



## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 10TH, 2:00 P.M.**

**ROOM 304, CITY HALL**

### **AGENDA**

1. Disclosures of Interest
2. Selection of Chairman
3. Confirmation of Minutes : April 12, 2018
4. Overview of Parks and Valleylands, Sensitive Areas – Parks and Recreation Department
5. Defining the Lake Margaret Area
6. Developing Committee Priorities
7. Correspondence
8. New Business
  - a) Correspondence from David and Barbara Collins **Page 2-3**
  - b) Correspondence from Kara Taylor **Page 4**
  - c) Correspondence from Kevin and Janet McLeod **Pages 5-7**
9. Adjournment
10. Next Meeting : June 14, 2018 2:00 p.m.

For addition to the New Business Section of Agenda for the May 10, 2018 Environmental Stewardship Committee

Respectfully submitted by David and Barbara Collins 166 Lake Margaret Trail St. Thomas

Emailed, as per instructions from W. Graves, to Melanie Knapp, Committee Secretary

The City of St. Thomas currently has an abundance of options for physical and recreational activities for all ages ranging from pools, arenas, trails, sports fields, private activity clubs, team sports and seniors' centers.

We are very pleased that the role of the Environmental Stewardship Committee is the enhancement and preservation of Lake Margaret, a "no access" lake, and a unique natural environment within our city.

Role of the Environmental Stewardship Committee (as it concentrates on Lake Margaret in the first two years)

During Wendell's introductory remarks to the members of the committee on April 12 he stated, the prime objective of the committee is to develop a "natural environment action plan for the City". Wendell also stated that the committee needs to "establish environmental stewardship priorities for the natural environment".

This is a very worthy objective and will tax the committee and its creativity and expertise to accomplish this task. But this objective will need to exclude items such as Dogs on Leash Bylaw, water flow, grass/property maintenance/cutting, no fishing, goose management, enforcement, bylaw modification, bylaw creation and Signage which are under the purview of City governance as they rest in the sphere of policy and procedures.

Wendell stated that the committee must "begin to establish priorities". This committee, in the Lake Margaret watershed area, should be examining and making prioritized recommendations on the following:

- controlling water level fluctuation due to lower water table levels, water draws on the terminable lease with Parkside S.S. which causes water to drop continuously once they start watering their sports fields
- assessing and verifying water inflow to the lake and possible blockage of natural water intakes/inlets into the lake
- recommending methods to curtail and halt shoreline erosion primarily caused by high/low water fluctuation, goose over population and resident removal of shoreline vegetation
- continue to examine methods of goose poop control to protect the current and future pathways and trails for pedestrian enjoyment, through natural or artificial barriers
- look into an appropriate fish species restocking plan to repopulate the fish in the lake and bring back the fish-eating birds.
- removal of willow shrubs/ trees and replacing with alternate dwarf or prune capable native plants which will not undermine and damage infrastructure
- encouraging and writing public service announcements about the lake for delivery at the local schools and in the newspaper (No access lake)
- work with the city to develop and encourage the "Carry In - Carry Out Garbage" endeavour
- remember to treat the lake residents with respect as we are not the enemy, but remember that we have certain written guarantees in our purchase contracts which were not negated in the land transfer
- developing strategies to successfully fulfill the circle of life on the lake
- Lake Margaret is a No Access lake. Look, See, Enjoy, Appreciate.

For addition to the New Business Section of Agenda for the May 10, 2018 Environmental Stewardship Committee

Respectfully submitted by David and Barbara Collins 166 Lake Margaret Trail St. Thomas

Emailed, as per instructions from W. Graves, to Melanie Knapp, Committee Secretary

At the conclusion of the transfer of lands in and around Lake Margaret from Doug Tarry Homes to the City of St. Thomas, Doug Tarry Homes made a donation or trust for \$60,000.00 to the City. Please explain what caveats, rules, suggestions, promises, etc accompanied the donation. Did the City make any promises or pledges as to how, when and under whose authority the money was to be used?

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## Knapp, Melanie

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**From:** Kara Taylor [kara@afinedesign.ca]  
**Sent:** May-01-18 8:48 PM  
**To:** Knapp, Melanie  
**Subject:** ESC - New Business

Hi Melanie

I was directed to email you with concerns that should go to the Environmental Committee under "New Business"

1) Garbage Cans are gone around Lake Margaret Area - Catherine Spratley has advised me that the cans were taken away because they think it is a better policy to have people carry out their own garbage, (which sounds great in theory that people could actually be responsible) but in real practice 12 year olds walking their dogs and fishing around the lake don't take their garbage home with them. Other residents I have spoken with support bringing back the cans. There needs to be a solution to this.

2) Fishing around the lake - Is not allowed. It has become rampant around the Lake this spring. With many people fishing they leave behind garbage and fishing lines endangering wildlife species and also leave their dead fish littering the shorelines causing an unpleasant odor. Also kids fishing with nets in the Turtle Sanctuary taking turtles (witnessed last weekend). Signs are desperately needed around the lake to educate people that there is no fishing. The loitering behind the residences is getting out of control.

3) I would like the ESC to consider planting one or many pollinator gardens in the area to encourage butterflies, bees and hummingbirds to the area which will benefit the flora and fauna. Residents have been cutting the areas behind their homes where there was a lot of milkweed growing. I will volunteer my time to plant flowers if that is an area that needs assistance.

4) Last year we witnessed the Turtle pond sanctuary grow dangerously low due to the new drainage at Millers Pond subdivision (on the North Side of Southdale line). Will anything be done to compensate for this and keep the Turtle pond safe?

Thank you kindly for your time,

Kara Taylor  
A Fine Design  
519-619-5272  
[www.afinedesign.ca](http://www.afinedesign.ca)

For the past fourteen years we have watched the Lake Margaret area expand. We use, enjoy and appreciate what this area has to offer. We have seen how nature, weather and wildlife interact as we walk here almost daily.

Soil erosion along the lakeshore has become a problem. High water levels are greatest in the spring due to snow and ice melt and rainfall. Also the outlet at the east end has a restricted water flow due to debris accumulation at the three culverts on the lake side and as they exit on the east side of the pathway.

At this time of the year the soil is saturated with moisture and easily eroded by the pounding of the rapid choppy waves driven by the blustery south westerly to north westerly winds. Removal and aggressive cutting of native shrubs and grasses along water's edge is also a major factor.

Erosion could possibly be reduced if:

Water level was kept lower by removal of debris at outlet culverts

Prohibit the cutting of shrubs and grasses along the shoreline because their roots help to stabilize the soil

As for the geese, they like humans like to take the easiest path. By cutting and removal of the natural barrier of shrubs and grasses along the shoreline they have easy access to the pathways and freshly cut grass along the fences and the Jim Waite Park area (east end).

Once here they forage on the fresh grass along with depositing hundreds of pounds of feces. The pathway and J.W. Park are almost impossible to navigate without stepping on GOOSE GREASE!!! It sticks to everything.

To assist in discouraging the geese, removal of easily accessible food source might be achieved by planting of wildflower seeds and native grasses (something geese don't eat?). If the J.W. Park area and grass along property line fences abutting the lake were left in a more natural state the geese would have to congregate somewhere else to eat.

Also money could be saved by not having to cut the grass area around the Lake and Park. Hopefully in time the geese population would decline and so would the FECES!!!

Believe me, for those who live in the area the "GOOSE GREASE" is a REAL PROBLEM.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all those who have been responsible for the many hours they have spent trying to improve the Lake Margaret area for the enjoyment of our community. So, many thanks to you All !!!

*April 12, 2018*

*Kenn & Janet McLeod  
Beckwood Circle*



Sept 12, 2018

INLET TO CULVERTS @ EAST END OF LAKE M.

