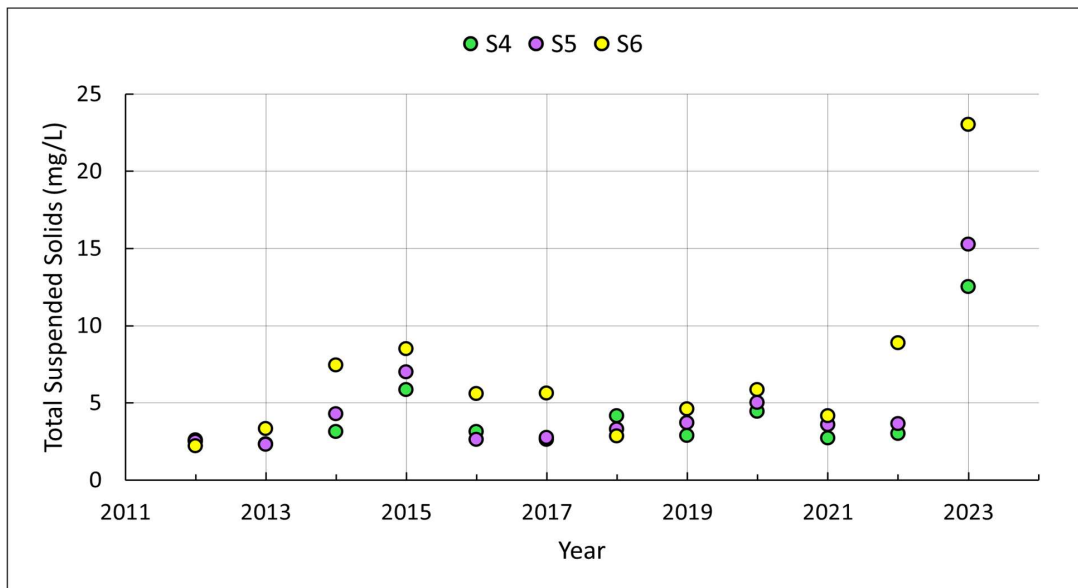


Figure I.9 2012 to 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. The CWQG is 30 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

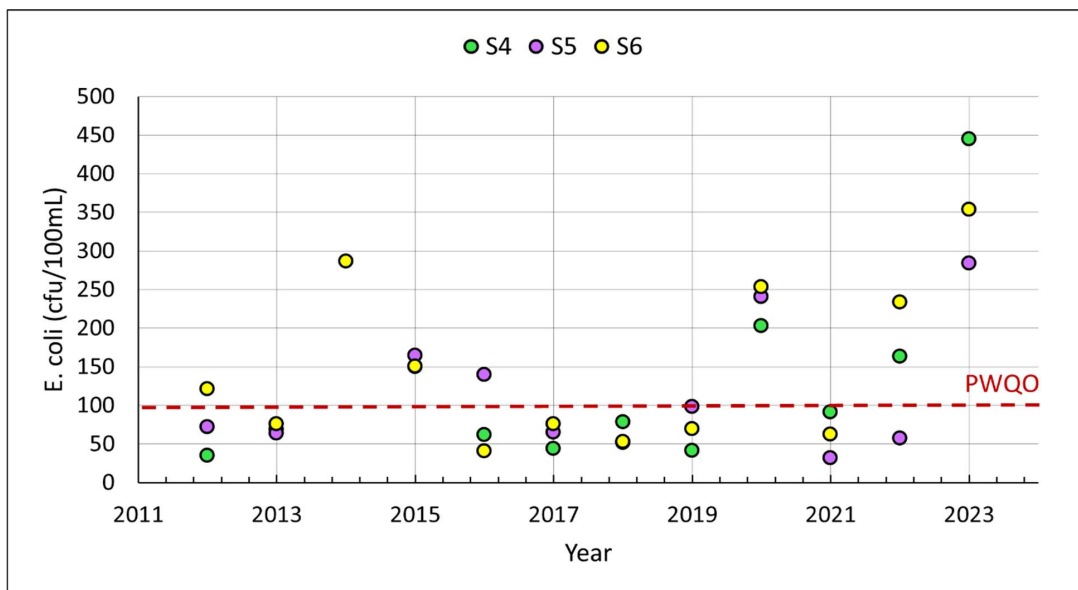


Figure I.10 2012 to 2023 Lake Fringe subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 16 exceedances of the PWQO; there are two exceedances in 2014 at S4 and S5 that are not shown on this graph (668 cfu/100mL and 1386 cfu/100mL, respectively).

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2020)

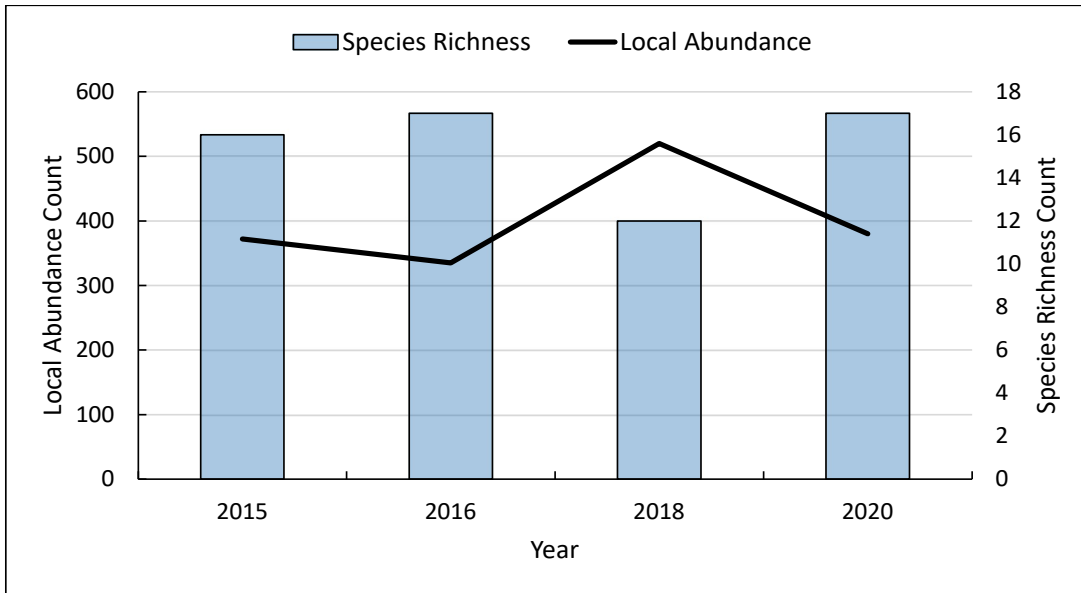


Figure I.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Lake Fringe subwatershed from 2015 to 2020.

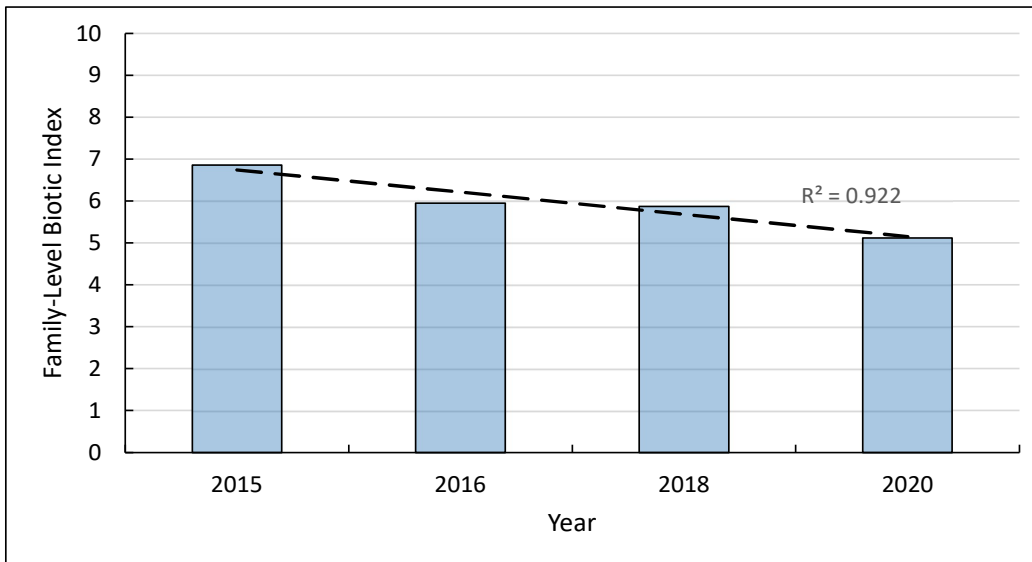


Figure I.12 Family-level biotic index for the Lake Fringe subwatershed from 2015 to 2020.

## Appendix J – Pine Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

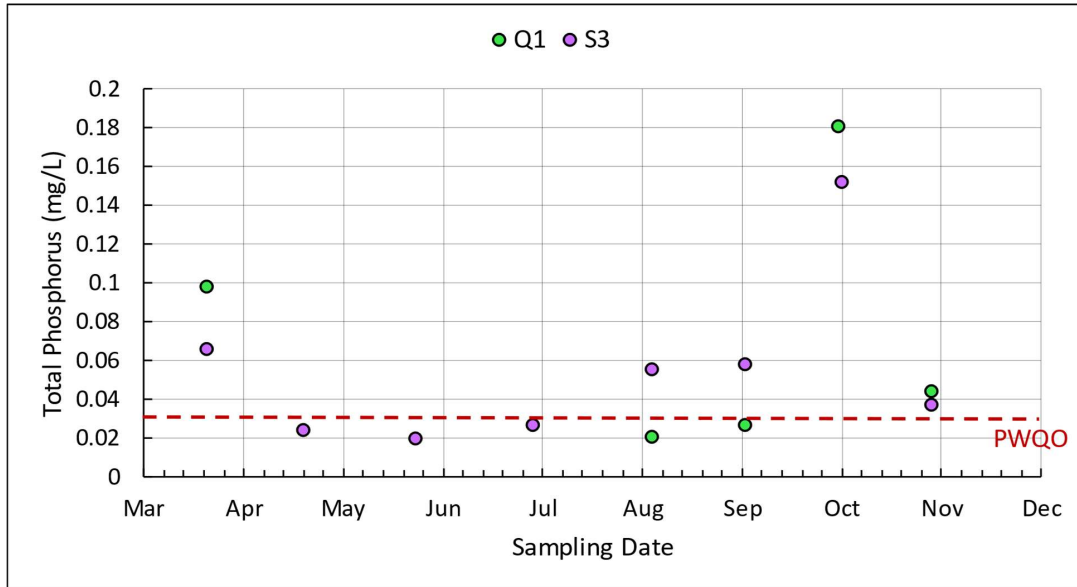


Figure J.1 2023 Pine subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 8 exceedances of the PWQO.

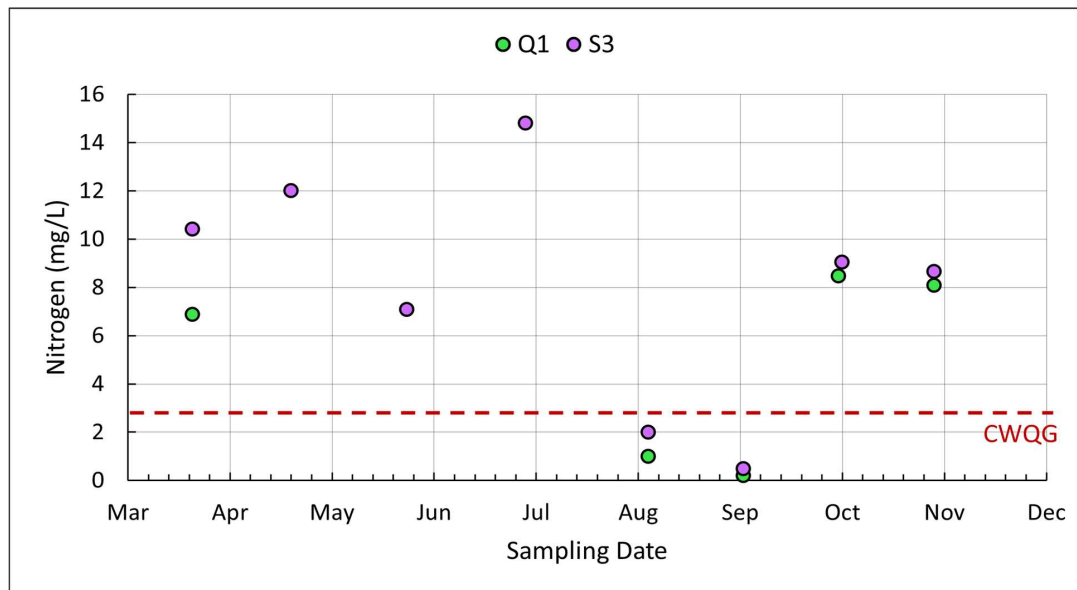


Figure J.2 2023 Pine subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 9 exceedances of the CWQG.

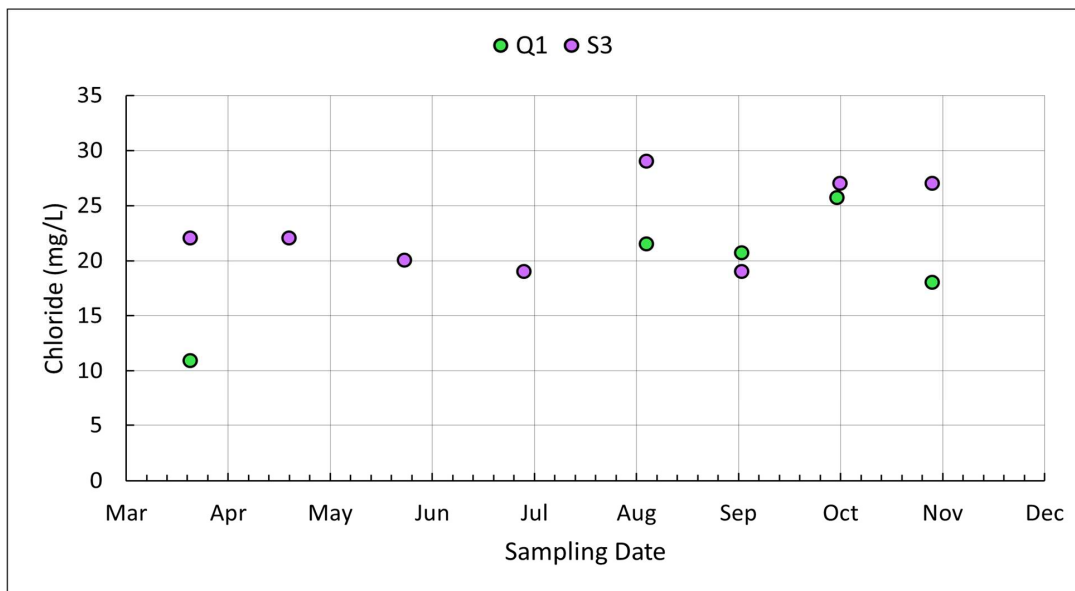


Figure J.3 2023 Pine subwatershed chloride concentrations(mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

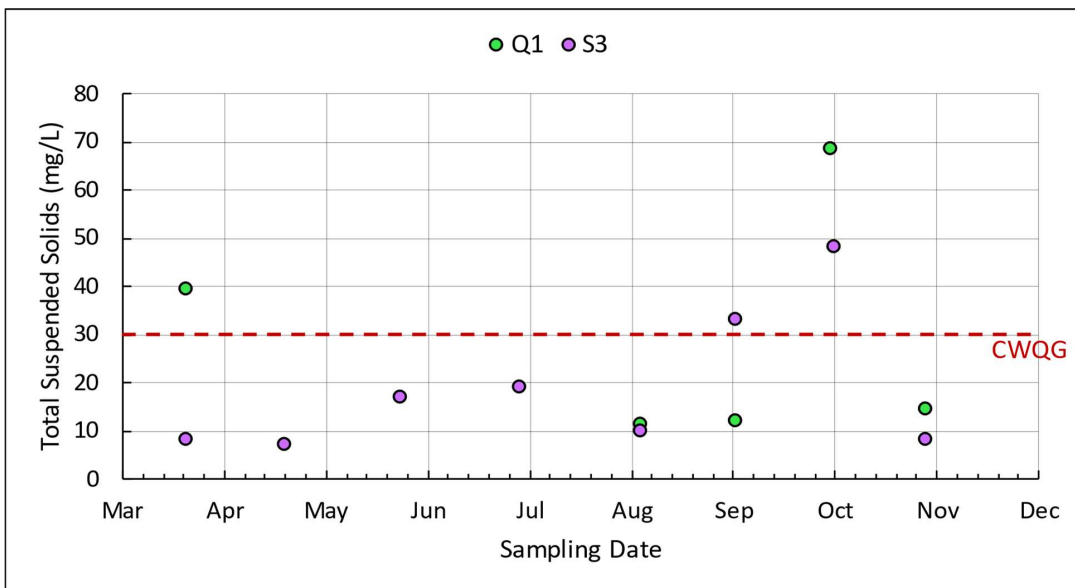


Figure J.4 2023 Pine subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 4 exceedances.

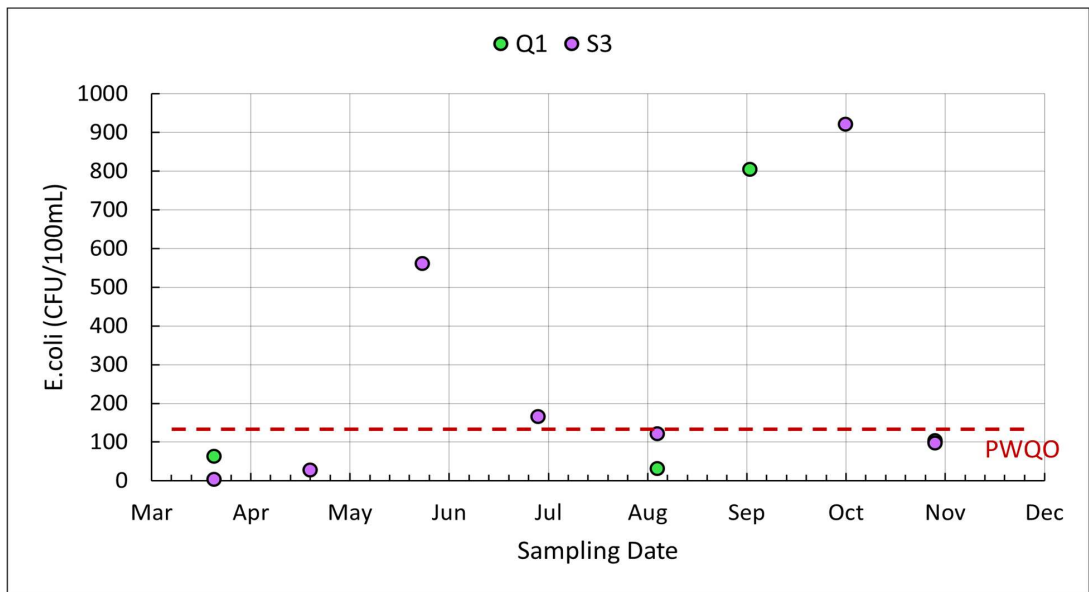


Figure J.5 2023 Pine subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 19 exceedances of the PWQO. Two exceedances are not shown on this graph (Q1, October at 3260 cfu/100mL; and S3, September at 2200 cfu/100mL).

### Long-term Results

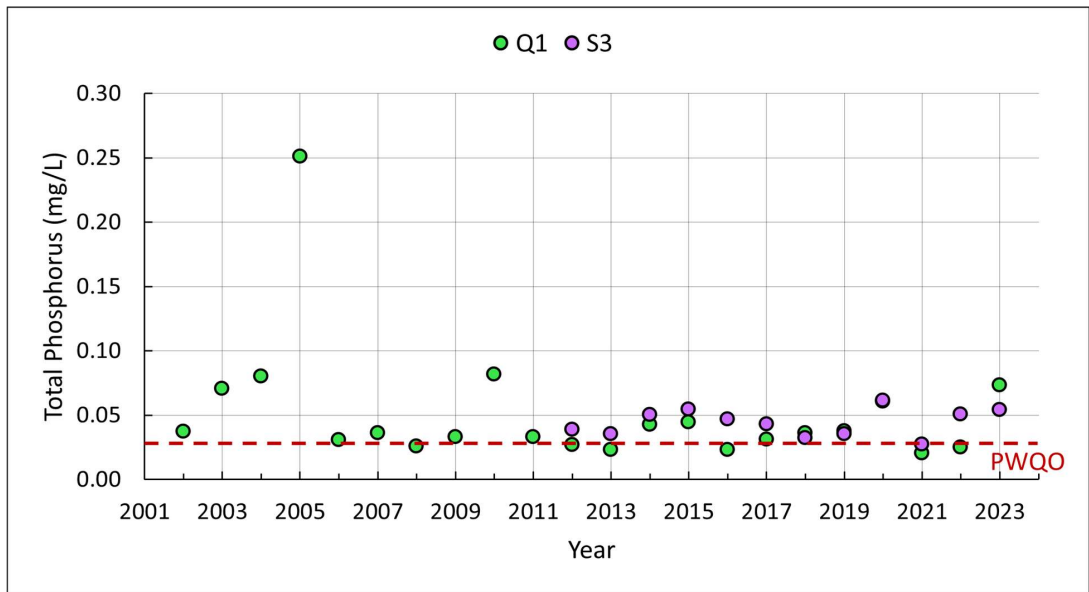


Figure J.6 2002 to 2023 Pine subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 17 exceedances of the PWQO.

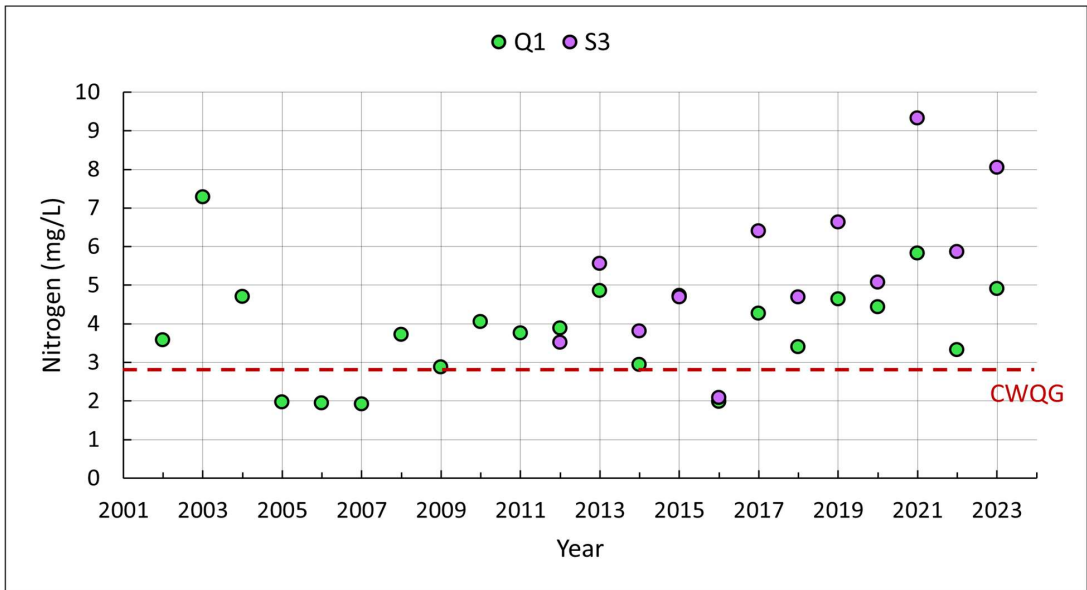


Figure J.7 2002 to 2023 Pine subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 28 exceedances of the CWQG.

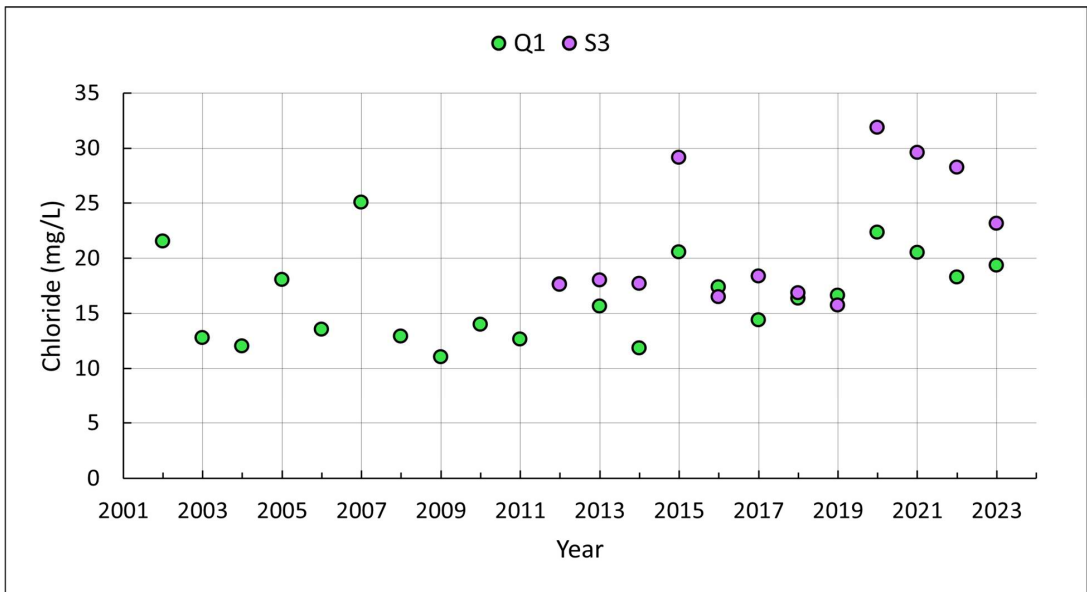


Figure J.8 2002 to 2023 Pine subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

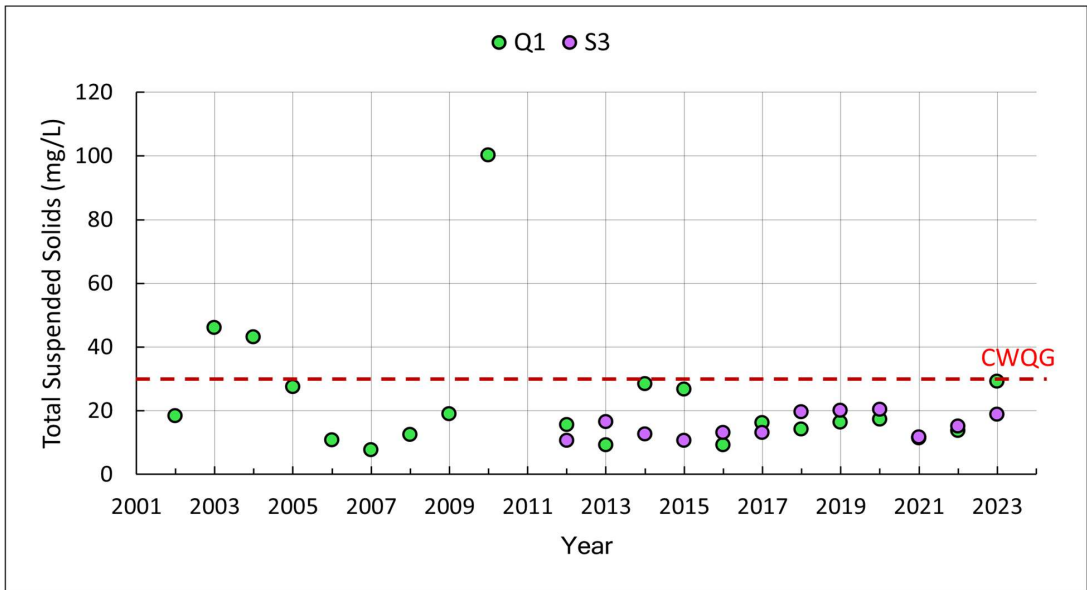


Figure J.9 2012 to 2023 Pine subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 3 exceedances of the CWQG.

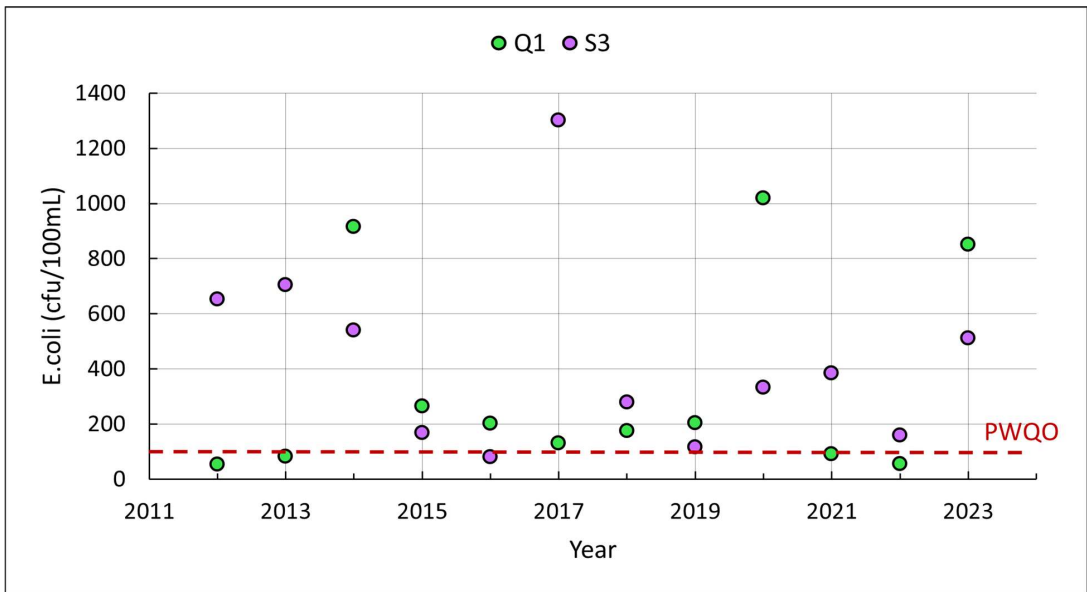


Figure J.10 2012 to 2023 Pine subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q1 and S3 sampling sites, and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 19 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

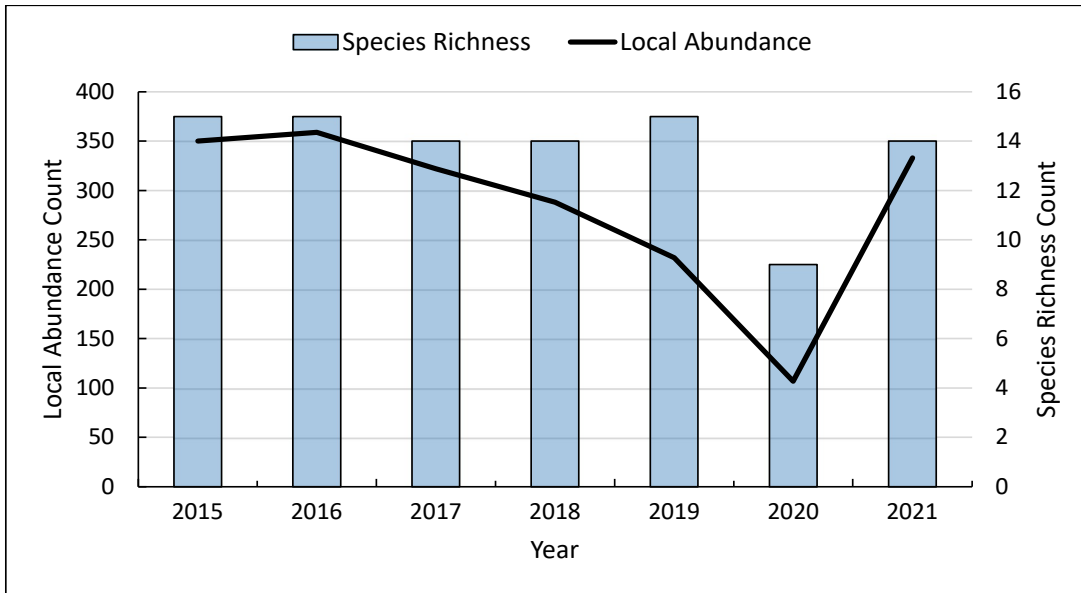


Figure J.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Pine subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

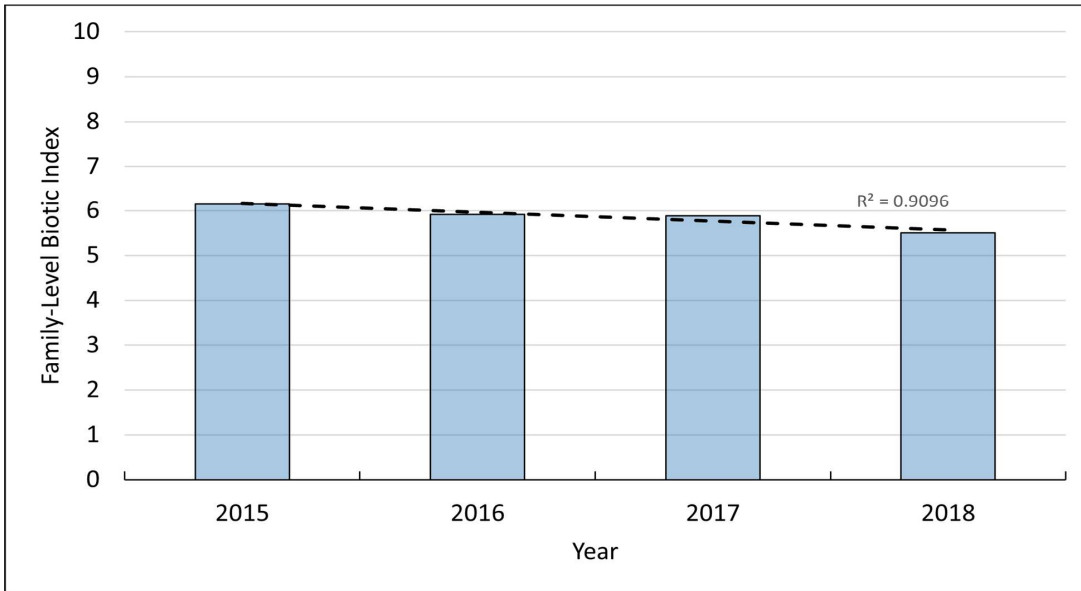


Figure J.12 Family-level biotic index for the Pine subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

## Appendix K – Penetangore Subwatershed

### 2023 Results

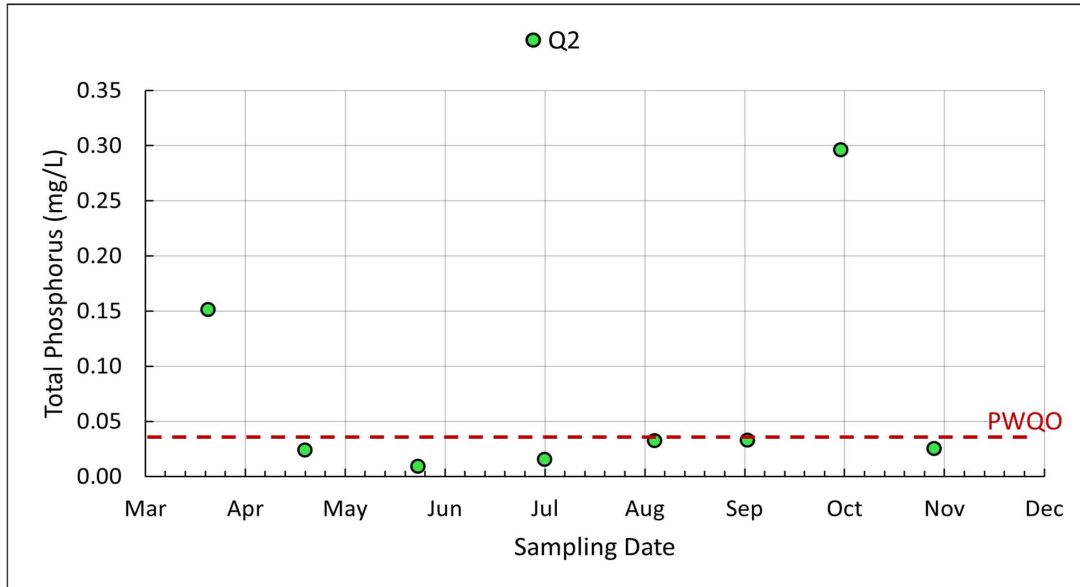


Figure K.1 2023 Penetangore subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 4 exceedances of the PWQO.

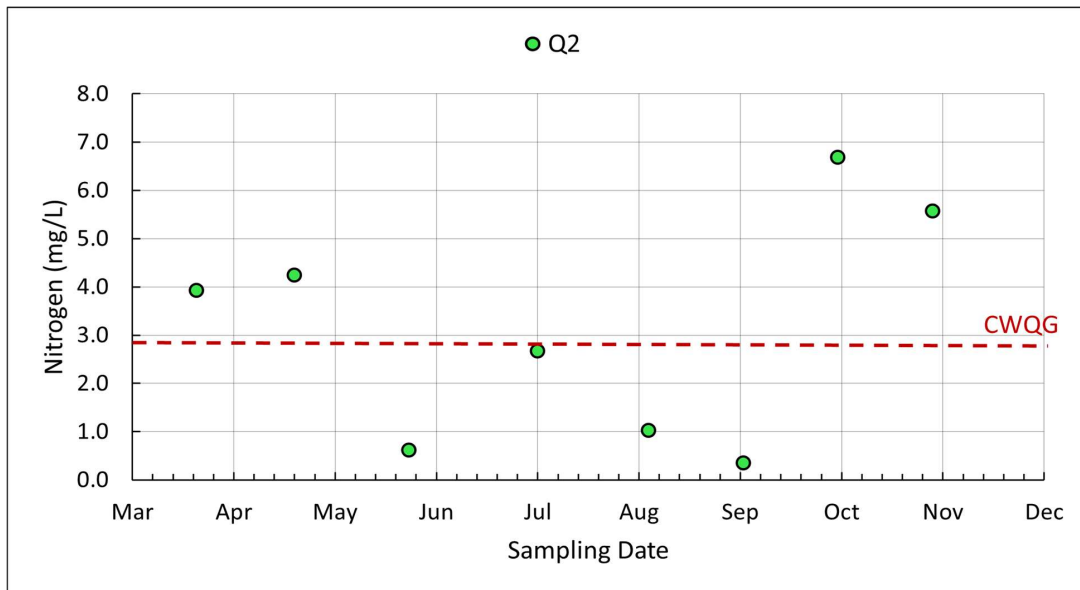


Figure K.2 2023 Penetangore subwatershed nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There is 4 exceedances of the CWQG.

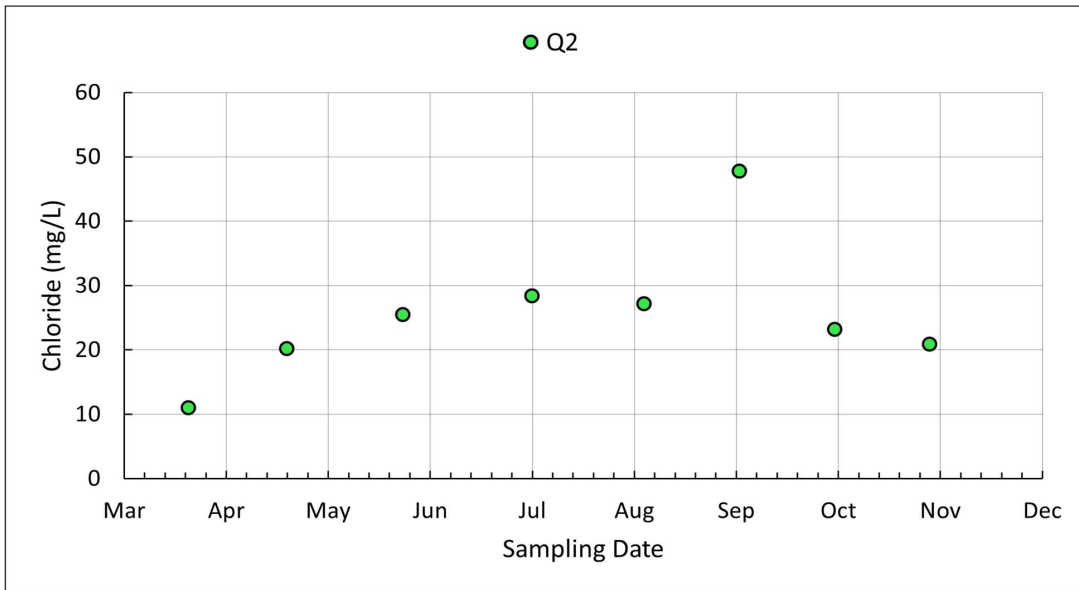


Figure K.3 2023 Penetangore subwatershed chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site. The CWQG is 120mg/L. There are no exceedances.

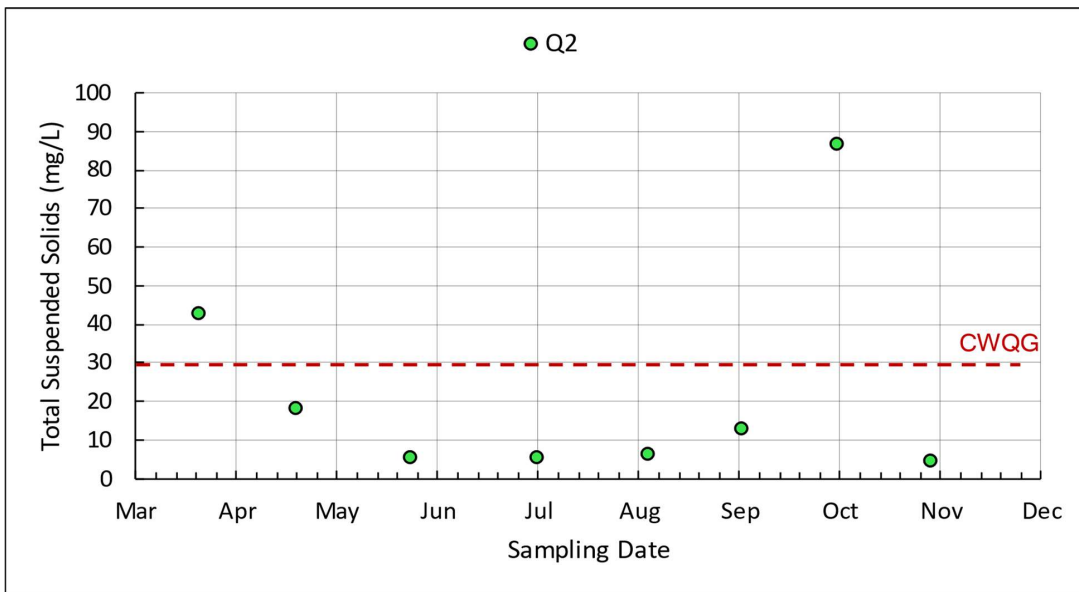


Figure K.4 2023 Penetangore subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30mg/L. There are 2 exceedances.

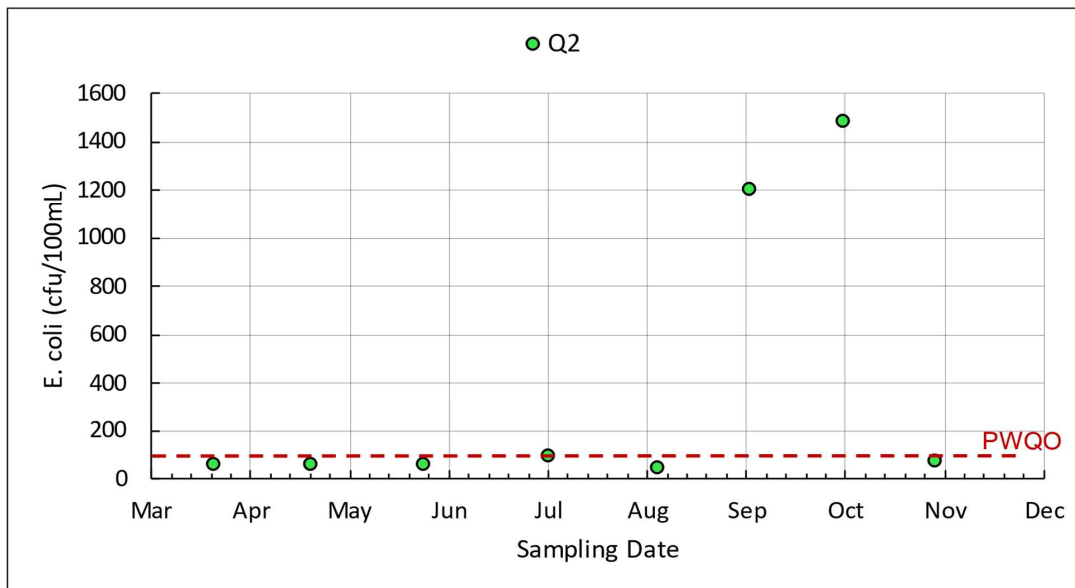


Figure K.5 2023 Penetangore subwatershed *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 2 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Long-term Results

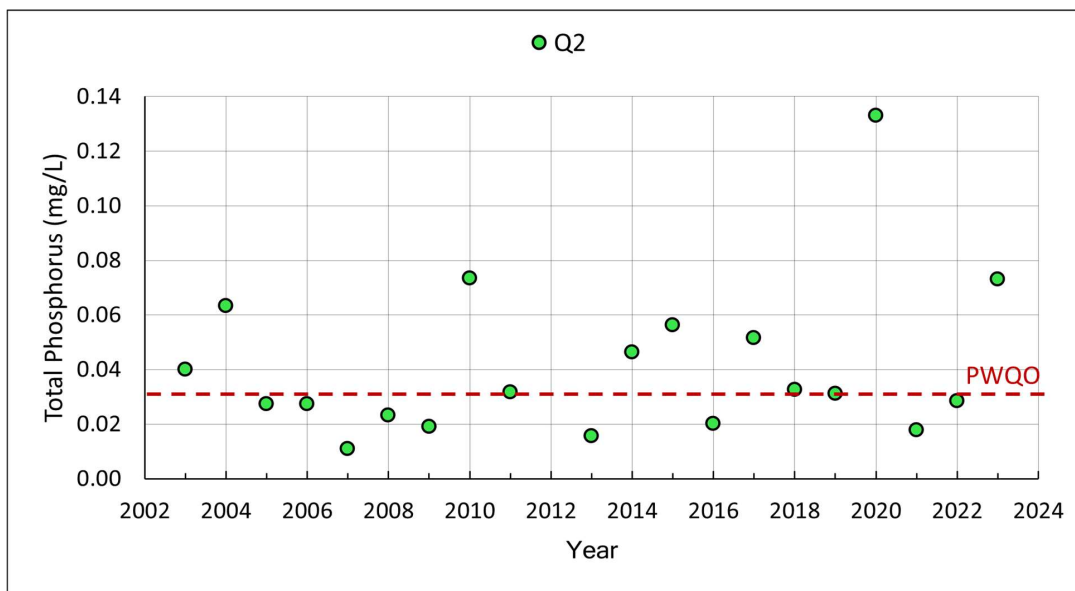


Figure K.6 2002 to 2023 Penetangore subwatershed annual average total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There are 11 exceedances of the PWQO.

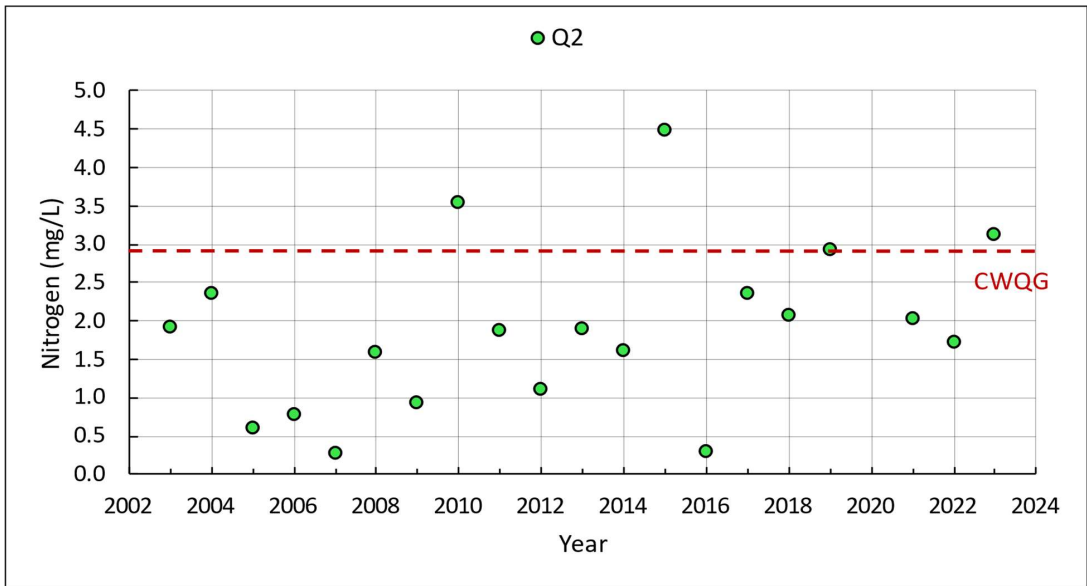


Figure K.7 2002 to 2023 Penetangore subwatershed annual average nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There are 3 exceedances of the CWQG.

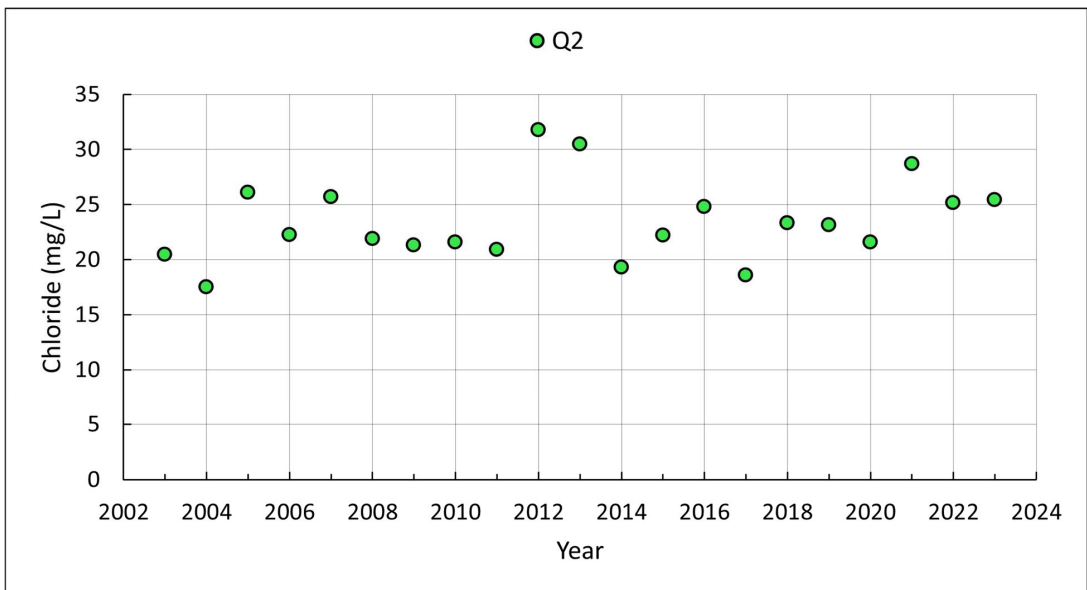


Figure K.8 2002 to 2023 Penetangore subwatershed annual average chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site. The CWQG is 120 mg/L. There are no exceedances.

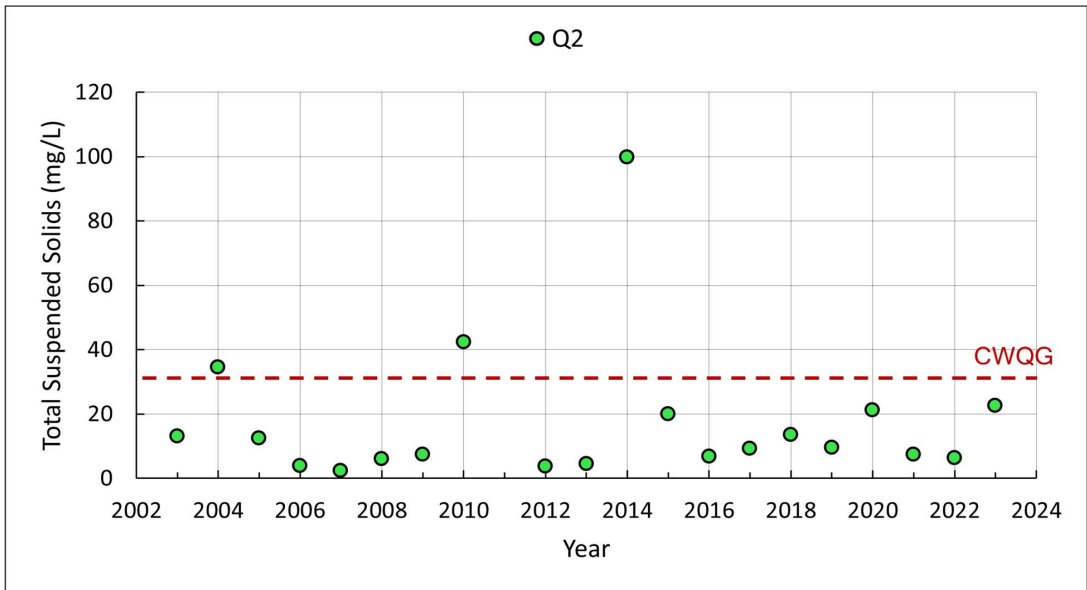


Figure K.9 2012 to 2023 Penetangore subwatershed annual average total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a CWQG of 30 mg/L. There are 3 exceedances of the CWQG.

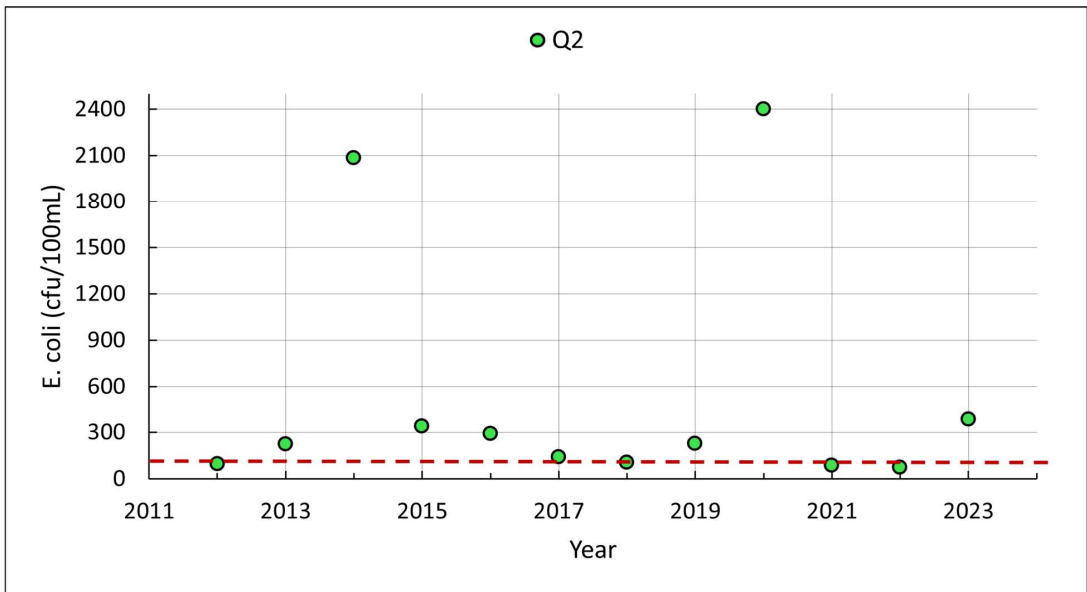


Figure K.10 2012 to 2023 Penetangore subwatershed annual average *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site and a horizontal line indicating a PWQO of 100cfu/100mL for swimming. There are 9 exceedances of the PWQO.

### Benthic Biomonitoring Results (2015-2021)

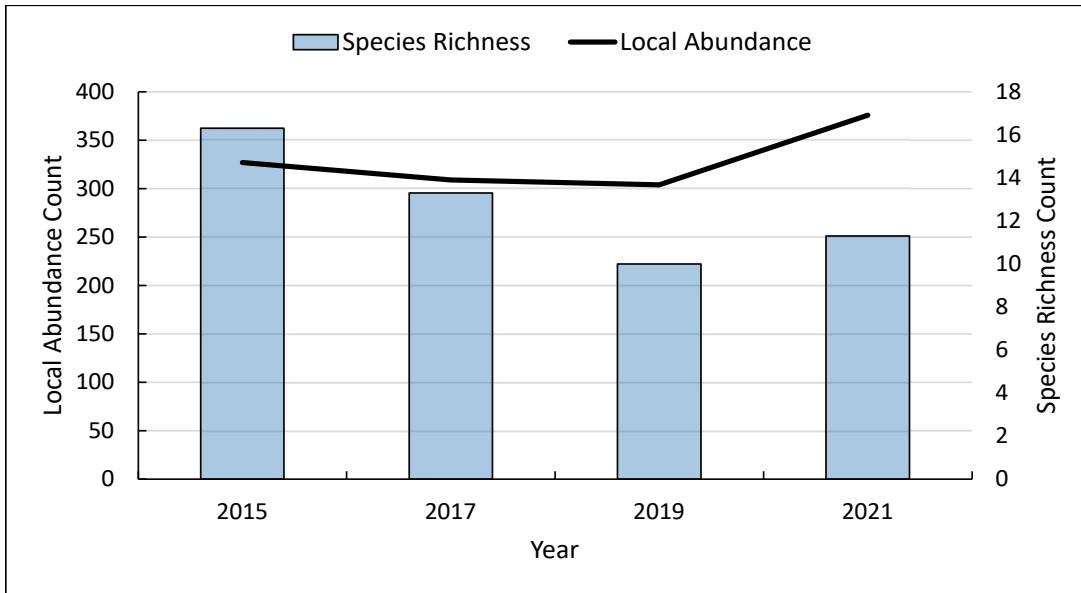


Figure K.11 Local abundance and species richness found within the Penetangore subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.

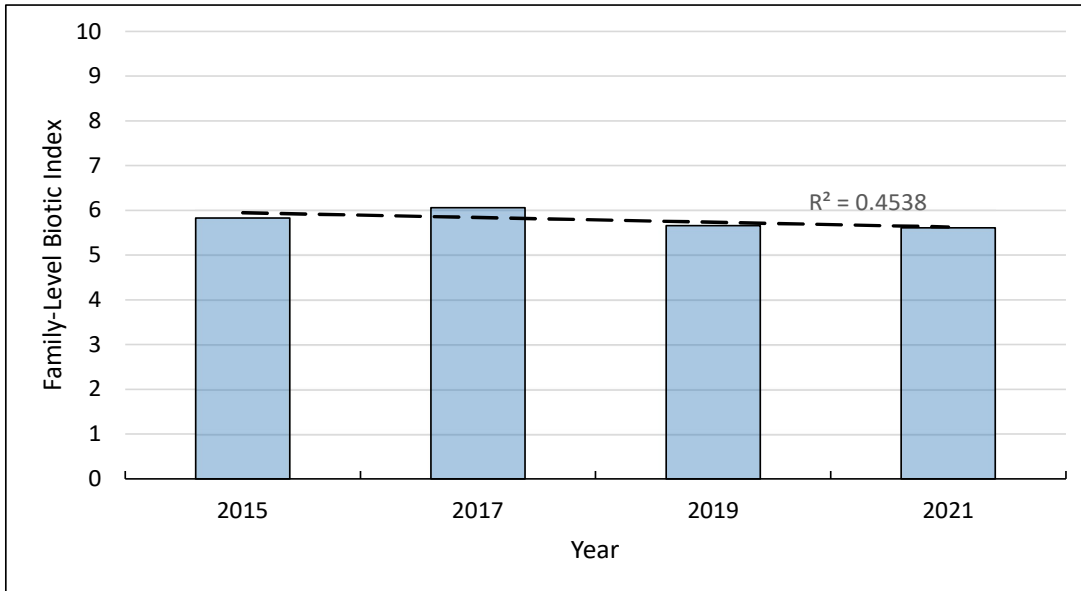


Figure K.12 Family-level biotic index scores for the Penetangore subwatershed from 2015 to 2021.



**Municipality of Grey Highlands**  
**Emily Williamson**  
Water Quality Technician  
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority  
June 17, 2026

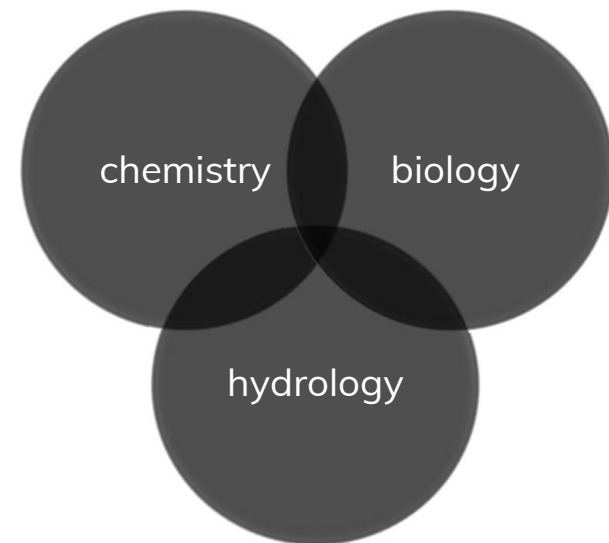


# Water quality program objectives

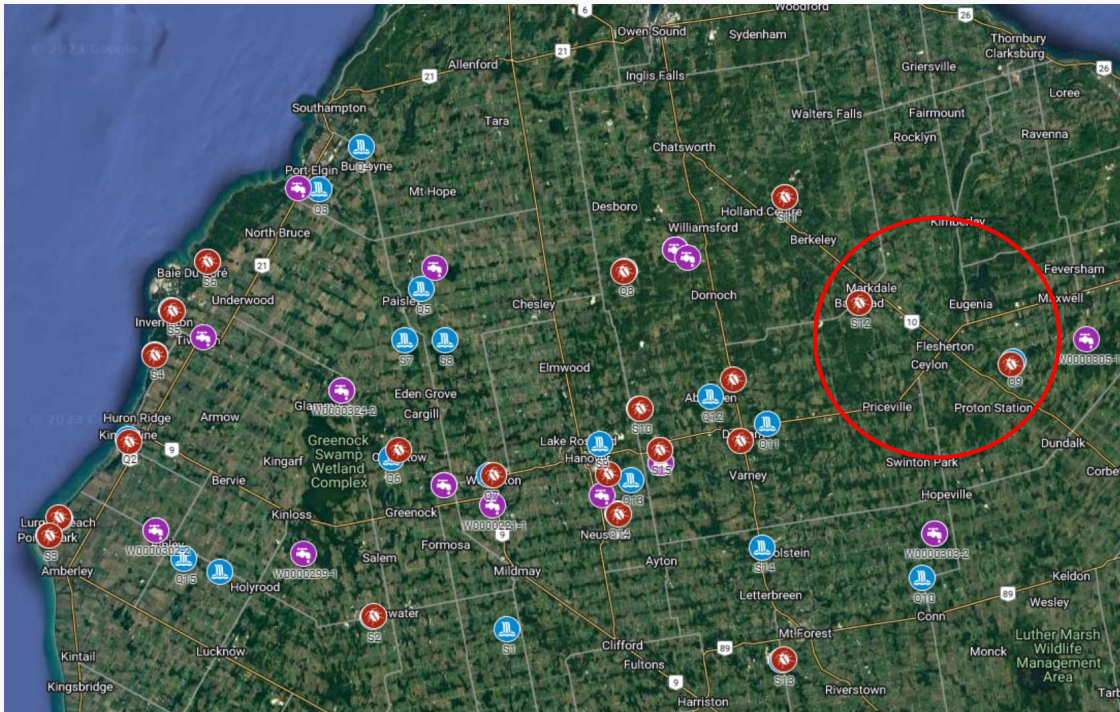
- To establish baseline water quality data
- To observe trends
- To assess the effectiveness of watershed programs

In response to the Walkerton Water Crisis of 2000, the Province re-established water quality monitoring.

The program was tasked with the critical mandate to monitor, protect and enhance water quality in our jurisdiction.



# Water quality sites



Total sampling sites:

- 29 surface water
- 23 groundwater
- 20 biomonitors



## Surface water monitoring parameters: total phosphorus, nitrogen: nitrate-nitrite

- **Total Phosphorus:** Naturally occurring and essential for aquatic life. Naturally found in weathering rocks. Provincial objective: 0.03 mg/L
- **Nitrogen; Nitrate-Nitrite:** Naturally occurring and essential nutrient for aquatic life. Federal objective: 2.93 mg/L
- Both can be introduced in excess levels from fertilizers, manure, industrial emissions, and wastewater/septic discharges



## Surface water monitoring parameters: chloride, suspended solids

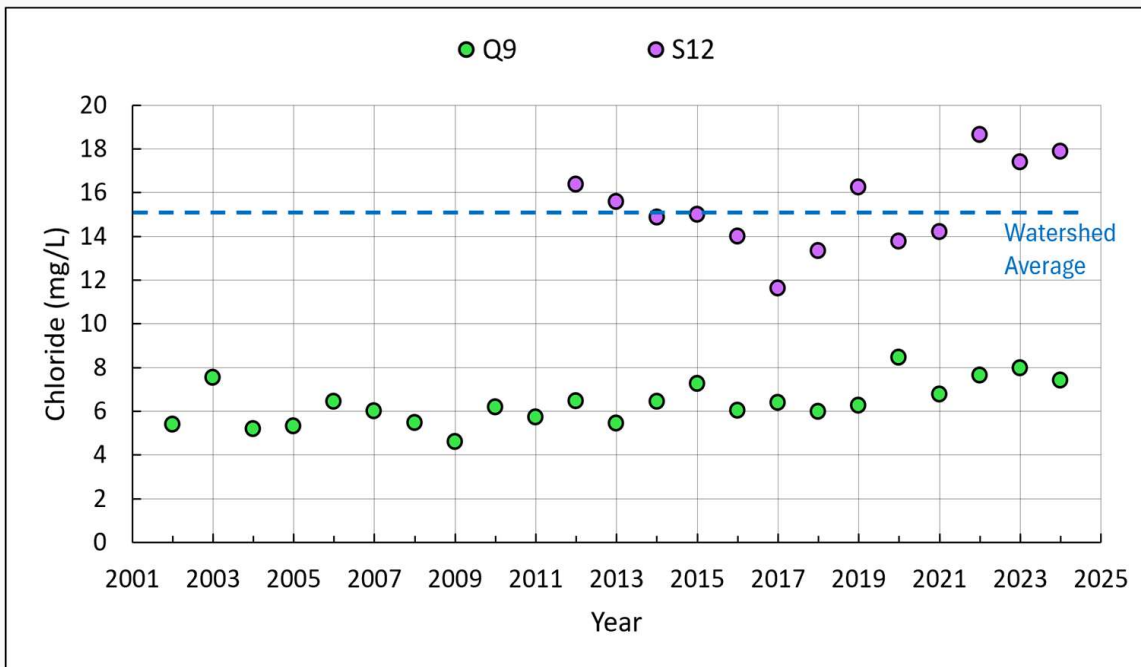
- **Chloride:** can be naturally occurring, generally in low concentrations. Can be introduced through human activities such as road salting and industrial production.  
**Federal objective:** 120 mg/L
- **Total Suspended Solids:** Measure of number of suspended particles in water, exists naturally from a variety of sources. Excess sources include erosion and high flows, stormwater runoff, development, and agricultural processes.  
**Federal objective:** 30 mg/L



## Surface water monitoring parameters: E.coli

- **E. coli:** are a group of bacteria found in the digestive systems of warm-blooded animals. It is used to measure fecal contamination in water and is not naturally occurring in aquatic ecosystems
- **Provincial objective:** 100 cfu/100 mL for swimming and recreation

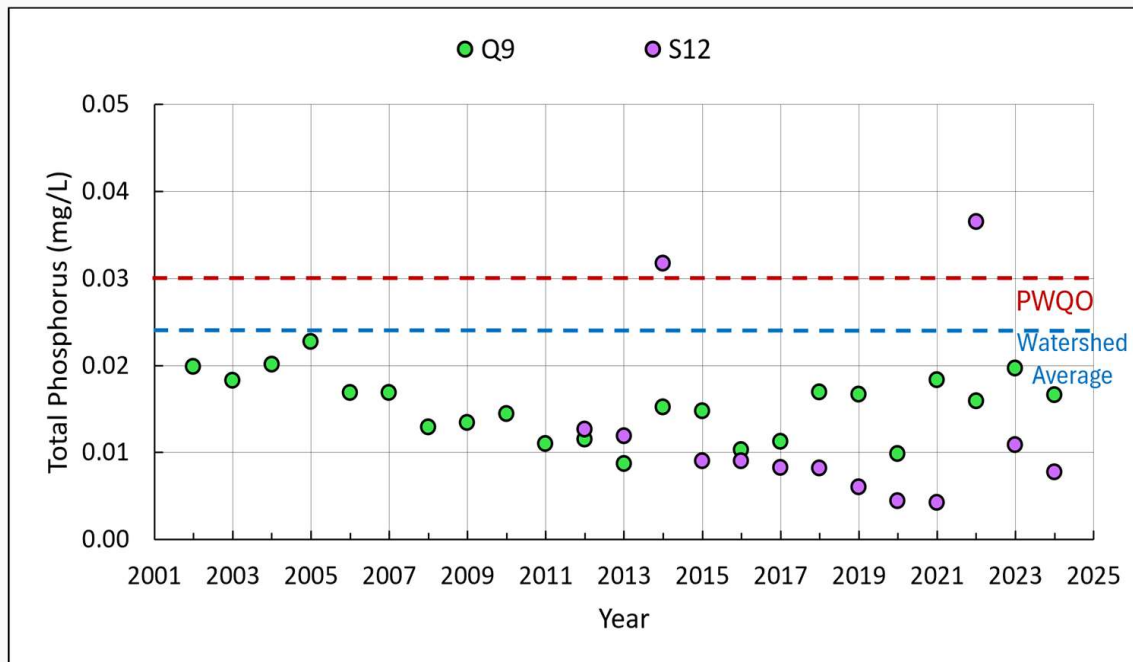
# Chloride



**Q9:** Saugeen River  
**S12:** Rocky Saugeen River  
**Federal Objective:** 120 mg/L

Chloride is consistently higher at S12, however both sites are well below the federal average.

# Total Phosphorus

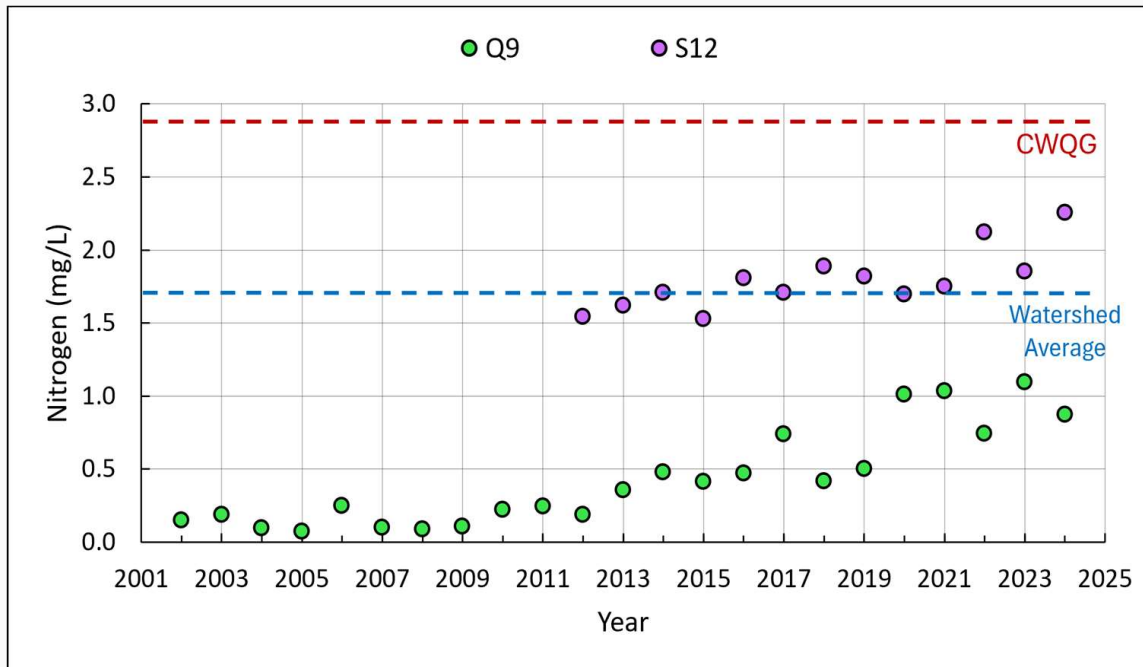


**Q9:** Saugeen River  
**S12:** Rocky Saugeen River

**Provincial Objective:** 0.03 mg/L

Total phosphorus levels are below the provincial objective and the watershed average 95% of the time, with only two exceedances since 2002, both occurred at S12.

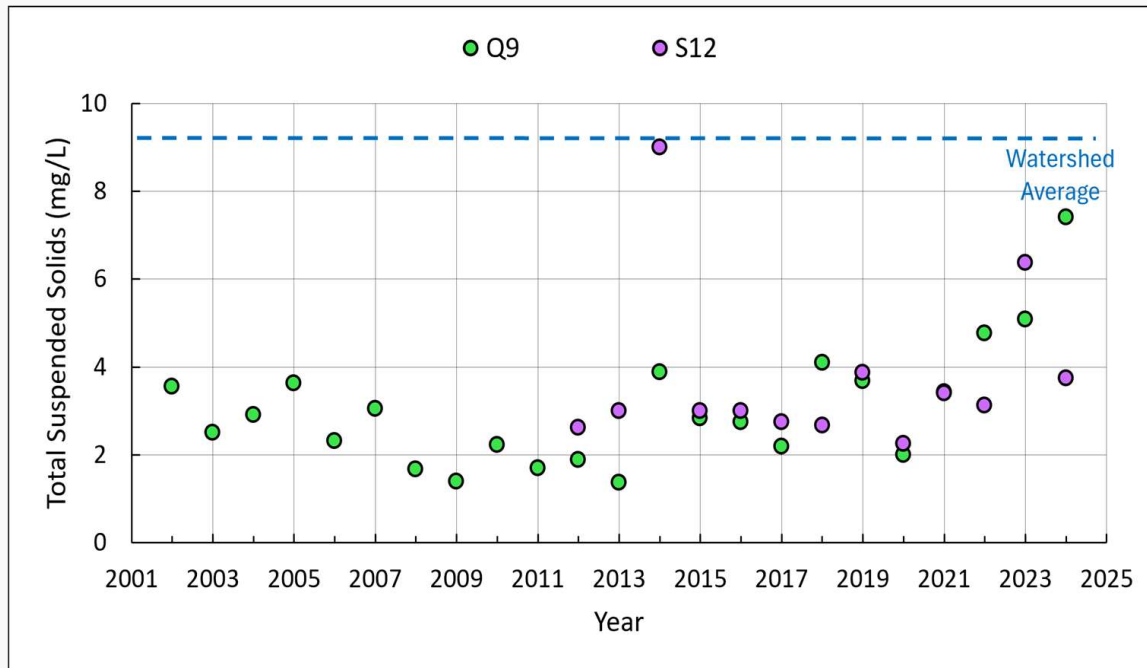
# Nitrogen



**Q9:** Saugeen River  
**S12:** Rocky Saugeen River  
**Federal Objective:** 2.93 mg/L

Nitrogen levels are consistently higher at S12, while both sites have always been below the federal objective there is a visible upward trend.

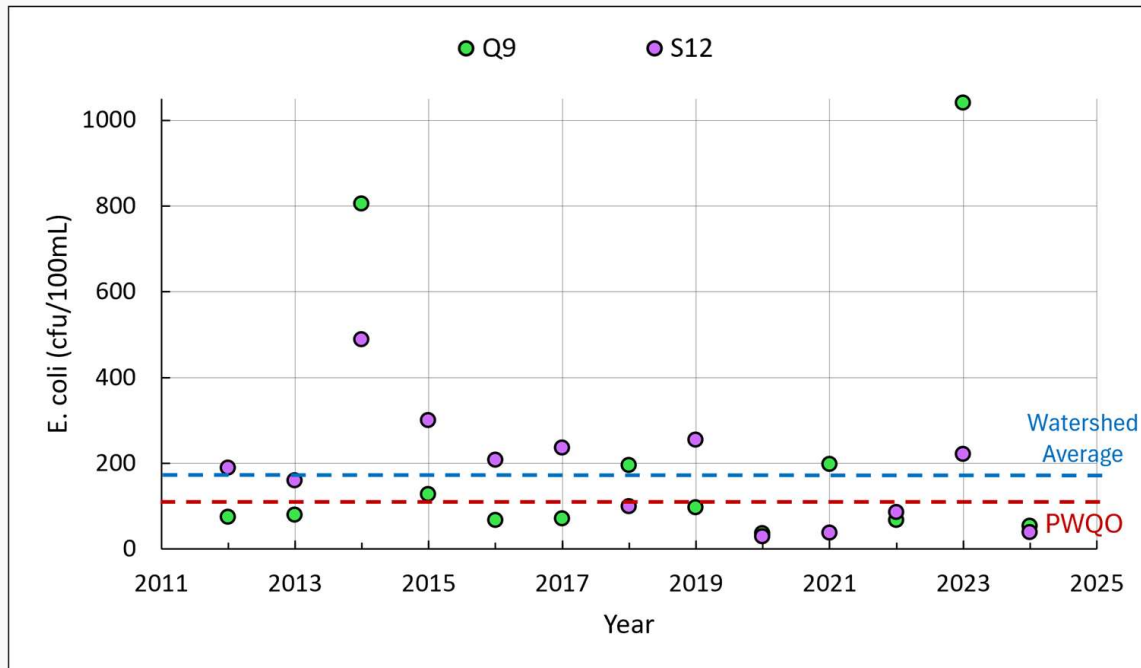
# Total Suspended Solids



**Q9:** Saugeen River  
**S12:** Rocky Saugeen River  
**Federal Objective:** 30 mg/L

Total suspended solids levels are below the federal objective and the watershed average; over the past 5 years levels have started increasing.

# E. Coli



**Q9:** Saugeen River  
**S12:** Rocky Saugeen River  
**Provincial Objective:** 100 cfu/100mL

E. coli levels have been above the provincial objective in Grey Highlands 50% of the time, there is no clear trend occurring.



## Water Quality Trends in Grey Highlands

- Trends in Grey Highlands show that nitrogen and chloride concentrations are higher at S12 than at Q9, concentrations are increasing at both sites. While chloride is still well below the guideline, nitrogen concentrations are moving closer to an exceedance level.
- The long term trend also shows that levels of TSS at both sites are increasing
- Total phosphorus and *E. coli* show no clear trends.



## Benthic Trends

- Both sites in Grey Highlands have benthic sites associated with them.
- S12 on the Rocky Saugeen recorded a species abundance of 333 to 248 from 2016 to 2024. Q9 on the Main Saugeen recorded a species abundance of 931 to 365 from 2017 to 2023.
- Over the same period, species richness increased from 18 to 26 in the Rocky Saugeen and increased from 24 to 26 in the Main Saugeen.
- An increase in richness means that the variety of species has increased, this is a positive indicator of water quality



## What can the Municipality of Grey Highlands do to improve Water Quality?

- Support Saugeen Conservation's Category 3 Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Consider land use planning tools that protect natural features and limit nutrient loading
- Play a direct role in promoting or funding stewardship work
- Advocate for coordinated funding from Provincial and Federal funding sources
- Collaborate with SVCA on public communication tools

# Thank you

**Emily Williamson**

Water Quality Technician

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

[e.williamson@svca.on.ca](mailto:e.williamson@svca.on.ca)

[www.saugeenconservation.ca](http://www.saugeenconservation.ca)



# Delegation Request Form

Delegation requirements are provided for by the Municipal Procedural By-law and completion of this form facilitates administration of delegation/presentation requests. Once the completed application is submitted to the Clerk, you will be contacted by staff to confirm your placement on the appropriate agenda. Incomplete applications will be returned. Please note that all meetings are open to the public except where permitted to be closed to the public under legislated authority.

You can print this form at anytime by right clicking and selecting print. A copy will automatically be emailed to you once you submit.

I wish to appear before Council on:

**Preferred Date: (click the link below to access Council Calendar) \***

6/17/2026



**Alternate Date: (click the link below to access Council Calendar) \***

7/8/2026



[Grey Highlands Council Calendar](#)

Be sure to filter the Calendar meeting type to show Council only.

**Name of Group/Organization/Business:**

Escarpment Corridor Alliance

**Individual/Spokesperson \***

Jarvis Strong

**Street Number:**

64

**Street Name:**

Hurontario St

**P.O. Box**

**Town/City:**

Collingwood

**Province \***

Ontario

**Postal Code**

L9Y 2L6

**Phone Number: \***

7056061115

**Email Address: \***

admin@myescarpment.ca

**Provide a written brief outlining the reason(s) for Delegation Request (subject matter to be discussed):**

That Council recognizes the importance of broad ecological connectivity as a foundation of resilient growth, ecosystem services, and climate resilience;

And that Council acknowledges that lands within the Grey Highlands form part of an emerging ecological corridor across the South Georgian Bay region;

And that Council endorses the work of the Escarpment Corridor Alliance as a collaborative partner in strengthening ecological connectivity, stewardship, nature-based recreation opportunities and long-term protection of natural systems;

And that staff be directed to consider opportunities to integrate ecological connectivity objectives into relevant initiatives, including the Natural Asset Inventory, Natural Heritage Review, land use planning, and strategic partnerships.

**Please provide us with your digital copy of your presentation.**

**File Name**



Grey Highlands 2026.pdf-compressed.pdf

1.3 MB

[Rules and Regulations of Delegation.](#)

**By clicking below, you acknowledge, understand and agree, either on behalf of yourself or the group you are representing, to the rules regarding Delegations as provided per Section 42 of By-law 2024-097**

\*

I agree

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Notice of Collection: Personal information collected on this form is authorized under the Municipality's Procedural By-law and will be used to contact individuals and/or organizations requesting an opportunity to appear as a delegation before Council. The Delegation Request Form, as well as the information submitted therewith, will become part of the public record through the published Agenda on the Municipal Website. Questions about this collection can be directed to the Director of Council and Legislative Services/Clerk, 206 Toronto St. S., Unit 1, Markdale, ON N0C 1H0 or by calling 519 986 1216 Ext 233

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# The Emerging South Georgian Bay Ecological Corridor

For Nature. For People. For Good.



**ESCARPMENT  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**

South Georgian Bay's Regional Land Trust

[myescarpment.ca](http://myescarpment.ca)

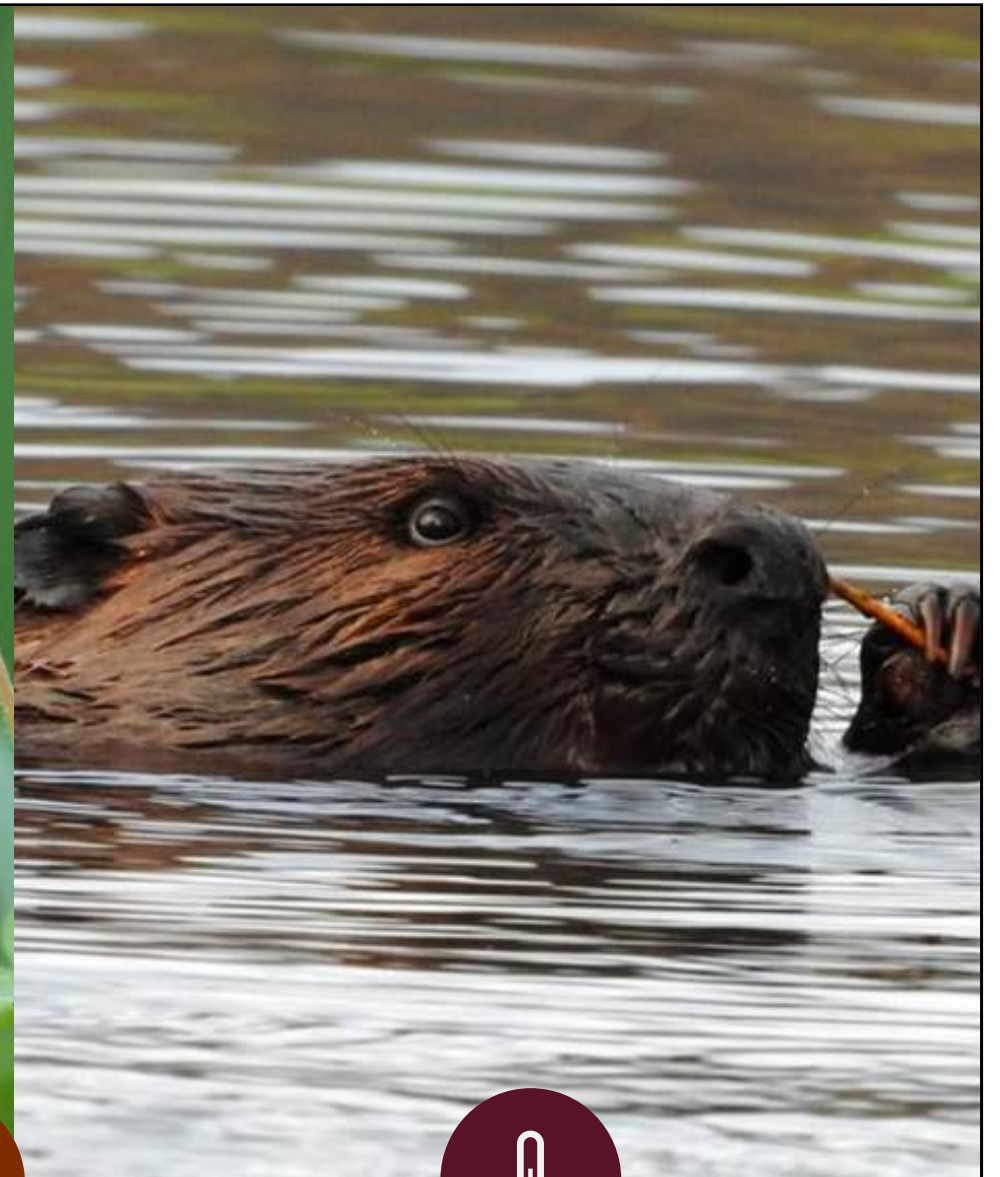
# Who We Are

- A registered Canadian charity
- A regional conservation land trust
- Founded in 2022

# Our Mission

To create a protected and connected ecological corridor across the Niagara Escarpment of South Georgian Bay, for nature, for people, for good.





Habitat fragmentation and biodiversity loss



Human well-being impacts



Climate change impacts

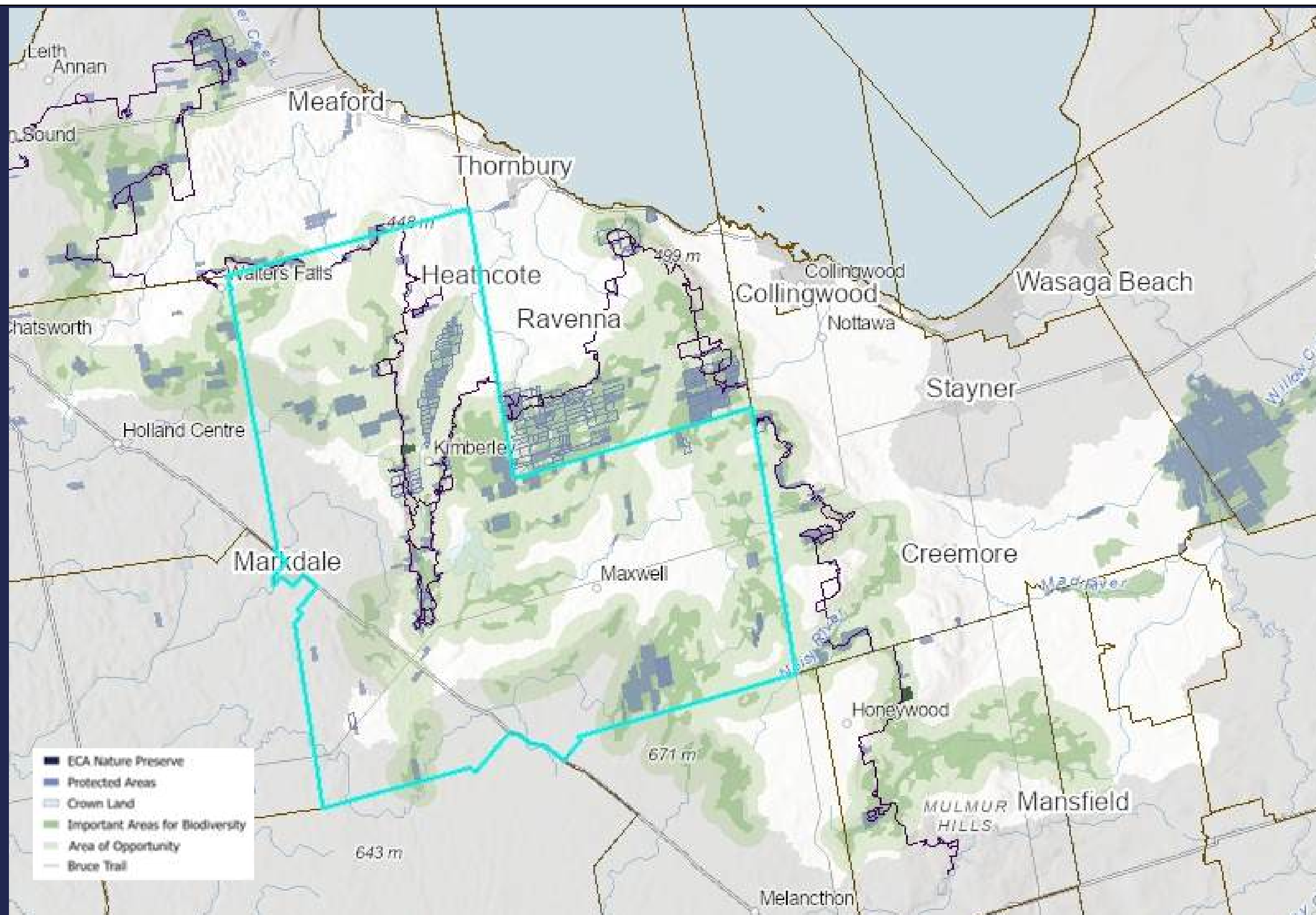
## Why We're Here Today: The Need for Connectivity



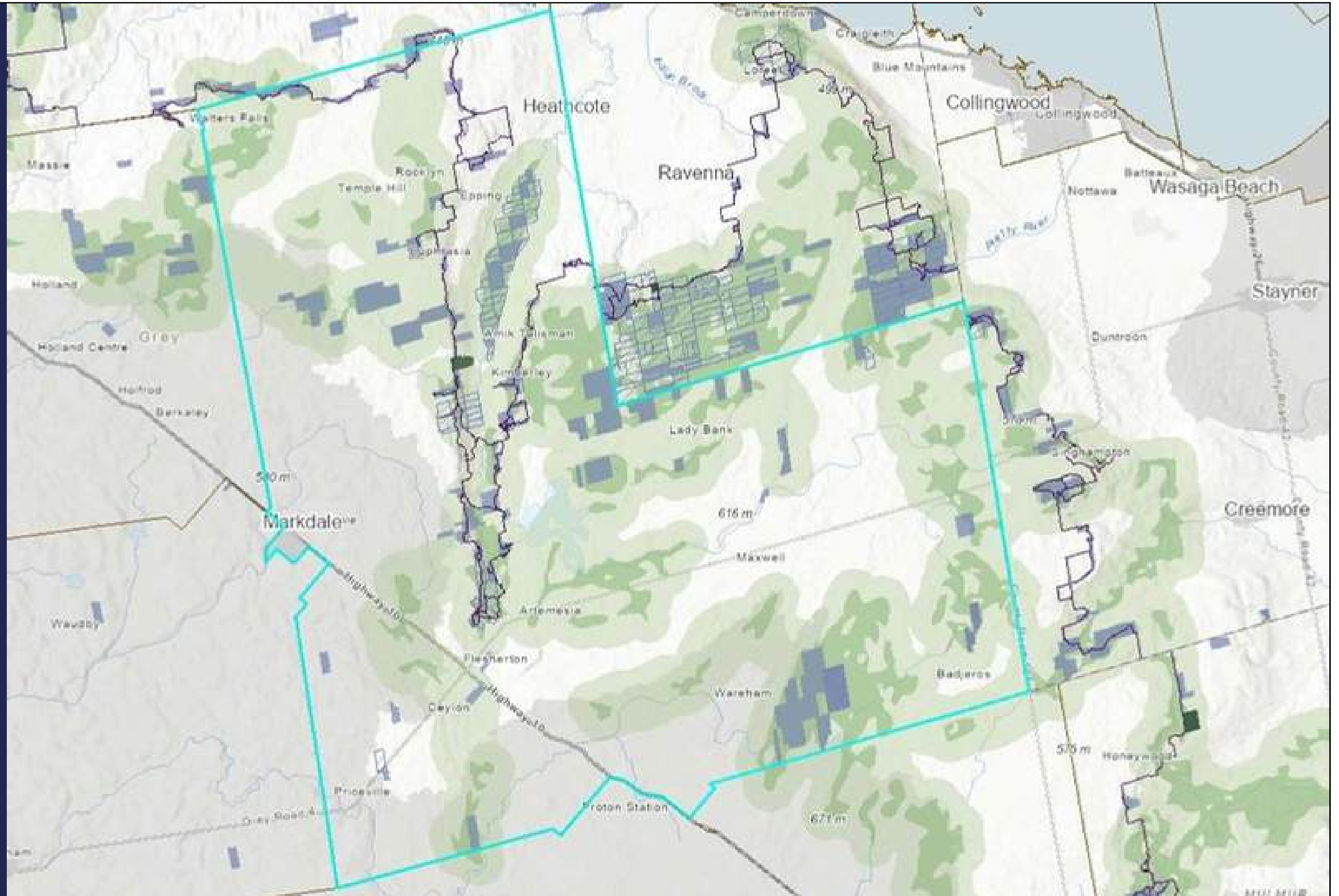
# A Watershed Approach



**Area  
of  
Influence**  
212,000 ha



# Grey Highlands



# Sandy's Summit Nature Preserve

The ECA's first land  
securement project is now  
protected!

Sandy's Summit honours a  
legacy of stewardship.





## How does an Ecological Corridor benefits Grey Highlands?

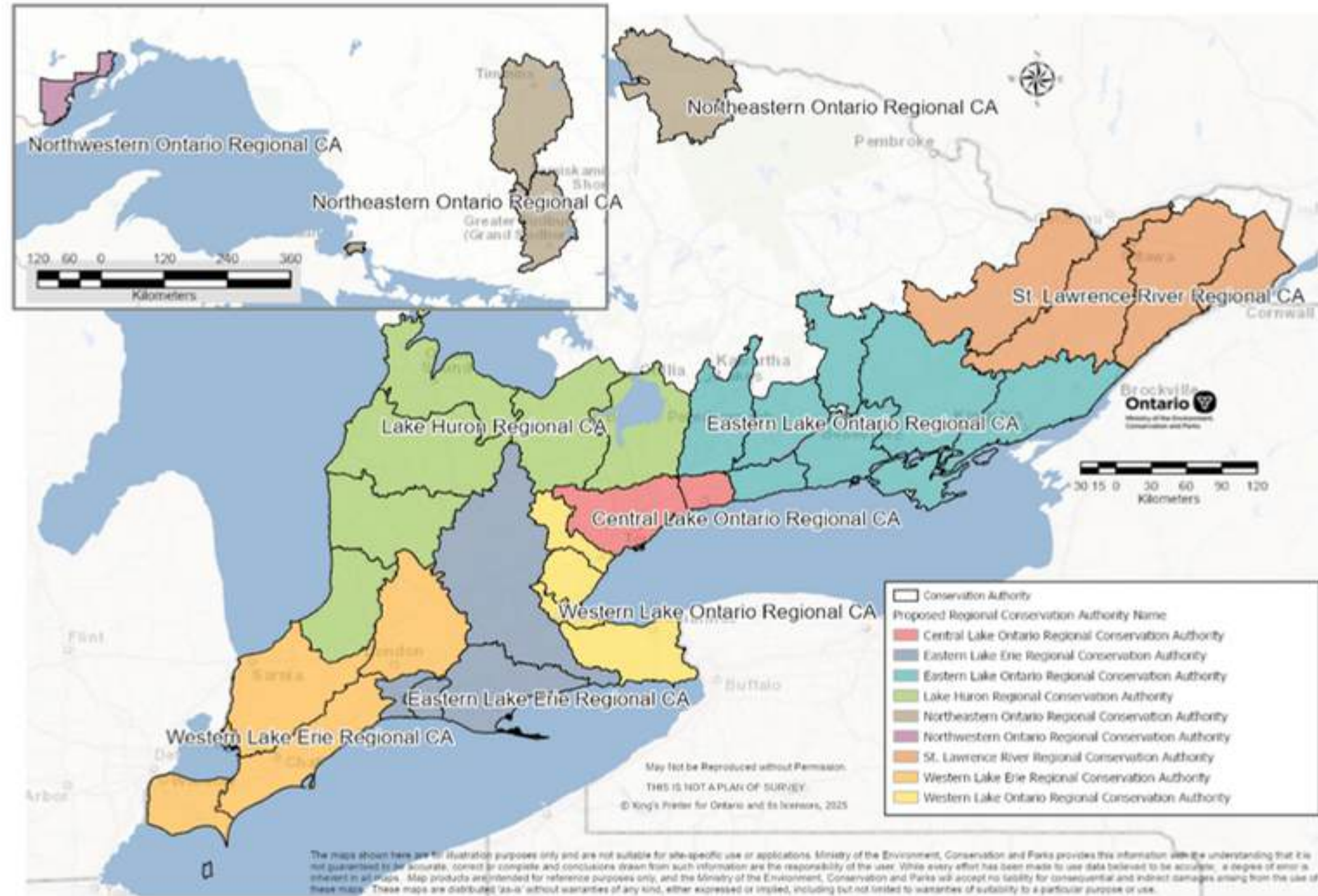
- Ecosystem services
- Nature-based recreation and tourism
- Protected conservation lands increase property values

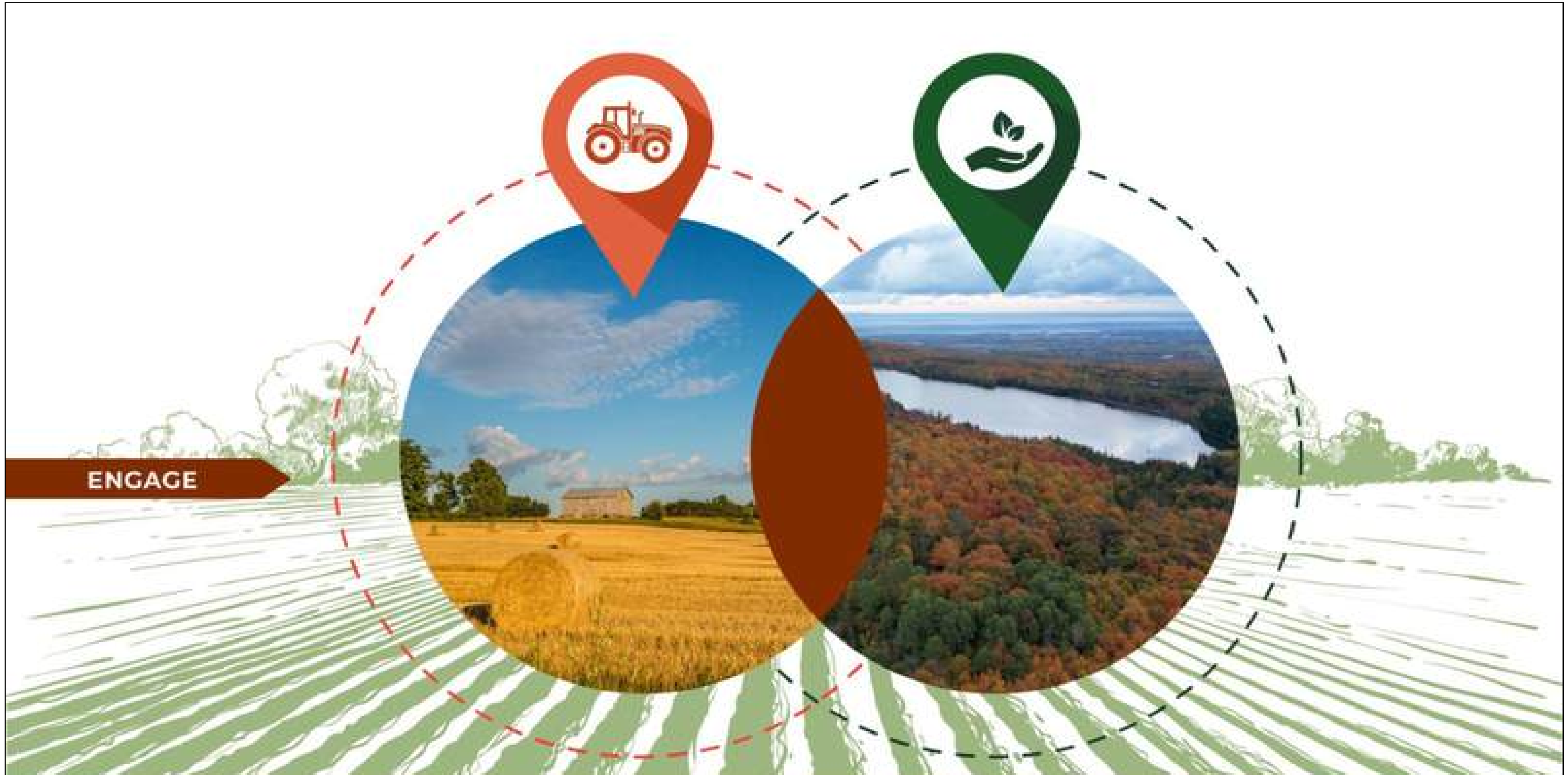


# Bill 68 and new consolidated Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority

- 23,000 square km
- 80+ municipalities

Proposed 9 Regional Conservation Authorities





**EXPLORE THE INTERSECTION OF AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION**



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# Collaborative Community Conservation



# Grey Highlands Strategic Plan Alignment

- **Considerate Communities:** Establish sustainable growth planning practices with environmental, social, and economic considerations
- **Healthy Lifestyle:** support residents' unique quality of life, encompassing a deep appreciation for natural environment, and a dedication to active transportation
- **Respected Environment:** prioritize the enhancement of natural areas, the protection of forests and valleys, and the nurturing of communities for the benefit of future generations.
- **Responsible Governance:** responsible and transparent management of municipal resources
- **Vibrant Economy:** fostering innovation, creativity, and vibrancy to build a strong, resilient, and sustainable economy



# Request for Motion

“THAT Council recognizes the importance of broad ecological connectivity as a foundation of resilient growth, ecosystem services, and climate resilience;

AND THAT Council acknowledges that lands within the Grey Highlands form part of an emerging ecological corridor across the South Georgian Bay region;

AND THAT Council endorses the work of the Escarpment Corridor Alliance as a collaborative partner in strengthening ecological connectivity, stewardship, nature-based recreation opportunities and long-term protection of natural systems;

AND THAT staff be directed to consider opportunities to integrate ecological connectivity objectives into relevant initiatives, including the Natural Asset Inventory, Natural Heritage Review, land use planning, and strategic partnerships.”





**ESCARPMENT  
CORRIDOR ALLIANCE**  
South Georgian Bay's Regional Land Trust

**Questions?**

**[www.myescarpment.ca](http://www.myescarpment.ca)**

**The Municipality of Grey Highlands  
Council Minutes  
Wednesday, June 3, 2026  
Hybrid - Online and Council Chambers**

**Council Present:**

Mayor Paul McQueen, Deputy Mayor Dane Nielsen, Councillor Paul Allen, Councillor Tom Allwood, Councillor Nadia Dubyk, Councillor Joel Loughead, and Councillor Dan Wickens

**Council Absent:**

**Staff:**

Chief Administrative Officer Karen Govan, Director of Transportation Chris Cornfield, Director of Finance/Treasurer Anna McCarthy, Director of Environmental Services Shawn Moyer, Fire Chief Marty Wellwood, Clerk Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Committee & Records Coordinator Danielle Thompson, Director/Deputy Clerk Jerri-Lynn Levitt, and Director of Community Services Shawnette Crouse

Page

**1 Call to Order**

Mayor McQueen called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

**2 Singing of the National Anthem**

**3 Approval of the Agenda**

3.1 Approval of Agenda

**2026-354**

**Tom Allwood**

**That the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED.**

**4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

**5 Open Forum**

None.

**6 Presentation and Delegations**

None.

**7 Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

7.1 Minutes of the previous meeting

**2026-355**

**Paul Allen - Nadia Dubyk**

**That the minutes of the 2026-05-20 Council meeting be adopted as circulated.**

**CARRIED.**

[Council - 20 May 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

**Items for Consideration**

**8 Corporate Administration**

Chaired by Mayor McQueen

None.

**9 CLS and Planning**

Chaired by Councillor Allen

9.1 Draft Lease Agreement - Southwest Crematoriums Ltd.

Staff Report CLS.26.10

**2026-356**

**Dane Nielsen - Dan Wickens**

**That Council receive report CLS.26.10 Draft Lease Agreement - Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. for information; and That Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law authorizing a lease agreement with Southwest Crematoriums Ltd.**

**CARRIED.**

[CLS.26.10-Draft Lease Agreement - Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. - Pdf](#)

**10 Community Services**

Chaired by Deputy Mayor Nielsen

- 10.1 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Food Booth Operations at the Centre Grey Recreation Complex

Staff Report 2026-110

**2026-357**

**Paul Allen - Joel Loughead**

**That Council receive report CSD.26.12, Request for Proposals (RFP) for Food Booth Operations at the Centre Grey Recreation Complex for information; and**

**That Council authorize staff to proceed with a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the operation and management of the Food Booth at the Centre Grey Recreation Complex for the 2026/2027 ice season.**

**CARRIED.**

[CSD.26.12-Request for Proposals \(RFP\) for Food Booth Operations at the Centre Grey Recreation Complex - Pdf](#)

- 10.2 Rocklyn Arena / Euphrasia Memorial Community Centre – Public Health Compliance Requirements and Facility Condition Update

Staff Report 2026-10

**2026-358**

**Dan Wickens - Nadia Dubyk**

**Main Motion:**

**That Council receive report CSD.26.13 - Rocklyn Arena Facility Condition Update, for information; and**

**That Council approve proceeding with the unbudgeted installation of required ventilation, exhaust, and air quality systems necessary to satisfy Grey Bruce Public Health and TSSA operational compliance requirements at the Rocklyn Arena; and**

**That Council approve funding from the Euphrasia Reserve, and the remaining balance from the Facilities Maintenance Reserve to an upset limit of \$50,000.**

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**2026-359**

**Paul McQueen - Nadia Dubyk**

**Amendment:**

**That the main motion be amended to remove"**

**"That Council approve proceeding with the unbudgeted installation of required ventilation, exhaust, and air quality systems necessary to satisfy Grey Bruce Public Health and TSSA operational compliance requirements at the Rocklyn Arena; and**

**That Council approve funding from the Euphrasia Reserve, and the remaining balance from the Facilities Maintenance Reserve to an upset limit of \$50,000."**

**and replace with:**

**That Council refer staff report CSD.26.13 to a future Committee of the Whole meeting; and**

**That Council direct staff to invite Friends of Rocklyn Community to speak during the Committee of the Whole meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

**2026-360**

**Dan Wickens - Nadia Dubyk**

**Main motion as amended:**

**That Council receive report CSD.26.13 - Rocklyn Arena Facility Condition Update, for information; and**

**That Council refer staff report CSD.26.13 to a future Committee of the Whole meeting; and**

**That Council direct staff to invite Friends of Rocklyn Community to speak during the Committee of the Whole meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

[CSD.26.13-Rocklyn Arena / Euphrasia Memorial Community Centre – Public Health Compliance Requirements and Facility Condition Update - Pdf](#)

- 10.3 PicklePass Seasonal Membership Program for Flesherton Outdoor Pickleball Courts

Staff Report 2026-113

**2026-361**

**Nadia Dubyk - Joel Loughead**

**Main Motion:**

**That Council receive report CSD.26.14, PicklePass Membership for information; and**

**That Council approve the implementation of the "PicklePass" seasonal membership program for the Flesherton Outdoor Pickleball Courts beginning with the 2027 operating season; and**

**That Council approve the following seasonal PicklePass rates:**

- **Adults (18 + ): \$45.00 plus applicable HST per season**
  - **Youth (under 18 years): \$15.00 per season**
  - **Family Pass: \$100.00 plus applicable HST per season;**
- and**

**That revenues generated through the PicklePass program be allocated toward offsetting the capital investment, operational costs, maintenance requirements, and long-term lifecycle replacement costs associated with the Flesherton Outdoor Pickleball Courts; and**

**That Council direct staff to bring forward an amending By-law to add the Picklepass fees into the Municipality's Fees and Charges By-law.**

**CARRIED.**

Deputy Mayor Nielsen passed the Chair to Mayor McQueen

**2026-362**

**Dan Wickens - Paul McQueen**

**Amendment:**

**That the main motion be amended to change:**

**\$45.00 to \$90.00,**

**\$15.00 to \$30.00, and**

**\$100.00 to \$200.00**

**LOST.**

[CSD.26.14-PicklePass Seasonal Membership Program for Flesherton Outdoor Pickleball Courts - Pdf](#)

10.4 Enhanced Lake Eugenia Water Quality Monitoring Program

Staff Report CSD.26.16

**2026-363**

**Nadia Dubyk - Paul Allen**

**Main motion:**

**That Council receive report CSD.26.16, Enhanced Lake Eugenia Water Quality Monitoring Program; and**

**That Council approve:**

- 1. Replacement of reactive phosphorus testing with total phosphorus testing utilizing ICP analysis with a reporting limit of 0.003 mg/L;**
- 2. Addition of weekly microcystin testing;**
- 3. Collection and analysis of three samples per week throughout the monitoring period;**
- 4. Public posting of test results on the Municipal website and submission of data to the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA); and**
- 5. Implementation of the enhanced monitoring program for a 25-week testing period.**

**CARRIED.**

**2026-364**

**Paul McQueen - Nadia Dubyk**

**Amendment:**

**That the main motion be amended to add:**

**; and**

**That Council direct staff to provide an annual summary report to Council on Lake Eugenia test results.**

**CARRIED.**

**2026-365**

**Main motion as amended:**

**That Council receive report CSD.26.16, Enhanced Lake Eugenia Water Quality Monitoring Program; and**

**That Council approve:**

- 1. Replacement of reactive phosphorus testing with total phosphorus testing utilizing ICP analysis with a reporting limit of 0.003 mg/L;**
- 2. Addition of weekly microcystin testing;**
- 3. Collection and analysis of three samples per week throughout the monitoring period;**
- 4. Public posting of test results on the Municipal website and submission of data to the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA); and**
- 5. Implementation of the enhanced monitoring program for a 25-week testing period; and**

**That Council direct staff to provide an annual summary report to Council on Lake Eugenia test results.  
CARRIED.**

Council recessed from 11:07am to 11:17am

[CSD.26.16-Enhanced Lake Eugenia Water Quality Monitoring Program - Pdf](#)

## **11 Environmental Services**

Chaired by Councillor Dubyk

### 11.1 QMS Management Review Completed

Staff Report ENV.26.12

#### **2026-366**

**Dane Nielsen - Dan Wickens**

**That Council receive staff report ENV.26.12, QMS Management Review Completed, for information.  
CARRIED.**

[ENV.26.12-QMS Management Review Completed - Pdf](#)

### 11.2 Adopt-A-Road Program Update

Staff Report ENV.26.13

#### **2026-367**

**Dan Wickens - Paul Allen**

**That Council receive report ENV.26.13, Adopt-A-Road Program Update for information; and  
That Council approve the updated Adopt-A-Road Policy; and  
That Council direct staff to bring forward a By-law to amend By-law 2012-69 and adopt the updated A09-T-01 Adopt-A-Road Policy.  
CARRIED.**

[ENV.26.13-Adopt-A-Road Program Update - Pdf](#)

## **12 Finance**

Chaired by Councillor Allwood

- 12.1 By-law 2026-052 - Updated Tangible Capital Asset Policy A09-F-03  
(Resolution 2026-332 passed at the May 20, 2026 Council meeting)

**2026-368**

**Paul Allen - Nadia Dubyk**

**That Council approve By-law 2026-052, being a by-law to adopt the updated Tangible Capital Asset Policy A09-F-03 for the Municipality of Grey Highlands.**

**CARRIED.**

[Draft By-law No. 2026-052 - Tangible Capital Asset Policy A09-F-03 - updated - Pdf](#)

- 12.2 Buy Ontario Procurement Directive

Staff Report FIN.26.13

**2026-369**

**Dane Nielsen - Joel Loughead**

**That Council receive report FIN.26.13 for information; and That Council approve the updates to the Procurement By-law 2022-050 so that it aligns with the Municipal Buy Ontario Directive; and**

**That Council direct staff to bring forward a By-Law with the updated Procurement Policy for consideration.**

**CARRIED.**

[FIN.26.13-Buy Ontario Procurement Directive - Pdf](#)

- 12.3 Capital Project Funding Reallocation

Staff Report FIN.26.14

**2026-370**

**Dane Nielsen - Dan Wickens**

**That Council receive report FIN.26.14, Capital Project Funding Reallocation for information; and**

**That Council approve the funding as included in Schedule A.**

**CARRIED.**

[FIN.26.14-Capital Project Funding Reallocation - Pdf](#)

**13 Fire, Police and Safety**

Chaired by Councillor Loughead  
None.

**14 Transportation and Public Spaces**

Chaired by Councillor Wickens  
None.

**15 Motions for Which Notice has been Given**

None.

**16 Notice of Motions**

None.

**17 Consent Agenda**

Consent Approval

**2026-371**

**Dane Nielsen - Paul Allen**

**That the items on the Consent Agenda be approved with the exception of the items extracted for alternate consideration.**

**Items extracted: 17.6 and 17.7**

**CARRIED.**

17.1 Committee of Adjustment Meeting Minutes

**2026-372**

**That Council receive the 2026-05-12 Committee of Adjustment meeting minutes for information.**

**CARRIED.**

[Committee of Adjustment \(COA\) - 12 May 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

17.2 2026-05-13 - Museum Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**2026-373**

**That Council receive the unapproved minutes of the 2026-05-13 Museum Advisory Board meeting for information.  
CARRIED.**

[Museum Advisory Board \(MAB\) - 13 May 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

17.3 2026-05-04 - Peace Committee - GH25 Meeting Minutes

**2026-374**

**That Council receive the 2026-05-04, 2026-02-11 and 2026-05-19 Peace Committee - GH25 meeting minutes for information.**

**CARRIED.**

[May 4 Minutes](#)

[May 11 Minutes](#)

[May 19 Minutes](#)

[GH25 Budget Tracking](#)

17.4 2026-04-28 Grey Bruce OPP Detachment Board meeting minutes

**2026-375**

**That Council receive the 2026-04-28 Grey Bruce OPP Detachment Board meeting minutes for information.**

**CARRIED.**

[Grey Bruce OPP Detachment Board Minutes - April 28, 2026](#)

17.5 2026-03-12 - MMEWG Meeting Minutes

**2026-376**

**That Council receive the minutes of the 2026-03-12 Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group meeting minutes for information.**

**CARRIED.**

[MMEWG March 12 2026](#)

17.6 2026-05-14 - Township of Stone Mills - Opposition to changes to Ontario's Freedom of Information Act (Dubyk)

Pulled for alternate consideration.

[Township of Stone Mills L-Letter of Opposition re Changes to FIPPA](#)

- 17.7 2026-05-14 - Town of Bruce Mills - Concerns over changes to Ontario's Freedom of Information Act (Dubyk)

**2026-377**

**Nadia Dubyk - Joel Loughead**

**That Council receive the 2026-05-14 - Township of Stone Mills - Opposition to changes to Ontario's Freedom of Information Act for information; and**

**That Council receive the 2026-05-14 - Town of Bruce Mines - Concerns over changes to Ontario's Freedom of Information Act for information; and**

**That Council direct staff to send a letter of support to the Township of Stone Mills resolution 30-706-2026 and to the Town of Bruce Mines resolution on Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act, 2026 - Schedule 7 and to cc the letters to all MPP's, AMO, IPC and All Ontario Municipalities.**

**CARRIED.**

[Bruce Mines - Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act](#)

- 17.8 2026-05-22 - Zoning Reform – Holding Provision (McQueen)

**2026-378**

**That Council receive the 2026-05-22 - Zoning Reform – Holding Provision for information.**

**CARRIED.**

[MEM384 GreyHighlands](#)

**18 General Announcements**

Members of Council provided updates on recently attended and upcoming events.

**19 Closed Session**

**2026-379**

**Dane Nielsen - Tom Allwood**

**That Council proceed into closed session at 12:20pm to discuss matters related to the following:**

- **OPP Facility Leasing Negotiations - s. 239 (2)(k) - a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board; and**

**That CAO Karen Govan, Director Anna McCarthy and Clerk Amanda Fines-VanAlstine remain in attendance.**

**CARRIED.**

**2026-380**

**Tom Allwood - Paul Allen**

**That a closed meeting was held and only closed session items identified were discussed in closed session; and**

**That Council delegate authority to Karen Govan, CAO to draft and execute a agreement of purchase and sale with the**

**County of Grey for the proposed OPP lands; and**

**That staff proceed as directed**

**CARRIED.**

## **20 Confirming By-law**

### 20.1 Confirming By-law

**2026-381**

**Dan Wickens - Joel Loughead**

**That By-law 2026-053, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on June 3, 2026, be read a first second and third time, and finally passed; and**

**That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign and seal the same notwithstanding any contrary provision of Council.**

**CARRIED.**

[Draft By-law No. 2026-053 - 2026-06-03 - Confirming By-law - Pdf](#)

## **21 Upcoming Meetings**

21.1 Upcoming Meetings

2026-06-08 @ 1:30 pm - Seniors Advisory Committee  
2026-06-16 @ 1:00 pm - Economic Development Advisory Group  
2026-06-16 @ 7:00 pm - Town Hall Forum - Markdale  
2026-06-17 @ 10:00 am - Council meeting

**22 Adjournment**

22.1 Adjourn

**2026-382**  
**Dane Nielsen - Paul Allen**  
**That Council adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting or until the call of the Chair.**  
**Time: 1:25 pm**  
**CARRIED.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Paul McQueen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk Amanda Fines-  
VanAlstine

*The minutes contained herein have been reviewed by the members. Minutes are not deemed as approved until received at the next meeting.*

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-055**

**Being a By-law to amend By-law 2022-103, being the  
2022-2026 Appointment By-law**

**Whereas**, the Municipal Act 2001, as amended, Section 8 confers broad authority on municipalities thereby allowing them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues; and

**Whereas**, Council passed By-law 2022-103 appointing citizens to various positions on December 7, 2022 and the by-law has been amended several times over the years; and

**Whereas**, Staff received a notice of resignation from a member of the Heritage Grey Highlands Committee on April 27, 2026;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That By-law 2022-103 is hereby amended as follows:
  - Heritage Grey Highlands Committee
    - remove Thomas Campbell
2. That this By-law comes into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

---

Paul McQueen, Mayor

---

Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-058**

**Being a By-law to Authorize the execution of a Lease Agreement between Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. and the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.**

**Whereas,** Section 8 of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, as amended provides that a municipality has the authority to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and enables the municipality to respond to municipal issues;

**Whereas,** Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. owns and operates the Crematorium building on lands owned by the Municipality known as the Flesherton Cemetery at 90 Toronto Road, Flesherton, ON.

**Whereas,** Council passed resolution 2026-356 at the June 3, 2026 Council meeting directing staff to bring forward a by-law authorizing a lease agreement with Southwest Crematoriums Ltd.

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the necessary lease agreement with Southwest Crematoriums Ltd.
2. The lease agreement is attached hereto as Schedule "A" and forms part of this by-law.
3. That this by-law comes into full force and effect on the date of its passing.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McQueen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

**PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT**

**THIS LEASE (this "Lease") dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_**

**BETWEEN:**

**Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**  
(the "Landlord")

OF THE FIRST PART

**- AND -**

**Southwest Crematoriums Ltd.**  
(the "Tenant")

OF THE SECOND PART

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** the Landlord leasing certain lands to the Tenant, the Tenant leasing those premises from the Landlord, and the mutual benefits and obligations set forth in this Lease, the receipt and sufficiency of which consideration is hereby acknowledged, the Parties to this Lease (the "Parties") agree as follows:

**Definitions**

1. When used in this Lease, the following expressions will have the meanings indicated:
  - a. **"Building"** means the structure wholly owned by the tenant and situated on the Leased Premises, together with all buildings, improvements, equipment, fixtures, property and facilities.

- b. **"Municipality's Lands"** means the land legally described as:
  - i. LOT 75, REG COMP PLAN 818 being all of PIN 37244-0303 (LT);
- c. **"Leasable Area"** means, with respect to any rentable premises, the area expressed in square feet of all leased land, calculated and certified by the Landlord, separating the rentable lands from Common Areas and Facilities, and includes the locations included in Schedule A.
- d. **"Rent"** means the total remittance for the Leased Premises.
- e. **Municipal Maintenance Schedule** - A planned and recurring schedule of routine road maintenance activities (snow plowing and sanding) established and administered by the Transportation Department. The schedule is determined based on operational priorities, roadway condition assessments, available resources, and best practices, and may be adjusted as required to address changing conditions or emergent needs.

#### **Leased Premises**

- 2. The Landlord agrees to rent to the Tenant a portion of the Municipality's Lands which are shown black and orange on Schedule "A" attached hereto, comprising 1,500 square feet occupied by the Building and 1,200 square feet of parking space (the Leased Premises).

#### **No Competing Uses**

- 3. While the Tenant is using and occupying the Leased Premises for the Permitted Use and is not in default under the Lease, the Landlord agrees not to lease any other portion of the Municipality's Lands for the purposes of a Crematorium.

#### **Additional Rights**

- 4. In addition to the exclusive occupation of the Leased Premises, the Tenant shall be permitted to additional shared use parking along the westerly property line of the Municipality's Land as identified within the green outline on Schedule A hereto. The tenant acknowledges that such shared use does not provide for any specific allocation of parking rights as between the Tenant or its invitees and the general public attending at or upon the Municipality's Lands.

The Tenant further acknowledges and agrees that the parking area identified in blue on Schedule A is not available for parking arising from or related to the Tenant's Permitted Use and that the Tenant shall advise any of its invitees

of this restriction.

5. The Leased Premises are provided to the Tenant without any fixtures, chattels, or leasehold improvements.

**Maintenance of Access Routes**

6. The Tenant shall be responsible for maintenance of the south laneway to the crematorium during the spring and summer months, including the application of gravel every other year and annual pothole repairs. The Landlord shall be responsible for winter plowing of the south laneway in accordance with the regular Municipal Maintenance Schedule. Winter maintenance provided by the Landlord shall not include parking areas or doorways. Any additional or non-standard plowing required to support crematorium operations shall be at the sole expense of the Tenant.

**Term**

7. The term of the Lease (the "Term") shall be thirty (30) years, commencing at 12:00 noon on July 10, 2026, and ends at 12:00 noon on July 10, 2056.

**Rent**

8. The Tenant shall pay the Rent to the Landlord an amount equal to the greater of
  - a. \$30,000 per year; or
  - b. 3% of the cremation fees charged during the calendar year exclusive of HST for cremation services provided at the Leased Premises. For the purposes of this section the cremation fees are those fees paid by consumers for the cremation services.
9. On January 1<sup>st</sup> of every year, commencing in 2027, the rate set out in subsection 8 a) of this agreement shall be increased by 1% over the previous year's amount. The rate of 3% set out in subsection 8 b) shall not increase.
10. Within twenty (20) days of a written request by the Landlord, the Tenant shall produce and/or consent to the release of records from the Flesherton location only, limited to those records necessary to verify and substantiate cremation revenues for the purposes of determining or confirming the fees referenced in Section 8.

11. The Tenant shall pay the Rent on a quarterly basis, with payment to be received by the Landlord within fifty (50) working days following the end of each quarter. All payments shall be made by direct deposit to the Municipality.
12. If the Tenant fails to make payment within the specified timeframe, a late payment penalty of 2% of the overdue amount per month (or part thereof) shall be applied until the outstanding balance is paid in full. The Landlord reserves the right to pursue any additional remedies available under this Lease or applicable law in the event of continued non-payment.
13. No acceptance by the Landlord of any amount less than the full amount owed will be taken to operate as a waiver by the Landlord for the full amount or in any way to defeat or affect the rights and remedies of the Landlord to pursue the full amount.

#### **Operating Costs and Taxes**

14. The Tenant is responsible for any and all costs related to the Building.
15. The Tenant shall pay for any municipal property taxes arising from the Tenant's business operations on the Municipality's Lands.

#### **Use and Occupation**

16. The Tenant acknowledges and covenants that the only permitted use of the Premises is a crematorium (the "Permitted Use") and further that the Tenant shall only carry on and conduct the Permitted Use in such manner as to comply with all statutes, by-laws, rules, and regulations of any federal, provincial, municipal, or other competent authority and will not do anything on or in the Premises in contravention of any of them.
17. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing section 16, the Tenant covenants that it has the appropriate license to operate such a facility issued by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) and will at all times maintain such license in good standing.
18. The Tenant covenants to notify the Landlord within seven (7) days of receiving notice from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) of any suspension or other irregularity relating to the Tenant's BAO licence for the Flesherton location.

#### **Quiet Enjoyment**

19. The Landlord covenants that on paying the Rent and performing the covenants

contained in this Lease, the Tenant will peacefully and quietly have, hold, and enjoy the Premises for the agreed term, acknowledging the use of the remaining lands as an active working cemetery.

**Overholding**

20. If the Tenant continues to occupy the Premises without the written consent of the Landlord after the expiration or other termination of the Term, then, without any further written agreement, the Tenant will be a month-to-month tenant at a minimum monthly rental equal to twice the monthly Base Rent and subject always to all of the other provisions of this Lease insofar as the same are applicable to a month-to-month tenancy and a tenancy from year to year will not be created by implication of law.

**Renewal of Lease**

21. Upon giving written notice no later than 90 days before the expiration of the Term, the Tenant may renew this Lease for an additional term. All terms of the renewed lease will be the same except for term and rent (Sections 7, 8, and 9), for which negotiations may occur within the 90-day renewal window and which shall be agreed upon at the time of renewal.

**Landlord Chattels**

22. The Landlord will not supply any chattels.

**Tenant Improvements**

23. The Tenant will provide notice to the Landlord before doing any of the following:
- a. Installing, affixing or operating, upon or near the Leased Premises, any plant, equipment, machinery, building or apparatus without the Landlord's prior consent.
24. The Landlord will endeavour to approve any requests for Tenant improvements that are generally in keeping with the nature of the permitted use and done within the Leased Premises that would not cause any disruption to the regular use of the remaining lands as a cemetery within a reasonable time frame.
25. The Tenant may, with the prior written approval of the Landlord, install a removable shed on the Premises in a location approved by the Landlord. The shed shall remain the property of the Tenant, shall be maintained in good condition, and shall be removed by the Tenant at its sole cost upon expiry or termination of

this Lease, or earlier if required by the Landlord. Any installation shall comply with all applicable by-laws and requirements of the Municipality.

#### **Utilities and Other Costs**

26. The Tenant is responsible for the direct payment of the following utilities and other charges in relation to the Leased Premises: electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, and telephone.
27. The Tenant shall be responsible for and shall directly pay for: (a) maintenance arising from wear and tear to the north entrance from Toronto Road to the crematorium building attributable to the Tenant's use during the spring and summer months; and (b) snow removal, salting, and sanding for the Tenant's designated parking areas and doorways only. Winter plowing of access routes other than designated parking areas and doorways are referenced in Section 6.

#### **Insurance**

28. The Tenant is responsible for insuring the Premises for damage or loss to the structure, mechanical, or improvements to the Building on the Premises for the benefit of the Tenant and the Landlord.
29. The Tenant is responsible for insuring the Leased Premises under a policy of general commercial liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000 for the benefit of the Tenant and which policy shall include the Landlord as an additional insured.
30. The Tenant, upon request of the Landlord, will provide proof of such insurance to the satisfaction of the Landlord.

#### **Abandonment, Termination or Surrender**

31. If at any time during the Term, the Tenant abandons the Premises or any part of the Premises, the Landlord may, at its option, enter the Premises by any means without being liable for any prosecution for such entering, and without becoming liable to the Tenant for damages or for any payment of any kind whatever. If the Landlord's right of reentry is exercised following abandonment of the premises by the Tenant, then the Landlord may consider any personal property belonging to the Tenant and left on the Premises to also have been abandoned, in which case the Landlord may dispose of all such personal property in any manner the Landlord will deem proper and is relieved of all liability for doing so.
32. The Tenant may terminate the lease with the Landlord by giving a minimum of 6 months' notice to the Landlord.

33. Upon termination for whatever reason of this agreement, the Tenant shall return the Lands to the Landlord in good condition and repair, by removing from the Municipality's Lands, the Building, and any other structure, equipment, material, fixtures or other personal property from the lands within six (6) months of termination of the agreement. Any property left on the Lands after the six (6) months from termination have lapsed, will be deemed to have been abandoned by the Tenant and may be retained or disposed of by the Landlord.

**Governing Law**

34. It is the intention of the Parties to this Lease that the tenancy created by this Lease and the performance under this Lease, and all suits and special proceedings under this Lease, be construed in accordance with and governed, to the exclusion of the law of any other forum, by the laws of the Province of Ontario, without regard to the jurisdiction in which any action or special proceeding may be instituted.

**Severability**

35. If there is a conflict between any provision of this Lease and the applicable legislation of the Province of Ontario (the 'Act'), the Act will prevail and such provisions of the Lease will be amended or deleted as necessary in order to comply with the Act. Further, any provisions that are required by the Act are incorporated into this Lease.

**Assignment and Subletting**

36. The Tenant will not assign or transfer this Lease in whole or in part, nor sublet all or any part of the Premises, nor grant any license or part with possession of the Premises or transfer to any other person in whole or in part or any other right or interest under this Lease (except to a subsidiary or affiliate of the Tenant), without the prior written consent of the Landlord in each instance, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld so long as the proposed assignment or sublease complies with the provisions of this Lease.
37. Notwithstanding any assignment or sublease, the Tenant will remain fully liable under this Lease and will not be released from performing any of the terms, covenants and conditions of this Lease.
38. The prohibition against assigning or subletting without the consent required by this Lease will be constructed to include a prohibition against any assignment or sublease by operation of law.

39. The consent by the Landlord to any assignment or sublease will not constitute a waiver of the necessity of such consent to any subsequent assignment or sublease.

#### **Care and Use of Premises**

40. The Tenant will promptly notify the Landlord of any damage, or of any situation that may significantly interfere with the normal use of the Municipality's Lands.
41. The Tenant shall not make, or permit to be made, any noise or other nuisance beyond that reasonably associated with the normal operation of the Tenant's business which, in the reasonable opinion of the Landlord, disturbs or interferes with the quiet enjoyment, comfort, or use of the Municipality's Lands as a cemetery.
42. The Tenant will not engage in any illegal trade or activity on or about the Premises.

#### **Rules and Regulations**

43. The Tenant shall comply with all rules and regulations established by the Landlord from time to time governing the use of the Municipality's Lands, including, without limitation, those respecting designated parking areas, designated roadways, access routes, and speed limits, as set out in the Municipality's Cemetery By-law.

#### **General Provisions**

44. Any waiver by the Landlord of any failure by the Tenant to perform or observe the provisions of this Lease will not operate as a waiver of the Landlord's rights under this Lease in respect of any subsequent defaults, breaches, or nonperformance and will not defeat or affect in any way the Landlord's rights in respect of any subsequent default or breach.
45. This Lease will extend to and be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, as the case may be, of each party to this Lease. All covenants are to be construed as conditions of this Lease.
46. All sums payable by the Tenant to the Landlord pursuant to any provision of this Lease will be deemed to be Additional Rent and will be recoverable by the Landlord as rental arrears.
47. Time is of the essence in this Lease.
48. This Lease will constitute the entire agreement between the Landlord and the

Tenant. Any prior understanding or representation of any kind preceding the date of this Lease will not be binding on either party to this Lease except to the extent incorporated in this Lease. In particular, no warranties of the Landlord not expressed in this Lease are to be implied.

49. It is acknowledged that the building located within the leased premises is owned by the Tenant.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the Parties to this Lease have duly affixed their signatures under hand and seal, or by a duly authorized officer under seal, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation of the Municipality of Grey  
Highlands (Landlord)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Witness)

Per: \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

Southwest Crematoriums Ltd. (Tenant)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Witness)

Per: \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

# Schedule A



**Legend:**

- Crematorium leased lands 
- Shared Parking 
- Exclusive Parking 
- Public Parking 

Leased lands include black squares and orange square.

## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Amanda Fines-VanAlstine  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** CLS.26.11  
**SUBJECT:** Markdale Ag. Society - Ball tournament Noise exemption request

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive staff report CLS.26.11 - Ball Tournament Noise exemption request for information; and

That Council **approve/deny** the request from the Markdale Ag. Society for a noise exemption on July 24th, 2026 from 6pm - 12am and July 25th, 2026 from 7am to 10pm.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

The Markdale Ag. Society is hosting their 4th Annual Co-Ed Slo Pitch Tournament. The attached application for Noise By-law exemption for 75 Walker St. Markdale, was received requesting an exemption for July 24th, 2026 from 6pm - 12am and July 25th, 2026 from 7am to 10pm.

[By-law 2018-063](#) as amended is a by-law to prohibit and regulate unusual noises or noises likely to disturb the residents of the Municipality of Grey Highlands is in effect.

General Exemption

3. (1) The By-law does not apply:

(d) to road or bicycle races, parades, circuses, entertainment activities in public parks, neighbourhood social activities or other special events between the hours of 7 am and 10 pm when such events have an approved Special Event Permit and such activity or event is in compliance with the conditions set by the approval of such activity or event;

Exemption By Council

4. (1) Despite the provisions of this by-law, any person may apply to Council for an exemption to any provision of this by-law with respect to any noise to allow such person to emit, cause or permit such noise for the period of time set out in such application, and Council may grant such exemption, grant an alternative exemption or refuse such exemption, and may set out conditions to be met as Council sees fit for any exemptions granted.

**GREY HIGHLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Responsible Governance - Practice good public sector management, adhere to the legal framework for governance, accountability, transparency, and the free flow of public information.

Considerate Communities - Continue to build and maintain positive relationships with key community partners with meaningful community outreach and engagement.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

\$200 exemption application fee received.

**Approved By:**

Jerri-Lynn Levitt,  
Director/Deputy Clerk  
Anna McCarthy, Director of  
Finance/Treasurer  
Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 01 Jun 2026  
Approved - 04 Jun 2026  
Approved - 09 Jun 2026

## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Amanda Fines-VanAlstine  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** CLS.26.12  
**SUBJECT:** Bill 97 – Changes to Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) and Impacts on Grey Highlands

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report CLS.26.12, Bill 97 – Changes to MFIPPA for information; and  
That Council direct staff to report back with options to support compliance, including resourcing, process improvements, and records management modernization.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of recent legislative changes to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) under Bill 97, outline the phased implementation timeline, and identify anticipated impacts and risks to the Municipality of Grey Highlands, particularly with respect to records management capacity and staffing within the Clerk’s Department.

Bill 97 (Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026) received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026 and introduced significant changes to Ontario’s access to information and privacy framework, including amendments to MFIPPA.

These changes are being implemented in phases:

- July 1, 2026 – Initial provisions come into force
- September 15, 2026 – Additional provisions take effect
- January 1, 2027 – Remaining provisions come into full force

The amendments represent a modernization of the provincial access and privacy system and are intended to address increased record volumes and administrative pressures across public-sector institutions.

**Key Legislative Changes:**

The MFIPPA amendments introduce several notable changes that will directly affect municipal operations when it comes to the processing of Freedom of Information Requests:

1. **Extension of Response Timelines**  
Standard response time increased from 30 calendar days to 45 business days  
Provides additional time for complex or large requests
2. **Introduction of “Staged Access” Responses**  
Municipalities may respond to large or complex requests by releasing records in phases  
Requires structured planning and communication with requesters
3. **Expanded Authority to Extend Timelines**  
Additional flexibility to extend response timelines beyond current limits where justified  
Intended to reflect the complexity of modern records environments
4. **Shift to Business Day Calculations**  
Legislative timelines are now based on business days rather than calendar days  
Requires updates to internal tracking systems and processes
5. **Broader Administrative and System Changes**  
Additional provisions (fully in force by January 1, 2027) complete the modernization of the access framework and require full integration into municipal practices

#### **Implementation of Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs)**

The amendments to MFIPPA under Bill 97 introduce expanded expectations regarding the assessment and management of privacy risks, including the increased importance of Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) as part of municipal operations.

While implementation details are phased, the new legislative framework signals a clear expectation that municipalities will adopt more formal, proactive approaches to identifying and mitigating privacy risks associated with programs, systems, and information practices.

#### **What is a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)**

A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is a structured process used to:

- Identify how personal information is collected, used, and disclosed
- Assess potential privacy risks
- Ensure compliance with MFIPPA and applicable privacy requirements
- Document mitigation measures and accountability practices

Under the updated framework, PIAs are expected to become a standard tool for evaluating municipal initiatives involving personal information.

#### **Impacts to Grey Highlands**

The implementation of PIAs will represent a shift from a primarily reactive privacy approach to a proactive and documented privacy management framework.

Grey Highlands will be expected to complete PIAs for:

- New programs or services involving personal information
- Procurement and implementation of new technology systems
- Changes to processes involving personal data

This will introduce additional administrative requirements and increase project complexity across departments.

### **Capacity and Expertise Considerations**

At present, the Municipality does not have a formal PIA framework and relies on limited staff resources within the Clerk's Department to manage privacy-related matters. The Grey Highlands Delegation of Authority By-law states:

That the Clerk/Director of Council and Legislative Services is hereby delegated the authority to act as Head in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Given existing responsibilities, including FOI administration, legislative duties, records management, and election preparation, staff capacity to undertake detailed PIAs is limited. This creates a risk that PIAs may not be completed consistently or to the expected standard without additional resources or support.

### **Relationship to Records Management**

The successful implementation of PIAs is directly dependent on the Municipality's records management practices.

PIAs require a clear understanding of:

- Where personal information is stored
- How it is used and shared
- How long it is retained

Given that Grey Highlands' records management program is not fully modernized, it may be difficult to accurately identify and map personal information holdings. This will increase the time required to complete PIAs and may result in incomplete risk identification.

### **Risk Considerations**

Without a structured and consistently applied PIA process, the Municipality faces increased risk of:

- Privacy breaches or unauthorized disclosure of personal information
- Complaints or investigations by the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC)
- Inability to demonstrate due diligence in protecting personal information

These risks are in addition to the broader compliance risks associated with MFIPPA.

### **Corporate Responsibility**

The implementation of PIAs will require a coordinated, corporate-wide approach and cannot be managed solely within the Clerk's Department. All departments will need to be engaged in identifying when a PIA is required and supporting the assessment process

## **OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

### **1. Increased Administrative Complexity**

While timelines are extended, the legislation introduces:

- New procedural requirements (e.g., staged responses)
- Increased expectations for documentation and planning

- Greater need for defensible decision-making

For example, the burden to defend is already time consuming - In 2023 staff received notice of a FOI appeal from the Information Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) and it took staff 2 years of back and forth to defend the decision to the IPC before the decision from the IPC was granted in favour of the Municipality.

These changes will increase overall workload per request.

## **2. Records Management Challenges**

The Municipality's current records management program:

- Is not fully modernized or consistently applied
- Relies on decentralized filing practices and manual processes
- Lacks a structured electronic records management system

As a result:

- Record retrieval is time-intensive
- Digital record complexity creates additional challenges
- Staged responses will be difficult without organized and accessible records

The legislative changes assume a level of records maturity that Grey Highlands has not yet achieved.

## **3. Staffing Constraints (Clerk's Department)**

Current staffing levels in the Clerk's Department limit our ability to:

- Manage complex FOI processes
- Implement new procedural requirements
- Advance records management improvements
- Provide in-house training opportunities

## **4. Compliance and Risk Exposure**

By January 1, 2027, all provisions of the amended MFIPPA will be fully in force.

Risks to the Municipality include:

- Legislative non-compliance
- Appeals to the Information and Privacy Commissioner
- Reputational impacts related to transparency
- Ongoing operational inefficiencies

## **5. Financial and Resource Implications**

While no direct funding has been provided to support implementation, the Municipality may face increased costs related to:

- Staff time and workload
- Legal or advisory services
- Records management system upgrades
- Additional staffing or contract support
- Training and policy development

Additional resource pressures may also result from the need to complete Privacy Impact Assessments, which will require staff time and coordination across departments.

## **Next Steps**

To support compliance with the new MFIPPA framework, staff have identified the following priorities:

1. Records Management Modernization

- Assess current practices
- Explore conversion to records to electronic records
- Review and develop standardized filing and retention systems
- 2. Policy and Procedure Updates
  - Update FOI procedures and templates
  - Incorporate business day tracking
  - Develop PIA framework and tools
- 3. Resource and Capacity Review
  - Evaluate staffing levels
  - Consider additional or shared resources
- 4. Training and Implementation Planning
  - Provide staff training on:
    - updated timelines
    - staged responses
    - privacy obligations and PIAs

**Conclusion**

The amendments to MFIPPA under Bill 97 represent a significant modernization of Ontario’s access and privacy framework. While the changes introduce additional flexibility, they also increase administrative complexity and introduce new requirements, including the implementation of Privacy Impact Assessments.

For Grey Highlands, these changes present notable operational risks due to: limited staffing capacity, and

an underdeveloped records management program

Proactive planning, resource allocation, and system improvements will be required to ensure the Municipality can meet its legislative obligations by the final implementation date of January 1, 2027.

**GREY HIGHLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Responsible Governance - Practice good public sector management, adhere to the legal framework for governance, accountability, transparency, and the free flow of public information.

**ATTACHMENTS OR REFERENCE:**

AMCTO Advocacy Update on Bill 97 - Changes to MFIPPA

**Approved By:**

Jerri-Lynn Levitt,  
 Director/Deputy Clerk  
 Anna McCarthy, Director of  
 Finance/Treasurer  
 Karen Govan, Chief  
 Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 05 Jun 2026  
 Approved - 05 Jun 2026  
 Approved - 09 Jun 2026



Advocacy Update: Follow-Up to Budget Update on Proposed MFIPPA Changes

**Date Published**

**April 10, 2026**

As a follow-up to our previous [advocacy update](#) outlining proposed changes to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990* (MFIPPA) made through the budget bill, we want to highlight our concerns regarding the scope and depth of proposed changes on the privacy side. These changes align the Act with similar changes made previously to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1989* (FIPPA), but do not consider municipal staff capacity or financial constraints.

Privacy-related changes include:

- Requiring that the head of an institution ensure that a written assessment is prepared and contains certain information respecting any Personal Information (PI) that is to be collected. This includes but is not limited to:
  - The purpose, intended use, and explanation for collection
  - Who will have access to the PI
  - Limitations or restrictions on collection, use or disclosure
  - Safeguard practices to protect the PI
  - Steps taken to prevent the likelihood of theft, loss, unauthorized use, or disclosure of the PI
- Requiring that risks are mitigated by ensuring the above steps are implemented before collecting PI
- Requiring that institutions provide access to the written assessment to the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC)
- Reporting any breach of privacy safeguards to the IPC and notifying affected individuals
- Outlining factors to determine the real risk of significant harm
- Removing the definition of personal information bank
- Imposing a right of access to PI
- Authorizing the IPC to review information practices of an institution where the IPC has received a complaint, with authorization to resolve the matter through mediation, conciliation, and other informal means.

- Requiring an institution to assist the IPC in conducting a review

While we acknowledge that many of these proposals are important best practices moving forward, we would like to offer the following recommendations to the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery for consideration:

- Over 80% of Ontario municipalities have populations under 50,000. In many municipalities, the administrative function is performed by a single employee, often the municipal clerk, who manages FOI and privacy programs along with 80 other [statutory responsibilities](#), which can include council governance, bylaw enforcement, and elections.
- As 2026 is a municipal and school board election year, wherein municipal budget processes are disrupted with councils inaugurated in November, requests for resources to support new requirements may not be contemplated until 2027. This timing makes it extremely challenging to transition to new rules that are proposed to be in effect by January 1, 2027.
- The January 1 deadline for privacy impact assessments is too short a timeframe for municipalities to address new requirements and seek new resources, including staff and funding support to action the new requirements.
- The scope of the privacy impact assessments is exceptionally broad. It is not clear whether these would apply to information collected going forward or would also retroactively apply, which would be an insurmountable task for already overburdened municipal staff.
  - If retroactively applied, this will likely result in substantial costs for institutions and take years for many municipalities to come into compliance, given the above-noted limitations.

Given the varying levels of capacity and maturity across MFIPPA institutions, we want to understand what resources the Ministry and the Information and Privacy Commissioner are developing to support municipalities in this transition and when they will be made available.

In the meantime, we have prepared the following redline version of the Act, which shows the amendments Bill 97 proposes. We hope this makes it easier for members to see the exact changes that are being proposed.

#### [Review Redline Version of the Act](#)

We also invite you to send us your templates, policies, procedures, and other relevant resources related to:

- Privacy impact assessments
- Information management best practices
- Risk and breach management
- Job advertisement requirements for staffing
- Budget/business cases for more resources

Over the coming weeks, we will be reviewing materials to determine the best next steps for how to support members, municipal clerks, and their staff with implementing the proposed new requirements.

Please provide any resources you'd like to share with our [policy and advocacy team](#) by **Monday, April 20**.

Our team will be continuing to evaluate the proposals to determine the full impacts on municipal administration and service delivery, and welcomes feedback from members with expertise in FOI and privacy.

We will also be applying to speak at Standing Committee where your feedback will help inform our submission. Please [provide your feedback](#) as soon as possible.

We will be seeking clarity with the Ministry over the coming days and will provide updates as appropriate.

## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Ashley Bilodeau  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** PL.26.131  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Extension for Part Lot Control By-law (Rayville Developments)

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report PL.26.131, Request for Extension for Part Lot Control By-law (Rayville Developments); and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-059, being a by-law to amend By-law 2024-007 to extend the time period of a Part Lot Control By-law for an additional three years for those lands known as Centre Point South (Devonleigh).

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

Exemption from Part Lot Control allows for division of blocks of land within a registered plan of subdivision so that individual units can be sold and title conveyed to the new owner. Passing a Part Lot Control By-law allows the developer to construct townhouses on the applicable blocks and sell those lots to purchasers. Any abutting townhouse units that are still owned by the developer after the expiry period will not be able to be sold separately unless the part lot control by-law is extended, or unless a new part lot control by-law is passed.

The original By-law authorizing Part Lot Control for Phase 1 Centre Point South was enacted on February 7, 2024. The staff report accompanying this By-law, which provides background information on the request, can be found [here](#).

The applicant has requested an extension of the exemption period for an additional 3 years during which the owner will continue marketing and building out the remaining units of the development. This extension requires a new By-law.

Planning staff have no objections to the proposed part-lot control By-law, specifically with respect to the extension of the expiry date to allow for an additional three (3) years from the date of extension identified under By-law 2024-007. The extension to allow an additional three (3) years is required to address the need for additional time to allow for home sales, construction and transfer of title of the townhouse units, which would allow lot creation and registration with the registry office. Given the recent market changes

resulting from economic trends, including elevated interest rates, construction cost pressures, and softened buyer demand, the original timeframe has proven insufficient to complete the conveyance of all remaining units. These conditions are broadly experienced across the development industry and are not reflective of project viability or intent to proceed. The subject development remains in good standing, the registered plan of subdivision is active, and the applicant is actively marketing and constructing units in accordance with the approved plan. A three (3) year extension is considered reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances, and is consistent with the municipality's interest in supporting the orderly completion of approved residential development.

If passed by Council, a copy of this By-law will be forwarded to the County of Grey for their records only. As the approval authority for plans of subdivision, the County is also responsible for approval of part-lot control applications and associated By-laws. Extensions however, are the responsibility of the lower-tier municipality.

Planning staff are satisfied that the extension of Part Lot Control for an additional three (3) years is appropriate.

**Approved By:**  
Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**  
Approved - 09 Jun 2026

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-059**

**Being a By-law to amend By-law 2024-007, being a By-law to remove Blocks 91 through 106, Centre Point South, Plan 16M-96 from Part-Lot Control for a temporary period of three (3) years**

**Whereas**, pursuant to Subsection 50 (7) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, the Council of a local municipality may by by-law provide that part-lot control does not apply to lands within a registered plan of subdivision or parts of them as are designated in the by-law; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to Subsection 50 (7.3) of the Planning Act the Council of a local municipality may provide an extension to a Part Lot Control By-law;

**Whereas**, Council approved By-law 2024-007 on February 7, 2024 to remove Blocks 91 through 106, Centre Point South, Plan 16M-96 from Part-Lot Control for a temporary period of three years, and same was subsequently approved by the County of Grey on February 13, 2024; and

**Whereas**, Rayville Developments has requested that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands enact a by-law to remove Blocks 91 through 106, Plan 16M-96, from part lot control for a temporary period of time so as to register conveyable real estate entities therewith; and

**Whereas**, the request meets the criteria of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands for the consideration of the enactment of a part-lot control by-law;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That By-law 2024-007 is hereby amended to be extended for an additional three (3) years with a revised expiry date of February 7, 2030; and
2. That this By-law shall come into force and take effect upon being passed by Council subject to any approval necessary pursuant to the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McQueen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Ashley Bilodeau  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** PL.26.132  
**SUBJECT:** Z22.2025 - 734626 West Back Line

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report PL.26.132, Z22.2025 - 734626 West Back Line for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-060 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z22.2025.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

Zoning Amendment Application Z22.2026 requires a decision from Council to deny or approve the application.

The proposed amendment will rezone a portion of the property from "Agricultural (A1)" to "Rural Commercial Exception (C4-437)" to establish an on-farm diversified use on the property.

On lands zoned C4-437, the following provisions shall be permitted in addition to all uses that are permitted in the C4 zone:

- i. The fabrication, manufacturing, storage and wholesale of automotive or agricultural components.
- ii. A sawmill operation including the assembly, storage and wholesale of wood furniture products.
- iii. The assembly, storage and wholesale of plastic products.
- iv. The construction, storage and sale of garden sheds.

The staff planning report that was drafted for this public meeting can be found [here](#).

The minutes from the August 25, 2025 meeting can be found [here](#).

A draft by-law has been prepared to apply the necessary site-specific zoning provisions to the subject property.

Public Planning Hearing Discussion and Comments on August 25, 2025

There were no member or public concerns expressed during the meeting, associated with this file.

The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and the Municipality's Transportation and Public Spaces Department initially identified concerns regarding safe site access. These concerns have since been satisfactorily addressed by the applicant. Safe access has been established, and the necessary permit has been issued by the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

**Approved By:**

Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 09 Jun 2026

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-060**

**Being a By-law to amend the Municipality of Grey Highlands Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 2004-50 related to application Z22.2025**

**Whereas,** the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands deems it in the public interest to pass a By-law to amend By-law No. 2004-50; and

**Whereas,** pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, By-laws may be amended by Councils of Municipalities;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That By-law No. 2004-50 is hereby amended by affecting the lands described as part of LT 129-130 CON 3 SWTSR ARTEMESIA as shown on Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. That Schedule "A-1" be hereby amended to rezone a portion of the subject lands from "Agricultural (A1)" to "Rural Commercial (C4-437)", in accordance with Schedule "A".
3. Schedule "A" and all other notations thereon are hereby declared to form part of this By-law.
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon being passed by Council subject to any approval necessary pursuant to the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

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Paul McQueen, Mayor

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Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

BY-LAW No. 2026-060

AMENDING BY-LAW No. 2004-50

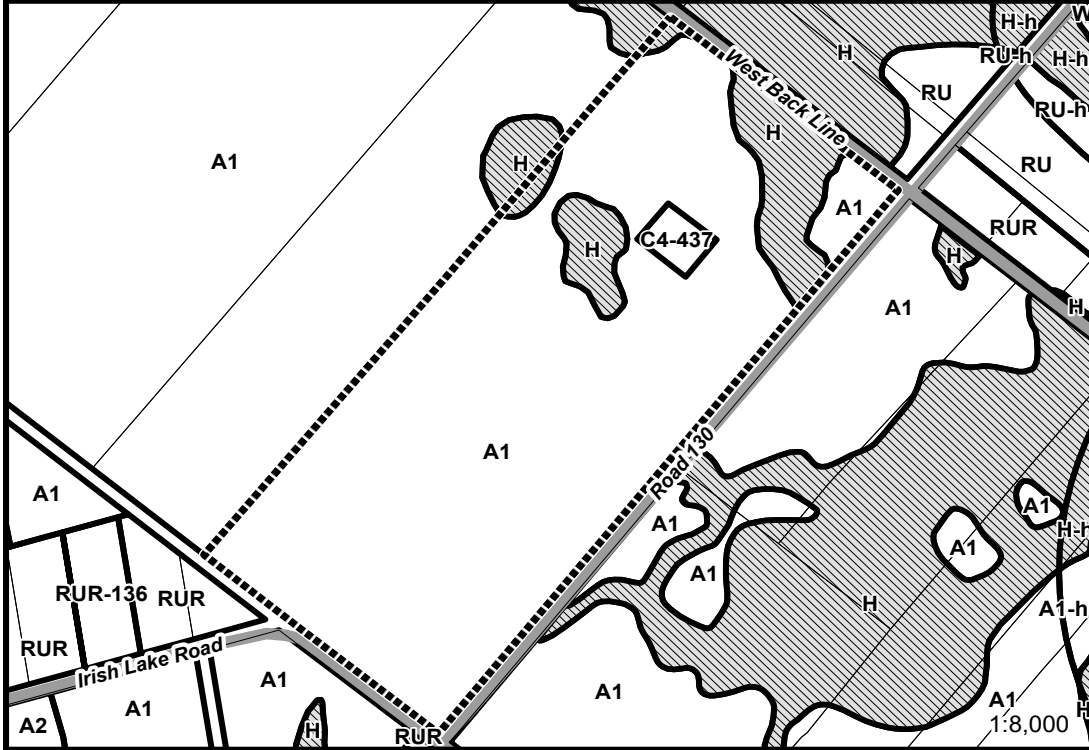
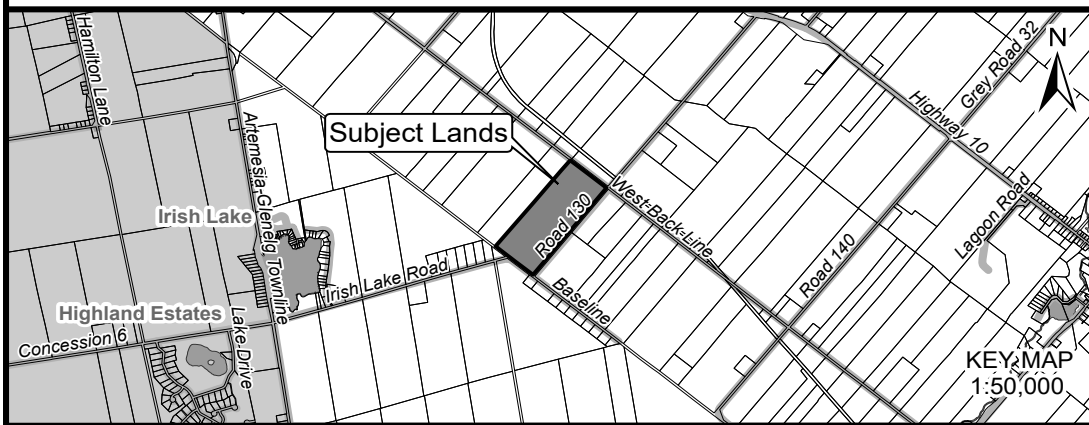
MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS

DATE PASSED: June 17, 2026

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL McQUEEN, MAYOR

AMANDA FINES-VanALSTINE, CLERK



LEGEND

Lands subject to amendment

Agriculture

Rural Commercial

Rural

Rural Residential

Hazard

Grey County 2025-22.aprx

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## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Ashley Bilodeau  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** PL.26.126  
**SUBJECT:** Z30.2025 - Canyon Hill Developments

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report PL.26.126, Z30.2025 - Canyon Hill Developments for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-061 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z30.2025.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

Zoning Amendment Application Z30.2025 requires a decision from Council to deny or approve the application.

The proposed amendment will add a "stacked townhouse" as a permitted use on the property, and exempt the property from being on municipal water, as it does not exist in Flesherton.

On lands zoned RM-535, the following provisions shall apply, in addition to all those identified in the RM zone:

- i. A stacked townhouse shall be considered a permitted use.
- ii. The property is exempt from being on municipal water.

The staff planning report that was drafted for this public meeting can be found [here](#).

The minutes from the February 23, 2026 public meeting can be found [here](#).

A draft by-law has been prepared to apply the necessary site-specific zoning provisions to the subject property.

[Public Planning Hearing Discussion and Comments on February 23, 2026](#)

During the meeting, staff noted outstanding technical matters that needed to be addressed to confirm the long-term servicing suitability and environmental performance of the development. These have now been properly dealt with and internal staff are satisfied with the proposal.

In staff's opinion, the proposal is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, complies to the Grey County Official Plan and the Grey Highlands Official Plan, and represents good planning.

**Approved By:**

Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 09 Jun 2026

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-061**

**Being a By-law to amend the Municipality of Grey Highlands Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 2004-50 related to application Z30.2025**

**Whereas**, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands deems it in the public interest to pass a By-law to amend By-law No. 2004-50; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, By-laws may be amended by Councils of Municipalities;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That By-law No. 2004-50 is hereby amended by affecting the lands described as PT LT 151, CON 1, NETSR ARTEMESIA PT 1-3 16R-7432, GREY HIGHLANDS.
2. That Schedule "A-4" be hereby amended to rezone the lands from "Residential Multiple (RM)" to "Residential Multiple Exception 535 (RM-535)", in accordance with Schedule "A". Section 16.535 contains the following provisions:
  - o On lands zoned RM-535, the following provisions apply in addition to the provisions of the "Residential Multiple (RM)" Zone:
    - i. A stacked townhouse shall be considered a permitted use.
    - ii. The property is exempt from being on municipal water.
3. Schedule "A" and all other notations thereon are hereby declared to form part of this By-law.
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon being passed by Council subject to any approval necessary pursuant to the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McQueen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk



## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Ashley Bilodeau  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** PL.26.127  
**SUBJECT:** Z12.2026 - Grey Road 40 (Meaford)

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report PL.26.127, Z12.2026 - Grey Road 40 (Meaford) for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-062 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z12.2026.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

Zoning By-law Amendment Z12.2026 requires a decision from Council to deny or approve the application.

The proposed amendment will implement two related consent applications (Files B05.2026 and B06.2026). The application includes two rezoning components:

1. Rezoning of the proposed institutional lot (B06.2026) from "Rural (RU)" and "Agricultural (A1)" to "Institutional (I)" to permit a meeting house and cemetery, and
2. Rezoning a separate parcel of land, currently zoned "Rural Residential (RUR)" and "No Development (ND)", to "Rural (RU)". These lands are being merged on title with the retained parent parcel pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act, in satisfaction of a Committee of Adjustment condition imposed to ensure that the lot creation does not result in a net increase in lot count contrary to the lot density policies of the Grey Highlands Official Plan. The rezoning brings the zoning of the consolidated parcel into alignment with its underlying Rural designation.

The staff planning report that was drafted for this public meeting can be found [here](#).

The minutes from the May 25, 2026 public meeting can be found [here](#).

A draft by-law has been prepared to apply the zoning change to the subject property.

[Public Planning Hearing Discussion and Comments on May 25, 2026](#)

During the public meeting, Council's questions focused on geotechnical and siting matters related to the proposed cemetery parcel on Grey Road 40. Councillor Wickens sought clarification on County Ecology's request for a letter from a qualified engineer regarding the feasibility of "bedrock extraction," expressing concern that the language implied commercial rock removal. The applicant's representative explained that the requirement was tied to the karst assessment and related specifically to cutting down a rock outcrop between the road and the proposed cemetery/meeting house, with an engineer's letter confirming there is no karst present and that the grading work can be safely undertaken; Councillor Wickens was satisfied with this explanation.

Deputy Mayor Nielsen questioned why the cemetery parcel was located more centrally within the farm parcel rather than along the edge, noting a general preference to avoid fragmenting agricultural lands and asking whether the chosen location was driven by environmental or hazard constraints. Staff clarified that the site is largely within the Rural designation (as opposed to the core Agricultural area) and was selected through the supporting studies as the most suitable option that minimizes agricultural impact while avoiding identified hazard areas associated with Rocklyn Creek and complying with applicable lot creation and environmental policies.

At the public meeting, the Chair asked whether a decision on the zoning by-law amendment needed to await receipt of comments from the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), and staff advised at that time that NEC comments would be required before proceeding. Upon further review, staff have determined that the proposed zoning by-law amendment implements Consent B06.2026 only and does not affect the NEC-regulated lands associated with Consent B05.2026; accordingly, it is not necessary to delay consideration of this by-law pending NEC comments.

In staff's opinion, the proposal is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, complies to the Grey County Official Plan and the Grey Highlands Official Plan, and represents good planning.

**Approved By:**  
Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**  
Approved - 09 Jun 2026

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-062**

**Being a By-law to amend the Municipality of Grey Highlands Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 2004-50 related to application Z12.2026**

**Whereas,** the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands deems it in the public interest to pass a By-law to amend By-law No. 2004-50; and

**Whereas,** pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, By-laws may be amended by Councils of Municipalities;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That By-law No. 2004-50 is hereby amended by affecting the lands described as part of CON 10 PT LOT 28 AND PT LOT 29, 16R-9712 PART 1 as shown on Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. That Schedule "A-1" be hereby amended to rezone a portion of the subject lands from "Rural (RU)" and "Agricultural (A1)" to "Institutional (I)", in accordance with Schedule "A".
3. That Schedule "A-1" be hereby amended to rezone a portion of the subject lands from "Rural Residential (RUR)" and "No Development (ND)" to "Rural (RU)", in accordance with Schedule "A".
4. Schedule "A" and all other notations thereon are hereby declared to form part of this By-law.
5. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon being passed by Council subject to any approval necessary pursuant to the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

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Paul McQueen, Mayor

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Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

# SCHEDULE "A"

BY-LAW No. 2026-062

AMENDING BY-LAW No. 2004-50

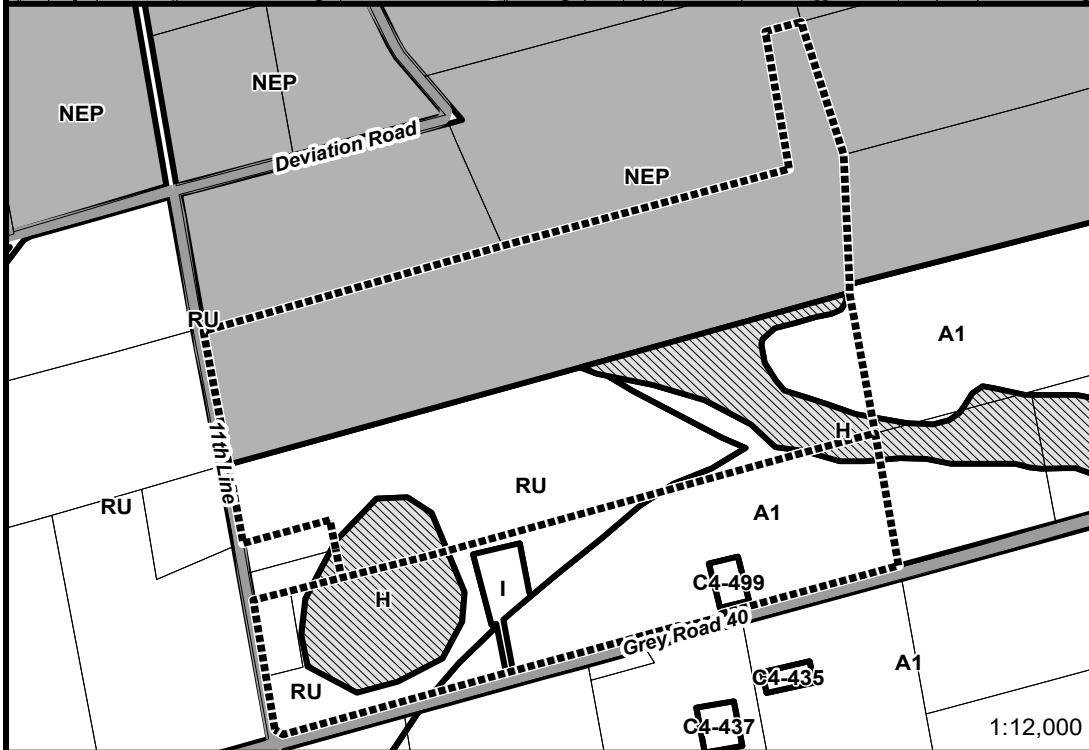
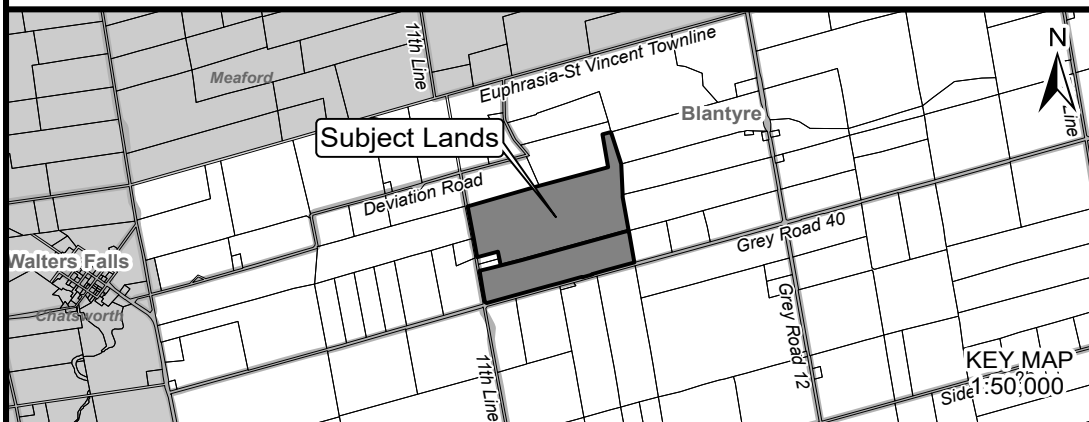
## MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS

DATE PASSED: June 17, 2026









SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL McQUEEN, MAYOR

AMANDA FINES-VanALSTINE, CLERK



**LEGEND**

 Lands subject to amendment	 Institutional	 Rural Residential
 Agriculture	 Rural Commercial	 Niagara Escarpment Development
 Rural	 Hazard	

Grey County 2026-12.aprx

## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Ashley Bilodeau  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** PL.26.128  
**SUBJECT:** Z13.2026 - 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report PL.26.128, Z13.2026 - 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road for information; and  
That Council Council approve By-law 2026-063 being a by-law to approve Zoning By-law Amendment Z13.2026.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

Zoning Amendment Application Z13.2026 requires a decision from Council to deny or approve the application.

The proposed amendment will rezone the subject lands from "Residential Shoreline (RS)" to "Residential Shoreline Exception (RS-536) to permit an Additional Dwelling Unit on a lot that is less than 0.4 hectares, to permit said Additional Dwelling unit to be located in an accessory structure, and to reduce the front yard setback from 10.0 metres to 5.0 metres.

The effect of this By-law is to add an exception for the subject lands which stipulates:

On lands zoned RS-536, the following additional provisions shall apply:

- i. a maximum of one (1) Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) shall be permitted in addition to all uses that are permitted in the RS zone.
- ii. such Accessory Dwelling Unit can be located in an accessory structure.
- iii. the minimum front yard setback for a detached accessory garage with ADU above shall be 5.0 metres.

The staff planning report that was draft for the public meeting can be found [here](#).

The minutes from the May 25, 2026 public meeting can be found [here](#).

A draft by-law has been prepared to apply the necessary site-specific zoning provisions to the subject property.

Public Planning Hearing Discussion and Comments on May 25, 2026

During the public meeting, Council's questions focused on servicing, lot size, and lake impacts. Councillor Dubyk asked whether any additional review was required for the proposed new well given the new septic system, and staff/the applicant's planner confirmed that provincial standards govern well-septic separation and that compliance is the responsibility of the well driller.

Councillor Wickens expressed concern that the existing lot is undersized and has reduced frontage relative to current lot creation standards, and questioned the reduced front yard setback and cumulative development pressure on the lake; in response, the applicant's planner explained that the hydrogeological (D-5-4) work demonstrates the lot can safely accommodate a septic system for the additional dwelling unit, and that the reduced setback allows more area for the septic and tree retention while still maintaining a substantial setback from the travelled portion of the private road. The owner also confirmed there is no evidence of an existing septic system and that any existing system discovered will be properly decommissioned during demolition.

**Approved By:**  
Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**  
Approved - 09 Jun 2026

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-063**

**Being a By-law to amend the Municipality of Grey Highlands Comprehensive Zoning By-law No. 2004-50 related to application Z13.2026**

**Whereas**, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands deems it in the public interest to pass a By-law to amend By-law No. 2004-50; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, By-laws may be amended by Councils of Municipalities;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That By-law No. 2004-50 is hereby amended by affecting the lands described as part of PT MILL RESERVE 5 PL 20 ARTEMESIA AS IN GS37048; T/W GS37048; GREY HIGHLANDS as shown on Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. That Schedule "A-5" be hereby amended to rezone a portion of the subject lands from "Residential Shoreline (RS)" to "Residential Shoreline (RS-536), in accordance with Schedule "A".
  - o On lands zoned RS-536, the following provisions apply in addition to the provisions of the Residential Shoreline (RS) Zone:
    - i. a maximum of one (1) Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) shall be permitted in addition to all uses that are permitted in the RS zone.
    - ii. such ADU can be located in an accessory structure.
    - iii. the minimum front yard setback for a detached accessory garage with ADU above shall be 5.0 metres.
3. Schedule "A" and all other notations thereon are hereby declared to form part of this By-law.
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon being passed by Council subject to any approval necessary pursuant to the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McQueen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

BY-LAW No. 2026-063

AMENDING BY-LAW No. 2004-50

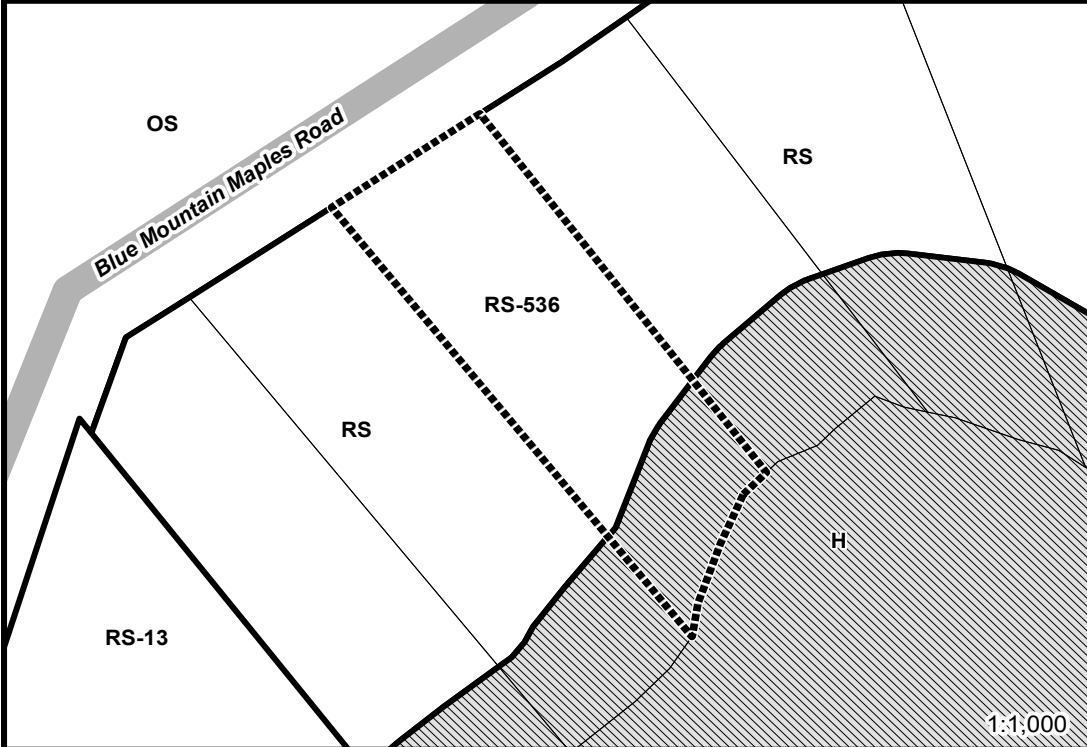
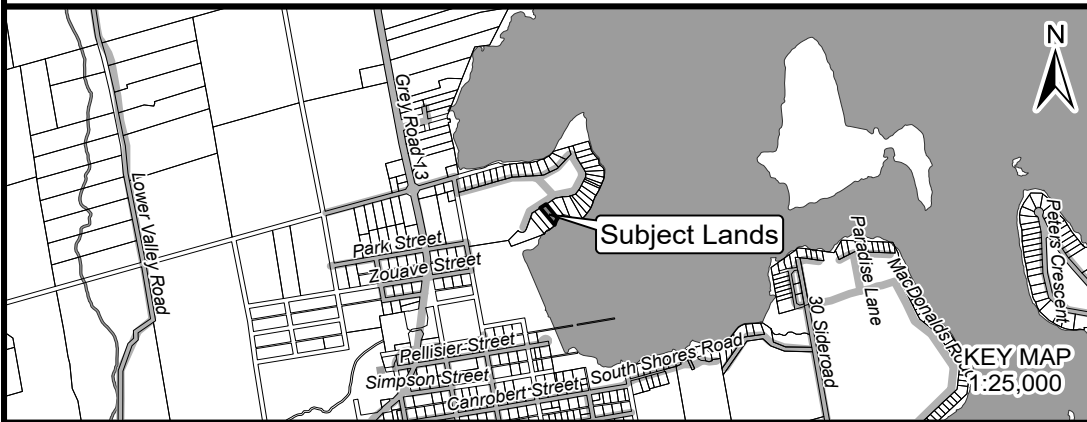
MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS





DATE PASSED: June 17, 2026

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL McQUEEN, MAYOR

AMANDA FINES-VanALSTINE, CLERK



LEGEND	
	Lands subject to amendment
	Residential Shoreline
	Open Space
	Hazard

Grey County 2026-13\_BMMapes.aprx

**Grey Highlands and Chatsworth  
Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board Minutes  
Monday, June 1, 2026**

**Members Present:**

Chair Member Paul Allen, Member Nadia Dubyk, Member Scott Mackey, and Member Terry McKay

**Members Absent:**

**Staff:**

Chief Administrative Officer Karen Govan, Director of Environmental Services Shawn Moyer, Committee & Records Coordinator Danielle Thompson, Environmental Compliance Specialist Jenn Eagan, Chatsworth CAO/Clerk Rachel Anstett, Chatsworth Treasurer Aakash Desai, and Chatsworth Operations Manager Herb Lemon

**1 Call to Order**

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

**2 Approve the Agenda**

2.1 Motion:

**JWDB2026-08**

**Scott Mackey - Nadia Dubyk**

**That the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board approve the agenda as circulated.**

**CARRIED.**

**3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

None declared.

**4 Approval of Minutes**

4.1 Motion:

**JWDB2026-09**

**Terry McKay - Nadia Dubyk**

**That the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board approve the minutes**

**of 2026-03-02 as circulated.  
CARRIED.**

[Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board - 02 Mar 2026 - Minutes - Html](#)

## **5 Chatsworth Updates**

### 5.1 Chatsworth Verbal Update

- Chatsworth curbside waste collection contract update.

**JWDB2026-10**

**Nadia Dubyk - Scott Mackey**

**That the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board receive the Chatsworth Verbal Update for information.**

**CARRIED.**

## **6 Grey Highlands Updates**

### 6.1 Grey Highlands Verbal Update

- Waste shredder grand opening.
- New scale house delivered and operational.
- County of Grey Waste Community of Practice - upcoming site visit.
- Household Hazardous Waste inquiries.
- Shredding ongoing at site.

**JWDB2026-11**

**Scott Mackey - Terry McKay**

**That the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board receive the Grey Highlands Verbal Update for information; and**

**That the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board recommend that both Councils direct staff to bring back a report to the Board on the provision of Household Hazardous Waste services at the Markdale-Holland Waste and Diversion Site, covering the necessary approvals and financial implications to both municipalities of offering the service.**

**CARRIED.**

[Council - 18 Mar 2026 - Resolution 2026-190](#)

## **7 Other Items**

### 7.1 2025 Annual Monitoring Report

Staff Report JWDSB.26.02

- Future reports anticipated to reflect effect of shredder on volume.
- Report recommendations incorporated into regular operations on site.

#### **JWDB2026-12**

**Nadia Dubyk - Scott Mackey**

**That the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board receive staff report JWDSB.26.02 - 2025 Annual Monitoring Report for information. CARRIED.**

[JWDSB.26.02-2025 Annual Monitoring Report - Pdf](#)

## **8 Next Meeting**

### 8.1 Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board Meeting

Date: September 8, 2026

Time: 10:00am

Location: Grey Highlands Municipal Office (in-person only)

## **9 Adjournment**

### 9.1 Motion:

#### **JWDB2026-13**

**Terry McKay - Nadia Dubyk**

**That the Joint Waste and Diversion Site Board adjourn at 10:29am until the next meeting or until the call of the chair. CARRIED.**

*The minutes contained herein have been reviewed by the members. Minutes are not deemed as approved until received at the next meeting.*

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-057**

**Being a By-law to adopt the updated Adopt-A-Road Policy A09-T-01 and to amend By-law 2012-69**

**Whereas**, Section 8 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, as amended provides that a municipality has the authority to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and enables the municipality to respond to municipal issues; and

**Whereas**, Council passed By-law 2012-69 on October 15, 2012 to adopt an Adopt-A-Road Program Policy and Agreement; and

**Whereas**, on June 3, 2026 Council received an Adopt-A-Road Program Update and directed staff to bring forward a by-law to amend By-law 2012-69 to adopt the updated Adopt-A-Road Policy A09-T-01 (resolution 2026-367);

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That the Adopt-A-Road Policy A09-T-01 attached hereto and marked as Schedule A to this by-law be hereby adopted; and
2. That By-law 2012-69 be hereby amended by replacing the schedule with the Schedule A attached hereto and forming part of this by-law; and
3. That this by-law comes into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McQueen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

# Grey Highlands Policy

Policy Name: Adopt-A-Road Policy

Policy Number: A09-T-01

Departments: Transportation & Public Spaces, and Environmental Services

Authority: Director of Transportation & Public Spaces, and Director of Environmental Services

Effective Date: 2012-10-15

Last modified: 2026-06-17 (By-law 2026-057)

## 1. Purpose

The Adopt-A-Road Program is a public program for voluntary participation to enhance the local litter collection activities by picking litter along eligible municipal road allowances. It is a way for environmentally conscious citizens to make a personal contribution to a cleaner environment. Under the program, organizations, groups, individuals agree to adopt a section of Municipal right of ways and keep it clean. In addition to a cleaner environment, the participant(s) are recognized by a sign erected by the Municipality of Grey Highlands acknowledging their efforts

## 2. Scope

The Municipality of Grey Highlands recognizes the assistance that various groups, organizations, and participants within the Municipality provide to enhance the local litter collection activities.

This program applies only to opened, assumed and municipally maintained road allowances under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

County Roads and Provincial Highways are excluded from this program.

## 3. Definitions

- Participant – An individual taking part in the Adopt-A-Road Program, including any volunteer acting under an approved organization, group, or individual application.
- Organization – A legally constituted entity that participates in the Adopt-A-Road Program through an authorized representative.
- Group – Two or more individuals who participate together in the Adopt-A-Road Program through an authorized group representative.
- Opened and Maintained Road Allowance – A public roadway that has been assumed by the Municipality and is regularly maintained.

## 4. Policy

### 4.1 Participation in Adopt-a-Road Program

- Road safety is of primary importance in all Municipal decisions related to the Adopt-A-Road Program.
- Only organizations, groups, or individuals determined by the Municipality to be responsible and capable of meeting program objectives will be permitted to participate. The Municipality may refuse or revoke participation if it determines that participation would create a safety concern, conflict with municipal policy, or undermine the objectives of the program.

- Participants are not considered officers, employees, or agents of the Municipality. Participants assume all risks associated with participation and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Municipality of Grey Highlands from any claims arising from participation in the program.
- The Adopt-a-Road Program operates seasonally, generally between May 1 and October 31, weather permitting.

#### 4.2 Participant Responsibilities

- Participants interested in the Adopt-A-Road Program must submit an application online or by contacting the Environmental Services department. Once an application is approved, the attached Agreement will be prepared by Municipal staff and circulated for signature.
- Appoint an Authorized Group Representative who is at least eighteen (18) years of age. All participants shall be familiar with the Municipality's "Safety Guidelines for Participants" before participating in the clean-up of the adopted section of right-of-way.
- Provide advance notice (minimum 48 hours) to Environmental Services prior to each clean-up activity.
- Park all vehicles, at the worksite, as far away as possible from the travelled portion of the road.
- Collect litter only from the right-of-way sections of the adopted road.
- Sort collected materials into recyclables and waste.
- Complete at least one (1) litter clean-up per calendar year.
- Wear clothing that will not impair vision or movement during the pick-up.
- Work only during daylight hours and suspend litter pick-up when weather conditions become inclement (i.e. fog, rain, drizzle, high wind, electrical storms etc.).
- Ensure no alcohol, illegal drugs, or pets are present during clean-up activities.

#### 4.3 Grey Highlands Responsibilities

The Municipality shall:

- Jointly administer the Adopt-A-Road Program through the Environmental Services Department and the Transportation & Public Spaces Department.
- Environmental Services will be responsible for program administration, monitor to ensure program objectives are being met, and coordinate waste pick up/drop off.
- Transportation & Public Spaces will be responsible for road eligibility review and erecting signage where appropriate.
- Both departments will monitor road safety considerations.
- The Municipality will provide garbage bags upon request.
- The Municipality does not provide or certify personal protective equipment.

#### 4.4 Modification /Renewal/Termination of the Agreement Or Program

- The Adopt-A-Road Agreement may be modified in scope of altered in any manner, at the discretion of the Municipality.

#### 4.5 Modification

- Throughout the term of the Adopt-a-Road Agreement, any changes to the project must be reported to the Municipality, including changes to contact information or resignation of an Adopt-A-road Group Leader. Any new individual appointed to act on behalf of the group

must complete the registration process before being authorized to coordinate a litter clean-up activity through this program.

#### 4.6 Renewal

- Agreements shall continue annually subject to confirmation of participation and compliance with program requirements.
- The Municipality may request updated contact information or confirmation of continued participation at any time.

#### 4.7 Termination

- The organization, group, or individuals may indicate its intention to discontinue their project at any time, by providing written notice.
- The Municipality may terminate an agreement and remove signage if:
  - i. Required clean-up activities are not completed for two (2) consecutive years, or
  - ii. Program requirements are not being met, or
  - iii. Participation is determines to pose a safety risk.

#### References and Related Documents

Appendix A - Safety Guidelines for Participants

Appendix B - Participation Record for Group/Organization



## Appendix A Safety Guidelines for Participants

**Participant and group safety is of primary importance in all Municipal decisions related to the Adopt-A-Road Program.**

Role of the Contact Person:

The Contact Person is responsible for submitting all required documentation to the Municipality of Grey Highlands. As a leader for a group, the contact person or designate is also responsible for reminding participants to use good judgment and safe practice during cleanup activities. The items in this guide should be discussed with the group prior to each cleanup event.

**Remember Safety First! Under no circumstances is the welfare of a participant to be compromised during clean-up activities.**

Safety Checklist

1. Discuss the clean-up route. Take note of any areas of concern, such as high traffic areas or locations where there is a limited vision (hills/curves) for approaching traffic. If it is a sunny day be aware if the sun is restricting your vision or that of a driver, and rain-soaked roads will increase the necessary stopping distance of motorists.
2. Prepare your materials. Make sure you have all the tools and materials required to complete your task safely and efficiently.
3. Review safety instructions with participants:
  - **Watch for cars and other vehicles.** As drivers may not expect to see participants working, participants should watch out for all vehicles in the area.
  - **Obey all traffic regulations.** Participants should obey all signs and use intersections, where available.
  - **Handle dangerous refuse carefully.** Identify closed containers or suspected hazardous materials to the Municipal Office for pick-up and disposal by municipal staff.
  - **Never reach blindly to pick up an item.** Always "identify" the item before picking it up.
  - **Work in pairs or teams.** This is safer than working alone as it allows participants to look out for each other.

**Hazardous Waste**

- Objects that contain corrosive chemicals (i.e. car batteries) or objects that may carry harmful bacteria or disease (i.e. medical waste, dead animals) should not be touched. Please flag where you find these items and contact the Municipal Office for proper collection and disposal.

**Walking on Roads**

- Work on one side of the road at a time.
- Pick up litter walking against traffic. This ensures all participants are facing oncoming traffic and aware of dangers.
- **Always** tie up the garbage bags, once filled with refuse so that the refuse does not blow away.

**Participants Clothing**

- Participants should wear suitable clothing – high visibility clothing is preferred
- Participants should wear suitable footwear – heavy boots or work boots are preferred to protect from nails, etc.
- Dress appropriately for the weather
- Avoid the use of headphones or restrictive clothing
- Do not wear attire that might divert the attention of motorists during clean-up activities

#### **In Case Of An Emergency**

- If possible, keep a cell phone handy
- Have transportation available
- Know the name of the road you are on
- Be aware of the quickest route to the nearest hospital in case of serious injury

#### **General Tips**

- Avoid horseplay while working
- Prohibit any alcohol and/or illegal drugs
- Keep an adequate supply of water
- Always work in daylight
- Don't work in bad weather (i.e. fog, rain, drizzle, high wind, etc.)
- Don't jump or step on your garbage bag to pack more in, you should bring lots of garbage bags.
- Report your clean-up activities to the Municipality and on the Participant Record form. Include any significant irregularities and be sure to report any injuries immediately.

#### **MUNICIPAL CONTACT NUMBER:**

Tel: 519-986-1216 Ext. 246

Email: [enviro@greyhighlands.ca](mailto:enviro@greyhighlands.ca)

Please give the Environmental Services Department 48 hours notice prior to beginning a litter pick-up. Contact number 519-986-1216 Ext. 246. Municipal Staff will pick up waste/recycling the first workday following the clean-up.



## **ADOPT -A - ROAD AGREEMENT**

THIS IS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN:

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS

as represented by the Transportation and Public Spaces Department, hereinafter called the Municipality

and

\_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter called the "Organization/Individual"

WHEREAS, the Organization/Individual has expressed a desire to provide clean up services on Municipal road allowances;

AND WHEREAS, the Municipality wishes to support and encourage this objective of the Organization/Individual.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms hereinafter stated, the Municipality and the Organization/Individual agree as follows;

1. The Organization/Individual shall provide clean up services by picking up garbage or litter from the road allowances known as \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Organization/Individual shall be fully responsible for the activities of its members and participants and shall provide all transportation, supervision, safety equipment and medical or first aid services required by its members and participants while they are performing clean up services within the municipal road allowances.
3. The Organization/Individual shall ensure that all of its members and participants who plan to participate in clean up services attend a seminar on safety, are aware of the definition of Hazardous Materials, and shall ensure that no person who has not attended such a seminar is permitted to participate in clean up services within the municipal road allowances.
4. The Organization/Individual shall ensure that all of its members and participants receive the "Safety Guidelines" brochure and agree to abide by the rules stated herein.
5. The Organization/Individual shall inform its members and participants that

participation in a clean up program does not make them employees, agents or contractors of the municipality, nor does the municipality assume any responsibility for injuries, claims, liabilities, suits or a cross thereof whatsoever arising from the clean up activities undertaken by the Organization/Individual and such shall be deemed to be the sole responsibility of the Organization/Individual,, its members and participants.

6. The Organization/Individual shall indemnify and save harmless the municipality and its employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, actions and cause whatsoever that may arise, directly or indirectly, out of any act or omission of the Organization, its members or participants in the performance of clean up services.
7. The Organization/Individual and its members shall obey and abide by all laws and regulations relating to safety while they are operating within the municipal road allowances.
8. The Organization/Individual and its members shall ensure that its members and participants comply with the following safety rules:
  - a. work shall not be carried out on bridges or other structures where there is an apparent risk of injury
  - b. work shall only be carried out in the areas between the outer edges of the shoulders and the road allowance boundaries on each side of the road;
  - c. the Organization shall supply 1 adult supervision for every five participant workers;
  - d. all workers shall be at least 12 years of age and no persons younger than 12 shall be permitted on the road allowances;
  - e. Clean up services shall be performed only during daylight hours when the weather is good;
  - f. traffic safety signs shall be placed in accordance with municipal requirements whenever clean up services are being performed.
  - g. all participants shall wear appropriate safety apparel while they are in the road allowances;
  - h. whenever participants encounter closed containers or other items suspected of being hazardous, these items shall be marked with a flag and not touched. The municipality should be notified by the Organization of the location of these hazardous items;
  - i. participants shall ensure that filled trash bags are properly sealed and placed at the pick up sites designated by the Municipality.
9. The Organization/Individual shall make arrangements for off road parking or shuttle bus-type travel to the work site and shall ensure that all vehicles required at the work site are parked at least three feet from the edge of the

traveled road.

10. The Municipality will erect highway signs recognized by the Organizations efforts. These signs will be supplied and erected by the Municipal Roads staff at either end of the road which is being designated or adopted.

11. The Municipality has the right to revoke this agreement at any time if it is not serving the best interests of the Municipality.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Municipality and the Organization/Individual have caused this Agreement to be signed on their behalf by the persons who have been duly authorized for that purpose.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands as represented by the Transportation and Public Spaces department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Cornfield, Director of Transportation and Public Spaces

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization/Individual

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**ADOPT -A - ROAD RELEASE**  
**Municipality of Grey Highlands**

WHEREAS the \_\_\_\_\_ (Organization name) has solicited participants to provide clean up services by picking up garbage or litter from the road allowances of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

AND WHEREAS the \_\_\_\_\_ (Organization name) has entered into an agreement with the Municipality to pick up garbage or litter from the road allowance known as \_\_\_\_\_

(road name and section).

AND WHEREAS the undersigned has volunteered to participate in the clean up program;

AND WHEREAS the work is purely voluntary and without remuneration of any kind.

NOW THEREFORE the undersigned acknowledges that his or her participation in the highway clean up program does not make him or her an employee, agent or contractor of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands or the (Organization).

Nor does the Municipality or the (Organization Name) assume any responsibility for injuries, claims, liabilities, suits or the costs thereof whatsoever arising from the clean up activities undertaken by the undersigned, and such shall be the sole responsibility of the undersigned.

The undersigned, in consideration of being acknowledged as a participant in the program, hereby agrees to release the Municipality and the (Organization Name) from any and all liabilities relating to the program.

Please print:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-056**

**Being a By-law to amend By-law 2022-050 -  
Procurement By-law**

**Whereas**, the Municipal Act, 2001 s.270 (1), requires Ontario municipalities to adopt a policy for the procurement of goods and services; and

**Whereas**, Council adopted the Procurement By-law 2022-050 on June 1, 2022 and subsequently amended the Procurement By-law through the passing of By-law 2024-088 on October 2, 2024; and

**Whereas**, at their meeting on June 3, 2026, Council received a Procurement By-law update and directed staff to bring forward a by-law for the adoption of the updated Procurement Policy (resolution 2026-369);

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That the Procurement By-law attached hereto and marked as Schedule A to this by-law be hereby adopted; and
2. That By-law 2022-050 is hereby further amended by replacing the attachment to the by-law with the Procurement By-law attached hereto and marked as Schedule A to this by-law; and
3. That By-law 2022-050 be hereby further amended by deleting the following clause from the preamble: "Whereas, the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the Ontario-Quebec Trade and Cooperation Agreement (OQTCA) and the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) apply to the Procurement of goods and services by the Corporation; and"
4. That this by-law comes into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McQueen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

**Procurement By-law  
2022-050**

**As amended by:  
By-Law 2024-088 and By-Law 2026-056**

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## 1. Objectives

- 1.1. Promote Procurement activities and decisions which are consistent with the strategic, financial, social and environmental objectives of the Municipality;
- 1.2. Provide professional and ethical leadership through the provision of fair and transparent Procurement Processes;
- 1.3. Promote the most cost effective and efficient use of municipal funds by achieving best value for money; and
- 1.4. Maintain trust and confidence in the stewardship of public funds.
- 1.5. Carry out procurement processes and procedures in a routine manner that minimizes risk and liability to the Municipality
- 1.6. Comply with all applicable legislation, trade agreements, and Provincial procurement directives governing municipal Procurement.

## 2. Principles

### 2.1. Non-Discrimination

The Municipality will not adopt discriminatory Procurement practices in accordance with the requirements of any applicable trade agreements.

### 2.2. Transparency

The Municipality will ensure this By-law and any Supporting Policies and Procedures are made readily accessible to the public. The principles of public procurement shall be adhered to by supporting a process that is open and fair. Contract award decisions shall be based on clear, transparent, and objective criteria that is applied free from political considerations.

### 2.3. Exceptions

- a. The Municipality may exclude a Procurement from a competitive Procurement Process in the circumstances as set out in Schedule B.
- b. Where it is known before commencement that a Procurement may not comply with this By-law in some respect, the Procurement shall not be commenced unless the Procurement has been authorized by Council.
- c. Procurements that have commenced and which subsequently are found not to comply with this By-law in some respect must be authorized as follows:

- i. A Procurement with a value of less than \$20,000 shall not continue unless authorized by the Department Head.
- ii. A Procurement with a value of more than \$20,000 but less than \$50,000 shall not continue unless authorized by the Department Head and Director of Finance.
- iii. A Procurement with a value of \$50,000 or greater shall not continue unless authorized by Council.

#### 2.4. Non-Application

The By-law does not apply to the exclusions as set out in Schedule B. Agreements regarding the purchase of goods or services where this By-law does not apply, must be approved in accordance with any applicable By-law, policy, administrative directive or standard operating procedure.

#### 2.5. Domestic Content and Non-Discrimination

The Municipality may incorporate criteria that advance Ontario and Canadian economic and supply chain objectives, including local value-added considerations, sustainability, and supply chain resilience, provided such criteria are consistent with applicable trade agreements and do not create discriminatory or non-compliant barriers to open, fair, and transparent competition.

#### 2.6. Disputes Resolution

Objective and timely consideration will be given to any Bid Dispute submitted to the Municipality in accordance with any Supporting Policies and Procedures. Any such consideration shall not result in undue discrimination against a Vendor resulting in limiting the Vendor's participation in ongoing or future Procurements.

Any Bid Disputes shall be submitted to the Municipality within 20 days of the awarding of the Bid. The Municipality will review the Dispute Claim and respond to the Vendor or their agent within 30 days of receipt of the Dispute Claim.

#### 2.7. Confidentiality

- a. Nothing in this By-law requires the Municipality to breach confidentiality obligations imposed by law or to compromise security concerns or commercially sensitive or proprietary information identified by a Vendor in its Procurement documents.
- b. Notwithstanding section 2.7 a., information collected by the Municipality is subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990.

## 2.8. Sustainable and Ethical Procurement

- a. The Municipality supports the acquisition of goods, services and construction from Vendors who conduct their business in a sustainable and ethical manner. The Municipality acknowledges its responsibility to conduct its Procurements in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. This includes zero-tolerance of child labour or involuntary labour. Vendors are required to comply with all known legal ethical standards and adhere to the core international labour standards of the International Labour Organization that support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- b. The Municipality encourages the Procurement of goods, services and construction with due regard to protect natural ecosystems and resources, and the human and built communities. Vendors may be required to supply goods, services and construction made by methods resulting in the least damage to the environment, and/or supply goods, services and construction incorporating recycled materials where practical as specified in Procurement documents.
- c. Best practices in asset management, environmental, social and governance factors should be included in any Procurement decision.
- d. The procurement of assets shall include consideration of the total cost of ownership.

## 3. Council

- 3.1. Members of Council shall have no input in the Procurement process, except to be circulated on the final RFP and RFT including all related documents at public circulation, for information only and as required under Section 2.3(c)(iii).
- 3.2. Members of Council who receive inquiries from Bidders related to any specific Procurement are required to advise the Bidder(s) to communicate with the contact person listed in the Procurement document. Members of Council should inform the Director of Finance if they have received contact from a Bidder during the Blackout Period.
- 3.3. Council members shall not contact Vendors on behalf of the Municipality relating to any specific or proposed Procurement.

#### 4. Department Head

The Department Head is responsible for:

- a) Adhering with this By-law and Supporting Policies and Procedures with respect to the activities of their Department;
- b) Obtaining Council approval to proceed with Procurement according to the Schedules of this By-Law;
- c) Delegating appropriate authority to other employees as required;
- d) Acquisition of goods, services and construction required by the Municipality excluding real property;
- e) Disposal of assets excluding real property, and provision of supporting documentation to Finance on the disposal.
- f) Determining the appropriate Procurement Process based on the total Procurement Value in consultation with the Treasurer;
- g) Disqualification of Vendors from participating in procurements in accordance with the Supporting Policies and Procedures;
- h) Initiating Performance Evaluation procedures for unsatisfactory performance;
- i) Execute Procurement documents including contracts, purchase orders and all other documents related to specific procurements within their authorization as per Schedule A.
- j) Ensuring the Procurement has been approved by the appropriate level of authority as set out in Schedule A.
- k) Acceptance of the next compliant Bid within their authority under Schedule A, and so on as necessary, should a Bidder fail to enter into a Contract or default on its contractual obligations.
- l) Cancellation of any Procurement in consultation with the Treasurer
- m) Ensuring compliance with domestic procurement requirements and supply chain obligations applicable to procurements with their Department, ensuring coordination with Finance Department, Legal, and Consultants/Engineers as required
- n) Reallocation of funds subject to the following conditions:

In order to allow purchases to proceed which exceed the approved budget, a Director shall have the authority to reallocate funds, without exceeding the aggregate budget within their control, under the following conditions and with the approval of the Treasurer, and subject to the limits in Schedule A:

##### Operating Budget

1. The shortfall for the purchase is less than \$10,000;
2. All changes must be one-time and shall not affect the base budget;
3. The general scope of work or service delivery method cannot be changed;
4. The funding source must be the same for all accounts affected by the reallocation.

#### Capital Budget

1. The shortfall cannot exceed 20% of the project budget
2. General scope of work or service delivery method cannot be changed;
3. The funding source must be the same for all accounts affected by the reallocation

All other budget overages must be approved by Council before an award is made.

## 5 Procurement

Unless otherwise provided in this By-law, all Procurements having a price or value within each of the dollar ranges set out in this By-law shall be purchased as set out in Schedule A and in accordance with any Supporting Policies and Procedures.

### a. No Cost Procurement

A “no cost” Procurement is a Procurement where the Municipality will not bear any cost.

“No cost” procurements must be acquired in the same manner and using the same Procurement Process and corresponding approval requirements as procurements that have a cost to the Municipality, depending on the value of the no cost procurement.

### b. Revenue Generating Opportunities

Municipal revenue generating opportunities should be treated in the same manner as purchases for the establishment of Revenue Generating Contracts, unless otherwise authorized by Council.

### c. Co-operative Purchasing

The Department Head, in consultation with the Treasurer, is authorized to participate in and/or join Co-operative Purchasing arrangements with other municipalities, local boards, provincial or federal procurement initiatives, non-profit organizations and other public commissions and agencies where the best interests of the Municipality will be served, provided that:

1. The method of Procurement used by the other public body is a competitive method. The individual policies of the government agencies or public authorities administering the competitive bid are to be the accepted procedure for that particular competitive bid; and
2. The wording, reporting and execution of Contracts resulting from the co-operative Procurement is consistent with that as set out in this By-law and any Supporting Policies and Procedures.

d. Tied Bids

In the case of tied Bids, after evaluation where all other criteria being equal and price is the only determining factor, the successful Bidder will be determined by a coin toss, conducted by the Department Head in accordance with any Supporting Policies and Procedures.

e. Use of Agreements

- i. Agreements shall be used for complex requirements, which may contain terms and conditions other than those of the Municipality's standard terms and conditions.
- ii. The Department Head shall determine if an agreement is required.
- iii. Agreements and associated Contracts shall be approved as to Content and form and executed in accordance with any Supporting Policies and Procedures.
- iv. All agreements must be in writing, signed and dated by all parties.

f. Communication During a Procurement

A Procurement Process begins when the procurement is advertised or solicited (start date) and ends when the Municipality signs an agreement and/or awards the Contract with a Vendor or when the Procurement Process is cancelled (end date). This is known as the "Blackout Period". Throughout the Blackout Period, all communications with Vendors involved in the process must occur formally (preferably in writing) through the contact person identified in the Procurement documents.

g. Tender Opening

Publicly issued Tenders and Proposals will be opened at a designated time. A minimum of two staff members will be in attendance, and Members of Council and the public may observe.

h. Disposal of Assets

The Department Head shall declare surplus, obsolete or non-repairable assets as surplus to the Finance Department for disposal in accordance with Supporting Policies and Procedures. Department Heads may redeploy such assets to other Departments or if no longer useful for municipal purposes, arrange for their disposal at the highest return or the reduction or avoidance of net cost from the disposition. Environmental and Asset Management factors should be taken into consideration for all disposal of assets.

i. Volatile Market Conditions

Where market conditions are such that long term price protection cannot be obtained for goods and services, the Department Head will obtain competitive prices for short term commitments until such time that reasonable price protection and firm market pricing is restored. The Department Head subject to the budget, may extend a current contract until market conditions stabilize.

j. Domestic Procurement Requirements

Where required by Provincial legislation or directive, the Municipality shall:

- identify procurements subject to domestic content requirements
- incorporate applicable domestic content or supply chain requirements into solicitation documents;
- require bidders to submit Domestic Supply Chain Plans or equivalent documentation; and
- evaluate such submissions in accordance with the disclosed evaluation criteria

k. Procurement Evaluation valuation criteria may include, where permitted by applicable legislation and trade agreements:

- Domestic or Canadian content;
- Supply chain resilience and security;
- Delivery considerations related to proximity and logistics; and
- Other economic or strategic objectives identified by Council or Provincial direction.

All such criteria shall be clearly disclosed in Procurement documents and applied in a fair and transparent manner.

l. Contract Administration

Where a Contract includes domestic supply chain commitments or requirements, the Municipality shall:

- Monitor vendor compliance throughout the term of the Contract;
- Require notification and approval of any material deviations, substitutions, or changes to supply sources; and
- Maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate compliance with applicable legislation and Procurement requirements.

The Municipality reserves the right to request supporting documentation or verification from Contractors to confirm compliance with domestic content commitments.

## 6 Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest

- a. All procurements of goods, services and construction described in this By-law are subject to the Municipality of Grey Highlands policies and applicable law
- b. The submission of all Bids must include a declaration by the Bidder that there is no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest in that Bidder submitting a Bid in respect of that Procurement Process or where there is an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, the Bidder must provide details of same. Where a Bidder submits details in respect of an actual, potential or perceived conflict of

interest, the Director of Finance shall review details of same and determine if the actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest serves to disqualify that Bidder from further participation in the Procurement Process.

- c. The Municipality may reject a bid submitted if the bidder, or any officer or Managing Director of the bidder is or has been engaged, either directly or indirectly through another Corporation or personally, in a legal action against the Municipality, its elected or appointed officers and employees. In determining whether or not to reject a bid under this clause, the Municipality will consider whether litigation is likely to affect the bidder's ability to work with the Municipality and representatives, and whether the Municipality's experience with the bidder indicates that the Municipality is likely to incur increased staff and legal costs in the administration of the contract if it is awarded to the bidder.
- d. The Treasurer may, in consultation with Department Heads, prohibit suppliers and contractors whose performance has been deemed unsatisfactory through a Performance Evaluation, from bidding on any future competitive bid for a period of time. Suppliers may be prohibited from bidding if they maintain officers, directors or employees who have previously been prohibited from bidding based on the results of the Performance Evaluation.

A Performance Evaluation will be initiated if, following the award of the tender through to project completion, it is deemed by staff that obligations and expected performance standards as agreed upon in the tender documents or contract, have not been met. The period of suspension shall not exceed 3 years.

- e. Staff must disclose any potential conflicts of interest as soon as they are known and shall separate themselves from the selection of vendor or evaluation committee for the procurement in question.

## 7 Prohibitions and Compliance

- a. All employees and elected officials of the Municipality are required to adhere to the Procurement By-law and any Supporting Policies and Procedures related to the acquisition of goods, services, and construction for the Municipality.
- b. No acquisition of goods, services, or construction or the disposal of assets shall be made where the quantity or delivery is divided or in any other manner arranged so that the price or value of the goods and services to be acquired or disposed of is artificially reduced to circumvent the requirements of this By-law.
- c. Vendors shall not be permitted to Bid on a Procurement that they have developed the specification for, unless approved in advance by the Director of Finance.

- d. All employees and elected officials will not acquire or accumulate, either directly or indirectly, where the benefit does not accrue to the Municipality, points through loyalty programs such as Air Miles, Aeroplan, etc. when making purchases on behalf or for the Municipality.
- e. No goods, services or construction shall be requisitioned by any employee or Council Member unless:
  - i. The goods, services or construction are legitimately required for the purposes of the Municipality or any other local board or other agency on whose behalf the purchase is being undertaken;
  - ii. The funds for the Procurement are available with an approved budget or the request to purchase is expressly made subject to funding approval of the Municipality or any other local board or other agency on whose behalf this is being made;
  - iii. No employee or the Member of Council shall be permitted to purchase any asset to be disposed of except by successfully bidding on the same at a public auction or by sealed Bid, but in no case if the duties of that employee or the Mayor or Councillor include making decisions regarding the disposal of such assets or activities relating to the conduct of the disposal process unless specifically provided by another resolution of Council;
  - iv. No employee or the Member of Council shall knowingly cause or permit anything to be done or communicated to anyone which is likely to cause any potential Bidder to have an unfair advantage or disadvantage in obtaining a Contract with the Municipality, or any other municipality, local board or public body involved in the Procurement; and
  - v. No employee or the Mayor or Councillor shall knowingly cause or permit anything to be done which will jeopardize the legal validity or fairness of any Procurement under this By-law which is likely to subject the Municipality to any claim, demand, action or proceeding as a result of such act or omission.

## 8 Discriminatory Practices

Discriminatory Procurement practices which are not allowed under this By-law include:

1. The biasing of specifications in favour of, or against, a particular good or service for the purpose of circumventing this By-law;
2. The timing of Bid opening and closing dates for the purpose of preventing one or more qualified Vendors from submitting Bids;

3. The specification of quantities and delivery schedules of a scale and frequency that may reasonably be judged as deliberately designed to prevent qualified Vendors from meeting the requirements of the procurement;
4. The division of required quantities in a manner designed to circumvent this By-law;
5. The giving of preference to selected Bids after Bids have been submitted and without any mention of the intended preference in the Procurement documents; the procurement documents must include the criteria by which the proposal shall be evaluated;
6. The use of price discounts or preferential margins to favour Vendors by geographical region;
7. The unjustifiable exclusion of a qualified Vendor from bidding.

## 9 Administrative Procedures

- a. In the event of any conflict between this By-law and any applicable legislation or trade agreement to which the Municipality is bound, the more restrictive provision shall apply.
- b. If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any provision, or any part of a provision, of this By-law to be invalid, or to be of no force and effect, it is the intention of Council in enacting this By-law, that each and every other provision of this By-law authorized by law, be applied and enforced in accordance with its terms to the extent possible according to law.
- c. The Treasurer is responsible for the administration of this By-law and is authorized to recommend changes to this By-law, and where permitted by law to do so, may create, amend and delete Supporting Policies and Procedures.

### Schedule A – Award Authority

<b>Dollar Value</b> (excluding taxes)	<b>Procurement Process</b>	<b>Authority</b>
≤\$20,000	Direct Purchase	Department Head or designate
>\$20,000 to <\$50,000	Invitational Request for Proposal Invitational Request for Quotation Limited Tendering	Department Head
≥\$50,000	Public Request for Proposal Public Request for Tender Limited Tendering	Council
≥\$50,000	Emergency Purchase	Director of Finance or CAO and Department Head
Any Dollar Value	Disposal of Assets	Department Head

This should be read in conjunction with the Delegation of Authority By-law.

## Schedule B – Exemptions

The following circumstances do not require a competitive procurement process, as per section 2.4 of this By-law.

- a. Public employment contracts or group benefits;
- b. Any forms of assistance, such as grants, loans, equity infusions, guarantees, memorandums of understanding, and fiscal incentives;
- c. Acquisitions or rental of land, existing buildings, or other immovable property, or the rights thereon;
- d. Banking, investment, auditing, and financial management services;
- e. Services related to the sale, redemption, and distribution of public debt, including loans and government bonds, notes, and other securities
- f. Legal services
- g. Services of expert witnesses or factual witnesses used in court or legal proceedings;
- h. Insurance services;
- i. Software;
- j. Provided only by the following licensed professionals: medical doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, veterinarians, lawyers;
- k. Engineering for routine, operational works;
- l. Police services;
- m. Entertainment, cultural or artistic services;
- n. Subscriptions to newspapers, magazines or other periodicals;
- o. Memberships in professional and business-related associations;
- p. For training and education including conferences, seminars, courses, conventions, workshops, staff training and staff development;
- q. Postage;
- r. Advertising;
- s. Telephone and internet
- t. Procurement between government bodies;

## Schedule C – Definitions

For the purposes of this By-law, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Bid” means an offer to supply goods, services or construction in a Procurement Process;

“Bidder” means any proponent, respondent or other person or entity who has obtained official Procurement documents for the purpose of submitting or who has submitted a Bid in response to a Procurement Process;

“Blackout period” means the time when vendors or potential vendors must conduct all communications about the procurement only with the contact person named in the procurement document. The blackout period starts from the time the solicitation or bidding documents are issued through to the time of the formal acceptance of a bid.

“Buying Group” means a group of two or more members which combines the Purchasing requirements and activities of the members of the group into one joint Procurement Process;

“Canadian Made Good” means a good that meets any one of the following criteria:  
-is wholly manufactured or originating in Canada  
-at least 51% of the total direct costs of producing or manufacturing the good have been incurred in Canada, or  
-is labelled as “Made in Canada” or “Product of Canada”

“Compliant Bid” means a Bid that in accordance with this By-law and the Municipality’s policies and procedures:

- has been found to have met specific mandatory requirements;
- does not give rise to any conflicts of interest;
- has not been submitted by a Vendor ineligible to Bid; and
- has not been disqualified and rejected.

“Confidential Information” means any and all information and materials, which:

- are designated as confidential at the time of disclosure (in a manner reflecting the manner in which they are disclosed); or
- a reasonable person, having regard to the circumstances, would regard as confidential (including Personal Information). “Personal Information” means any personal information which is required to be protected pursuant to MFIPPA or any laws (including regulations and common law) pertaining to the protection of personal, healthcare or insurance information.

“Contract” means a formal legal agreement between two or more parties with binding legal and moral implications whereby goods and/or services are exchanged for money or other consideration;

“Contract Extension” means an amendment increasing the value, changing the scope of work or extending the term, where the terms of the Contract do not include the option for such amendment;

“Co-operative Purchasing” means a competitive Procurement Process that is conducted by one public body or Buying Group on behalf of one or more public bodies in order to obtain the benefits of volume purchases and administrative efficiencies;

“Council” means the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands;

“Department” means an operational division of the municipality with a Department Head.

“Department Head” means the individual accountable for departmental operations, or their designate, and includes an acting Department Head who has all the authority and responsibility of the Department Head for the duration of the acting designation and delegated authority as set out in the Delegation of Authority By-law;

“Direct Purchase” means the purchase of goods, services or construction with a Total Procurement Value not exceeding amounts specified in Schedule B. The applicable Director may delegate approval authority to their staff for direct purchases. Obtaining competitive quotes is considered a good business practice and should be obtained and documented. An RFQ, RFT, or RFP is not required.

“Disposal” means the sale, exchange, transfer, destruction or donation of assets in accordance with any Supporting Policies and Procedures;

“Domestic Content” means the proportion of goods, services, or construction that are produced, manufactured, or performed within Ontario or Canada, as defined by applicable legislation or directive.

“Domestic Supply Chain Plan” means documentation submitted by a Bidder outlining the origin, sourcing, and supply chain components of goods, services, or construction proposed, including commitments related to domestic content.

“Designated Procurement” means a Procurement that is subject to domestic content or supply chain requirements under Provincial legislation or directive.

“Emergency” means an unforeseeable, serious emergency situation where the immediate purchase of goods, services or construction is essential in order to maintain a required service or to prevent danger to life, health or property within the Municipality of Grey Highlands;

“Emergency Purchase” means a Procurement Process where the usual competitive process is suspended due to the prevailing Emergency circumstances;

“Invitational RFP or RFQ” means the procurement is not publicly issued. Potential bidders or proponents are contact directly.

“Irregular Result” means a result in a Procurement in which:

- another Procurement Process should have been conducted based on the Bid results; or
- award of a Contract to the Bidder, as a result of the Procurement Process, does not represent best value and is not in the best interest of the Municipality; or
- Council authority to commence Procurement should have been obtained as per Schedule B and Section 2.3(c)(c);

“Limited Tendering” means a Procurement Process where negotiations are entered into with one or more than one Vendor based on the conditions as set out in Schedule D to this By-law and includes Direct Negotiations as a Procurement Process where there is no competitive process; the supplier(s) of choice are contacted provided it does not use this provision for the purpose of avoiding competition.

“Municipality” means the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands;

“Ontario-Made Good” means a good that meets any one of the following criteria:

- it is wholly manufactured or originating in Ontario, or
- At least 51% of the total direct costs of producing or manufacturing the good have been incurred in Ontario

“Procurement” means acquiring goods, services, construction or any legal or equitable right, title or interest, in goods, services, construction and includes the lease of goods, services and “purchased,” “acquisition”, “procure”, “buy” shall have similar meanings;

“Procurement Process” means all methods of competitive and non-competitive Purchasing;

“Public RFP or RFT” means the procurement is open to the public and follows a competitive process.

“Purchase Order” means the legal document which is the Municipality’s commitment to the Vendor for the purchase of goods, services or construction at an agreed upon price, terms, conditions and delivery specified on the order;

“Request for Expressions of Interest” means a tool used to determine supplier interest in a proposed procurement and may be used to gather information at the pre-project development stage to help refine the project vision or scope;

“Request for Information” means a Procurement Process to gather service or product information from Vendors;

“Request for Proposal” (or RFP) means a Procurement Process where a need is identified, but the method by which it is achieved is not prescribed at the outset; Bidders propose solutions evaluated on technical and financial criteria;

“Request for Quotation” (or RFQ) means an invitational Procurement Process where prices on specific goods, services or construction are requested from selected Bidders;

“Request for Tender” (or RFT) means a public Procurement Process where prices on specific goods, services or construction are requested; a sealed bid which contains an offer in writing to execute some specified services, or to supply certain specified goods, at a certain price, in response to a publicly advertised request for bids.

“Revenue Generating Contracts” means a legal agreement between the Municipality and a third party that yields a financial return or benefit for the Municipality. Revenue Generating Contracts include, but are not limited to:

- (a) service revenue contracts; and
- (b) profit sharing contracts; and
- (c) mixed revenue contracts; and
- (d) advertising contracts; and
- (e) property, equipment, and infrastructure leasing contracts

“Supporting Policies and Procedures” means policies and procedures to support the objectives, principles and application of this By-law;

“Tied Bids” means two or more Compliant Bids which score equally after evaluation, or otherwise are equal, and which are the lowest or best Compliant Bids received in accordance with any Supporting Policies and Procedures;

“Total Cost of Ownership” means the consideration during the procurement process of the estimated lifetime cost of the asset to be procured. It generally consists of all initial acquisition costs, repair and maintenance costs, and disposal of the asset at end of life.

“Total Procurement Value” means the total estimated value of the Procurement over its entire duration, including all renewal options, and consideration of premiums, fees, commissions, and interest. It is exclusive of taxes;

“Vendor” means an individual or organization that may offer goods, services or construction to the Municipality.

“Vendor of Record (VOR)” means a pre-qualified supplier arrangement established through a competitive procurement process by the Province of Ontario or another public sector entity, allowing participating organizations to procure goods and services directly from approved vendors.

## Schedule D – Limited Tendering

A non-competitive Procurement is an exception to the competitive Procurement Process that may be undertaken where both the proposed non-competitive Procurement and the particular Vendor can be justified in good faith, based on one or more of the following:

1.
  - a. No Bids were submitted;
  - b. No Bids conforming to the essential requirements of the Procurement document were submitted;
  - c. No Bidders satisfied the conditions for participation; or
  - d. The submitted Bids were collusive.
2. If the goods or services can be supplied by only a particular Vendor and no reasonable alternative or substitute goods or services exist for the following reasons:
  - a. The protection of patents, copyrights, or other exclusive rights; or
  - b. Due to an absence of competition for technical reasons.
3. For additional goods or services from the original Vendor that were not included in the initial procurement, if a change of Vendor for such additional goods or services:
  - a. Cannot be made for economic or technical reasons; and
  - b. Would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the Municipality.
4. If strictly necessary for reasons of urgency, practicality, or cost savings brought about by events unforeseeable by the Municipality;
5. For goods purchased on a commodity market;
6. If a procuring entity procures a prototype or a first good or service that is developed in the course of a Contract for research, experiment, study or original development;
7. The goods or services are purchased under circumstances which are exceptionally advantageous to the Municipality;
8. If goods or services regarding matters of a confidential or privileged nature are to be purchased and disclosure through a competitive process could reasonably be expected to compromise confidentiality, result in the waiver of privilege, cause economic disruption, or otherwise be contrary to the public interest;

9. The supply of goods and services is controlled by a Vendor that is a statutory monopoly;
10. To ensure compatibility with existing goods, or to maintain specialized goods that must be maintained by the manufacturer of those goods or its representative;
11. Work is to be performed on property by a contractor according to provisions of a warranty or guarantee held in respect of the property or the original work;
12. Work is to be performed on a leased building or related property, or portions thereof, that may be performed only by the lessor.
13. A partially completed project for which subsequent phases require Council approval may be awarded the balance of the project subject to satisfying all financial or other conditions contained herein, noting that this should be the financial advantage of the Municipality due to the fact that such a consultant/Vendor has specific knowledge of the project and has undertaken work for which duplication would be required if another firm were to be selected.
14. Where the extension or reinstatement of an existing contract or continuation with an existing vendor would be more cost effective or beneficial to the Municipality
15. Where the lowest tender or quotation meeting specifications substantially exceeds the estimated cost

Any amendments to applicable legislation or trade agreement to which the Municipality is bound which expand or limit the permitted exceptions set out in this Schedule D shall apply and this By-law shall be deemed to have been amended accordingly.

## Schedule E – Bid Irregularities

The following list of irregularities should not be considered all inclusive. The Treasurer in consultation with any of the following: Department staff, CAO, Department Head shall review irregularities not specifically listed and, acting in the best interests of the Corporation, have authority to waive such irregularities, permit correction to the irregularity or reject the submission.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Irregularity</b>	<b>Response</b>
1.	Late Submissions.	Rejection, not opened or read publicly. Submission to be returned to submitter.
2.	Insufficient Financial Security.  (No Bid bond/deposit or agreement to bond or insufficient Bid bond/deposit)	Automatic Rejection for no Bid deposit. Automatic Rejection for no agreement to bond. 48 hours to correct shortfall in Bid deposit if less than required by no more than 10%.
3.	Conditional Bids.  (Bids qualified or restricted by an attached statement)	Automatic rejection unless, in the opinion of Department Head and Treasurer, the qualification or restriction is insignificant or serves the best interest of the Municipality.
4.	Illegible or obscure Bids, non-initialed erasures, non-initialed alterations.	Automatic rejection.
5.	Documents, in which all necessary Addenda which have significant financial or scope implications in the opinion of the Treasurer or Department Head, have not been acknowledged.	Automatic rejection.
6.	Documents in which all necessary Addenda which do not have significant financial or scope implications in the opinion of the Department Head and user group and have not been acknowledged.	48 hours to submit.
7.	Bids received by Bidders who did not attend mandatory site visit(s).	Automatic rejection.
8.	Bids received on documents other than those provided by Grey Highlands, when specified to do so.	Automatic rejection.
9.	Failure to insert the Bidder's business name in the space(s) provided Mandatory Submission Pages.	48 hours to submit.
10.	Failure to include signature of the person authorized to bind the Bidder	48 hours to submit.

	in the space provided on the Tender / Proposal Form.	
11.	More than one submission from the same submitter and not identified as an alternative or optional submission and no written withdrawal notice has been received.	The submission package bearing the most recent date/time stamp will be considered the intended submission and the previously date/time stamped submissions will be considered withdrawn and will be returned to sender, unopened.
12.	Bids Containing Mathematical Errors	If the amount tendered for a unit price item does not agree with the extension of the estimated quantity and the tendered unit price, or if the extension has not been made, the unit price shall govern and the total price shall be corrected accordingly. If both the unit price and the total price are left blank, the Bid will be rejected as incomplete. If the unit price is left blank but a total price is shown for the item, the unit price shall be corrected according to the total provided. If the Tender contains an error in addition and/or subtraction in the approved tender documentation format requested (i.e. not the additional supporting documentation supplied), the error shall be corrected, and the corrected total Contract price shall govern.
13.	Electronic bidding platform error	Errors (confusion with unit of measure) will be clarified and may be corrected.
14.	Other minor irregularities	The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Department Head shall have authority to waive irregularities, which they jointly consider to be minor.
15.	Any irregularity	Despite all provisions herein contained, the Treasurer may waive any irregularity where it considers it to be in the best interest of the Municipality.

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## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Anna McCarthy  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** FIN.26.15  
**SUBJECT:** Development Charges Reduction Program

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report FIN.26.15 Development Charges Reduction Program for information

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

On June 1 2026, the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada launched the Development Charges Reduction Program (DCRP). The program provides infrastructure funding to municipalities that commit to reducing residential development charges by at least 30%-50% for a minimum period of three years in exchange for partial infrastructure funding.

The Development Charges Reduction Program is not a grant: the purpose of the funding is to *displace* development charges, with funding from the province and the municipality.

For the program to be financially beneficial to both the Municipality and the Province, the funding received through the DCRP must closely align with the Development Charge revenue that would otherwise have been collected over a three-year period following execution of the Transfer Agreement. The Ministry has indicated a preference for Transfer Agreements to be finalized, where possible, prior to the end of August.

Two options are included for Council consideration and will be further discussed in this report:

- 1) Receive the report for information. Do not apply, continue to monitor and await further announcements or opportunities *[staff recommendation]*
  
- 2) That Council authorize staff to submit an application to the Ontario Development Charges Reduction Program (DCRP); and

That Council support, in principle, a reduction in residential development charges to a total of [XX]% in accordance with program requirements, subject to funding approval and execution of any Agreement; and

That Council commit to providing the municipal contribution of at least 10% required under the program;

*[not recommended at this time due to negative funding impact and risk to the municipality]*

#### Background Information

The program is intended to support housing-enabling infrastructure projects including roads, water and wastewater systems.

Eligible municipalities must have the following:

- have an active development charges by-law as of March 30 2026
- commit to a multi-year DC reduction
- contribute a minimum municipal share of project funding
- submit applications by June 19 2026

Applications are evaluated based on:

- magnitude of DC reduction
- projected housing units enabled
- municipal financing contribution

#### Timeline

- The DCRP Guideline was released on June 1, the Application was made available on June 10, and the due date for submission is June 19 at 10am.

The general commentary surrounding this program suggests that the large urban centres such as Toronto, Vaughan, Ottawa, and Peel, where development charges may range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per unit, are likely to have more competitive applications. The premise behind the DCRP is that it will spur housing construction by reducing the cost to build, and that reducing construction costs will make projects economically viable. The larger urban municipalities tend to have higher housing targets, meaning reductions in development charges may have a more noticeable impact on housing affordability and new housing construction. For these reasons it is anticipated that an application from Grey Highlands may not be as competitive as the larger urban municipalities.

As residential growth in Grey Highlands is largely expected to occur in Markdale, that is where analysis of program benefits will be focused for the intent of this report and potential application to the DCRP. In Markdale, where there is both water and sewer servicing, the total DC payable for a single/semi-detached home is currently \$24,378. Based on a sampling of sales listings in 2026 and active listings on realtor.ca, the average sale price of a home in the newer subdivisions in Markdale is \$612,587. The Municipal DC (local only) represents 3.98% of the sale price. For reference, if the Municipality were to decrease the DC by 50%, the Municipal DC would represent 1.99% of the sale price.

### Considerations

The main factor that will determine the maximum funding that a municipality can anticipate if their application is successful is the DC relief provided to developers. As an example, if the municipality is projecting \$3 million in DC relief over 3 years, it would be reasonable to apply for \$3 million in DCRP to displace the Development Charges Revenue the Municipality would otherwise have collected.

In making an application to the DCRP, the Municipality must make reasonable estimates regarding anticipated DC revenue over the following three years. There is risk that if there are any variances from estimates submitted in the application, including not achieving housing targets, or higher project costs, the DCRP funding and project funding model could be at risk.

Alternatively, if the Municipality is successful in its application, and then realizes much higher levels of growth within the 3 year time frame than estimated in the application, the higher the "lost revenue" for the municipality. While the DCRP revenue will be set upon execution of the Agreement, the DC revenue will increase or decrease according to the number of building permits that are issued.

It was further indicated in a webinar hosted by MMAH that projects that are approved for DCRP funding could not be included in future DC Background Studies. This is of concern if costs escalate and/or housing targets decrease, the funding impact will be shifted to the wastewater system users and/or the tax levy. The DC Act allows for funding of projects for significantly longer than the 3 year time-horizon that the DCRP provides for, and which is beneficial when there is uncertainty regarding when the growth will occur; confidence in predicting building permit activity within a 3 year time frame is significantly lower than over a 10 year horizon that the DC Background Study allows for.

There are a number of residential developments within Markdale that are at various stages, but it is difficult to predict with any level of certainty what the number of permits will be within the 3 year time-frame; there are many factors that are beyond municipal control.

The Guidelines state that the capital funding applied for should equal the displaced DC revenue. Some sample scenarios of various growth projections and DC rate reductions over the three year period are included in the following chart.

**Table 1: Growth projections and impact to revenue**

*Projected # of units in 3 years	DC Revenue at today's rates	30% DC Rate Reduction		50% DC Rate Reduction	
		Municipal DC Revenue if Rates reduced by 30%	Potential DCRP revenue and/or lost DC revenue	Municipal DC Revenue if Rates reduced by 50%	Potential DCRP revenue and/or lost DC revenue
350	\$ 6,713,969	\$ 4,699,779	\$ 2,014,190	\$ 3,356,985	\$ 3,356,985
*570	\$ 10,917,023	\$ 7,641,916	\$ 3,275,107	\$ 5,458,512	\$ 5,458,512
710	\$ 13,646,279	\$ 9,552,395	\$ 4,093,884	\$ 6,823,140	\$ 6,823,140
1000	\$ 19,104,791	\$ 13,373,354	\$ 5,731,437	\$ 9,552,395	\$ 9,552,395

\*Projected # of units - final is based on permits being issued from execution of Agreement + 3 years  
 \*570 units is current best estimate based on status of Planning Applications.

No Increase to DCs

The DCRP Guidelines state that the Municipality must provide an agreement-in-principle at the time of application to "maintain the DC reduction for three years". Therefore, Council should also be aware that if the DC-Background Study or rates need to be updated before 3 years to increase the rates, it would not be possible.

As approved by Council in March, the Municipality is in the process of updating our Development Charges. Specifically, to create an Area-Specific Development Charge for Markdale Wastewater to incorporate the Markdale Lagoon Expansion project, which has increased significantly in cost and moved up several years from what was included in the 2023 Development Charges Background Study. Therefore the Development Charge that is currently in effect is already not high enough.

Further, annual indexing would not be permitted, which will impact revenue collection in the other service categories.

Markdale Lagoon Expansion

If Council directs staff to apply to the DCRP, it is proposed that based on today's DC rates and growth projections in Markdale, it would be defensible to request funding of \$3.275 million-\$5.4 million (570 units with a 30% - 50% reduction), and that the Markdale Lagoon Expansion project is the one that best qualifies.

However, under the 3-year growth projections, the DCRP funding is not enough to fund the growth-related portion of the proposed project, and even more significantly, may compromise future DC funding for this project which is anticipated to extend beyond the 3 year timeframe of the DCRP. The growth-related portion of the Markdale Lagoon Expansion is estimated to cost \$11 million, with approximately 2/3, or \$7.3M, to be funded from growth/development charges. Therefore, DCRP revenue at the projected unit count of 570 will result in revenue that is still not enough to finance the growth-related portion of the Markdale Lagoon Expansion within 3 years.

Staff recommend that moving forward with the Area-Specific DC Update is the more reliable and defensible plan under the current Development Charges Act framework to ensure full growth-related cost recovery.

Staff have concern regarding implementing a DC reduction across all service categories when no alternative funding has been identified, and which would almost certainly result in the levy or water/wastewater rates being negatively impacted in future. Any such decision should be made after reviewing the full Growth-Related Capital Program and cost/status of projects that will require funding in the coming years, and which would either need to be delayed or cancelled unless other funding is identified. The capital program is on Schedule B (pages 5-9) of the [Annual DC Statement](#).

**Table 2: Residential DCs**

<i>Single/Semi Detached</i>	Current DC Rate	Option 1)	Option 2)
Parks & Recreation	\$4,806	\$ 3,364	\$ 2,403
Library Services	\$1,686	\$ 1,180	\$ 843
Fire Protection	\$1,633	\$ 1,143	\$ 817
Waste Diversion	\$296	\$ 207	\$ 148
Services Related to a Highway	\$2,772	\$ 1,941	\$ 1,386
Administration - Studies	\$1,272	\$ 891	\$ 636
Stormwater	\$640	\$ 448	\$ 320
Water Supply	\$8,801	\$ 6,161	\$ 4,401
Wastewater	\$2,471	\$ 1,730	\$ 1,236
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,378</b>	<b>\$ 17,065</b>	<b>\$ 12,189</b>
<b>Change</b>		<b>-30%</b>	<b>-50%</b>
Current DC Rate = February 2026 to February 2027			
Option 1) = Sample - rate reduction of 30% across all categories			
Option 2) = Sample - rate reduction of 50% across all categories			

**Separate Funding Intakes**

To date, only one funding intake has been announced, and as mentioned, appears to be geared towards the larger urban municipalities. However, there have been some indications that there is potential for a forthcoming stream that will be geared more towards smaller rural municipalities.

Staff continue to apply for grants and remain optimistic that the Markdale Lagoon Expansion project, especially as it approaches shovel-readiness, will qualify for additional grant funding that don't necessarily have so many requirements that could negatively impact the municipality.

**OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

In summary, it is Staff recommendation that Council receive the report for information, and do not direct staff to apply to the Development Charges Reduction Program. Staff will continue to monitor and await further announcements or opportunities.

The next 3-5 years are anticipated to see a high level of development in Grey Highlands, and Markdale in particular. Under the current framework, and lack of certainty or details surrounding the DCRP or the impact to municipal revenue, the plan to move forward with updating the DCs to include an Area-Specific Charge for Markdale Wastewater is the less risky approach and will provide for a funding plan that extends beyond the 3 year timeframe of the Program and will allow for flexibility in cost, timelines, and growth projections. The funding model and commitment required from the DCRP is such that the Municipality may be worse off. Further, the "incentive" of a reduced DC for developers is anticipated to have minimal impact in Grey Highlands, where the DC represents a relatively low percentage of the overall home sale price in 2026.

**ATTACHMENTS OR REFERENCE:**

- [Development Charges Reduction Program Guidelines](#)
- [FIN.26.07 Development Charges Update](#)
- [Grey Highlands Development Charges](#)
- [FIN.26.10 - 2025 DC Treasurer's Statement](#)
- [2026 Budget Request - Markdale Lagoon](#)
- [ENV.26.06 Markdale Wastewater Treatment Environmental Assessment Notice of Completion](#)
- [ENV.26.02-Markdale Wastewater Treatment Environmental Assessment Update](#)
- [King Edward Park Master Plan](#)

**Approved By:**  
Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**  
Approved - 15 Jun 2026

## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Marty Wellwood  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** FES.26.07  
**SUBJECT:** Community Emergency Preparedness Grant Update

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report FES.26.07, Community Emergency Preparedness Grant for information

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

The Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) is a provincial funding program administered by the Government of Ontario to enhance local emergency management capacity. The program provides targeted, one-time funding to support municipalities and eligible organizations in improving their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

The CEPG is part of Ontario's broader investment of approximately **\$110 million over three years** aimed at strengthening emergency preparedness and community resilience across the province.

The primary objective of the CEPG is to ensure communities are "safe, practiced and prepared" before, during, and after emergencies, particularly in the face of increasing risks such as severe weather events, flooding, wildfires, and prolonged power outages. The program places a strong emphasis on supporting small and rural municipalities, Indigenous communities, and local service organizations, recognizing their limited resources and the importance of local first-response capacity.

**OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Grey Highlands applied for and received funding for a new Generator/Light Tower. The Light Tower can be used by all departments within the municipality.

**Fire Department**

- Emergency scene lighting (structure fires, wildfires, vehicle accidents)
- Search and rescue operations at night or in low-visibility conditions
- Temporary power for tools and communication equipment at incident sites

- Support during disasters (floods, storms) when grid power is down

**Transportation**

- Road construction and maintenance (night paving, repairs, line painting)
- Traffic accident management and cleanup on highways
- Lighting for detours, lane closures, and work zones
- Powering tools and temporary signals in remote or undeveloped areas

**Public Utilities**

- Nighttime repair crews working on outages or infrastructure failures
- Emergency response during storms (downed lines, broken mains)
- Power supply for tools, pumps, and diagnostic equipment
- Lighting for crews in rural or hard-to-access service areas

**Parks & recreation** - events, temporary lighting in large outdoor areas)

The Light Tower will also be made available to Law enforcement (crime scenes, checkpoints, large incidents)

**GREY HIGHLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Responsible Governance - Adopt financial practices that illustrate fiscal responsibility. Explore grant funding opportunities, research and implement cost-saving measures, evaluate alternate service models, cultivate strategic partnerships, and optimize procurement strategies.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Total purchase cost will be covered by approved Grant funding in the amount of \$18,599, and was included in the 2026 Budget: [2026-56](#)

**CONSULTATION:**

Shawnette Duvall-Crouse, Acting Director, Community Services  
 Anna McCarthy, Director of Finance , Treasurer

**Approved By:**

Marty Wellwood, Fire Chief  
 Shawnette Crouse, Director of  
 Community Services  
 Anna McCarthy, Director of  
 Finance/Treasurer  
 Karen Govan, Chief  
 Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 05 Jun 2026  
 Approved - 05 Jun 2026  
 Approved - 05 Jun 2026  
 Approved - 09 Jun 2026



**WACKER  
NEUSON**  
*all it takes!*

## LTT4 Light Tower

Powerful and Compact

The LTT4 and LTT6 light towers offer a smaller footprint and the long-lasting LED's deliver exceptional light coverage for a variety of applications where temporary lighting is needed. The units are equipped with auxiliary power which adds to the versatility of these machines.

### Highlights

- LED Lights
- Programmable Controller
- Compact Design
- Standard Auxiliary Power
- Telescopic Vertical Mast

### Technical Data

#### ■ Mechanical Details

Length	100.9 "
Width	47.5 "
Height	100.3 "
Operating weight	1,499.1 lb
Mast height max.	23.0 Foot

#### ■ Generator

Output frequency	60.0 Hz
Voltage accuracy	10.0 %
Generator Rating 1- (Continuous)	4.5 KW
Generator Manufacturer	Mecc Alte

#### ■ Engine

Cooling	Water-cooling
Engine type	Diesel engine

Cylinder	2.0
Cylinder capacity	41.9 Inch3
Fuel	Winter Blend Diesel No. 2
Tank capacity	52.4 gal US
Effective power	7.4 hp
Operating Engine speed	1,800.0 1/min
Exhaust-gas limit	EPA Tier 4 final
Engine Manufacturer	Kohler

#### ■ Electrical System

Lighting appliances	320W (LED)
Bulb power	320.0 W

#### ■ Operating Fluids

Fuel consumption (Lights only)	0.2 GPH US
Run Time (Lights only)	211.1 hrs

The illustrations, equipment and data shown may deviate from the current delivery program of your country. Optional equipment subject to additional charge may be shown. Subject to changes.

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## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Alysha Milliner  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** TPS.26.20  
**SUBJECT:** By-law to Regulate the Speed on 3rd Line A

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report TPS.26.20, By-law to Regulate the Speed on 3rd Line A for information; and  
That Council approve By-law 2026-054 being a by-law to Regulate the Speed on 3rd Line A

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

At the May 6, 2026 Council Meeting the following resolution was passed;

2026-303

Paul McQueen - Nadia Dubyk

That Council receive report TPS.26.18, 3rd Line A Speed Reduction Request for information; and

That Council direct staff to bring back a By-law for a speed reduction to 50km/hour on 3rd Line A.

By a vote of 5-2, CARRIED.

Yea: Paul McQueen, Paul Allen, Nadia Dubyk, Joel Loughead, and Dan Wickens

Nay: Dane Nielsen and Tom Allwood

CARRIED.

Report TPS.26.18 was written in response to a previous delegation received by Council. Within the report staff shared a Tatham Engineering Report that was completed by the previous property owners to identify an approved entrance location in order for the severance to be completed.

The Tatham Engineering Report identified the potential need for a speed reduction on the road due to the vertical curves on the road. Under section 128 (2) of the Highway Traffic Act, *"the council of a municipality may, for motor vehicles driven on a highway or portion of a highway under its jurisdiction, by by-law prescribe a rate of speed different*

*from the rate set out in subsection (1) that is not greater than 100 kilometres per hour and may prescribe difference rates of speed for different times of the day."*

The speed reduction will not permit the current owners to maintain the existing location of the entrance; this was identified within the report completed by Tatham and the former Director of Transportation & Public Spaces. (screenshot below from Tatham Report)

The resulting sight lines are illustrated in green in the "plan" section of PP-1 (upper section of the drawing) which is recreated in Figure 6, and are limited to approximately 48 metres in either direction as a result of the existing rock outcrops. These measures correspond to those established by the Municipality in their review (as documented in the attached memo dated January 27, 2020 authored by Herb Lemon). It is

The entrance must remain in the approved location 100m South of the existing entrance as recommended by Tatham Engineering and supported by staff. An entrance permit has been issued for the new location 100m South of the existing entrance. If the rock banks are removed, there is a possibility that the entrance can be relocated North 55 metres of the existing entrance. An entrance permit will be required.

**OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Staff are recommended that the 50km/hr signs be placed;  
730 metres South of Sideroad 7B  
2 Kilometres North of Artemesia-Euphrasia Townline

**GREY HIGHLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Respected Environment - Manage municipal resources in a responsible and sustainable manner, considering future needs for adaptation and community resiliency

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The approximate cost to purchase two 50km/hr ahead, two 50km/hr begins and two 50km/hr ends is \$750 and will be funded from the operational budget for signs.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

0 - no environmental impact

**Approved By:**

Chris Cornfield, Director of  
Transportation

Anna McCarthy, Director of  
Finance/Treasurer

Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 04 Jun 2026

Approved - 05 Jun 2026

Approved - 09 Jun 2026

Grey County GIS | 3rd Line A Speed Reduction

Legend

Grey Highlands Assets

Snow Plow Routes

E-4

Assessment Parcel



Notes

Print Date: 06/04/2026 16:10:29

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. Contains information licensed under the Open Government Licence – Grey County © County of Grey | © King's Printer for Ontario | NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Grey Highlands, Grey County

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-054**

**A By-law to Reduce the Speed Limit on a Municipal Highway being 3rd Line A**

**Whereas**, Section 128 (2) of the Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.8, as amended, authorizes the Council of a Municipality by By-law to prescribe a rate of speed different from the rate set out in subsection 128 (1) for motor vehicles driven on a highway or portion of a highway under its jurisdiction; and

**Whereas**, at their meeting on May, 6, 2026, Council received a request for a speed reduction on a portion of 3rd Line A and directed staff to bring back a by-law for a speed reduction to 50km/hour (resolution 2026-303);

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That the speed limit for motor vehicles travelling on the highway described as 3rd Line A from 730m south of Sideroad 7A to 2km north of Artemesia-Euphrasia Townline in the Municipality of Grey Highlands be reduced to 50 kilometers per hour ; and
2. That signs be posted in a conspicuous place at each approach to this section of highway identifying the newly posted speed limit; and
3. That the penalties provided in subsection 128 (14) of the Highway Traffic Act shall apply to offences against this by-law; and
4. That this by-law shall come into full force and effect on the date of final passage hereof at which time all previously passed by-law and/or resolutions that are inconsistent with the provisions of this by-law and the same are hereby repealed or rescinded insofar as it is necessary to give effect to the provisions of this by-law.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

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Paul McQueen, Mayor

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Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk

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## REPORT

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**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Alysha Milliner  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** TPS.26.21  
**SUBJECT:** Ceylon Site Alteration and Fill Project Update

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report TPS.26.21, Ceylon Site Alteration and Fill Project Update for information.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

This report is in response to the following two resolutions from the September 3 2025 and January 21 2026 Council Meetings;

**2025-467**

That Council receive the delegation regarding Garbage on Grey Highlands Road Allowances for information; and  
That Council direct staff to provide a report on the delegations request.

At the January 21 2026 Council Meeting, the following resolution was passed;

**2026-03**

That Council receive the Litter Free and Adopt a road delegation for information; and  
That Council request a staff report in a timely manner on the delegates requests.

The Ceylon Fill project began in 2020.

The Site Alteration & Fill by-law came into effect on June 21, 2023. After passing the by-law, staff worked with CERM and Mr. Sinclair to bring the site into compliance as per the by-law.

At the March 20, 2024 Council Meeting a resolution was passed to enter into a Road Construction Agreement.

During the April 16, 2025 Council Meeting a resolution was passed to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU outlined six obligations which included confirmation that no works have taken place on the unopened road allowance and to prepare a remediation plan if required. Some of the obligations outlined in the MOU have expired the timeline set out. Staff have been diligently working with Mr. Sinclair to ensure the remediation is complete and to the satisfaction of staff for closing the active permit.

Throughout the duration of the project, staff have been in contact with the Ministry of Environment and Park (MECP) on various occasions. The latest communication with MECP was April 16 2026 via telephone. It is staffs understanding that there have been no major concerns from the MECP with the works to date. In previous reports to council, under the Environmental Impact section of the report a 0- No Impact was provided. Executing a MOU has no impact, however, the works it self could and are regulated by external agencies.

At the June 3 2026 Council meeting, Council received ENV.26.13 Adopt - A - Road Program Update which clarified the Adopt - A - Road program process as identified in resolution 2026-03.

**GREY HIGHLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Respected Environment - Manage municipal resources in a responsible and sustainable manner, considering future needs for adaptation and community resiliency

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

0 - No Impact

**Approved By:**

Chris Cornfield, Director of Transportation

Anna McCarthy, Director of Finance/Treasurer

Karen Govan, Chief Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 04 Jun 2026

Approved - 05 Jun 2026

Approved - 09 Jun 2026

## REPORT

**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Bobbi Scully  
**DATE:** June 17, 2026  
**REPORT:** CAO.26.05  
**SUBJECT:** Update on Grant Applications and Awards

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive report CAO.26.05, Update on Grant Applications and Awards for information;

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

The 2024-2027 Grey Highlands Strategic Plan identifies exploring grant funding opportunities as an objective under the Responsible Governance priority. A grant coordinator was hired in September of 2024 and provides award announcements and regular reporting to Council as part of day-to-day operations.

The table below provides updates on successful grant submissions made from September, 2025 to June 1, 2026.

Project	Grant Type	Value of Grant
Markdale Connecting Link	Provincial	\$5,000,000
Grey Highlands Fire Cancer Prevention Grant - PPE & Equipment	Provincial	\$33,720
Community Emergency Preparedness - Portable Light Tower, Generator and IT Upgrade	Provincial	\$31,100
Experience Ontario - Tourism Grant - 2026 RAM Rodeo	Provincial	\$20,000
Celebrate Canada - Events Happening on Canada Day	Federal	\$4,000
CPCO Green Jobs - Parks & Recreation Summer	Private Foundation	\$5,500

Student		
Osprey Arena Boards Renewal	Corporate Responsibility Program	\$25,000
Fire Department Decontamination Washer	Corporate Responsibility Program	\$10,000
Flesherton & District Farmer's Market - Music at the Market	Community Foundation	\$2,800
	<b>Total External Funding Awarded</b>	<b>\$5,132,120</b>

The below table includes proposals that have been submitted, but funding has not yet been announced or awarded.

Project	Grant Type	Value of Grant Request
Pickleball Courts	Private Foundation	\$2,500
Stothart Hall Accessibility Project	Private Foundation	\$5,000
Stothart Hall Accessibility Project	Provincial	\$60,000
Stothart Hall Accessibility Project	Private Foundation	\$20,000
Markdale Lagoon Expansion	Federal (Two Separate Programs)	\$6,704,400
Economic Development Activities	Provincial	\$101,750
Age Friendly Senior's Fair	Provincial	\$5,650
Lorne Street Sidewalk Addition	Federal	\$46,200
Osprey Arena Boards and Ice-Re-surfacer	Provincial	\$200,000
	<b>Outstanding Applications</b>	<b>\$7,145,500</b>

#### **OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

With only 4 grant applications declined over the past 4 months, Grey Highlands can attribute their successful pursuit of grant funding to strong governance practices and long-term planning that supports project readiness. Grey Highlands staff remain well informed about provincial, federal, and private foundation priority shifting, and are diligent to ensure that policies and procedures are in place to enhance grant eligibility. This has been particularly evident in 2026 while Provincial legislation, policies, and priorities have seen significant and swift changes that affect municipal policies and planning. Grey Highlands has managed to continue to submit grant requests and maintain governance related eligibility criteria.

The opportunity to strengthen readiness for “green” focused proposals remains evident. The combination of project type, project focus, and funding criteria are often not aligned to support successful funding applications. Upcoming opportunities for “green” grants include projects identified through the Lake Management Task Force, significant municipal building renovations and upgrades, and bridge replacements. Staff will continue to follow the strategic plan’s direction to “Adopt an environmentally conscious mindset for all municipal undertakings” to leverage “green” funding opportunities.

Successful grant submissions are often met with additional project tracking and reporting requirements. Staff remain committed to ensuring timely and accurate reporting to granting agencies, combined with appropriate acknowledgement through news releases, social media engagement, and agreed upon signage installation. Good grant management and reporting practices improves trust and builds positive relationships with funding agencies.

**GREY HIGHLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Responsible Governance - Adopt financial practices that illustrate fiscal responsibility. Explore grant funding opportunities, research and implement cost-saving measures, evaluate alternate service models, cultivate strategic partnerships, and optimize procurement strategies.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The Municipality of Grey Highlands has been awarded a total of \$5,132,120 in grant funding.

**Approved By:**

Anna McCarthy, Director of  
Finance/Treasurer  
Karen Govan, Chief  
Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 08 Jun 2026  
Approved - 09 Jun 2026

**The Municipality of Grey Highlands  
Public Planning Hearing Minutes  
Monday, May 25, 2026**

**Council Members Present:**

Chair Paul Allen, Paul McQueen, Dane Nielsen, Tom Allwood, Nadia Dubyk, Joel Loughead, and Dan Wickens

**Council Members Absent:**

**Staff:**

Clerk Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Chief Administrative Officer Karen Govan, and Planner Ashley Bilodeau

**1 Call to Order**

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

**3 Applications**

3.1 Z12.2026: Grey Road 40 (Meaford)

Registered Owner: Ben Martin

Applicant: MHBC Planning Ltd.

Legal Description: PT LT 28 CON 10 EUPHRASIA AS IN R321240 EXCEPT PT 1 16R9712; MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS and PT LT 29, 28 ON 10 EUPHRASIA AS IN R419214; GREY HIGHLANDS

Civic Address: 825391 Grey Road 40 and 076815 11th Line

Planning Report 2026-27

Chair Allen read the regulations and indicated that notice was mailed by standard mail on April 28, 2026 to all those required under the Planning Act.

Planner Bilodeau provided an overview of the proposal through a presentation.

The Municipality of Grey Highlands has received Zoning By-law Amendment Application Z12.2026, proposing amendments to Zoning By-law 2004-50 to implement conditions of two related consent applications (Files B05.2026 and B06.2026). The consents provide for the creation of two new lots from a 120-hectare parent parcel: a farm lot, and a 2.2 hectare institutional lot intended to accommodate a meeting house and cemetery serving the local horse-and-buggy community.

The application includes two rezoning components:

1. Rezoning of the proposed institutional lot (B06.2026) from "Rural (RU)" and "Agricultural (A1)" to "Institutional (I)" to permit the meeting house and cemetery;

and

2. Rezoning of a separate parcel of land, currently zoned "Rural Residential

(RUR)" and "No Development (ND)", to "Rural (RU)". These lands are being merged on title with the retained parent parcel pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act, in satisfaction of a Committee of Adjustment condition imposed to ensure that the lot creation does not result in a net increase in lot count contrary to the lot density policies of the Grey Highlands Official Plan. The rezoning brings the zoning of the consolidated parcel into alignment with its underlying Rural designation.

The purpose of this application is to rezone the proposed non-farm lot (Consent File B06.2026) from "Rural (RU)" to "Agricultural (A1)" to "Institutional (I)" to accommodate a meeting house and cemetery; and to rezone a separate parcel of land currently zoned "Rural Residential (RUR)" and "No Development (ND)" to "Rural (RU)", concurrent with its merger on title with the retained parcel pursuant to Section 50 of the Planning Act.

Planner Bilodeau reviewed the comments received to date. Comments were received from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, County Planning, County Ecology, County Transportation, Grey Highlands Transportation and Public Spaces, Grey Highlands Building Department, Grey Highlands Environmental Services Department, Grey Highlands Fire Chief, and Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The applicant's agent, Solomon Martin, provided a brief overview of the application.

Questions from Council:

Councillor Wickens inquired on the County's Ecology comments. Planner Bilodeau and Soloman provided comments that they are required to satisfy the needs for a letter explaining that there is no Karst that would affect the application.

Deputy Mayor Nielsen inquired on the location of the severance. Planner Bilodeau commented that the location is based on trying to keep the cemetery out of the agricultural and hazard lands.

Objections/Support: None.

Further Discussion: None.

Chair Allen asked for a follow up on receiving the comments from the NEC. Planner Bilodeau confirmed that the application will not move forward until comments are received.

Chair Allen advised that a report will be provided to a future Council meeting for consideration.

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

[Concurrent Files: B05.2026 & B06.2026 Pre-Consultation File: P82.2025 - Pdf](#)

- 3.2 Z13.2026: 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road  
Registered Owner: Jarend Duane Van Rooyen & Jenessa Carolyn Van Rooyen  
Applicant: Gene Martin  
Legal Description: PT MILL RESERVE 5 PL 20 ARTEMESIA AS IN GS37048; T/W GS37048; GREY HIGHLANDS  
Civic Address: 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road

#### Planning Report 2026-28

Chair Allen read the regulations and indicated that notice was mailed by standard mail on April 28, 2026 to all those required under the Planning Act.

Planner Bilodeau provided an overview of the proposal through a presentation. The subject property is approximately 2,700 square metres with a frontage of approximately 30 metres and is municipally addressed as 193 Blue Mountain Maples Road. The lot is located along the southwestern shoreline of Lake Eugenia. The property is designated as Inland Lakes and Shoreline, and Hazard Lands in the Grey County Official Plan and the Grey Highlands Official Plan. It is zoned "Residential Shoreline (RS)" and "Hazard (H)" in the Grey Highlands Zoning By-law 2004-50. The subject land is also within the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) regulated area.

The applicant is proposing to construct an accessory structure that will include a 3-bay garage, with an Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) above. The garage is intended to be located 5.0 metres from the front lot line of the property.

The purpose of this application is to amend the Municipality of Grey Highlands Zoning By-law 2004-50 to rezone the subject lands from "Residential Shoreline (RS)" to "Residential Shoreline Exception (RS-xx)" to permit an Additional Dwelling Unit on a lot that is less than 0.4 hectares, to permit said Additional Dwelling Unit to be located in an accessory structure, and to reduce the front yard setback from 10.0 metres to 5.0 metres.

The effect of this By-law is to add an exception for the subject lands, which stipulates:

1. On lands zoned RS-xx, the following additional provisions shall apply:
  - i. a maximum of one (1) Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) shall be permitted in addition to all uses that are permitted in the RS zone.
  - ii. such Accessory Dwelling Unit can be located in an accessory structure.
  - ii. the minimum front yard setback for a detached accessory garage with ADU above shall be 5.0 metres.

For context, the subject property was recently the subject of Minor Variance application A14.2025, which facilitated the construction of a new, larger dwelling and was approved on January 8, 2026. That application initially contemplated a detached garage with an additional dwelling unit above; however, staff directed that the additional dwelling unit be addressed through a Zoning By-law Amendment. This application responds to that direction.

Planner Bilodeau reviewed the comments received to date. Comments were received from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, County Planning, County Ecology, Grey Highlands Transportation and Public Spaces, Grey Highlands Building Department, Grey Highlands Environmental Services Department, and Grey Highlands Fire Chief.

The applicant's agent, Ron Davidson, provided a brief overview of the application.

Questions from Council: Councillor Dubyk questioned whether a study is required for a new well? Planner Davidson commented that the well driller is responsible for verifying the distance between the well and septic.

Councillor Wickens questioned the lot size and whether this would be smaller than what would be allowable for a new lot size, and it was confirmed that it is under an acre and yes this lot size would not be allowable as a new lot.

Additionally he asked where is the old septic? Jarend confirmed that there is no evidence of an old septic. Councillor Wickens believes that there is already too much pressure on the lake to support this application.

Objections/Support: None.

Further Discussion: None.

Chair Allen advised that a report will be provided to a future Council meeting for consideration.

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:36 pm.

[Pre-Consultation File: P16.2026 File No.: Z13.2026 - Pdf](#)



**GREYHIGHLANDS**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**



## **MAY 2026 CEO Report**

## Adult Services

### Our Community, Our Health

In recognition of Mental Health Week, *Our Community, Our Health* was held on May 5 in Flesherton. A community member shared their personal experience of surviving an eating disorder, alongside an informative presentation by SEGCHC registered dietician Donna Martin, providing both lived experience and professional insight.

### Women's Writing Circle

The Women's Writing Circle, led by Stephanie Needham, began on May 14 in Markdale. This five-week reflective writing series, *The Second Half of Life: Opening the Eight Gates of Wisdom*, reached full registration with eight participants, supporting an intimate group setting.

### Closet Writers

Closet Writers was offered in May in Flesherton with Owen Sound Poet Laureate Jennifer Frankum. Following the initial session, the program will continue on a monthly basis.

## Special Event Highlight: The Spring Café

The Library hosted the Spring Café in May, welcoming community members for an evening with award-winning Canadian author Terry Fallis, who shared insights into his latest release and his writing journey.

The Library extends thanks to the Friends of the Flesherton Library and Highland Grounds for their support in making the event possible, as well as to all who attended. Events like this continue to strengthen community connections and support the Library's role as a gathering space.



## Teen Services

### Teen Drop-In: Songwriting Circle

A special Teen Drop-In was held on May 14 in Markdale, featuring a songwriting circle with musician and producer Daniel Davies. The session was rescheduled due to the Markdale Book Sale and welcomed ten teens, who took part in discussion and creative exploration related to songwriting.

## Children's Programming

### Storytime

May Storytime themes included Mother's Day, Rain, Bunnies, and Bugs, offering opportunities for stories, songs, and seasonal activities that supported early literacy development.

### School Visits

The Library hosted a visit from the Beavercrest Kindergarten class. During the visit, the class enjoyed a story and exchanged their books.

### Kindergarten Outreach

Staff attended the Kindergarten Introduction Day at Beavercrest Community School, where 26 families were present to register their children. The Library participated as part of a broader community information event and shared information about programs, services, and lending materials. A similar outreach table is planned for the Osprey Kindergarten Introduction Day on May 21.

### Homeschool Programming

The homeschool program continues to grow, with registration now reaching 35 children. The May 28 session will have participants visit the Library to build bluebird houses and learn about bluebirds.

## Mother's Day Mug Making

The Mother's Day Mug Making program welcomed 15 children. Participants selected from pre-printed designs and personalized them to create a mug to take home as a gift.



## Upcoming Programs

### Author Visit with Carolyn Morris

The Library will host a special author visit with Carolyn Morris on Saturday, June 6 at the Flesherton Branch from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The program will feature a farm-themed Storytime, followed by a hands-on experience where children can meet and interact with live baby ducklings.



### PA Day Program: Let's Play!

A PA Day program will be offered on Friday, June 5, featuring a lineup of large-scale and classic games. Activities will include Giant Snakes and Ladders, Jenga, a three-legged race, and an egg balance challenge. The program will run at the Markdale Branch from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, and at the Flesherton Branch from 1:30 to 3:00 PM.



## Statistics

### Library Statistics Comparison (January - May)

#### Total Items Circulated

Year	Flesherton	Markdale	Kimberley	Overdrive
2023	5314	7360	813	6056
2024	6344	7662	284	7015
2025	5678	7797	614	6868
2026	5231	7356	412	7347

#### New Patrons in Flesherton

Year	New Patrons
2022	68
2023	121
2024	65
2025	57
2026	52

#### New Patrons in Markdale

Year	New Patrons
2022	66
2023	91
2024	72
2025	52
2026	76

## New Patrons in Kimberley

Year	New Patrons
2022	2
2023	7
2024	0
2025	7
2026	5

## Online Services Usage Statistics (January - May)

### Kanopy

Year	Visits	Plays	Minutes Played
2026	2270	460	14840
2025	2442	560	14091
2024	4653	556	21261
2023	2414	647	19440

### LinkedIn Learning

Year	Learners Logged In	Content Viewed (hours)
2026	14	19
2025	15	7.7
2024	17	24
2023	18	22

## Facebook Statistics January – May (2023-2026)

Year	Views	Reach	Interactions	Link Clicks	Visits	Follows
2026	187.8k	20.7k	2.1k	266	3.6k	79
2025	191.2k	22.1k	2.2k	126	4.4k	833
2024	Unavailable	25.4k	3.1k	521	8.9k	130
2023	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	933

**Minutes of the Grey Highlands Public Library Board Meeting  
On  
Wednesday, April 29th, 2026, at 7:00p.m. - Flesherton Branch**

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**Present:** Chair- Stewart Halliday, Councilor- Paul Allen, Deputy Mayor- Dane Nielsen, Janet Carson, Bo Penny, Cindy Van Wonderen, Steve Maloney, David Clarke

**Regrets:** Vice Chair - Nicole Martin

**Staff:** CEO/Secretary-Treasurer - Jeff Rosenburg, Library Assistant – Sharon Spencer

**1.0 Call to order:** Chair, Stewart Halliday called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2.0 Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion #21-26**

**Moved by: Dane Nielsen  
Seconded by: David Clarke  
That the Library Board approves the  
agenda as circulated. Carried.**

**3.0 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** None.

**4.0 Adoption of Minutes:** of the March 25th, 2026 Minutes

**Motion #22-26**

**Moved by: Bo Penny  
Seconded by: Paul Allen  
That the Minutes of the 2026-03-25  
meeting be adopted as circulated.  
Carried.**

**5.0 Correspondence:** None.

**6.0 Reports**

**6.1 Treasurer's Report:** CEO/Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Rosenburg presented the Treasurer's Report.

**Motion #23-26**

**Moved by: Steve Maloney  
Seconded by: Cindy Van Wonderen  
That the financial report be accepted as  
presented/amended. Carried.**

**6.2 CEO Report:** CEO Rosenburg shared the CEO report for the month.

**Motion #24-26**

**Moved by: Dane Nielsen  
Seconded by: Janet Carson  
That the Library Board receives the CEO report as information. Carried.**

**7.0 Board Advocacy:** none to report

**8.0 Committee Reports:** none to report

**9.0 Other Business:**

**9.1 Annual Report [CEO Rosenberg]**

**Motion #25-26**

**Moved by: David Clarke  
Seconded by: Bo Penny  
That the Library Board accepts the 2025 Annual Report as presented. Carried.**

**9.2 Library and Elections Policy: [CEO Rosenberg]**

**Motion #26-26**

**Moved by: Paul Allen  
Seconded by: Steve Maloney  
That the Library Board approves and adopts the updated *Library and Political Elections Policy* as presented and request that the CEO request that the Municipality include it with Election packages. Carried.**

**9.3 Inspiring Spaces [CEO Rosenberg]**

**Motion #27-26**

**Moved by: Janet Carson  
Seconded by: Bo Penny  
That the Library Board approves proceeding with Carr McLean Limited for the supply and installation of shelving and furniture at the Markdale Branch, at an upset limit of \$45,000, excluding HST, based on best value, the specialized and limited market for library shelving, Canadian manufacturing requirements, and the need to deliver timely improvements to the children's and young adult areas, and authorize the CEO to execute the necessary agreements. Carried.**

**9.4 Study Pod Report: [CEO Rosenberg]**

**Motion #28-26**

**Moved by: Steve Maloney**

Seconded by: Janet Carson  
That the Library Board approves transferring the \$9814.82 received from the LSC liquidation, the \$4500 donation from Bo & Brian Penny, and \$4000 from the memorial donation from Tess Winget into the Library's reserve accounts to be used for the installation of a modular study pod at the Flesherton Branch, with an upset limit of \$15,000, excluding HST, and that the Library Board approves the purchase of a modular study pod at the Flesherton Branch. Carried.

9.5 Museum Update: [CEO Rosenberg]

9.6 Friends of the Library Update: [Janet Carson]

Motion #29-26

Moved by: Steve Maloney  
Seconded by: Dane Nielsen  
That the Library Board receives items 9.6 and 9.7 as information. Carried.

10. Date of Next Meeting: May 27th, 2026 at the Markdale Branch.

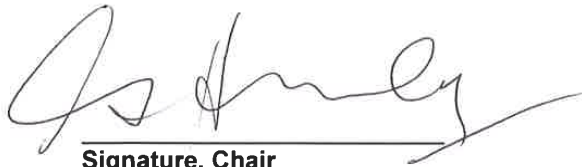
Motion #30-26

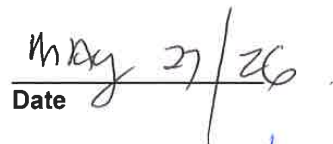
Moved by: Cindy Van Wonderen  
Seconded by: Bo Penny  
That the next Library Board meeting takes place on May 27th, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Markdale Branch, or at the call of the Chair. Carried.

11. Adjournment:

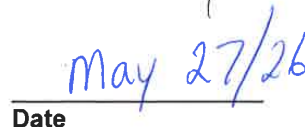
Motion #31-26

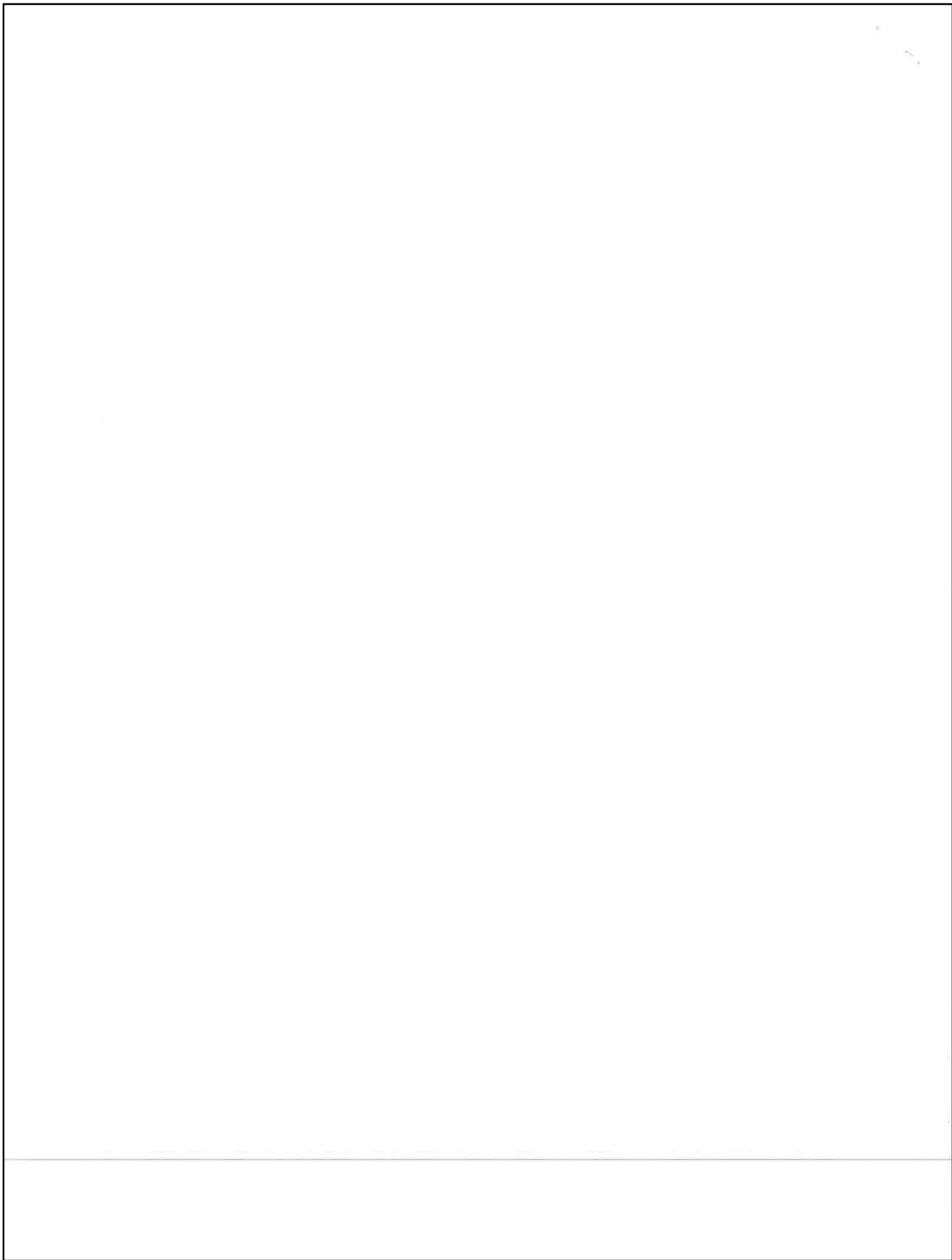
Moved by: Cindy Van Wonderen  
Seconded by: Bo Penny  
That the Library Board meeting be adjourned at. Carried.

  
Signature, Chair

  
Date

  
Signature, CEO

  
Date



GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES  
Annual General Meeting & Full Authority Board of Directors  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 1:15 p.m.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors' meeting was held in a hybrid format of in-person at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Administrative Office and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Scott Greig called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually, and provided a land acknowledgment.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Scott Greig, Vice Chair Jennifer Shaw, Robert Uhrig, Nadia Dubyk, Tony Bell, Tobin Day, Alex Maxwell, Rick Winters

Directors Present Virtually: Jon Farmer, Caleb Hull

Regrets: Scott Mackey

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield; Manager of Environmental Planning, MacLean Plewes; Environmental Planner, Clinton Stredwick; Intermediate Planner, Chris Scholz; Intermediate Planner, Nicole McArthur

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting. No disclosures of pecuniary interest were expressed at the time.

**3. Call for Additional Agenda Items**

Nothing at this time.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion No.:**  
**FA-26-041**

**Moved By:** Nadia Dubyk  
**Seconded By:** Robert Uhrig

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of April 22, 2026, as amended.**

**Carried**

5. Approval of Minutes

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<b>Motion No.:</b> FA-26-042	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Rick Winters</b> <b>Alex Maxwell</b>
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**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of March 25, 2026.**

**Carried**

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6. Business Out of Minutes

None at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

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<b>Motion No.:</b> FA-26-043	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Nadia Dubyk</b> <b>Tobin Day</b>
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**THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the April 22, 2026, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – March 2026; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – March 2026; (iii) Recent Media Articles.**

**Carried**

---

8. Business Items

i. Administration

a. 2026 Q1 Workplan Interim Report

CAO, Tim Lanthier reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter interim workplan report. It was noted that staff had set an ambitious workplan for 2026 and that most items are started with several already completed.

Mr. Lanthier reviewed some item timeline changes and provided explanations for each item. It was noted that some of the items have been made redundant due to the forthcoming changes to the conservation authority structure.

Mr. Lanthier congratulated GSCA staff on their continued efforts to move forward with workplan items.

Member Dubyk asked if Mr. Lanthier was aware of what resources will be available or will be required for the February consolidation of the CAs. Mr. Lanthier responded that he was not aware and added that he will communicate any information as it comes in.

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<b>Motion No.:</b> FA-26-044	<b>Moved By:</b> <b>Seconded By:</b>	<b>Tony Bell</b> <b>Rick Winters</b>
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**WHEREAS the Board of Directors has approved the 2026 Strategic Workplan for the operations of the Authority;**

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**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive this first quarter update as information and approve any noted timeline amendments.**

---

**Carried**

**b. CAA Update**

CAO Tim Lanthier provided a high-level update on the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.

Bill 97 was introduced on March 26<sup>th</sup> which proposed the amendments to the legislation. It was noted that the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority will be approximately 22,000 square kilometers in size.

Mr. Lanthier gave a summary of the key items to note, including details of the transition committees and plans, prohibitions during the transition period, and governance structure. The legislation states that everything that was GSCA transfers to the Lake Huron RCA, including finances, agreements, and employees. Mr. Lanthier explained the proposed governance structure and noted that only upper tier and single tier municipalities will have representation on the Board. The representation of each upper/single tier municipality will be determined by population. This structure will be effective as of February 1, 2027.

Member Uhrig asked if there is any communication or transparency regarding Conservation Ontario (CO). Mr. Lanthier responded that there has been some allusion to CO remaining, however; there was nothing in writing.

Member Bell asked if GSCA would be prohibited from spending cash assets and would the Board be supportive of pre-emptively allocating cash assets within the community. Mr. Lanthier responded that at the moment, the GSCA Board could allocate the CAs assets; however, cautioned Members that those resources would be needed post consolidation. Mr. Lanthier highlighted that there may be opportunities for GSCA being folded into the larger RCA, especially for the staff team.

Member Day asked with regard to how the election could impact the transition team. Mr. Lanthier responded that according to the Minister communications, all current Members would remain Members until replaced.

Member Day asked to clarify how cost apportionment will work. Mr. Lanthier responded that in 2027 levy amount will continue to be apportioned to the lower tiers. Post 2027 costs will be apportioned to the upper tier/single tier municipalities.

Member Day asked with regard to the timeline and the lack of royal assent and should Members and public being continuing to speak up in opposition to the consolidation. Mr. Lanthier responded that the bill has been sent to standing committee and urged all elected officials within the GSCA watershed to speak to their local MPPs.

Member Farmer asked if Mr. Lanthier is planning to present to local municipalities. Mr. Lanthier noted that any presentations specific to the consolidation will be provided on an as requested basis.

Member Farmer asked if there would be an opportunity to move forward capital projects in anticipation of the significant costs in changes to signs/clothes etc. Mr. Lanthier responded that this issue has been a topic brought up by other CAs and noted that the message from the province has

been that the transition with logistics with regard to names and logos are not expected to be completed in the short term.

Member Maxwell asked with regard to the watershed councils, what their geographic region will be, and what influence they may have. Mr. Lanthier responded that there is no information at this time.

Member Uhrig asked with regard to representation and weighted voting. Mr. Lanthier responded that that level of detail has yet to be determined.

Member Dubyk noted that the Municipality of Grey Highlands is preparing a communication to local MPPs in opposition to the consolidation of CAs.

Member Dubyk asked who would form the Board of OPCA. Mr. Lanthier responded that it is unknown at this time.

Chair Greig noted that advocacy continues to be vital and noted that there has not yet been a fulsome answer to how the consolidation will result in improvements for local citizens.

---

**Motion No.:**  
**FA-26-045**

**Moved By:** Jon Farmer  
**Seconded By:** Alex Maxwell

**WHEREAS the Government of the Province of Ontario (the Province) has announced its proposal to proceed with the consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into nine regional conservation authorities,**

**AND WHEREAS the legislation has been released,**

**THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive this report as information.**

**Carried**

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**c. Hibou Legal Case Report Back**

CAO Lanthier gave a brief history and update on the land ownership dispute for a portion of the Hibou Conservation Area. GSCA was found to be the legal and rightful owner of the disputed portion of the Hibou property that was listed for sale by another party.

Mr. Lanthier informed the Board that GSCA has been awarded full indemnity costs by the Court.

Member Uhrig asked if punitive costs were entertained or awarded. Mr. Lanthier responded that only indemnity costs were sought.

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-26-046**

**Moved By:** Robert Uhrig  
**Seconded By:** Rick Winters

**WHEREAS the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) owns and manages the lands along the shoreline of Lots 36 and 37, Broken Front Concession, in the Municipality of Meaford, known as the Hibou Conservation Area,**

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**AND WHEREAS GSCA filed an application with the Ontario Superior Court to defend title to a portion of these lands,**

**AND WHEREAS the GSCA has been successful in both its defense of the lands and in securing full indemnity costs.**

**THAT the GSCA Board of Directors receive this report as information.**

**Carried**

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**ii. Environmental Planning**  
**a. 2025 Annual Report**

Watershed Planner, Clinton Stredwick presented the 2025 Annual Report for the GSCA Environmental Planning Department. GSCA has successfully issued 97 percent of all 2025 permit applications within the required timelines with an average turnaround time of nine days. Those permits issued outside of this timeline have specific rationale.

Member Maxwell asked with regard to a permit application in the Town of Collingwood. Mr. Stredwick responded that a small portion of the Town of Collingwood is under GSCA's jurisdiction.

CAO Tim Lanthier noted the hard work of the Planning Department staff and highlighted the short turnaround timelines that the staff have been able to maintain.

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**Motion No.:**  
**FA-26-047**

**Moved By: Tony Bell**  
**Seconded By: Caleb Hull**

**THAT THE GSCA Board of Directors receive the 2025 Environmental Planning Annual Report as information;**

**Carried**

---

**9. New Business**

Nothing at this time.

**10. CAO's Report**

The GSCA watershed experienced ongoing instances of flooding again in April associated with heavy rains and saturated soils. Most significantly impacted were the areas of Gould Lake, Skinner's Marsh/Hepworth, and Shallow Lake.

Mr. Lanthier extended thanks to the staff of South Bruce Peninsula and Georgian Bluffs for their open and ongoing communication with GSCA staff.

Mr. Lanthier spoke at an event for future CA leaders on Strategic Planning and the lessons learned by staff.

Mr. Lanthier noted that he has met with CAOs from the proposed Lake Huron RCA to touch base.

Mr. Lanthier informed the Board of a few staffing changes, including a temporary Conservation Lands Technician position.



Board resumed open session at 3:08 pm.

**15. Reporting out of Closed Session**

Members gave direction to staff on items that were identified and nothing else.

**16. Next Full Authority Meeting**

Wednesday May 27, 2026

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.



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Scott Greig, Chair



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Valerie Coleman  
Administrative Assistant



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May 27, 2026

Via Email to the Clerks of:  
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie  
Town of the Blue Mountains  
Township of Chatsworth  
Township of Georgian Bluffs  
Municipality of Grey Highlands  
Municipality of Meaford  
City of Owen Sound  
Town of South Bruce Peninsula

**Re:** GSCA 2025 Audited Financial Statements

Dear Municipal Partners,

As per Section 38(3) of the Conservation Authorities Act, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority is please to provide a copy of our 2025 Financial Statements as approved by our Board of Directors at the May 27, 2026 meeting of the Full Authority Board.

Kind Regards,

Tim Lanthier, CAO  
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

**Attachments:** GSCA 2025 Financial Statements

**Cc via email:** Minister McCarthy, MECP  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency  
Conservation Ontario

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**Member Municipalities**

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Town of the Blue Mountains, Township of Chatsworth, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Municipality of Meaford, City of Owen Sound, Town of South Bruce Peninsula

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
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**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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Statement of financial position	4
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Statement of change in net financial assets	6
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## GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The accompanying financial statements of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority ("the Authority") are the responsibility of the Authority's management and have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, as described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The Authority's management maintains a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management. The Board of Directors meet with management and the external auditor to review the financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by Baker Tilly SGB LLP, the independent external auditor appointed by the Authority. The accompanying Independent Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Authority's financial statements.

*Tim Lanthier*

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Chief Administrative Officer  
May 27, 2026

*Alison Armstrong*

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Manager of Financial & HR Services  
May 27, 2026

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority:

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority ("the Authority"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets, cash flow and remeasurement gains for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at December 31, 2025, and its results of operations, remeasurement gains and losses, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Emphasis of matter - future amalgamation of conservation authorities**

We draw attention to Note 14 to the financial statements, which describes the Province of Ontario's announced plan to amalgamate conservation authorities into regional entities, with a transition expected to begin in 2026 and legal effectiveness targeted for 2027. As disclosed in the note, the amalgamation had not taken effect as of the date the financial statements were authorized for issue, and the Authority continues to report its financial results on a stand-alone basis. The final structure, timing and financial implications of the amalgamation have not yet been determined, and management is currently unable to reasonably estimate its financial impact. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

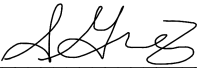
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

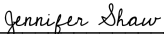
*Baker Tilly SGB LLP*

Baker Tilly SGB LLP  
Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants  
Collingwood, Ontario  
May 27, 2026

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31**

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash - Operating fund (Note 2)	604,485	450,475
Cash - Reserve funds (Note 2)	2,144,394	702,041
Accounts receivable (Note 13)	251,288	251,907
Investment portfolio - Reserve funds (Note 3)	1,911,541	1,783,260
Government remittances receivable	25,116	-
	<b>4,936,824</b>	<b>3,187,683</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	613,581	309,896
Other payables (Note 5)	73,822	72,331
Government remittances payable	-	44,235
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	291,824	245,486
Long-term liabilities (Note 8)	2,049,041	-
	<b>3,028,268</b>	<b>671,948</b>
Net financial assets	<b>1,908,556</b>	<b>2,515,735</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Prepaid expenses	38,520	36,746
Tangible capital assets (Note 9)	9,066,680	7,922,001
	<b>9,105,200</b>	<b>7,958,747</b>
Accumulated surplus	<b>11,013,756</b>	<b>10,474,482</b>
Accumulated surplus is comprised of:		
Accumulated surplus (Note 10)	10,822,805	10,337,569
Accumulated remeasurement gains	190,951	136,913
	<b>11,013,756</b>	<b>10,474,482</b>

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  Director

\_\_\_\_\_  Director

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	Budget 2025 \$ (Note 12)	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
<b>Revenues</b>			
Municipal levies	1,996,612	<b>1,996,612</b>	1,724,166
Government grants - operating	74,356	<b>109,985</b>	116,580
Other funding	34,680	<b>62,576</b>	57,943
Government grants - capital	-	<b>13,265</b>	-
Grey Sauble Forestry/Trees Ontario	189,000	<b>198,899</b>	222,192
Grey County Forest Management	259,435	<b>262,894</b>	263,466
Timber and wood sales	60,000	<b>286,791</b>	63,108
User fees	959,700	<b>981,830</b>	968,572
Sourcewater protection	228,732	<b>216,444</b>	206,927
Rental recoveries (net of \$53,348 expense; 2024 - \$68,826)	35,289	<b>46,853</b>	32,418
Donations (Note 13)	22,500	<b>25,919</b>	36,921
Risk management	50,200	<b>46,980</b>	45,180
Miscellaneous (Note 13)	117,947	<b>151,638</b>	50,159
Interest earned	26,000	<b>19,355</b>	27,196
Income on reserve accounts (Note 3)	-	<b>142,617</b>	172,922
	<u>4,054,451</u>	<u><b>4,562,658</b></u>	<u>3,987,750</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Water management	176,257	<b>179,266</b>	172,949
Environmental planning	796,330	<b>807,541</b>	822,581
Forestry			
-Operations on Authority land	160,456	<b>156,544</b>	136,519
-Grey Sauble Forestry/Trees Ontario	189,000	<b>207,303</b>	228,456
Grey County Forest Management	259,435	<b>261,735</b>	262,816
Conservation lands policy and procedure	226,536	<b>216,063</b>	220,362
Conservation lands operations	424,891	<b>437,840</b>	402,440
Conservation information	124,386	<b>115,035</b>	107,572
Education	76,257	<b>86,970</b>	98,875
Administrative support	756,040	<b>689,971</b>	720,554
Major projects	-	<b>170,772</b>	1,792
Miscellaneous (Note 3)	-	<b>11,807</b>	28,142
Source water risk management	78,864	<b>76,677</b>	77,473
Sourcewater protection	228,732	<b>216,444</b>	206,927
GIS and IT support	338,432	<b>314,460</b>	299,285
Loss (gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	<b>542</b>	(1,478)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	<b>128,452</b>	123,490
	<u>3,835,616</u>	<u><b>4,077,422</b></u>	<u>3,908,755</u>
<b>Annual surplus (Note 12)</b>	218,835	<b>485,236</b>	78,995
Accumulated surplus at beginning of year	10,337,569	<b>10,337,569</b>	10,258,574
<b>Accumulated surplus at end of year (Note 10)</b>	<u>10,556,404</u>	<u><b>10,822,805</b></u>	<u>10,337,569</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Actual 2024
	\$	\$	\$
	(Note 12)		
Annual surplus	218,835	<b>485,236</b>	78,995
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(3,129,000)	<b>(1,273,763)</b>	(319,451)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	<b>128,452</b>	123,490
Loss (gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	<b>542</b>	(1,478)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	<b>90</b>	1,478
Change in prepaid expenses	-	<b>(1,774)</b>	(909)
	(2,910,165)	<b>(661,217)</b>	(117,875)
Change in accumulated remeasurement gains	-	<b>54,038</b>	94,467
Change in net financial assets	(2,910,165)	<b>(607,179)</b>	(23,408)
Net financial assets at beginning of year	2,515,735	<b>2,515,735</b>	2,539,143
<b>Net financial assets at end of year</b>	<b>(394,430)</b>	<b>1,908,556</b>	2,515,735

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Cash flows from (for):		
Operating activities		
Annual surplus	485,236	78,995
Non-cash items:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	128,452	123,490
Loss (gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	542	(1,478)
	614,230	201,007
Changes in:		
Accounts receivable	619	(837)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	303,685	76,692
Other payables	1,491	(7,184)
Government remittances receivable/payable	(69,351)	13,933
Deferred revenue	46,338	30,553
Prepaid expenses	(1,774)	(909)
	895,238	313,255
Investing activities		
Increase in investment portfolio	(74,243)	(125,902)
Capital activities		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,273,763)	(319,451)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	90	1,478
	(1,273,673)	(317,973)
Financing activities		
Long-term liabilities issued	2,100,000	-
Long-term liabilities repaid	(50,959)	-
	2,049,041	-
<b>Net change in cash position</b>	<b>1,596,363</b>	<b>(130,620)</b>
Cash at beginning of year	1,152,516	1,283,136
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<b>2,748,879</b>	<b>1,152,516</b>
Comprised of:		
Cash - Operating fund	604,485	450,475
Cash - Reserve funds	2,144,394	702,041
	2,748,879	1,152,516

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF REMEASUREMENT GAINS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	\$	\$
Accumulated remeasurement gains at beginning of year	<u>136,913</u>	42,446
Unrealized gains attributed to:		
Short-term investments	119,709	206,810
Realized gains, reclassified to the statement of operations:		
Short-term investments (Note 3)	<u>(65,671)</u>	(112,343)
Net change in remeasurement gains	<u>54,038</u>	94,467
<b>Accumulated remeasurement gains at end of year</b>	<b><u>190,951</u></b>	<b>136,913</b>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**Nature of operations**

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority ("the Authority") is established under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources, other than gas, oil, coal and minerals, for the watersheds within its area of jurisdiction. The watersheds include areas in the Municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Grey Highlands and Meaford, the Town of The Blue Mountains and the Town of South Bruce Peninsula, the Townships of Chatsworth and Georgian Bluffs and the City of Owen Sound.

The Authority's mission is:

"In partnership with the stakeholders of the watershed, to promote and undertake sustainable management of renewable natural resources and provide responsible leadership to enhance bio-diversity and environmental awareness."

The Authority is a registered charity and is exempt from income taxes.

**1. Summary of significant accounting policies**

The financial statements are the representation of management prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of The Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Authority are as follows:

**(a) Basis of accounting**

Sources of revenue and expenses are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenues as they become available and measurable. Expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable as a result of receipt of goods or services and the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

**(b) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on deposit and short-term deposits with a maturity of less than three months at acquisition.

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(c) Financial instruments**

The financial instruments of the Authority consist of cash of the operating and reserve funds, accounts receivable, investment portfolio, accounts payable, other payables and long-term liabilities. All financial instruments are recognized at cost, amortized cost or fair value.

Cash is recognized at cost. Accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, other payables, and long-term liabilities (excluding derivative financial instruments) are recognized at amortized cost.

Investment portfolio includes cash and equivalents, fixed income securities, preferred shares, principal at risk notes and equity securities. These investments meet the definition of portfolio investments under Public Sector Accounting Standards and are measured at fair value at each reporting date.

For financial instruments measured using amortized cost, the effective interest rate method is used to determine interest revenue or expense. Transaction costs are a component of cost for financial instruments measured at cost or amortized cost.

Unrealized gains and losses from the change in fair value of these financial instruments are reflected in the statement of remeasurement gains and losses until disposition. When the asset is sold, the unrealized gains and losses previously recognized in the statement of remeasurement gains and losses are reversed and recognized in the statement of operations.

The Standards require an organization to classify fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy, which includes three levels of information that may be used to measure fair value:

- Level 1 - Unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 - Observable or corroborated inputs, other than level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets or market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities; and
- Level 3 - Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets and liabilities.

All financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis. When a decline is determined to be other than temporary, the amount of the loss is reported in the statement of operations and any unrealized gain is adjusted through the statement of remeasurement gains and losses.

**(d) Revenue recognition**

Government grants are recognized in the financial statements in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met and reasonable estimates of the amount can be made.

General and special municipal levies are recognized as revenue when the amounts are levied on the municipalities.

Authority-generated revenue is recognized when the price is fixed or determinable, collectability is reasonably assured and services are provided to customers. Types of services include tree planting, site inspections, forest maintenance, property access fees, rentals and planning.

All other revenues are recognized on an accrual basis.

**(e) Deferred revenue**

Revenue restricted by legislation, regulation or agreement, and not available for general purposes, is reported as deferred revenue on the statement of financial position. The revenue is reported on the statement of operations in the year in which it is used for the specified purpose.

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(f) Tangible capital assets**

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost, which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. Cost includes overheads directly attributable to construction and development.

Amortization is reflected on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the assets. The useful life of the assets is based on estimates made by management. The following rates are used:

Bridges and trails	6 - 30 years
Buildings	40 years
Dams and weirs	50 years
Equipment	15 years
Flood forecast equipment	10 - 20 years
Information technology infrastructure	3 - 15 years
Office furniture	20 years
Vehicles	10 years

Contributed tangible capital assets are recognized as assets and revenue at fair value at the time they are received.

Work in progress is not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

**(g) Vehicles**

The Authority operates a pool of vehicles. Internal charges for the use of vehicles are made to the various projects of the Authority based on an hourly or distance travelled rate, which is designed to recover all costs of operating the pool including replacement.

These internal charges are included in the appropriate expense classifications. Expenditures incurred by the motor pool for operating costs are netted against the internal charges and are reported in the statement of operations.

**(h) Pension plan**

The Authority offers a pension plan for its employees through the Ontario Municipal Employee Retirement System ("OMERS"). OMERS is a multi-employer, contributory, public sector pension fund established for employees of municipalities, local boards and school boards in Ontario. Participating employers and employees are required to make plan contributions based on participating employees' contributory earnings. The Authority accounts for its participation in OMERS as a defined contribution plan and recognizes the expense related to this plan as contributions are made, even though OMERS is itself a defined benefit plan.

**(i) Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The principle estimates used in the preparation of these financial statements are the determination of estimated useful life and impairment of tangible capital assets, as well as any related asset retirement obligations. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(j) Asset retirement obligations**

An asset retirement obligation is recognized when, as at the financial reporting date, all of the following criteria are met:

- There is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs in relation to a tangible capital asset;
- The past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred;
- It is expected that future economic benefits will be given up; and
- A reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

The liability is discounted using a present value calculation, and adjusted yearly for accretion expense. The recognition of a liability would result in an accompanying increase to the respective tangible capital assets. The increase to the tangible capital assets would be amortized in accordance with the amortization policies outlined in Note 1(f).

**2. Cash**

On December 31, 2025 the Authority had cash of \$2,748,879 (2024 - \$1,152,516) at one chartered bank. The Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) insures up to a maximum of \$100,000 per depositor at a CDIC member institution. Included in operating cash is \$291,824 (2024 - \$245,486) of funds restricted for the purposes as described in Note 6.

**3. Investment portfolio**

The investment portfolio includes cash and equivalents, fixed income securities, preferred shares, principal at risk notes and equity securities. The fair market value of the investments at year end was \$1,911,541 (2024 - \$1,783,260). During the year, the investment portfolio generated investment revenue of \$21,677 (2024 - \$29,096), realized capital gain of \$65,671 (2024 - \$112,343) and incurred management fees in the amount of \$11,807 (2024 - \$14,000). Income on reserve accounts, as reported on the statement of operations, includes income and gains or losses generated by the portfolio in addition to interest earned from reserve cash accounts. Management fees are included in miscellaneous expense.

**4. Pension plan**

The OMERS plan has several unrelated participating municipalities and costs are not specifically attributed to each participant. Amounts paid to OMERS for 2025 were \$228,083 (2024 - \$225,908) for current service.

OMERS is a multi-employer plan, therefore any pension plan surpluses or deficits are a joint responsibility of Ontario municipal organizations and their employees. The most recent actuarial valuation of the Plan was conducted at December 31, 2025. The results of this valuation disclosed total actuarial liabilities of \$151.3 (2024 - \$142.5) billion in respect of benefits accrued for service with actuarial assets at that date of \$150.0 (2024 - \$139.6) billion, indicating a going concern actuarial deficit of \$1.3 (2024 - \$2.9) billion.

**5. Other payables**

The Authority holds monies collected by the Beaver River Water Initiative ("BRWI"), Friends of Hibou, Fishing Islands Phragmites group, Grey Bruce Forest Festival and the Arboretum Alliance. These funds are distributed when these organizations require payment for expenses which they have incurred. As at December 31, 2025 the Authority held \$17,869 (2024 - \$10,735) on behalf of the BRWI, \$6,067 (2024 - \$7,021) on behalf of Friends of Hibou, \$29,188 (2024 - \$26,818) on behalf of Fishing Islands Phragmites group, \$NIL (2024 - \$8,560) on behalf of Grey Bruce Forest Festival and \$20,698 (2024 - \$19,197) on behalf of the Arboretum Alliance.

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**6. Deferred revenue**

Deferred revenue consists of the following:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Forestry donation	10,000	10,000
Source water	98,545	85,052
Risk management legal contingency	93,598	88,378
Stewardship grants	23,000	20,211
Outstanding planning permits	30,629	30,000
Education grants	29,202	-
Miscellaneous other deferrals	6,850	11,845
	<b>291,824</b>	<b>245,486</b>

**7. Contingent liabilities**

In the ordinary course of operations, various actions and legal proceedings can arise involving the Authority. The amount and likelihood of loss resulting from such actions is unknown at this time. Any payment made by the Authority will be expensed in the year of settlement.

**8. Long-term liabilities**

Long-term liabilities consist of the following:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Loan from the City of Owen Sound for the renovation of the Administration Centre, 4.20% interest, semi-annual payments of \$95,059 principal and interest, due April 2040.	<b>2,049,041</b>	-

Payments for the next 5 years and thereafter are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
	\$	\$	\$
2026	105,151	84,967	190,118
2027	109,614	80,504	190,118
2028	114,266	75,852	190,118
2029	119,115	71,003	190,118
2030	124,171	65,947	190,118
Thereafter	1,476,724	329,397	1,806,121
	<b>2,049,041</b>	<b>707,670</b>	<b>2,756,711</b>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**9. Tangible capital assets**

Tangible capital assets consists of the following:

<b>Cost</b>	Balance 2024	Additions	Disposals	Balance 2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land	6,351,467	-	-	<b>6,351,467</b>
Bridges and trails	467,353	9,020	-	<b>476,373</b>
Buildings	1,057,298	44,536	(19,657)	<b>1,082,177</b>
Dams and weirs	2,116,930	-	-	<b>2,116,930</b>
Equipment	319,375	-	-	<b>319,375</b>
Flood forecast equipment	66,943	37,807	-	<b>104,750</b>
Information technology infrastructure	203,438	8,916	-	<b>212,354</b>
Office furniture	60,926	-	(16,891)	<b>44,035</b>
Vehicles	315,727	-	-	<b>315,727</b>
Work in progress - admin centre renewal	224,889	1,173,484	-	<b>1,398,373</b>
	<b>11,184,346</b>	<b>1,273,763</b>	<b>(36,548)</b>	<b>12,421,561</b>
<b>Accumulated amortization</b>				
Bridges and trails	249,330	14,931	-	<b>264,261</b>
Buildings	839,130	12,709	(17,659)	<b>834,180</b>
Dams and weirs	1,529,926	41,295	-	<b>1,571,221</b>
Equipment	218,893	13,147	-	<b>232,040</b>
Flood forecast equipment	54,339	5,700	-	<b>60,039</b>
Information technology infrastructure	159,768	15,290	-	<b>175,058</b>
Office furniture	47,238	2,789	(18,257)	<b>31,770</b>
Vehicles	163,721	22,591	-	<b>186,312</b>
	<b>3,262,345</b>	<b>128,452</b>	<b>(35,916)</b>	<b>3,354,881</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
Land	6,351,467			<b>6,351,467</b>
Bridges and trails	218,023			<b>212,112</b>
Buildings	218,168			<b>247,997</b>
Dams and weirs	587,004			<b>545,709</b>
Equipment	100,482			<b>87,335</b>
Flood forecast equipment	12,604			<b>44,711</b>
Information technology infrastructure	43,670			<b>37,296</b>
Office furniture	13,688			<b>12,265</b>
Vehicles	152,006			<b>129,415</b>
Work in progress	224,889			<b>1,398,373</b>
	<b>7,922,001</b>			<b>9,066,680</b>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**10. Accumulated surplus**

Accumulated surplus consists of individual fund surplus and reserves as follows:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Invested in tangible capital assets	7,882,942	7,922,001
Long-term liabilities	(865,303)	-
Operating surplus (Note 12)	86,645	32,254
Reserve funds (Note 11)	3,658,521	2,323,314
Working capital reserve	60,000	60,000
	<b>10,822,805</b>	<b>10,337,569</b>

**11. Reserve funds set aside for specific purpose**

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Lands reserve	937,421	823,926
Computer replacement and special projects	59,982	49,673
Major dam maintenance	325,835	321,738
Vehicle replacement	218,119	160,032
Risk management	105,124	125,977
Administration	1,132,261	217,944
Forest management	748,545	501,398
Stewardship	72,167	67,433
Youth	59,067	55,193
	<b>3,658,521</b>	<b>2,323,314</b>

**12. Budget**

Under Canadian public sector accounting principles, budget amounts are to be reported on the statement of operations and changes in net financial assets for comparative purposes. The 2025 budget amounts for Grey Sauble Conservation Authority approved by the Board have been reclassified to conform to the basis of presentation of the revenues and expenses on the statements of operations and change in net financial assets. The following is a reconciliation of the budget approved by the Board:

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Actual 2024
	\$	\$	\$
Annual surplus	218,835	485,236	78,995
Prior year operating surplus	32,254	32,254	231,239
Transfers from (to) reserves	866,292	(1,335,207)	(82,019)
Tangible capital asset acquisitions, disposals and write-down	(3,129,000)	(1,273,131)	(319,451)
Proceeds from new long-term liabilities	2,000,000	2,100,000	-
Long-term liabilities principal repayment	-	(50,959)	-
Amortization	-	128,452	123,490
Operating surplus	(11,619)	86,645	32,254

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**13. Related party transactions**

The Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation was founded to receive, accumulate and distribute funds and/or the income received for the benefit of the Authority. The Foundation is incorporated under the Canada Business Corporations Act and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. The Authority has representation on the Foundation's Board of Directors. Funds are solicited by the Foundation to further the mission of the Authority. Thus, as defined in the accounting recommendations of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, the Authority has an economic interest in the Foundation.

Transactions with Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation include accounts receivable of \$7,416 (2024 - \$10,152), interest revenue of \$NIL (2024 - \$Nil), donations of \$23,000 (2024 - \$20,000) and other transfers to fund Authority activities included in miscellaneous revenue of \$4,994 (2024 - \$3,000).

The Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation's Board of Directors initiated plans to wind up operations, with dissolution currently anticipated to occur in the 2026 fiscal year, subject to completion of required approvals and regulatory processes. Upon dissolution, the Foundation's remaining assets are expected to be distributed in accordance with its governing documents, which may include transfers to the Authority or other qualified donees with similar objectives.

**14. Future amalgamation of conservation authorities**

The Province of Ontario announced its intention to proceed with the amalgamation of 36 conservation authorities into nine regional authorities, with a transition beginning in 2026 and legal effectiveness targeted for 2027. The proposed amalgamation is part of a broader provincial initiative to streamline governance and service delivery among conservation authorities.

At the date these financial statements were authorized for issue, the amalgamation had not yet taken effect. While the Province has communicated its intent and commenced planning activities, the final structure, timing, and financial implications of the amalgamation have not been fully determined. Accordingly, the assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses of the Authority continue to be reported on a stand-alone basis in these financial statements.

Management is currently assessing the potential impacts of the amalgamation, including matters related to governance, staffing, assets and liabilities, funding arrangements and service delivery. Based on information available at this time, management is unable to reasonably estimate the financial effect of the proposed amalgamation on the Authority.

Any adjustments resulting from the amalgamation will be reflected in the Authority's financial statements in the period in which the amalgamation is legally effective and the necessary information becomes available.

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
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**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 1**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Government grants			
Provincial and federal - programming			
Flood control and warning	37,056	<b>43,716</b>	37,056
Stewardship program	37,000	<b>54,229</b>	75,464
Provincial and Federal - Other	-	<b>12,040</b>	-
Other	300	-	4,060
	<u>74,356</u>	<u><b>109,985</b></u>	<u>116,580</u>
Special capital - current funding	-	<b>13,265</b>	-
	<u>74,356</u>	<u><b>123,250</b></u>	<u>116,580</u>
Grey Sauble Forestry/Trees Ontario			
Trees and landscape stock	89,000	<b>134,531</b>	115,776
Trees Ontario	100,000	<b>64,368</b>	106,416
	<u>189,000</u>	<u><b>198,899</b></u>	<u>222,192</u>
User fees			
Parking fees and season passes	286,561	<b>390,565</b>	330,013
Planning fees	578,639	<b>499,687</b>	497,628
Property leases and rentals	94,500	<b>91,578</b>	90,658
The great outdoors day camp	-	-	50,273
	<u>959,700</u>	<u><b>981,830</b></u>	<u>968,572</u>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 2**  
**SCHEDULE OF RENTAL RECOVERIES AND EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Recoveries			
Vehicle			
Flood control and warning	7,400	<b>11,521</b>	11,445
Operating conservation property	37,200	<b>31,955</b>	33,004
Forest management	30,300	<b>34,982</b>	33,334
Grey Sauble Forestry/Trees Ontario	8,000	<b>5,154</b>	7,292
Erosion control	300	<b>205</b>	41
Land use planning and regulation	14,860	<b>11,071</b>	11,164
Information and education	2,600	<b>916</b>	925
Administrative support	3,800	<b>2,838</b>	3,059
Special programs	5,000	<b>1,558</b>	980
	<u>109,460</u>	<u><b>100,200</b></u>	<u>101,244</u>
Expenditures			
Vehicle			
Fuel	34,000	<b>21,959</b>	27,116
Repairs	8,171	<b>13,131</b>	16,009
Licenses and insurance	32,000	<b>7,712</b>	7,077
Salaries and benefits	-	<b>6,418</b>	7,203
Equipment			
Fuel	-	<b>1,813</b>	1,651
Repairs	-	<b>2,314</b>	9,770
	<u>74,171</u>	<u><b>53,347</b></u>	<u>68,826</u>
Excess of recoveries over expenditures	<u>35,289</u>	<u><b>46,853</b></u>	<u>32,418</u>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 3**  
**SCHEDULE OF WATER MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Flood forecast and warning			
Salaries and benefits	127,324	<b>129,549</b>	135,242
Service contracts	5,900	<b>2,224</b>	5,322
Vehicle and equipment rentals	5,000	<b>9,691</b>	8,023
Materials and supplies	3,800	<b>883</b>	298
Training	1,000	<b>1,099</b>	-
	<u>143,024</u>	<u><b>143,446</b></u>	<u>148,885</u>
Flood control structures			
Clendenan dam (including log replacement)	10,884	<b>16,159</b>	7,449
Taylor Street retention pond	-	<b>149</b>	15
	<u>10,884</u>	<u><b>16,308</b></u>	<u>7,464</u>
Dams			
Salaries and benefits	16,999	<b>15,952</b>	12,280
Vehicle and equipment rentals	2,000	<b>1,292</b>	2,664
Materials and supplies	1,500	<b>860</b>	1,216
	<u>20,499</u>	<u><b>18,104</b></u>	<u>16,160</u>
Erosion control			
Salaries and benefits	800	<b>1,203</b>	327
Vehicle and equipment rentals	300	<b>205</b>	41
Materials and supplies	750	-	72
	<u>1,850</u>	<u><b>1,408</b></u>	<u>440</u>
	<u>176,257</u>	<u><b>179,266</b></u>	<u>172,949</u>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 4**  
**SCHEDULE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Engineering services			
Salaries and benefits	134,188	<b>135,503</b>	125,189
Vehicle and equipment rentals	1,360	<b>301</b>	80
Materials and supplies	550	<b>355</b>	247
Services, rents and utilities	-	<b>462</b>	-
	<u>136,098</u>	<u><b>136,621</b></u>	<u>125,516</u>
Stewardship			
Salaries and benefits	74,451	<b>74,939</b>	74,123
Vehicle and equipment rentals	1,500	<b>816</b>	815
Materials and supplies	1,000	<b>20,105</b>	38,470
Services, rents and utilities	-	<b>495</b>	-
	<u>76,951</u>	<u><b>96,355</b></u>	<u>113,408</u>
Watershed management			
Salaries and benefits	22,668	<b>31,536</b>	19,570
Vehicle and equipment rentals	5,000	<b>5,639</b>	5,967
Materials and supplies	400	<b>(556)</b>	30
Watershed monitoring	17,000	<b>18,433</b>	17,884
	<u>45,068</u>	<u><b>55,052</b></u>	<u>43,451</u>
Land use planning and regulation			
Salaries and benefits	516,113	<b>494,870</b>	518,724
Service contracts	7,500	<b>16,916</b>	10,651
Vehicle and equipment rentals	7,000	<b>4,316</b>	4,302
Materials and supplies	7,600	<b>3,411</b>	6,529
	<u>538,213</u>	<u><b>519,513</b></u>	<u>540,206</u>
	<u><b>796,330</b></u>	<u><b>807,541</b></u>	<u>822,581</u>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 5**  
**SCHEDULE OF FORESTRY EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Forestry on Authority lands			
Salaries and benefits	138,206	<b>141,923</b>	128,537
Service contracts	8,950	<b>868</b>	680
Vehicle and equipment rentals	6,500	<b>7,325</b>	5,431
Materials and supplies	4,300	<b>6,428</b>	1,871
Training	2,500	-	-
	<u>160,456</u>	<u><b>156,544</b></u>	<u>136,519</u>
Grey Sauble Forestry/Trees Ontario			
Purchases and Trees Ontario expenses	77,000	<b>107,727</b>	116,405
Salaries and benefits	111,500	<b>89,415</b>	101,543
Other	500	<b>10,161</b>	10,508
	<u>189,000</u>	<u><b>207,303</b></u>	<u>228,456</u>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 6**  
**SCHEDULE OF CONSERVATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Conservation lands operations			
Salaries and benefits	335,941	<b>355,197</b>	322,786
Vehicle and equipment rentals	36,000	<b>29,845</b>	30,431
Materials and supplies	17,500	<b>32,476</b>	29,267
Services, rents and utilities	35,450	<b>20,322</b>	19,956
	<b>424,891</b>	<b>437,840</b>	402,440
Conservation lands policy and procedure			
Salaries and benefits	144,856	<b>140,884</b>	143,184
Service contracts	6,200	<b>7,519</b>	8,502
Vehicle and equipment rentals	1,200	<b>2,110</b>	2,574
Property taxes	73,500	<b>64,594</b>	62,607
Materials and supplies	780	<b>956</b>	3,495
	<b>226,536</b>	<b>216,063</b>	220,362
Grey County forest management			
Salaries and benefits	235,635	<b>229,301</b>	223,478
Vehicle and equipment rentals	23,800	<b>27,657</b>	31,779
Supplies	-	<b>4,777</b>	7,559
	<b>259,435</b>	<b>261,735</b>	262,816
Conservation information			
Salaries and benefits	102,936	<b>104,677</b>	98,143
Contracts and services	16,350	<b>9,805</b>	4,346
Vehicle and equipment rentals	600	<b>12</b>	651
Materials and supplies	3,800	<b>541</b>	4,432
Advertising contracts	700	-	-
	<b>124,386</b>	<b>115,035</b>	107,572
Education			
Salaries and benefits	70,757	<b>74,058</b>	88,238
Contracts and services	2,000	<b>5,919</b>	5,229
Vehicle and equipment rentals	2,000	<b>904</b>	274
Materials and supplies	1,500	<b>5,690</b>	4,910
Training	-	<b>398</b>	224
	<b>76,257</b>	<b>86,969</b>	98,875
Administrative support			
Salaries and benefits	481,820	<b>485,903</b>	473,966
Board members' allowances	-	<b>1,552</b>	1,500
Vehicle and equipment rentals	3,000	<b>2,305</b>	2,561
Materials and supplies	13,120	<b>7,862</b>	11,786
Services, rents and utilities	258,100	<b>192,349</b>	230,741
	<b>756,040</b>	<b>689,971</b>	720,554
GIS and IT support			
Salaries and benefits	309,427	<b>276,599</b>	275,738
Service contracts	21,905	<b>33,220</b>	14,933
Vehicle and equipment rentals	800	<b>532</b>	498
Materials and supplies	6,300	<b>4,109</b>	3,202
Hardware and software	-	-	4,914
	<b>338,432</b>	<b>314,460</b>	299,285

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 7**  
**SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMMING EXPENDITURES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Actual 2024
	\$	\$	\$
Sourcewater management			
Salaries and benefits	65,864	<b>66,932</b>	67,490
Vehicle and equipment rentals	1,000	<b>472</b>	244
Materials and supplies	2,000	<b>9,273</b>	9,739
Services, rents and utilities	10,000	-	-
	<u>78,864</u>	<u><b>76,677</b></u>	<u>77,473</u>
Sourcewater protection			
Salaries and benefits	183,732	<b>187,799</b>	179,686
Committee members' allowance	-	<b>3,844</b>	4,244
Vehicle and equipment rentals	4,000	<b>1,086</b>	941
Materials and supplies	3,000	<b>13,296</b>	11,334
Services, rents and utilities	38,000	<b>10,419</b>	10,722
	<u>228,732</u>	<u><b>216,444</b></u>	<u>206,927</u>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 8**  
**SCHEDULE OF OPERATING SURPLUS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Municipal levies	1,996,612	<b>1,996,612</b>	1,724,166
Government grants	74,356	<b>123,250</b>	116,580
Other funding	34,680	<b>62,576</b>	57,943
Grey Sauble Forestry/Trees Ontario	189,000	<b>198,899</b>	222,192
Grey County forest management	259,435	<b>262,894</b>	263,466
Timber and wood sales	60,000	<b>286,791</b>	63,108
User fees	959,700	<b>981,830</b>	968,572
Sourcewater protection	228,732	<b>216,444</b>	206,927
Net rental recoveries	35,289	<b>46,853</b>	32,418
Donations	22,500	<b>25,919</b>	36,921
Risk management	50,200	<b>46,980</b>	45,180
Miscellaneous	117,947	<b>151,638</b>	50,159
Interest earned	26,000	<b>19,355</b>	27,196
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	<b>90</b>	1,478
	<u>4,054,451</u>	<u><b>4,420,131</b></u>	<u>3,816,306</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Water management	176,257	<b>179,266</b>	172,949
Environmental planning	796,330	<b>807,541</b>	822,581
Forestry			
-Operations on Authority land	160,456	<b>156,544</b>	136,519
-Grey Bruce Forestry/Trees Ontario	189,000	<b>207,303</b>	228,456
-Grey County forest management	259,435	<b>261,735</b>	262,816
Conservation lands policy and procedures	226,536	<b>216,063</b>	220,362
Conservation lands operations	424,891	<b>437,840</b>	402,440
Conservation information	124,386	<b>115,035</b>	107,572
Education	76,257	<b>86,970</b>	98,875
Administrative support	756,040	<b>689,971</b>	720,554
Miscellaneous	-	<b>11,807</b>	28,142
Risk management	78,864	<b>76,677</b>	77,473
Sourcewater protection	228,732	<b>216,444</b>	206,927
GIS/IT department	338,432	<b>314,460</b>	299,285
Major projects (Schedule 9)	3,129,000	<b>1,444,535</b>	321,244
	<u>6,964,616</u>	<u><b>5,222,191</b></u>	<u>4,106,195</u>
Net expenditures	<u>(2,910,165)</u>	<u><b>(802,060)</b></u>	<u>(289,889)</u>
<b>Appropriations</b>			
From (to) reserve funds	(1,133,708)	<b>(1,192,590)</b>	90,904
Proceeds from new long-term liabilities	2,000,000	<b>2,100,000</b>	-
Long-term liabilities principal repayment	-	<b>(50,959)</b>	-
<b>Net deficit for the year</b>	<u>(2,043,873)</u>	<u><b>54,391</b></u>	<u>(198,985)</u>
Operating surplus at beginning of year	32,254	<b>32,254</b>	231,239
<b>Operating (deficit) surplus at end of year</b>	<u>(2,011,619)</u>	<u><b>86,645</b></u>	<u>32,254</u>

**GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE 9**  
**SCHEDULE OF MAJOR PROJECTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
IT equipment	18,500	<b>13,663</b>	13,972
Vehicle replacement	-	-	73,567
Admin centre - renewal	3,000,000	<b>1,308,254</b>	189,853
Other equipment	-	-	17,350
Parking signs	6,000	<b>2,977</b>	-
Stone repointing	7,000	<b>3,420</b>	-
Water monitoring stations	15,000	<b>38,445</b>	-
Picnic areas	3,000	-	-
Inglis Falls - washroom upgrades	65,000	<b>54,502</b>	-
Dam repairs	-	<b>916</b>	-
Privy demolition	4,500	<b>1,161</b>	-
Trout Hollow - barn removal	-	<b>13,697</b>	-
Eugenia Falls - pavilion demolition	10,000	<b>7,500</b>	-
Water management	-	-	26,502
	<b>3,129,000</b>	<b>1,444,535</b>	<b>321,244</b>



## NVCA May 2026 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: June 26, 2026, held virtually**

*For the full meeting agenda, including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).*

### **2025 Customer Satisfaction Report**

Each year, NVCA publishes a Customer Satisfaction Report that summarizes data collected through surveys and client reviews.

[Please visit NVCA's website to view the 2025 Customer Service Satisfaction Report.](#)

### **Stewardship**

NVCA's Stewardship Services include river restoration, tree planting, the Healthy Waters grant program, and other projects to protect and enhance our watershed.

Through working with funders, landowners, volunteers, and local partners, the stewardship and restoration services team planted over 10,500 trees and restored 10.5 km of rivers and streams!

Through correspondences, funders and landowners generally complement NVCA's stewardship staff for their expertise and results.

### **Lands**

NVCA offers 11 conservation areas for watershed residents and visitors to explore.

Satisfaction for NVCA's conservation areas is measured through Google reviews. In 2025, the majority of the reviews submitted rated the conservation areas 4 or 5 stars.

The conservation areas that received the most reviews were Fort Willow Conservation Area, Tiffin Conservation Area and Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area.

### **Education**

NVCA's Environmental Education program provides hands-on, curriculum-aligned programs for JK to Grade 12 students. In 2025,

the program saw close to 13,000 participants, from toddlers to seniors.

Through feedback surveys, most teachers and families rated NVCA's education program as good or excellent, noting strong connections to the provincial curriculum, opportunities to appreciate and interact with nature, and outstanding customer service.

### **Events/Public Programming/Facility Rentals**

NVCA's Lands department received excellent feedback for the 2026 Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival and wedding venue rentals.

Community organizations applauded the excellent customer service and reasonable prices for hosting events such as trail runs and musical hikes.

### **Permitting Process**

Most survey responses regarding NVCA's permitting process indicated that regulations staff were knowledgeable, had good communication, and provided accurate information.

Through 2025, the Regulations and Planning department continued to focus on continuous improvement initiatives designed to enhance customer service, increase efficiency, and provide more transparent processes for applicants, including:

- Rolled out an e-permitting portal
- Updated specific permit exemptions in Implementation Guidelines to certain low risk activities
- Updated regulation mapping, resulting in a reduction of regulated areas

- Established a risk-based approach to permit fees and application review to foster more transparency, and for lower risk items to be addressed quickly
- Developed guides and checklists for permit applicants to ensure resubmissions are complete and reviews can be faster

The Permits and Regulations customer satisfaction survey and information collection methods will be updated in 2026 to ensure the information collected is value-added to improve processes.

### Employee handbook update

The Board of Directors approved updates to the Salary Administration Policy and Employee Expenses Policy in NVCA's Employee Handbook.

The newly approved Salary Administration Policy introduces defined steps within NVCA's salary grids. This adjustment aligns with sector norms, supports workforce stability, and better positions the organization for a smooth and equitable amalgamation process.

NVCA staff are provided meal allowances while attending meetings, conferences, workshops, etc. The policy was updated to align with current standards and prices.

### Human Resources Strategy

The Board has approved NVCA's three-year HR strategy. This guidance document will help the organization navigate the upcoming amalgamation, ensuring NVCA has the leadership, skills, capacity, and organizational culture to fulfill its legislated responsibilities, manage people-related risks, and sustainably deliver environmental conservation and public safety outcomes.

The strategy also supports NVCA's goal of being an employer of choice by strengthening employee experience and attracting and retaining talent.

### CA Transition Committee

As part of the conservation authorities' amalgamation initiative, a Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA) Transition Committee will be established to oversee and guide the implementation of the amalgamation process.

The transition is currently legislated to occur on February 1, 2027.

NVCA's Board of Directors has appointed the CAO and Chair as representatives to the Transition Committee, with the Vice-Chair appointed as the alternate.

The Board approved a temporary adjustment to the Chair's honorarium to recognize additional responsibilities on the provincially directed Transition Committee.

As the designated alternate, the Vice Chair will also receive the same adjustment if Transition Committee duties are undertaken.

### Upcoming Events

#### PA Day Camp Tiffin

This special edition of Camp Tiffin, fueled by student interest, encourages outdoor exploration and guided excursions in the forest.

**Date:** June 5, 2026, from 9 am – 4 pm

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

[Register here](#)

#### Tiffin Nature School

At Tiffin Nature School, children aged 2.5 to 10 are invited to explore and connect with the natural world. We nurture their innate curiosity, offering immersive outdoor experiences that inspire discovery and growth.

**Dates:** Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

[Register here](#)



**Bruce Trail**  
CONSERVANCY

### **Mission**

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness,  
for everyone, forever.

### **Vision**

The Bruce Trail secured within a  
permanently protected natural corridor  
along the Niagara Escarpment.



Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

# Streamlining Conservation

February 25, 2026



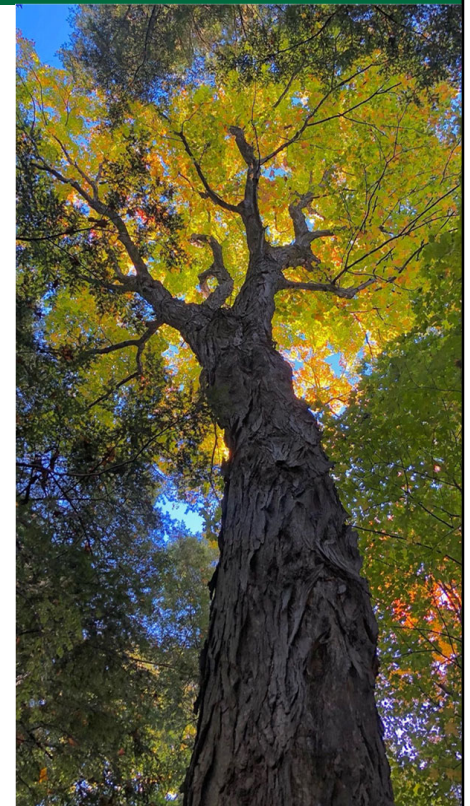
Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## Introduction

The Bruce Trail is an iconic recreational asset and a powerful economic driver that attracts regional, provincial and national visitors, who in turn support local communities and businesses.

As one of Canada's leading environmental charities, the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is playing a vital role in the fight against the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, and the fragmentation of natural ecosystems across our **900km** conservation corridor and the **26 municipalities** we serve.

Our mission to urgently protect land is more important than ever, and we are working with the Province to find opportunities to streamline our work.





Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## Our Impact

- **72.1%** of the Bruce Trail is on permanently protected land
- **1,395 km of Trail** ready to be explored
- **20,000 acres** of precious Niagara Escarpment land under our care
- **93 species of conservation concern** recorded on BTC-managed land
- **1,450** dedicated volunteers, who give their time and talents to support our mission
- In 2024, the Bruce Trail **facilitated 1.4 million hours in nature**



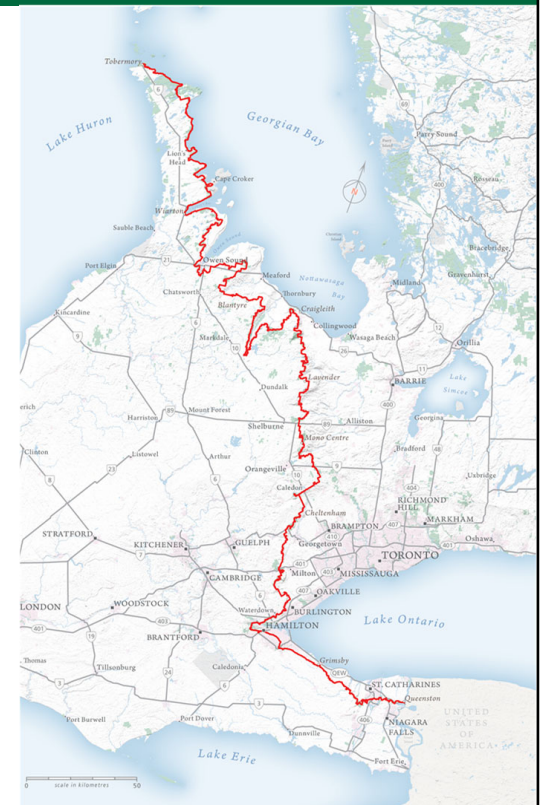


Bruce Trail  
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## Economic Impact Key Findings

### By the numbers...

- **2.4 million** visits/year to the Bruce Trail
- **1.0 million unique** visits/year to the Bruce Trail
- **674,000** destination visits (travelers coming specifically to hike)
- **\$90.2 million** in annual visitor spending
- **\$134** average spend per destination visit
- **\$11.9 million** in Provincial Tax revenue annually
- **\$13.3 million** in Federal Tax revenue annually
- **729** jobs supported annually
- **\$43.6 million** in total labour income
- **\$78.4 million** in GDP impact





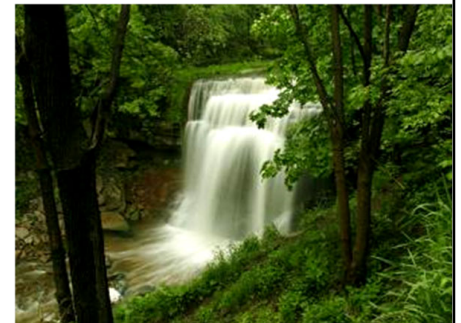
Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## The Importance of the Bruce Trail

The Bruce Trail is more than a footpath, it is an open natural corridor linking parks and natural areas that include significant ecological values and natural, historical, cultural and archeological features along the **Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve**.

The importance of the Bruce Trail was codified in the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) which specifically states that all entities within the NEP must “**find permanence for the Bruce Trail**”. We have a legislative mandate to complete our work, which is for the benefit of all.

The BTC has “**special powers**” within the NEP. We are listed as a public body and the plan affords us the right to create **conservation severances**.

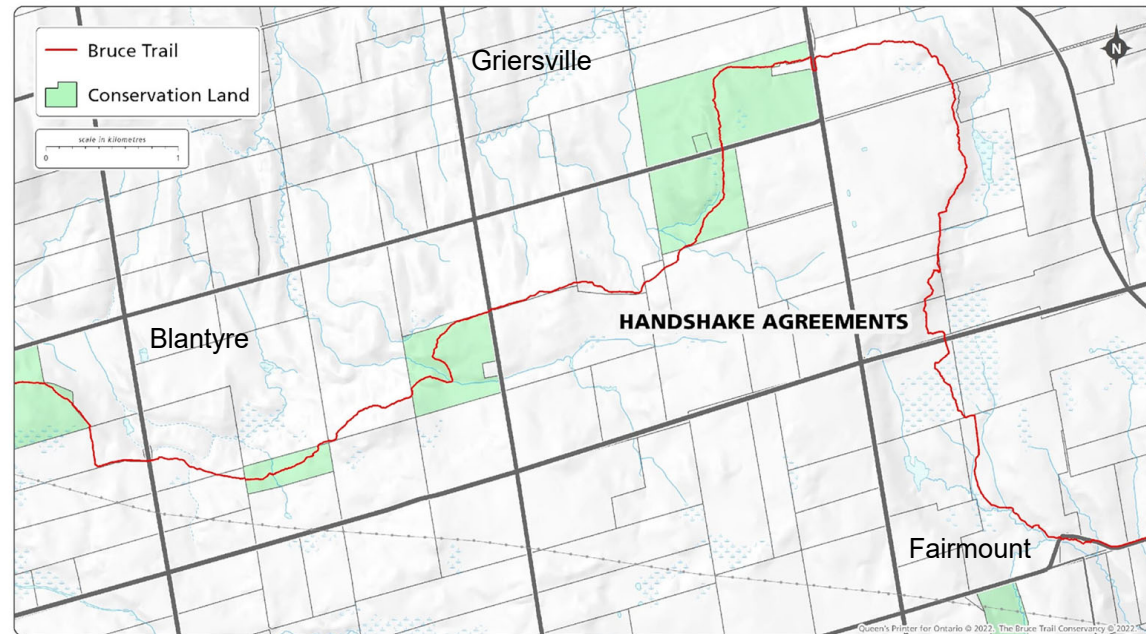




Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## The Power of our Work (1963)

The Bruce Trail was founded on handshake agreements, which provided trail continuity between publicly accessible conservation land.

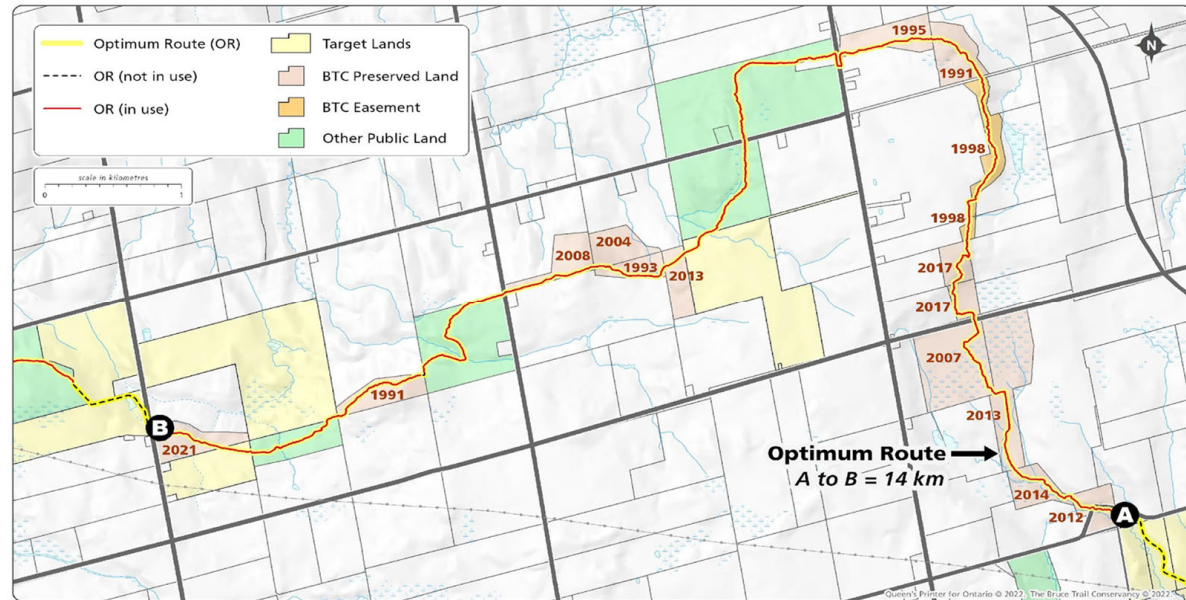




Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## A Win for Nature and Community (2025)

This same map shows **31 years** of BTC land securement. Yellow properties are remaining target lands to be secured.





Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## The Challenge

- To date, **72.1%** of the Bruce Trail is secure.
- We need **630 additional properties** to permanently protect the Bruce Trail within a conservation corridor.
- Approximately **400** of these parcels will require severances.
- Severances are administratively burdensome, costly, lengthy, and misaligned with the low-risk, high-benefit nature of conservation acquisitions – especially for smaller Municipalities.
- Additionally, the **length of time it takes to get a severance** (approx. **285 days** or **10 months**) is a friction point for landowners who want to support our work, which is then creating an additional barrier to securement.





## The Problem: Square Peg, Round Hole

The current Planning Act consent process is designed to manage growth, control density, and ensure adequate servicing for new developments. However, BTC acquisitions are the exact *opposite* of development.

### **Misaligned Process:**

Conservation severances do not create new building lots, do not require municipal servicing (water/sewer), and do not increase school board or traffic burdens. Yet, they are subjected to the same rigorous public meetings, circulation periods, and appeal windows as a private subdivision.

### **Administrative Waste:**

Municipal planning staff must process routine files that have *zero negative impact*, consuming hours of staff time on reports for applications that are virtually never refused.

### **Resource Drain:**

Every dollar the BTC spends on severance application fees, planning consultants, and legal representation for routine files is a *dollar not spent on protecting nature* and supporting Ontario communities.



Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## The Solution: Streamlining Conservation

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) requests a procedural exemption or streamlined pathway for "conservation severances", specifically, the severance of land for the sole purpose of environmental protection and securing the Bruce Trail corridor.

Exempting the BTC from this process—or creating a "delegated approval" model—would save municipal staff time, reduce taxpayer costs, and accelerate the protection of the Niagara Escarpment.

We propose that the Province recognize the Bruce Trail Conservancy as a "Public Body" in the Planning Act for the purpose of land severance, similar to the status often afforded to Conservation Authorities or infrastructure bodies.

**To move forward, we need the support of Municipal champions.**



## Benefit to Municipalities

Granting this exemption is a strategic win for the municipality. The change would:

**Reduce Red Tape:**

Frees up the Committee of Adjustment and planning staff to focus on complex development applications that impact the community.

**Eliminates Unnecessary**

**Hearings:** Removes non-controversial items from crowded council or committee agendas.

**Climate Resilience:**

Accelerated land acquisition protects wetlands and forests that provide natural flood mitigation and carbon sequestration for the municipality.



## Benefit to Municipalities (Continued)

Additional benefits to the Municipality:

**Support Risk Management:** By transferring land from private owners to the BTC, the municipality ensures the land is managed by a professional organization with liability insurance and stewardship staff, reducing the likelihood of by-law complaints (e.g., dumping, trespassing) often associated with vacant private land.

**Official Plan Conformity:** Most Official Plans already have targets for increasing green space, protecting natural heritage, and promoting active transportation. This exemption helps the municipality hit those targets at *no cost to the taxpayer*.



**Bruce Trail**  
CONSERVANCY

## **Benefit to Municipalities (Continued)**

Additional benefits to the Municipality:

### **Tourism Revenue:**

The Bruce Trail is a major economic driver. Securing the route ensures the Trail remains open and safe, bringing hikers who support local businesses.

### **Recreational and Mental Health Benefits:**

Scientific research shows that spending time in nature benefits a person's physical and mental health. The Bruce Trail provides a recreational resource free to the public to help them improve their wellbeing and connect with their natural heritage.



## Precedents and Justification

**Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP):** The BTC is already recognized as a "Public Body" within the NEP for the purpose of severing land. Extending this recognition to the municipal process is a logical harmonization of policy.

**Conservation Authorities:** Conservation Authorities often benefit from streamlined land securement processes. The BTC acts as a partner to these authorities, often securing land that connects conservation authority properties.

**Tribunal Rulings:** The Ontario Land Tribunal (e.g., Bruce Trail Conservancy v. Town of Mono, 2025) has recently ruled that treating BTC acquisitions like private development (specifically regarding parkland levies) is unreasonable because the land is the parkland. This legal momentum supports the argument that BTC applications should be treated as a distinct class of planning activity.



## Addressing Concerns

Municipal Concern	BTC Response
<b>"What if you sell the land for development later?"</b>	We are a registered charity and land trust. We can agree to a condition that the severed lands be immediately rezoned to "Conservation/Open Space" or have a restrictive covenant applied, legally preventing future development.
<b>"We need the application fees."</b>	The cost of staff time to process these applications likely equals or exceeds the fee revenue. The net financial impact on the municipality is neutral or positive when long-term ecosystem services are considered.
<b>"Loss of Control."</b>	The municipality retains control through zoning. The exemption is strictly for the conservation severance (lot creation) step, not for land use changes.



Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

## Conclusion

The Bruce Trail Conservancy is not a developer; we are a partner in building sustainable, healthy communities. By removing the administrative friction of the standard severance process, municipalities can help secure a world-class natural asset for their residents forever, while reducing their own administrative burden today.

**The Province has been supportive in principle, but we need Municipal champions to take leadership on this and help us do more for nature.**





Bruce Trail  
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# Appendix



**Bruce Trail**  
CONSERVANCY

## **Burlington Example: Hollow Oak Nature Reserve**

*HMK (File No. B-002-2025)*

A crucial acquisition for Trail continuity and for protection of the conservation corridor, the securement of Hollow Oak prevented a potential on-road Trail detour of approximately 3.5 km on Highway 5/Dundas Street and Guelph Line.

This highly accessible and popular hiking location for thousands of Burlington residents and visitors contains mature woodlands and Escarpment features in a near-urban environment.

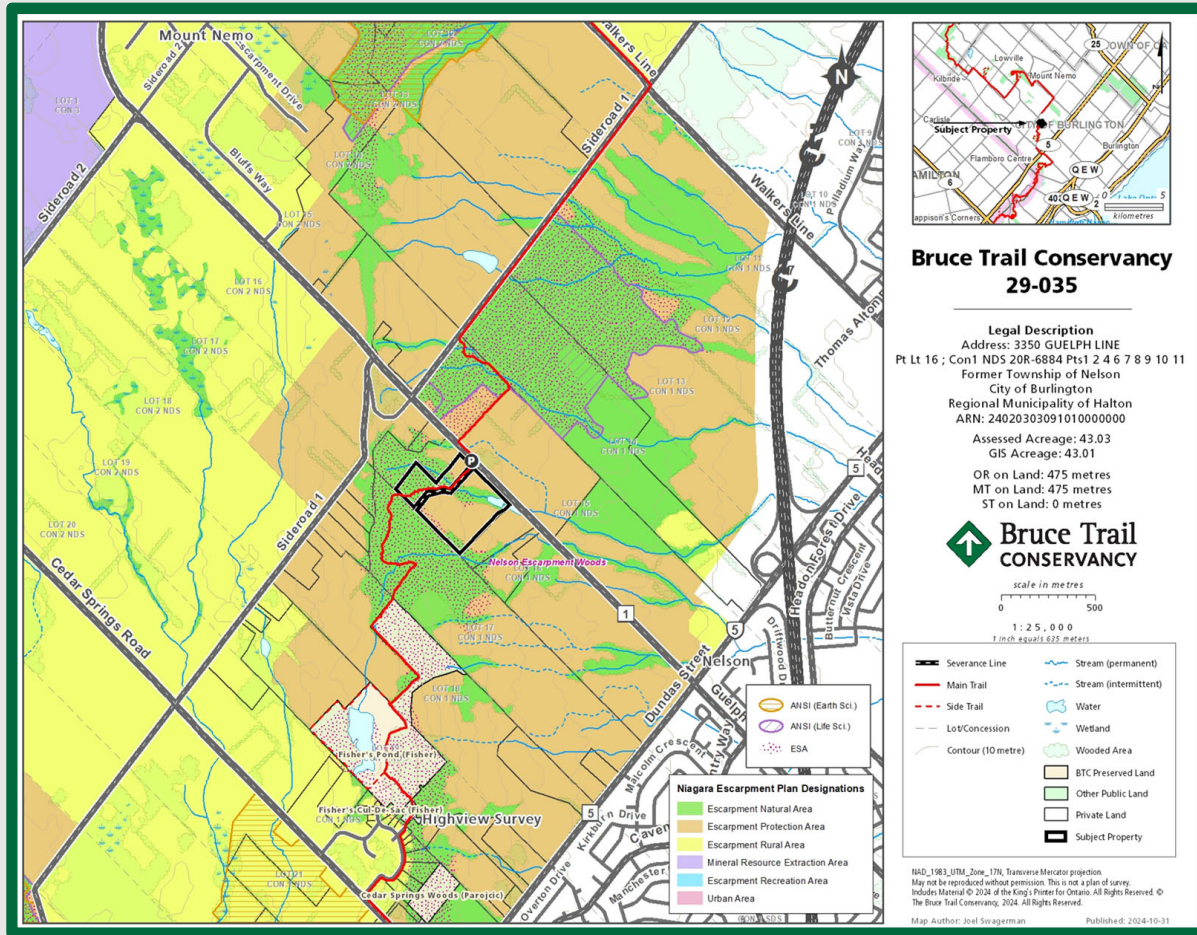


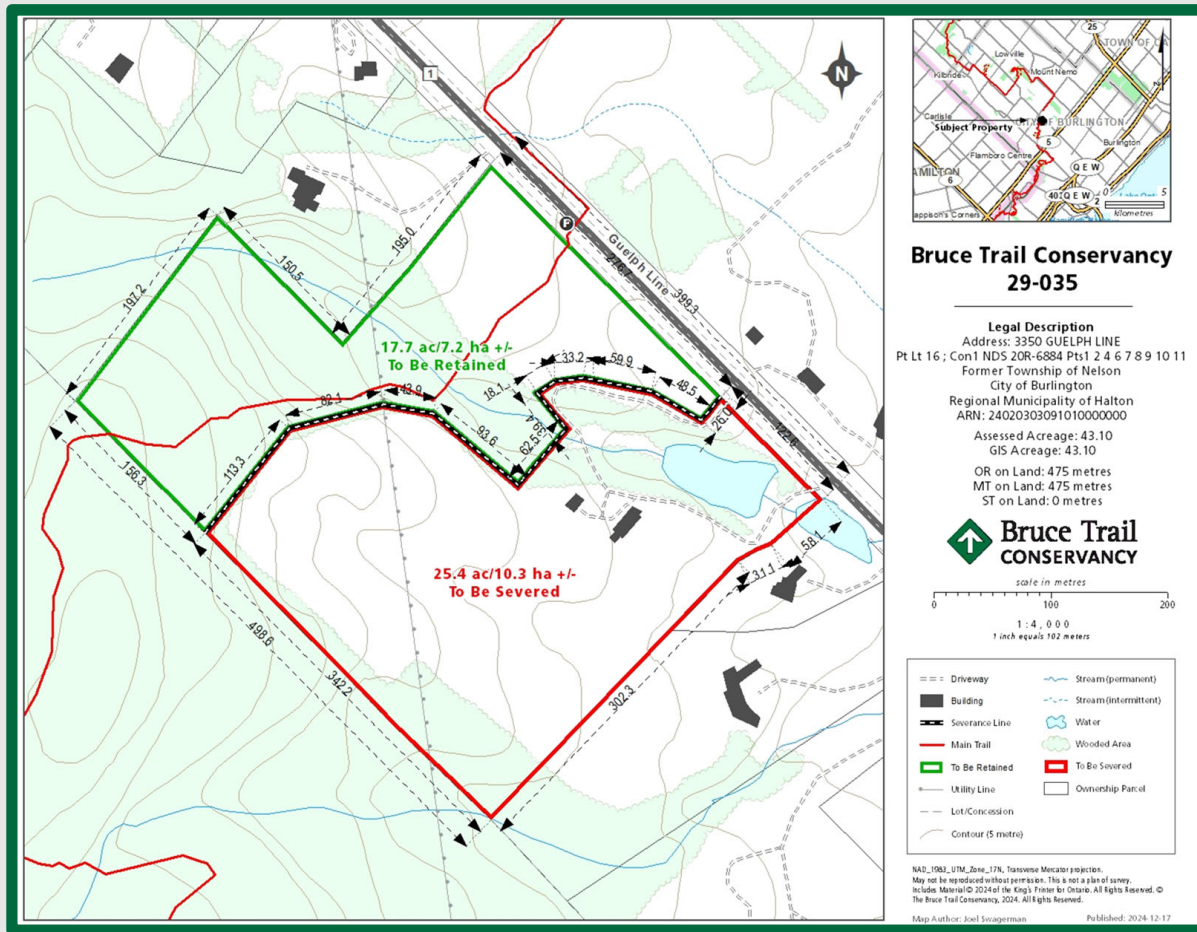


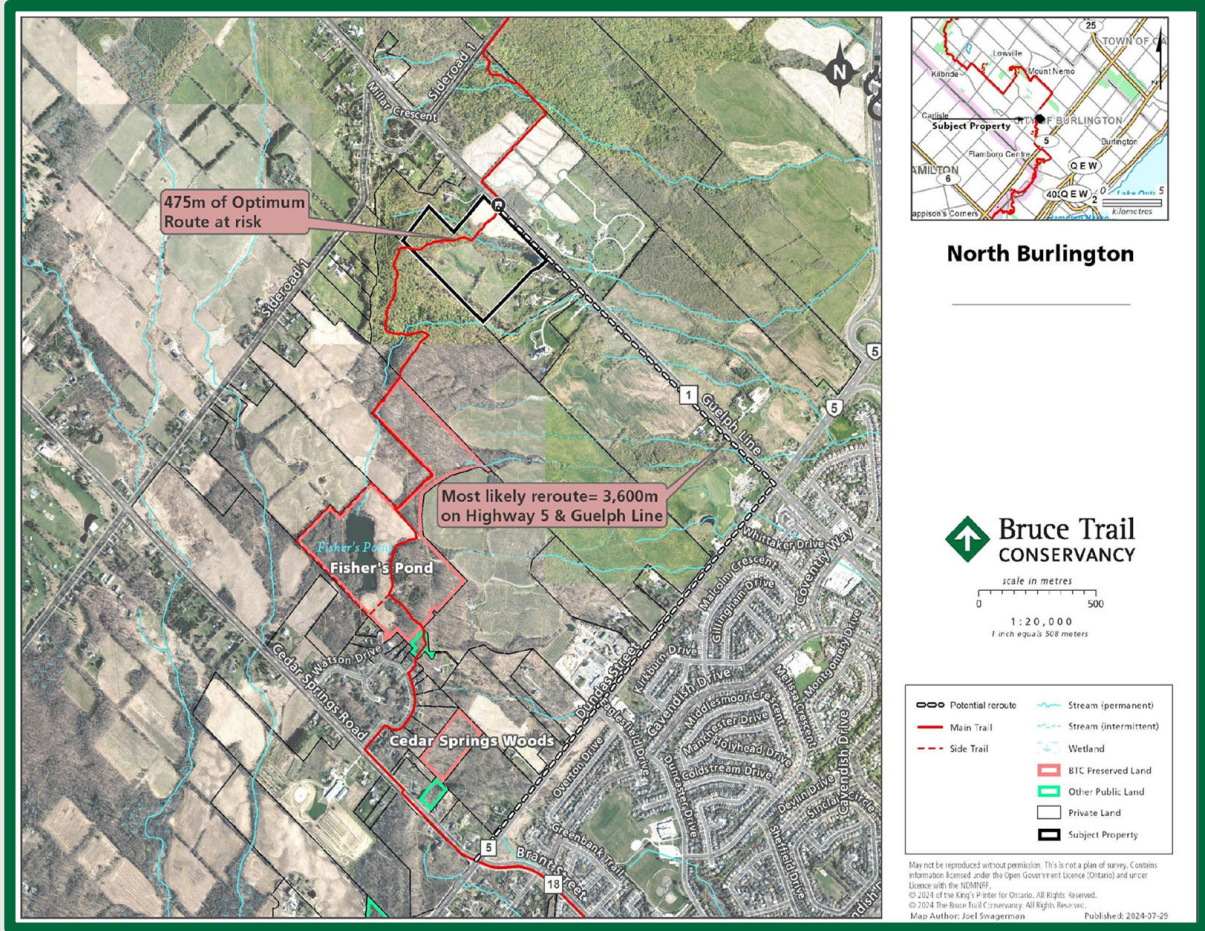
## **Burlington Example: Hollow Oak Nature Reserve**

*HMK (File No. B-002-2025)*

- A pre-consultation application was submitted on August 29, 2024. After this was submitted, the BTC completed its acquisition of the property (October 10) and a change was made to the proposed severance configuration. The pre-consultation application was revised and resubmitted on October 28, 2024.
- The formal consent application was submitted on March 12, 2025 (City requires a surveyor's sketch with the application—most municipalities accept a draft plan after the submission)
- Public notice was posted and distributed on March 19, 2025.
- Staff report and draft list of conditions of consent issued April 28, 2025. Notice of decision issued May 13 (last day to appeal June 3). Certificate of Consent issued June 9, 2025.









**Bruce Trail**  
CONSERVANCY

## **Burlington Example: Killbride Pass**

*Bonanno (File No. B-005/23)*

A critical 1.5-acre corridor acquisition for Trail continuity and safety, the securement of Killbride Pass resulted in the removal of 2 km of Trail from Twiss and Derry Roads and provided for a safe hiking route through the village of Kilbride.

The process started in February 2023 with a phone conversation with the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment. At this point it had been almost 5 years since BTC had last completed a conservation severance in the City, so coupled with staff turnover, there was no institutional memory about how the City and BTC had worked together in the past.

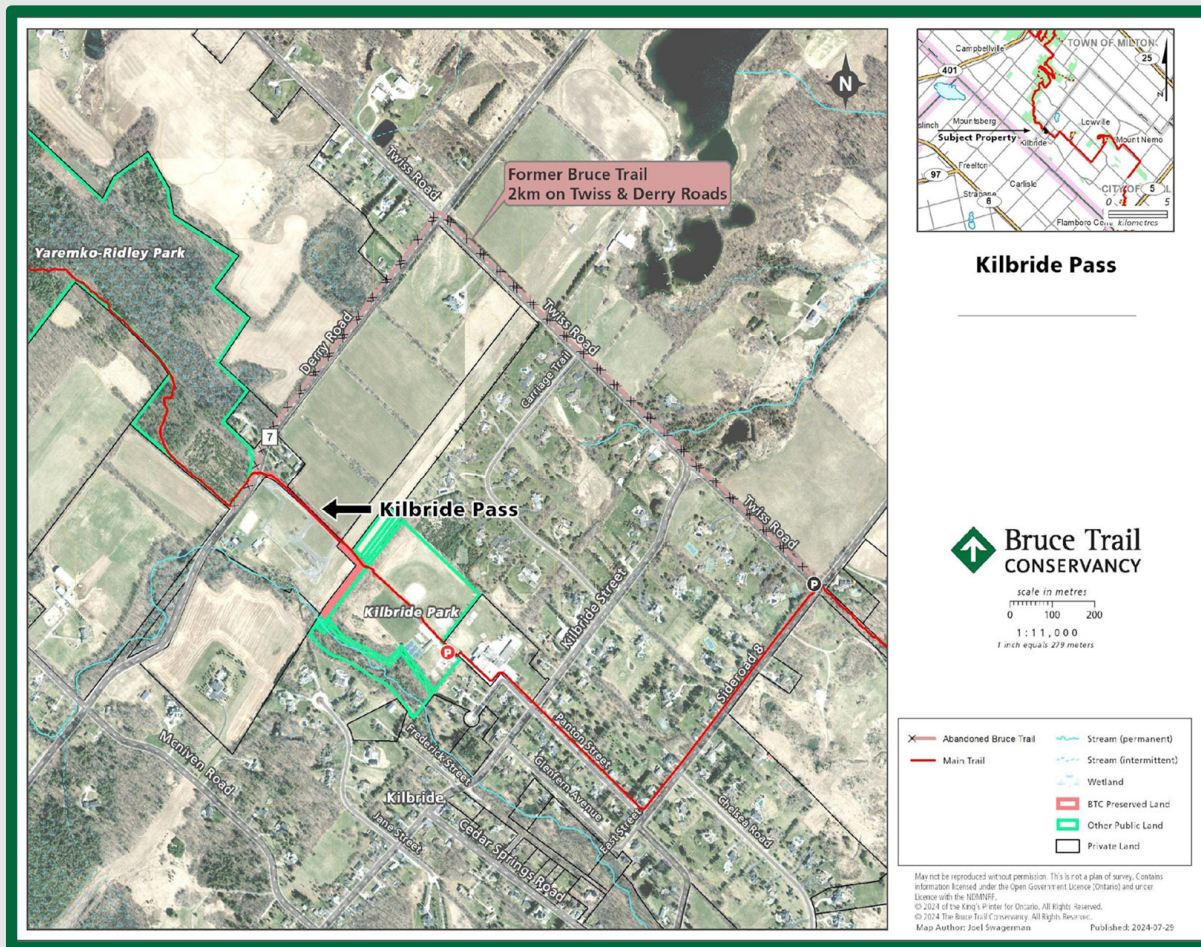


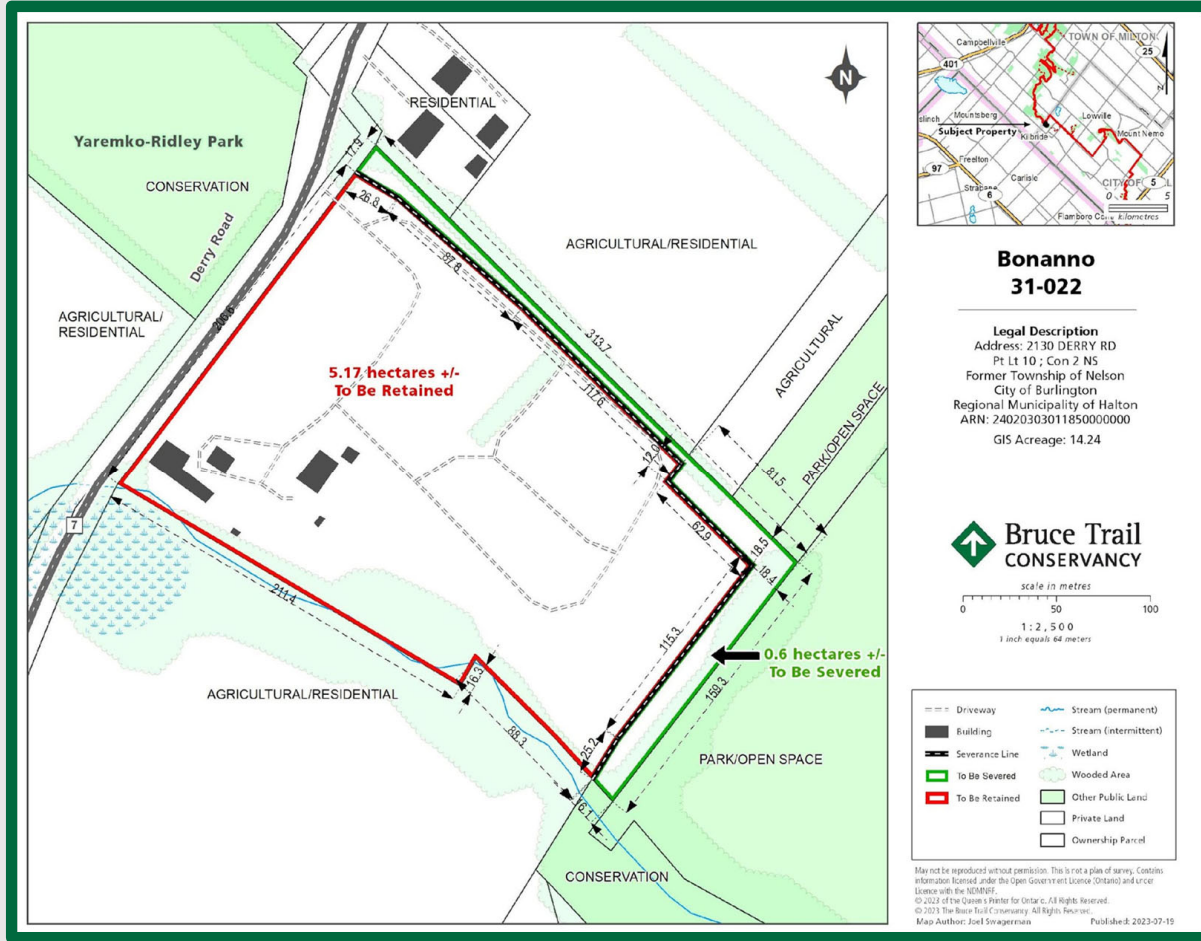


## **Burlington Example: Killbride Pass**

*Bonanno (File No. B-005/23)*

- A pre-consultation application was submitted April 12, 2023, with comments and a report delivered to us at the end of June, together with the approval to proceed with a consent application. No rationale was provided for this delay.
- The landowner in this case was particularly challenging to deal with and requested multiple changes to the configuration of the severance. This complicated and delayed our application further, which ultimately was not submitted until July 20, 2023.
- The City's review of the application took until October 10, 2023, when a Notice of Decision was issued (by the Director of Planning). After some revisions to remove boilerplate conditions that did not apply to a conservation severance, the Notice of Decision was made final October 18.
- The Certificate of Consent was issued November 30, 2023 after BTC and the landowner were able to satisfy the seven conditions of consent.





**Bonanno  
31-022**

**Legal Description**  
 Address: 2130 DERRY RD  
 Pt Lt 10 ; Con 2 N5  
 Former Township of Nelson  
 City of Burlington  
 Regional Municipality of Halton  
 ARN: 2402030301185000000  
 GIS Acreage: 14.24



**Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY**  
 scale in metres  
 0 50 100  
 1 : 2,500  
 1 inch equals 64 metres

- Driveway
- Stream (permanent)
- Building
- Stream (intermittent)
- Severance Line
- Wetland
- To Be Severed
- Wooded Area
- To Be Retained
- Other Public Land
- Private Land
- Ownership Parcel


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 Map Author: Joel Swagerman Published: 2023-07-19




Bruce Trail  
CONSERVANCY

Thank you

[brucetrail.org](http://brucetrail.org)

 TheBruceTrailConservancy

 @brucetrail\_btc

*Preserving a ribbon of wilderness,  
for everyone, forever.*



OFFICE of the MAYOR  
CITY of BURLINGTON

March 16, 2026

**The Honourable Rob Flack**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
College Park 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Flack,

On behalf of the City of Burlington, I am writing to express our strong support for the Bruce Trail Conservancy's (BTC) request to be formally recognized as a "**Public Body**" under the *Planning Act* for the purpose of **land severances**.

Granting this procedural exemption for conservation severances is a common-sense legislative update that will significantly reduce municipal red tape, save taxpayer dollars, and accelerate the protection of Ontario's natural heritage.

There is already strong precedent for this action. The BTC is already recognized as a "Public Body" within the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) for the purpose of severing land. Extending this same recognition to the *Planning Act*, similar to the status afforded to Conservation Authorities, is a logical harmonization of provincial policy. Furthermore, the municipality will still retain ultimate control over land use through our local zoning by-laws; this exemption simply removes the administrative friction of the lot creation step.

As you know, the Bruce Trail is an iconic recreational asset and a powerful economic driver for our local communities. To complete this **900-km conservation corridor**, the BTC needs to secure **630 additional properties**, of which **approximately 400 will require land severances**.

Currently, our municipal planning staff must process these conservation severances through the standard consent application process. Because the BTC is not acquiring these lands for development but instead strictly for environmental protection and trail continuity, these applications have no negative impact and have in the past never been refused. Moreover, subjecting a conservation charity to the same administrative hurdles as a private developer creates significant inefficiencies for our municipality:

- **Frees Up Critical Staff Capacity:** Processing these routine files consumes hours of staff, clerk, and committee time. Exempting the BTC from this process would immediately free up our municipal planning staff to focus on complex files and priority initiatives, such as housing and economic development.

Mayor's Office | 426 Brant Street, PO Box 5013, Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6  
Phone: 905-335-7777 | Email: [mayor@burlington.ca](mailto:mayor@burlington.ca)

- **Improves Financial Efficiency:** The municipal cost of staff time to process these applications likely equals or exceeds the fee revenue incurred. In addition, every dollar the BTC spends on severance application fees, planning consultants, and legal representation is a dollar diverted away from protecting land in Ontario.
- **Enhances Risk Management:** When the BTC assumes ownership of Escarpment lands, they bring professional stewardship and liability insurance. This reduces the likelihood of municipal by-law complaints (such as illegal dumping or trespassing) that are frequently associated with vacant private land.
- **Boosts Climate Resilience and Tourism:** Accelerating the BTC's land acquisition protects wetlands and forests that provide crucial ecosystem services to our municipality, such as flood mitigation. Furthermore, securing the route ensures the trail remains open, driving vital tourism revenue to our local businesses.

In conclusion, the BTC is a partner in building sustainable, healthy communities. We respectfully urge the Province to champion this initiative and amend the *Planning Act* to name the BTC as a public body. By removing this administrative burden, you will empower municipalities to focus on our most pressing priorities while helping secure a world-class natural asset for Ontarians forever.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important red-tape reduction measure.

Sincerely,



Mayor Marianne Meed Ward  
City of Burlington



Cc: Hon. Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction

Hon. Sylvia Jones (MPP Dufferin—Caledon)

Hon. Neil Lumsden (MPP Hamilton East—Stoney Creek)

Hon. Sam Oosterhoff (Niagara West)

MPP Joseph Racinsky (MPP Wellington—Halton Hills)

MPP Paul Vickers (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound)

MPP Brian Saunderson (Simcoe—Grey)

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MPP Zee Hamid (Milton)

MPP Natalie Pierre (Burlington)

MPP Donna Skelly (Flamborough—Glanbrook)

MPP Monica Ciriello (Hamilton Mountain)

MPP Robin Lennox (Hamilton Centre)

MPP Sandy Shaw (Hamilton—Ancaster—Dundas)

MPP Jennifer Stevens (St. Catherines)

MPP Jeff Burch (Niagara Centre)

MPP Wayne Gates (Niagara Falls)

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**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2026-1746

June 1, 2026

On May 25, 2026, our government introduced the proposed [Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026](#) (Bill 119). Through this legislation, we are proposing new tools to address zoning by-law contraventions which respond to recommendations and requests from municipal leaders. The proposed *Planning Act* changes, if passed, would enable municipalities to use an administrative monetary penalty (AMP) system for zoning by-law contraventions which relate to land uses that are not permitted.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed changes. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting [026-0558](#) Proposed Planning Act Changes (Schedule 7 of Bill 119 - *Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026* ) from May 26, 2026, to June 25, 2026. The government invites you to review the [Environmental Registry of Ontario and Regulatory Registry of Ontario](#) links provided above and share any feedback you may have.

If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder Relations, Caucus Affairs and Public Appointments, Tanner Zelenko at [tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca](mailto:tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca).

I look forward to continued collaboration with you to address these and other important issues facing our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack".

Hon. Robert J. Flack

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c. The Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff Minister's Office

Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Laura Smith, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Laurie Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Municipal Chief Administrative Officers

## Danielle Thompson

---

**From:** Councillor Allen  
**Sent:** June 6, 2026 8:27 PM  
**To:** Clerks; Council  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cat regulations

Please add this correspondence to the next available council agenda.

Paul Allen.  
Councillor, Planning liaison  
Municipality of Grey Highlands.  
226-668-5724

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gord Thorpe <gordthorpe@aol.com>  
**Date:** June 6, 2026 at 8:02:20 PM EDT  
**To:** Council <council@greyhighlands.ca>  
**Subject: Cat regulations**

Hello,

I am writing to you to address a problem in some of our communities. Currently we have no regulations for cats in our urban communities. I live in Eugenia on a street with just 5 houses but we currently have 8 cats who roam the neighbourhood. These cats are killing all of the local wildlife. Chipmunks, birds, squirrels and even raccoons have been attacked by these cats. The reason I love to live here is how close we are to the wild life. We have lots of little visitors who come to see us daily. But when we looked into this cat problem we realised unlike many other jurisdictions across Ontario Grey Highlands has no regulations for roaming cats. In Owen Sound just up the road Cats are required to be licensed and must display the license if outdoors. They must also be kept on the owners property or leashed when outdoors. I'm not asking for rural properties to have restrictions as farm cats are working animals, but our towns should have rules. Markdale, Flesherton, Eugenia, Maxwell, Feversham, Ceylon, Rocklyn should all have some sort of cat regulations before our eco system is damaged beyond repair.

Someone getting a cat to be an outdoor cat is not a thing.

Gord Thorpe

## Danielle Thompson

---

**From:** Councillor Allen  
**Sent:** June 6, 2026 8:34 PM  
**To:** Clerks  
**Cc:** Council; Barry Croft  
**Subject:** Re: Sproule Street Safety

Please add this correspondence to the next available council agenda.

Paul Allen.  
Councillor, Planning liaison  
Municipality of Grey Highlands.  
226-668-5724

> On Jun 6, 2026, at 12:42 PM, Barry Lynn Croft <croftbarry4@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

> Hello everyone. My name is Barry Croft. I live in Markdale. My concern is the safety of Sproule St and Mark St East.  
> Since the new school opened, these two streets have become very busy with both car traffic and foot traffic. The sidewalk on Sproule Street is in such poor condition that parents are pushing strollers down the road which is dangerous because Sproule St is narrow to begin with. I would have thought that replacement of this sidewalk would have been a priority. The hydro poles are an issue as well but the sidewalk could be widened to 5 feet without moving the poles. I suggest that Transportation make this sidewalk a priority to council before school resumes in September of this year, and replacement of Mark St E in 2027. I also believe that putting parking on only one side of the streets would make them safer. As council knows, safety in small towns and villages is paramount because we don't want to see anyone get hurt or worse. I would invite all of you to drive down those streets between 8:20 and 9:00 on a school day to get a better understanding of the issue. School is out in two weeks, so please do this soon.

> I look forward to a quick and informed response to my concerns.

> Thank you.

> Barry Croft

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**By-law No. 2026-064**

**A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands**

**Whereas**, the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c 25, Section 5 (1) and (3), provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its council and shall be exercised by by-law unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise; and

**Whereas**, it is deemed expedient that the actions of all meetings of Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands be confirmed by by-law;

**Now Therefore the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands hereby enacts as follows:**

1. That the actions of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands in respect of each motion, resolution or other action passed, taken or adopted at the June 17, 2026 Council meeting are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed as if same were expressly included in this by-law, provided that such adoption and confirmation shall not be deemed to include the final passing of a by-law that requires the prior approval of a Minister, a Ministry, the Ontario Municipal Board or any other governmental body; and
2. That the Mayor and proper officials of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the action of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Grey Highlands referred to in Section 1; and
3. That the Mayor and the Clerk or their deputies are authorized and directed to execute all documents and affix the seal of the Corporation as required to the actions taken by Council as described in Section 1; and
4. That this by-law shall come into effect upon the passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time, and finally passed on .

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McQueen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Fines-VanAlstine, Clerk