

**THE TOWNSHIP OF TARBUTT  
COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2023  
CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1 a. Letter from Tulloch Engineering  
Re: 2023 Building Inspection Fees
- 2 b. Letter from the Central Algoma Intermediate & Secondary School  
Re: Donation for skating at the Desbarats Arena
- 3-4 c. Letter from the Huron North Community Economic Alliance (HNCEA)  
Re: 2022 Accomplishments, 2023 Opportunities and Annual Membership
- 5-6 d. Letter from Minister Steve Clark  
Re: Building Inspector Internship to support new home development
- 7-8 e. Resolution from the City of Cambridge  
Re: Bill 23, Affordable Housing, inclusionary zoning limits and the negative impacts on environmental protection, heritage preservation, public participation and loss of farmland
- 9 f. Resolution from the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional  
Re: Request the Province to revisit the decision to reduce virtual physician fees and fully fund this much needed medical option for all Ontarians
- 10-11 g. Resolution from the Township of Warwick  
Re: That CN Rail be required to partner with municipalities in the maintenance of drainage projects to support agriculture and other
- 12-13 h. Resolution from Northumberland County  
Re: Request the Government of Ontario to pause implementation of Bill 23
- 14-21 i. The Freshwater Connection  
Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition Newsletter, Winter 2023

Recommendation: Be it resolved that correspondence items a through j on the consent agenda dated January be received; and

That the Township of Tarbutt provide CAIS with a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_ in support of the 7/8 skating program at the Desbarats arena; and

That Council supports the resolution from The City of Cambridge requesting the province to revise their definition of affordable housing, to increase the inclusionary zoning limit beyond 5%, and to reconsider the environmental, heritage and agricultural impact of Bill 23; and

That Council supports the resolution from the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Add'l regarding full funding of virtual physician fees; and

That Council support the resolution from The Township of Warwick requesting that CN Rail partner with municipalities by contributing to municipal drains in Ontario; and

That Council support the resolution from Northumberland County asking the Government of Ontario to pause implementation of Bill 23 to engage with municipalities and other stakeholders to achieve the shared goal of increasing housing supply and improving affordability and sustainability.

December 21, 2022  
Project No.: 220026

Township of Tarbutt  
27 Barr Road South  
Desbarats  
ON, P0R 1E0

**Attn: Township of Tarbutt**

**Re: Building Inspection Services**

This letter is to update the municipality that the cost for Chief Building Official (CBO) and Building Inspection Services will increase as of January 1, 2023. The current rates were established in July of 2017, and were due to be increased in 2020, however with the COVID impacts we deferred a rate increase during that time.

TULLOCH will be increasing our rate for Mr. Kevin Morris from \$ 80/hr to \$ 92/hr, Mr. Ron Leblanc from \$ 75/hr to \$ 86/hr, while mileage costs will increase to \$ 0.60/km. Again, this represents the first rate increase since July 1, 2017 for Municipal Building Inspection Services and is in keeping with other municipalities that we provide the same service to.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Kirby'.

Chris L. Kirby, P.Eng.  
Project Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kevin Morris'.

Kevin Morris  
Chief Building Official – Building Inspector

# CENTRAL ALGOMA INTERMEDIATE & SECONDARY SCHOOL



32 Kensington Road, Desbarats, ON P0R1E0  
Phone: 705.782.6263 Fax: 705.782.4288

**Mr. J. Turco**  
7-12 Principal

**Ms. R. Grisdale**  
7-8 Vice Principal

**Ms. A. MacLean**  
9-12 Vice Principal

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Hello,

Our Central Algoma Intermediate program is looking to offer our grade 7/8 students the opportunity to do skating activities at Desbarats arena. Skating at the Desbarats arena would minimize bussing costs and reduce the time students would be missing class while maximizing skating opportunities. We are asking if each township could bring to council the possibility of any donations towards offsetting the cost to do this. We are hoping to book skating dates in February (hopefully 2-4 skates would cost the school approx. \$170 per trip for bus and ice time). Considering that our students are represented from each of the townships in this email and would all be included in the invite to skate we are asking for donations from all. Thank you for your consideration.

CAIS Intermediate Staff.

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*"Central Algoma Intermediate and Secondary Schools are dedicated to the creation and maintenance of safe spaces; where the voices of all cultures, identities, and abilities are welcome, lifted, and celebrated."*

***"Pursuing excellence together"***

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*Working together for regional prosperity*

## Letter from the Chair

### To Our Members:

2022 has been a transition year for many of us as we learn to navigate our way out of an unprecedented global pandemic. At HNCEA, we have risen to this challenge and are building on our priorities. Our focus remains to provide a regional collaborative alliance that promotes economic growth via the coordination and implementation of economic development projects. I am pleased to share with you a few of HNCEA's accomplishments over the past year as well as some of the projects we are currently working on.

The 2022 Huron North Regional Tourism Guide focused on the Huron North Region and was well received by visitors, businesses, and the community at large. The Guide includes a regional map and highlights areas of interest, promoting our individual member communities. We are currently working on an updated version of the Guide for 2023 and look forward to your input for additional content.

We are in the process of completing our first member community Investment Readiness Test. If we can help your community with an Investment Readiness Test, please contact our Economic Development Officers for more information.

Our 2022 Agriculture and Tourism forum/summit provided attendees with an opportunity to identify gaps; this provided partner organizations with information for their respective work. Also identified at the forum and summit was the need for a collaborative forum whereby local stakeholders (First Nations, municipalities, organizations, producers, and operators) could identify opportunities for economic development projects. As a result, we are pleased to share that the HNCEA Agriculture Committee and Tourism Committee have been formed and we welcome new members who have an interest in economic development.

HNCEA is pleased to be assisting ELNOS with their community BR+E project and we look forward to the final report. Business Retention and Expansion surveys provide communities with an opportunity to directly engage local businesses and the information helps to identify strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats. We will be reaching out to our member communities shortly, to determine if there is interest in a BR+E for our eastern region.

In 2023, we will be working with our partners and members to provide complementary seminars and forums throughout the region. Examples include:

- Leadership Training
- Job Creation
- Grant writing/funding forum
- Social media and digital marketing
- E-commerce
- Tourism: best practises and opportunities
- Business Planning
- Business Startup and On Farm Diversification Uses
- Succession Planning

HNCEA was formed as a regional *catalyst*, facilitating regional economic development as identified by our individual communities. HNCEA is as much a *pull* organization for regional economical projects as it is a *push*. We are currently working on engagement and regional economic development projects for 2023 and will keep you updated on our progress.

I look forward to your comments and ideas as our Staff make presentations to your councils within the first part of the year. I ask that you give thought to how collaboration can strengthen funding opportunities, expand projects, garner additional resources, and help to develop a strong regional economy.

On behalf of the HNCEA Board of Directors and Staff, I/we thank you for continued investment in developing regional prosperity and we look forward to working together in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Jock Pirrie

Interim Chair

Contact: [info@hncea.ca](mailto:info@hncea.ca)

**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



234-2022-5422

January 4, 2023

Dear Heads of Council,

I'm pleased to share an update on key initiatives underway at my ministry to help meet our government's goal of building 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years.

The legislature recently passed our government's *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* which takes bold action to ensure that all communities can grow with a mix of ownership and rental housing types to meet the needs of all Ontarians.

Our government knows that building inspectors play a critical role in ensuring that new homes meet the public safety requirements set out in Ontario's Building Code. However, the capacity of municipal building departments has been impacted by recruitment challenges and the increasing number of building inspectors retiring from the profession. That's why, earlier this year, we took action to help municipalities address labour supply shortages in the building sector by amending the Building Code to provide a new model for municipal building departments to design and administer internship programs for building inspectors.

Effective July 1, 2022, municipal building departments can establish program entry criteria for interns that meet their own local recruitment and enforcement needs. This new internship model supports public safety by continuing to require that a qualified building inspector or Chief Building Official supervises the work of interns. The interns must also pass ministry technical and legal exams before being able to practice independently as building inspectors.

In the coming months, the ministry will develop guidance materials to support municipalities that are interesting in launching local programs to recruit new intern building inspectors. We look forward to working with municipalities to implement local internships.

Additionally, the ministry has engaged a consultant to identify opportunities for enhancements to the qualification program for building practitioners. We are seeking input from the public, including municipalities, building inspectors, designers, septic installers and building professionals not regulated by the ministry. This feedback will help guide future decisions on new approaches to qualification.

For more information and to review the discussion paper, please visit the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) website at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6433>.

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In addition to this ongoing work, the ministry is modernizing the provincial Qualification and Registration Tracking System (QuARTS). QuARTS is used by over 7,000 building practitioners to update their qualification and registration information online and to help the government regulate safety and compliance in the Ontario building industry.

Modernizing QuARTS will create a more efficient and user-friendly system, allowing building officials to spend more time on the important task of reviewing and issuing building permits to support the government's key priority of increasing housing stock.

Finally, the ministry made the 2012 Building Code Compendium freely available in Adobe PDF format through the website (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/request-digital-copy-2012-building-code-compendium>). Since its launch in March 2022, the ministry has provided free copies to over 5,000 building professionals to reduce barriers and help accelerate the construction of new homes across the province. This initiative has enabled inspectors to access Building Code requirements while performing their work onsite in a more convenient format. Additionally, candidates studying for the ministry's exams are able to access and learn Building Code content in an easy to navigate, user-friendly manner.

As part of the plan to build 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years, the government looks forward to continuing consultations with municipalities, the building industry and the public to investigate further changes to Ontario's Building Code in order to create more housing and support public safety.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the ministry's initiatives related to the transformation of Building Code services in Ontario, please contact us at [BuildingTransformation@ontario.ca](mailto:BuildingTransformation@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to get more homes built faster for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark  
Minister

c: Municipal Clerks

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge  
Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division  
The City of Cambridge  
50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669  
Cambridge ON N1R 5W8  
Tel: (519) 740-4680 ext. 4585  
mantond@cambridge.ca

December 21, 2022

**Re: City of Cambridge - Opposition to Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act**

**Municipalities of Ontario,**

At the Special Council Meeting of December 15, 2022, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

Moved By: Councillor Roberts

Seconded By: Councillor Hamilton

**Whereas** the More Homes Built Faster Act received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022; and

**Whereas** these changes that will have significant impacts on several provincial Acts and in turn, significant and longstanding impacts on Ontario municipalities; and

**Whereas** the Act defines affordable housing as 80% of the market rate; and

**Whereas** a definition of affordability which is tied to a percentage of market rates remains largely unaffordable for many; and

**Whereas** the province has restricted the use of inclusionary zoning by limiting it to 5% of dwellings within a development, thereby limiting affordable housing opportunities; and

**Whereas** the province has restricted the use of inclusionary zoning by capping the time to remain affordable at 25 years, thereby limiting the longevity of housing affordability; and

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Cambridge City Council requests that the provincial definition of affordable be based on income and not market rates, and

**Be it further resolved that** the Cambridge City Council requests that the provincial limitation of 5% of the use of inclusionary zoning within a development be increased; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Cambridge City Council requests that the provincial timelines regarding the use of inclusionary zoning affordable housing be increased beyond 25 years;

**Be it further resolved that** the Cambridge City Council requests that the Province reconsider how the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, will negatively impact environmental protection, heritage preservation, public participation, and loss of farmland; and

**Be it further resolved that** Cambridge City Council also supports the resolution passed on December 8, 2022 by the Ontario Big City Mayors regarding the More Homes Built Faster Act.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Danielle Manton  
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)  
Hon. Premier Ford  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Ontario MP's and MPP's  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities  
City of Cambridge Council

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF  
TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL  
208 CHURCH ST, ECHO BAY, ONTARIO  
P0S 1C0**

Date: December 13, 2022

Motion # 22- 340

Moved By:

Seconded By:



**WHEREAS on December 1, 2022 the Ministry of Health has implemented an 80% reduction in virtual physician fees;**

**WHEREAS the reason for this reduction is due to the shortage of family doctors in Ontario which disproportionately affects the north with many small communities without one at all;**

**WHEREAS at present there are six walk in clinics in Sault Ste Marie where a doctor can be accessed virtually under the supervision of a Registered Nurse;**

**WHEREAS these clinics can order routine screening tests, renew prescriptions and provide care with such things as sore throats, diabetes maintenance, and urinary track infections. Those needing more serious care are referred to the Emergency Room at the local hospital.**

**WHEREAS the Emergency Departments at most hospitals are currently overloaded due to staffing shortages, attrition and/or illness.**

**WHEREAS, these virtual clinics reduce stress and increase safety to patients with minor complaints, or needing prescription renewals and prevents the need to attend the Emergency Room where long waits are likely;**

**WHEREAS, Northern Ontario communities are geographically widespread and often isolated with an aging population. Long drives to a centre with a doctor are often difficult and in many cases a phone conversation or a virtual consultation with a doctor would work and reduce stress and safety.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional request the Ministry of Health to revisit the decision to reduce virtual physician fees by 80% and fully fund this much need medical option for everyone in the Province of Ontario.**

**AND that this resolution be sent to all municipalities in the Algoma District & FONOM**

**Signed**

Lynn Watson



**Carried**

**MAYOR**



# TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

"A Community in Action"

5280 Nauvoo Road | P.O. Box 10 | Watford, ON N0M 2S0

Township Office: (226) 848-3926  
Watford Arena: (519) 876-2808  
Website: [www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca)

Works Department: (519) 849-3923  
Fax: (226) 848-6136  
E-mail: [info@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:info@warwicktownship.ca)

## **BY E-MAIL ONLY**

November 16, 2022

Tracy Robinson, CN Rail President and CEO  
Montreal (Headquarters)  
935 de La Gauchetière Street West  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
H3B 2M9

Dear Tracy Robinson:

**Re: CN Railway Contribution Requirements under the *Drainage Act* and Impacts on Municipal Drain Infrastructure in Ontario**

At the October 17, 2022, regular Council meeting Warwick Township Council discussed the continuing impacts of CN's decision not to participate in funding municipal drains in Ontario, as per the *Drainage Act*, and the negative consequences on our community and others in the Province and approved the following resolution to be circulated to CN and related partners:

***WHEREAS municipal drains are considered critical rural infrastructure that support food production, food security, the environment and economic sustainability in rural Ontario;***

***AND WHEREAS the creation, maintenance and contribution requirements towards municipal drain infrastructure are governed by the *Drainage Act*;***

***AND WHEREAS an official from CN Rail has formally communicated to the Township of Warwick that "CN's decision is that it is a federally regulated entity under CTA guidelines, as such, are not governed by provincial regulations";***

***AND WHEREAS the implication that any public utility could become exempt from the financial requirements invalidates the underlying principle that all benefitting from municipal drain projects are required to contribute financially, including all public utilities;***

***AND WHEREAS there are currently at least fifty-five municipal drainage projects in Ontario being impacted by CN's actions and refusal to contribute as per the Drainage Act;***

***AND WHEREAS the Township of Warwick and many rural municipalities have expressed concerns over this CN Rail position to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs consistently over at least the past four years;***

***AND WHEREAS the Township of Warwick and other rural municipalities met with Minister Thompson at the Association of Municipalities in Ontario (AMO) on this issue and Minister Thompson has confirmed it remains the Provincial government's position that the Drainage Act does apply to all federally regulated railways;***

***NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Warwick hereby declares as follows:***

***THAT Ontario's Drainage Act is an important piece of legislation used to meet the drainage needs of a variety of stakeholders, including agricultural businesses and ultimately food production, thereby supporting families, neighbours, and thriving communities;***

***AND THAT CN Rail be called upon to act as a partner to municipalities and agriculture in Ontario and reconsider its position that the Drainage Act does not apply to it as a public entity;***

***AND THAT CN Rail contribute to all municipal drains in Ontario, as per section 26 of the Drainage Act, and work to expedite its response timelines to the fifty-five projects currently on hold in Ontario so that the projects impacting the agriculture sector can proceed and be dealt with in a timely manner after years of delay caused directly by CN Rail;***

***AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson, local MPP Monte McNaughton, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau, CN Manager Public Affairs, Ontario & Atlantic Canada Daniel Salvatore, the President and CEO of CN Rail Tracy Robinson, Director of Government Relations Railway Association of Canada Gregory Kolz and to all municipalities in Ontario for their support.***

***- Carried.***

## Council Resolution

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Moved By Ostrander

Agenda  
Item 12.b

Resolution Number  
2022-12-14- 768

Seconded By Logel

Council Date: December 14, 2022

Page 1 of 2

**Whereas** Northumberland County supports action to increase the supply of housing for Ontarians and specifically to address the affordable housing crisis in Ontario; and

**Whereas** The Government of Ontario introduced Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act*, 2022 on October 25, 2022 and the Bill received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022, providing insufficient time for newly elected municipal councils to provide fulsome feedback; and

**Whereas** Municipalities across the province have identified significant financial, environmental, public consultation, and heritage impacts related to the measures identified in Bill 23; and

**Whereas** The proposed change to subsection 2(4) of the *Development Charges Act, 1997* to remove "Housing Services" from the list of services that can be funded through development charges would result in the immediate removal of the housing services portion of the Northumberland County Development Charge and result in an estimated funding gap of approximately \$17 million over the next 7 years for financing an estimated 250 new affordable units; and

**Whereas** At current building levels, an estimated 27% increase to the County portion of property taxes would be required to maintain planned investments and services, with additional tax implications anticipated for local lower-tier municipalities;

**Be It Resolved That** the Council of the Corporation of the County of Northumberland calls upon the Government of Ontario to pause implementation of Bill 23, and engage in meaningful engagement with municipalities and other key stakeholders to address identified concerns in order to achieve the shared goal of increasing housing supply and improving affordability and sustainability; and

## Council Resolution

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Agenda Resolution Number  
Item 12.b 2022-12-14- 768

Council Date: December 14, 2022

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**Be It Further Resolved That** a copy of this resolution be sent to The Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), The Honourable Steve Clark (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), The Honourable Michael Parsa, (Associate Minister of Housing), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Northumberland - Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and to all Ontario municipalities; and

**Be It Further Resolved That** County Council direct staff to provide information on the County website regarding the estimated impacts of Bill 23 on the County levy."

Recorded Vote  
Requested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor's Name

Deferred \_\_\_\_\_  
Warden's Signature

Carried   
Warden's Signature

Defeated \_\_\_\_\_  
Warden's Signature

# The Freshwater Connection

Publication of the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition - Winter 2023

Winter 2023  
Biodiversity



## Biological Diversity

The “totality of genes, species and ecosystems of a region”.



CAFC is currently working on a “Biodiversity Booklet” and in the process we looked at some older notes from the 1990s - the “*Ontario - Extension Notes*” from the LandOwner Resource Centre supported by the then Ministry of Natural Resources and have decided to include a few summaries of them along with others in this newsletter. Similar publications are now also available online at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - Best Management Practices Series.

Copies of these “Extension Notes” are available from CAFC and include topics such as:

- Preserving Water Quality
- Preserving And Restoring Natural Shorelines
- Improving Fish Habitat
- Protecting Fish Habitat
- Estoring Shorelines With Willows
- The Benefits Of Windbreaks
- Naturalizing Your Local Park Or Backyard
- Maintaining Healthy Urban Trees
- Cavity Trees Are Refuges For Wildlife
- The Old Growth Forests Of Southern Ontario
- Conserving The Forest Interior: A Threatened Wildlife Habitat
- Choosing A Silvicultural System
- Designing And Caring For windbreaks
- Management Options For Abandoned Farm Fields
- Managing Regeneration In Conifer Plantations To Restore A Mixed, Hardwood Forest
- Protecting Trees From Vole Damage
- Eastern Hemlock
- Planting And Caring For Nut Trees
- Red Oak
- Eastern White Pine
- White Spruce
- Sugar Maple
- Managing Young Hardwood Stands For Sawlog Production
- Managing Red Pine Plantations
- Backyard Maple Syrup Production
- Clearing The Way: Preparing The Site For Tree Planting
- Careful Handling And Planting Of Nursery Stock
- Using A Backpack Herbicide Sprayer To Control Weeds
- Planning For Tree Planting
- Planning A School Tree Plant
- Cover Crops Help Tree Seedlings Beat Weed Competition
- Tree Shelters Help Hardwood Trees Grow Faster
- Do You Have A Healthy Woodlot
- Options For Controlling Beavers On Private Land
- Caring For Ice-Damaged Trees
- Caring For Ice-Damaged Woodlots and Plantations





**The Benefits of Windbreaks** - windbreaks are a row of trees or shrubs that reduce the force of the wind. They can reduce soil erosion, protect crops and livestock from heat and cold. They can be used to protect roads and buildings from drifting snow. They beautify the landscape and provide travel routes and habitat for wildlife. There is a trend toward larger fields that has increased soil erosion. Windbreaks increase crop quality and yield by providing cooler day time temperatures and warmer temperatures in the night, increasing relative humidity, and helping to retain soil moisture and reducing physical damage caused by high winds. As an additional benefit windbreak provide shelter and food for wildlife, as well as safe travel corridors between woodlots. They can provide nectar and pollen for bees. Windbreaks can act as sound barriers. They filter dust from the air and improve the appearance of the rural landscape.

**Buffer Strips** - intense rain events can subject even the healthiest of soils to runoff. Unimpeded runoff from cropland and pasture can enter surface water and contaminate it. Buffer strips can provide a last line of defence to protect water quality from runoff. Planted in the transitional (riparian) area between upland soils and bodies of water. Healthy soils in areas along rivers, streams, wetlands, and lakes perform vital functions in providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Buffer strips protect watercourses including drainage channels. These strips provide bank stabilization, flood protection, filtration of cropland runoff, water storage carbon sequestration in addition to providing fish and wildlife habitat. Grassed buffers provide forage and cover, planted trees provide habitat for mammals, beneficial birds and insects, Buffers make ideal wildlife corridors. Shade and woody debris are important to fish habitat. Buffers plantings can also provide habitat for pollinators. Keep in mind most bees can only fly about 350 m - larger bees up to 750m - but they need habitat for survival.  
SOURCE - Best Practices Buffer Strips - Ontario Federation of Agriculture





**Protecting Fish Habitat** - a well vegetated and shady shoreline is ideal fish habitat- unfortunately many landowners choose to build cottages, boathouses and docks, dredge, and pour sand and gravel on shorelines - all of which will damage fish habitat and reduce fish populations. When working around water avoid harming fish habitat. Before starting any water-based projects ensure you have the proper approvals and permits. There are best practices for dredging (silt curtains to retain sediment), aquatic-plant control (activity timing), building docks and boathouses (docks without cribs), beach

construction (consider a swim platform instead), building erosion control structures (don't build solid shore walls and groynes), boat launches (avoid steep slope erosion) building materials (choose untreated wood) and agricultural practices (fence livestock from shorelines)

Source - <https://theconversation.com/smaller-farmers-fields-can-reduce-biodiversity-loss-and-increase-wild-plants-birds-beetles-and-bats-139015>

**Small Fields and Fencerows** -We don't know yet why biodiversity is higher in landscapes with smaller crop fields. One possibility is that when crop fields are smaller, the natural habitats are closer together. This would increase the ability of wildlife to easily access natural habitats from crop fields. Crop fields may provide temporary food sources for wildlife, such as when a crop is in flower or when there is a pest outbreak.

Natural areas are also needed for breeding and overwintering sites and for escape from farming operations such as plowing. When wildlife can easily move back and forth between crops and natural spaces, perhaps they have access to the best of both worlds.

#### **The farmer's dilemma**

Altogether, our research suggests a "many small" approach to support biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. But can farmers readily reduce the sizes of fields? In many parts of the world, just the opposite has been happening over the past 50 years. Fields are being consolidated by removing the tracks, fences, stone walls, and hedgerows that once separated them. Farmers do this to increase the efficiency of their operations. But in doing so, they reduce the populations of wildlife that help support agriculture. The net cost or benefit to farmers of reducing field sizes while maintaining the same area in production has not yet been studied. But the benefits to biodiversity are now clear.





**Forest Edge** - habitat is a growing throughout the province as networks of roads, urban developments, logging operations and other human disturbances carve many larger natural forests into smaller and more isolated pieces. The resulting islands of wilderness are often too small to maintain healthy gene pools or vigorous populations of plants and animals over the long term. The forest edge benefits some animals like raccoons, foxes, and white-tailed deer but at the same time make other species vulnerable to predators.

<http://wildlandsleague.org/attachments/Biodiversity%20at%20the%20Crossroads%20FS5.pdf>



**Forest Interior** – landowners are stewards of a great deal of forest habitat – but much of it is broken into small woodlots – that often lack forest interior. Forest interior is a sheltered, secluded environment away from forest edge and open habitats. Forest edge is sunnier, warmer, windier and dryer than the forest interior. Forest interior is more likely to have pools of water vital to aquatic insects, birds, frogs, toads, and salamanders. Each forest bird needs a particular habitat with an arrangement of food, water, shelter, and nesting sites. Forest interior birds depend more on increased moisture, less nest disruption, fewer predators a diversity of microhabitats such as small conifer stands, wet pockets in lowland hardwoods or rare vegetation. Predators such as raccoons, grackles, crows, squirrels, and domestic and feral cats are less common. Birds such as ovenbirds are ground nesters and especially susceptible to predators. Wood frogs and



salamanders breed in seasonal ponds (vernal ponds) where their eggs are not eaten by fish. Barred Owls prefer forest interior. Forest interior begins at approximately 100m from the forest edge. Forests larger than 200 ha provide important habitat – these are common in Central Algoma but rare in other agricultural areas. Cavity trees – dead or dying trees that have holes in the trunk are often excavated by birds – but did you know that in Ontario 50 species of birds and animals depend on cavity trees for nesting, rearing young, roosting, storing food, escaping predators and hibernating. You can help by protecting cavity trees on your property

SOURCE Extension Notes – Ontario -Conserving the Forest Interior: A Threatened Wildlife Habitat, 1998 LandOwner Resource Centre Manitick, ON

SOURCE Extension Notes – Ontario -cavity Trees are Rufges for Wildlife1995 LandOwner Resource Centre Manitick, ON

**Abandoned Farms Fields** – Tree planting is just one of several options for managing . abandoned farm fields. If left alone many fields will become forests again through natural processes of succession – from field crops, to herbs, to shrubs, to pioneering trees and ultimately shade tolerant hardwoods. This approach can take a very long time and there are many variables to how it may evolve. Each successional stage has a different group of associated wildlife. There are several possibilities to managing abandoned farm fields – from maintaining an old field with existing herbs, restoring historic vegetation or woodlots, or converting to another use such as tree plantations.

**Maintaining an old field** – Fields that have been abandoned for about 20 years will have adapted to an herb stage and may contain plants such as milkweed – and associated Monarch and other



butterflies. If old open fields are not common in the immediate area, they may be important areas harriers, grassland birds and a variety of sparrows as well as homes to bees, butterflies, moths, and snakes. These fields may also be used by voles, mice, woodchucks, skunks, foxes, weasels, and deer. To maintain old fields, they may need to be mowed once every few years – avoid mowing during the nesting season for birds - late summer is best – fall

mowing may favour non native invasive species. It is also recommended that not more than 20% of the are be owed in any one year so that species such as bees can still have homes in the 80% of uncut habitat in any given year.

**Restoring original habitats and woodlots** – originally not all habitats were forests – depending upon soil types – ask people who have lived in the area for a long time – they may have many insights. If the area was historically a forest you may want to try and restore the natural forests. Talk with a forester to determine which trees may best grow on the soils and under the moisture conditions you have. Restoration to forest may provide new food sources – especially with mast-producing species. If the old field has been abandoned for many years native tree and shrub species may already established and you may just want natural succession to occur.

**Converting to another use** may include maintaining the field for agriculture, managing for Christmas trees, fuelwood, or sawlogs.

SOURCE Extension Notes – Ontario – Management Options for Abandoned Farm Fields, 1999 LandOwner Resource Centre Manitick, ON

**Rural Communities** - Planting and maintaining existing urban trees are also very important - they add value to your home, improve privacy and provide environmental benefits - such as shading, reducing pollution, take up carbon dioxide. Produce oxygen, provide wildlife habitat, hold water, and reduce soil erosion. Urban trees face more stress and need more attention than trees growing in more natural areas - give newly planted urban trees a good start and maintain them by watering, mulching, fertilizing, and pruning. Sick or damaged trees need to be maintained by calling experts and getting professional help.

SOURCE Extension Notes - Ontario - Maintaining Healthy Urban Trees, 1998 LandOwner Resource Centre Manitick, ON



Lake Huron North (LHN)  
Locavore Fundraising Dinnert - January 28, 2023  
Stokely Creek Lodge