



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2:00 P.M.

JIM WAITE PARKETTE

AGENDA

1. Tour of Lake Margaret Area
2. Correspondence
 - a) Water Quality Standards - David and Barbara Collins **Page 2**
 - b) Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan - Kara Taylor, Elgin Sleightholm, and David Collins **Pages 3-8**
 - c) Fishing in Lake Margaret - David and Barbara Collins **Pages 9-21**
3. Adjournment
4. Next Meeting : July 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in Room #304

City of St. Thomas
Received
JUN 04 2018
City Clerk's Dept.

To: Members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee

For your information: Water quality standards (Federal, Provincial, Municipal)

Health Canada

Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality Third Edition

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidelines-canadian-recreational-water-quality-third-edition.html>

Province of Ontario

Policies, Guidelines, Provincial Water Quality Objectives

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/water-management-policies-guidelines-provincial-water-quality-objectives>

Province of Ontario

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Hazardous Contaminants and Standards Branch

Scientific Criteria for Microbiological Standards for Recreational Waters

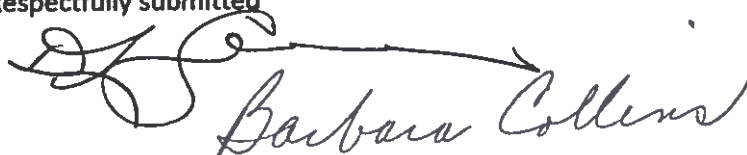
agrienvarchive.ca/download/sci_crit_micro_stds_rec_waters_84.pdf

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health

Beaches

<https://www.elginhealth.on.ca/your-environment/environmental-health/recreational-water/beaches>

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Collins', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

David and Barbara Collins

Mayor Heather Jackson

Chair

Environmental Stewardship Committee

June 7, 2018

City of St. Thomas
Received
JUN 04 2018
City Clerks Dept.

Members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee,

The Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan 2010 was passed by St Thomas City Council on September 13, 2010 (Report PR-13-10). Ross Tucker, Director of Parks and Recreation prepared and presented a report to Council. This report presented the Purpose of the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Report was to ensure that the environmental integrity of Lake Margaret...is maintained and the Management Principles states that "watercraft will not be allowed and fishing will not be allowed. (see copy attached). Council voted to endorse the Lake Margaret Environmental Plan 2010.

The actual Management Plan specifically addresses Watercraft and Fishing and states NO to both. Council endorsed this as well. (see copy attached)

St. Thomas City Council on November 6, 2017 voted in favour of Report ADM 21-17 to complete the transfer of lands from Doug Tarry Limited to the City of St. Thomas. It was at this meeting that Councilor Wookey spoke about opening Lake Margaret to kayaks, canoes and fishing. He was informed on three occasions by Mayor Jackson, CAO Graves and Councilor Clarke that watercraft and fishing were NOT permitted under the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan agreed to by Council in 2010.

It was disheartening at the May 10, 2018 meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee that Mayor Jackson, Chair of the committee and/or CAO Graves did not immediately tell Harald Schraeder that watercraft and fishing were NOT permitted under the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan. Also, at this meeting CAO Graves told the members that they were strategic thinkers and should not get involved with City Operations.

It should also be noted that at the inaugural meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee, CAO Graves discussed the Terms of Reference for the committee: establish environmental stewardship priorities for natural environment; establish an environmental stewardship natural environment action plan for the City; for the first two years...main focus will be on Lake Margaret. (see copy attached)

When we were talking with people regarding Mr. Wookey canvassing their homes, Councilor Rymal stated that she would wait for the Environmental Stewardship Committee to make recommendations about lake usage to Council. This appears to be in direct opposition to the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan and the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Stewardship Committee members.

Mayor Jackson, as Chair, please take the opportunity at the June 14, 2018 meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee to review the Terms of Reference of the committee and also state that the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan is the Council approved document that must be adhered to when dealing with the lake.

We are sure that your statements to Council and The Committee will resonate well with the residents affected most.

Respectfully submitted

Kara Taylor

Elgin Sleightholm

David Collins

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Collins', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Attachments:

Lake Margaret Environmental Plan page 4

Report PR-13-10 September 13, 2010 Report to Council pages 1, 2

Terms of Reference Environmental Stewardship Committee April 12, 2018

need to undertake a comprehensive water quality monitoring program during a two year period and the provision of a resolution to the range of management plan options identified in Section 2.2. of this plan. The cost of the strategy will be determined at the time of approval of the terms of reference - at this time, given the anticipated two years water quality monitoring program, the estimated cost is \$30,000 per year for two years, totaling \$60,000.

The cost sharing arrangement will require the approval of the City of St. Thomas and Doug Tarry Limited.

The full contents of the biological consultant's report are contained in Appendix C to this plan.

2.4 WATER ACCESS

Water taking

There is a formal agreement providing for water taking by Canadale Nurseries and a terminable license with Parkside Collegiate for irrigation of its sports field.



Watercraft

Watercraft will not be permitted on the lake.

The only exception to the watercraft prohibition is for rowing sculls, coaching boats and a temporary dock associated with the rowing programs offered to local high school students that are operated and insured by the provincial rowing federation and established as a use prior to the development of the 2002 Master Plan. Restrictions may be placed with respect to period of use, time of use and type of motor used.

There is a location owned by the City on the north side of Lake Margaret that provides access to the lake for watercraft used for emergency services and site maintenance and operations.



Fishing

There will be no fishing on Lake Margaret.

Waterfowl management

While acknowledging that many of the waterfowl species present are not problematic, Canada Geese management may be needed in the future.

2.5 RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

A 3m wide parcel along the north shore of the lake provides an environmental and maintenance buffer between the waters of Lake Margaret and the adjacent residential development. This 3m width also provides municipal access for emergency services, and site maintenance and operations.



Corporation of the
City of St. Thomas

Report No.

PR-13-10

File No.

Directed to: Chairman David Warden and Members of the
Community Services Committee

Meeting Date:
September 13, 2010
Date Authored:
Sept. 7, 2010

Department: Parks and Recreation

Attachments:
Lake Margaret
Environmental
Management Plan 2010

Prepared By: Ross Tucker, Director of Parks and Recreation

Subject: Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan 2010

Recommendation:

THAT: Council receive Report No. PR-13-10 for information, and further;

THAT: Council endorse the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan 2010, and further;

THAT: Council authorize staff to enter into negotiations to develop an agreement with Doug. Tarry Limited regarding the transfer of lands and cost sharing related to the implementation of the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan 2010, and further;

THAT: Council create a Committee of Council which would include two members of Council along with the Directors of Environmental Services, Planning and Parks and Recreation and Legal Representation as required to negotiate an agreement for the transfer of lands and cost sharing related to the implementation of the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan 2010.

Background:

In 2002 the original Lake Margaret Conservation Area Master Plan (Lake Margaret Master Plan) was prepared with input from Doug. Tarry Limited (DTL), The City of St. Thomas (City), Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA) and the public. The objective of the original Plan was to transfer the ownership of Lake Margaret and other surrounding environmentally sensitive lands (the lands) within the Lake Margaret development area to the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority to manage. Although all parties endorsed the Master Plan the plan was not implemented and the lands remain in the ownership of DTL.

In 2007 DTL approached the City of St. Thomas to consider taking ownership of the lands and the responsibility for their management. A working group consisting of representatives from Doug. Tarry Limited, Directors of the City's Environmental Services, Planning and Parks and Recreation, and Leonard + Associates in Landscape Architecture (the consultant retained by both parties) to review the principals of the original Lake Margaret Master Plan.

The working group met on numerous occasions with the objective of developing a more current environmental management plan that would be the basis for the future management of the lands and for the transfer of the ownership of the lands to the City.

During the process, two public information centres were held to receive public input into the environmental management plan. The first session was held in November of 2008. The first draft of a revised plan was presented at this session.

Input gained from these stakeholders was subsequently discussed by the working group and a final draft of the plan was presented at a second public information centre held in January of 2010.

Purpose of the Management Plan:

The purpose of the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan is to ensure that the environmental integrity of Lake Margaret and the surrounding environmentally sensitive lands is maintained. The principals contained in this report will be the basis for the ongoing management of the lands.

Figure 4 of the attachment shows the lands currently owned by the City of St. Thomas and by Doug. Tarry Limited. The environmental management plan contains the principles for the future management of the lands owned by Doug. Tarry Limited and addresses how these lands interface with the adjacent lands owned by the City. The transfer of the lands owned by Doug. Tarry Limited to the City is subject to a successful agreement being worked out between the City of St. Thomas and Doug. Tarry Limited.

Management Principles:

The management principals of this plan include items related to water quality, water access, management areas, recreational access, paths and structures, and trail and habitat improvements have all been outlined in sections 2.1 to 2.8 of the attached report.

Water Quality: As noted in the recommendations above staff is looking for approval for a cost sharing partnership with Doug. Tarry Limited to prepare a lake water quality management strategy before the City agrees to assume ownership of the Lake Margaret. This study will be carried out by a biological consultant under the direction of the City of St. Thomas.

Water Access: Watercraft will not be allowed on the lake. Fishing will not be allowed on the lake. Exceptions for rowing programs are outlined in the report.

Management Areas: The different management areas are defined in the plan. The management of these areas is conservation based.

Recreational Access, Paths and Structures: This section describes the hierarchy of trail types for recreational use. These trail types follow the guidelines established in the 2007 Trails and Parks Master Plan.

Trail and Habitat Improvements: Doug. Tarry Limited has made a number of habitat improvements that were recommended in the Environmental Impact Study for the Lake Margaret Development. Section 2.8 of the report lists some of these improvements. Appendix A describes the specific trail and habitat improvements that have been made in implementing the Environmental Impact Study recommendations and works yet to be completed.

The report goes into further details related to land ownership, implementation of the management plan, including aquatic monitoring, capital development, and operations.

Proposed Transfer of Lands:

Staff is recommending Council create a Committee of Council which would include two members of Council along with the Directors of Environmental Services, Planning and Parks and Recreation and Legal Representation as required to negotiate an agreement for the transfer of lands and cost sharing related to the implementation of the Lake Margaret Environmental Master Plan 2010.

The agreement will incorporate the management principals enunciated with the attached plan and define responsibilities, if any, for resource monitoring, resource management and the management of passive recreational opportunities provided on the subject lands.

Lake Water Quality Management Strategy

The Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan 2010 includes the Lake's Aquatic Summary and Recommendations Report Update.

This report update recommends that a Lake Water Quality Management Strategy be undertaken that will include the completion of a comprehensive water quality monitoring program during a two-year period as well as a resolution to a range of management options that will ensure the long term sustenance or enhancement of the water quality of the lake. As these management options including the preferred option are yet to be fully evaluated and determined as well as the associated capital cost of same, staff believes that the transfer of Lake Margaret, Area A and a portion of the south shore of Lake Margaret, which is a part of the Naturalized Area, Area C as shown on Figure 2, in the plan, be deferred until the two year lake water quality management strategy study has been completed and approved by City Council.

A capital project data sheet for the preparation of this Strategy will be submitted to City Council for

COUNCIL PROCESSES / PROCEDURES

1. Council Procedures
2. Agendas / Minutes
3. Council Code of Conduct
4. Reporting to City Council
5. Budget Process
6. Access to Committee Information



TERMS OF REFERENCE (principles)

- The ESC will be a Select Committee of Council
- Membership will include: 1 Member of City Council
 - 1 Member : Parks and Recreation Department
 - 1 Member : Environmental Services Department
 - 1 Member : KCCA Administration
 - 1 Member : St. Thomas – Elgin Homebuilders Association
 - 3 Citizen Members
- Term : Coincide with Term of Council
- * Establish environmental stewardship priorities for natural environment
- * Establish an environmental stewardship natural environment action plan for the City
- * For first two years... main focus will be on the Lake Margaret Area
 - Provide education / resources relating to environmental stewardship to community
 - Focus on "public" environmental spaces
 - Provide an annual report to City Council
 - Seek environmental stewardship funding opportunities
 - Recommend priorities for potential budget allocations
 - Liaise with municipal staff as new development areas are being proposed which include environmentally sensitive areas
 - Seek out / pursue community driven participation in stewardship activities / events.



Mayor Heather Jackson

Chair

Environmental Stewardship Committee

Meeting of June 14, 2018

City of St. Thomas
Received
JUN 04 2018
City Clerks Dept.

Dear Mayor Jackson and Members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee,

Fishing and erosion

Over the years we have lived in Lake Margaret Estates we have very much enjoyed the experience of watching the fish-eating birds hunt for and successfully capture a variety of fish from Lake Margaret. Over those same years very little was ever done to encourage conservation of the fish stocks and discourage the multitude of fisherman, young and old and all ages in between, from continuing to fish out the stock of fish. No attempt was made to replenish the dwindling fish stocks with a species that could successfully adapt to the shallow, warm, low oxygenated and generally poor quality of the water.

As the summer months arrive the water levels drop due to low input from rain and ground water runoff and from the huge water draw taken by Parkside Collegiate to water their sports fields. They are the only school in the two boards of education to get their water free at the detriment of the lake. In 2017 the water stopped flowing out of the lake to the east on June 10. In 2018, the water stopped flowing out to the east on May 31.

It seemed as though the previous and likely the current owners of the lake and adjoining lands always blamed and will blame the lakeside residents for creating shore erosion when in fact the vast majority of the residents cut the grass on the RH3 land between the fence and 1 to 2 feet from the shoreline mostly to keep unwanted weeds from the backyards. Yes, some were and are possibly over exuberant, but why were they not individually spoken with when the infraction was discovered? And if you believe that letting the weeds grow unabated on the RH3 lands will discourage the geese from coming on land you are sadly mistaken and know very little about bird behaviour.

But no one ever looked at the massive and likely irreparable damage done by the fishermen as they trod through the shore vegetation to get to the water, over and over and over. Enclosed you will see the pictures of this erosion. This is one major reason why "No Fishing" is specifically highlighted in the Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan.

As an aside, the Phragmites Control Committee in 2016 was prepared to plant water vegetation along the shore to decrease erosion after the shoreline Phragmites was killed off but Doug Tarry Limited would not allow this.

Just a point of fact you may not know – each lakeside resident's fence is six inches in on our property, meaning we own six inches on the lake side of the fence and under various pieces of municipal and provincial legislation/bylaws we have a right to access our lands for maintenance. Also, under the Purchase Agreements, the lakeside residents have certain contractual rights which were not negated when the City took ownership.

It is hoped that the Environmental Stewardship Committee will design a plan to abate shoreline erosion and reclaim the damaged, barren lands left behind by the fishermen.

Sincerely,

David and Barbara Collins

Barbara Collins



Attachments:

Paper copy of Powerpoint Presentation: Fishing around Lake Margaret in black and white

SD Card with Powerpoint Presentation: Fishing around Lake Margaret in colour

Fishing around Lake Margaret

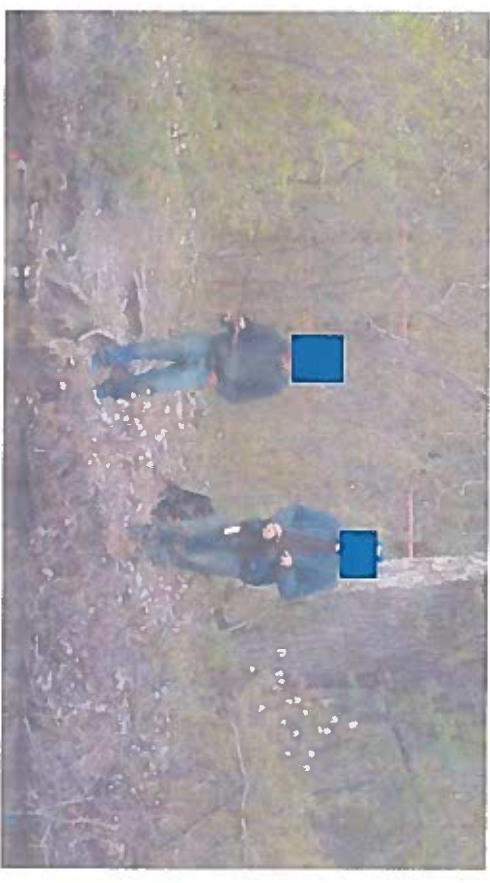


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Erosion directly attributable to
fishermen.



South shore fishing spots





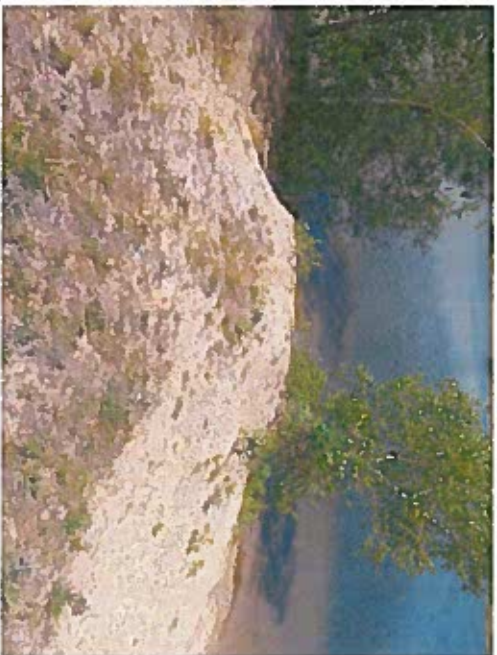
South shore fishing spots





A favourite
fishing spot
at the old
Parkside
dock area
on south
shore





- 14 -



Old Parkside Dock
area
Erosion
exacerbated by
fishermen



-15-

Ice fishing
at west end

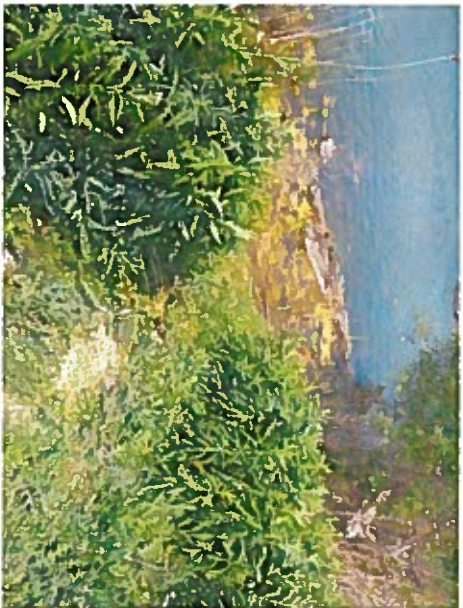


South shore
Swimming



South
shore
Beechwood
area.
Fishing
leads to
erosion.





-17-



More new
fishing spots

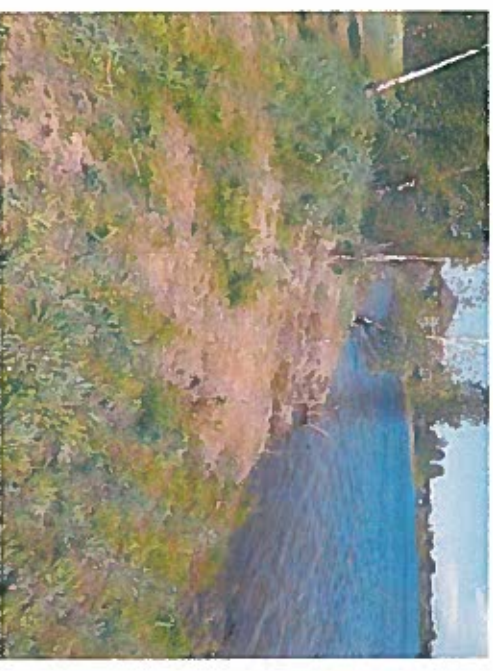




More new fishing spots



More new fishing spots





Garbage
courtesy of
fishermen



Phosphate foam



Along with fishing comes cigarette butts, beer cans, coffee cups, worm containers, drug paraphernalia, dead fish, hooks, lines, bobbers, tree toilets, foul language, property damage, noise, erosion and destruction of native plants.

WHO WILL PAY THE BILL?