



100 John West Way  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 6J1  
(905) 727-3123  
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora  
**Memorandum**  
Councillor's Office

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**Re:** Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of November 22, 2024

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Councillor Michael Thompson

**Date:** January 14, 2025

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## **Recommendation**

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of November 22, 2024, be received for information.**

## **Attachments**

- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of November 22, 2024

## Board Meeting Highlights

November 22, 2024

### Announcements

- a) Chair Riepma welcomed returning Board member Councillor Joe Gough from the Township of Ramara, who has been appointed in place of Councillor Sherri Bell.
- b) Senior Director, Communications and Engagement, Kristen Yemm, was pleased to share that Education Program Specialist, Cassandra Connell, applied to become a mentor in [Take Me Outside](#), a national charitable organization that works to raise awareness and enable action on nature connection and outdoor learning. Not only has Cassandra become a mentor, but she has also been selected as the Ontario Regional Coordinator for their pilot program. Selected from a candidate pool of 128, Cassandra is one of only eight across Canada and three in the northern US. This exciting opportunity for Cassandra and the Conservation Authority will showcase our skills, expertise and leadership in outdoor learning and support for educators in taking kids outside to learn about, and connect with, nature.
- c) Senior Director, Communications and Engagement, Kristen Yemm, was pleased to advise that the Conservation Authority's public engagement platform, <https://yoursay.lsrca.on.ca/>, now includes a link to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve, providing updates on project activities on the Conservation Authority's most recently acquired land.

### Presentations:

#### a) **Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast**

Director, Finance, Katherine Toffan, provided an overview of the Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast, noting an operational surplus of \$1,498K at September 30<sup>th</sup>. The main drivers of this surplus include salary gapping for open positions in a number of departments, along with fees higher than expected in Planning and Development. She noted Annual Priorities for 2024 are on track and progressing well. Reserve transfers are on track, while reserve draws for year-end are forecast to be under budget. Staff are forecasting a surplus for year-end.

Looking ahead to 2025, staff are progressing well with filling vacancies. In Planning and Development, it is unknown at this time if the fees freeze will continue. Construction on the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek will begin in January, with operating impacts expected in 2026.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Third Quarter 2024 Financial Update and Forecast Presentation](#)

**b) A Digital Strategy for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**

General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear, together with Director, Information Services & Technology, Geoff Peat, provided an overview of the Conservation Authority's Digital Transformation project. Digital transformation is a process of using digital technologies to create new or modify existing processes, and customer experiences to meet changing organizational demands. He outlined the steps required including assessment of current digital capabilities, identification of key areas for improvement, development of a roadmap for implementation, and continuous evaluation and adaptations of strategies. An assessment found gaps in terms of technology, skills, business processes and data management, with these areas becoming the key areas for the strategy to focus on. The expected outcomes include improved operational efficiency, enhanced customer experience and community engagement, better data management and analysis, and increased transparency and accountability.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Digital Strategy Presentation](#)

**Staff Reports:****Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast**

The Board received Staff Report No. 52-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Third Quarter 2024 Financial Report and Year-End Forecast.

**A Digital Strategy for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**

The Board received Staff Report No. 53-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Digital Strategy.

**2024 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Areas Strategy – Final Draft**

The Board received Staff Report No. 54-24-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Conservation Areas Strategy and approved the 2024 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Areas Strategy for implementation.

**Conservation Areas Parking Fees**

The Board received Staff Report No. 55-24-BOD regarding the reassessment of the parking fees program and approved staff recommendation that parking at the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Conservation Areas continues to be provided without charge until further notice.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit [LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage](#).