



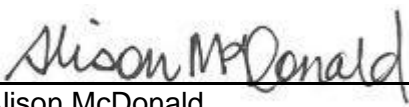
Raisin Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

April 3, 2025 – immediately following the SPA meeting

RRCA Administration Building – 18045 County Rd. 2, Cornwall, ON

	Page
1. Call to Order	
2. Land Acknowledgement	
3. Approval of Agenda	
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
5. Delegations / Presentations	
a) RRCA Project Update – Power Point Presentation (Staff)	
6. Approval of Minutes	
a) Minutes of February 6, 2025	1-4
7. New Business	
a) St. Lawrence River Strategy – Memorandum of Understanding	5-13
b) Conservation Areas Update	14-15
c) Grant Submissions	16-17
8. Correspondence	
a) OGRA Delegation Request – Charlottenburgh Park Lease Renewal	18-19
b) Congratulatory letter to MPP Quinn	20-21
9. Future Meetings	
RRCA Board of Directors starting at 9:00 am - May 1, Jun 5, Sept. 4	
10. Closed Session	
a) For Discussion: Negotiations, Charlottenburgh Park Legal Advice	
11. Adjournment	



Alison McDonald
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

RAISIN REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2025

RRCA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
18045 County Rd. 2, Cornwall, ON

- PRESENT: Jacques Massie, North Glengarry, Vice-Chair
Andrew Guindon, South Stormont
Carilyne Hebert, City of Cornwall
Claude McIntosh, City of Cornwall
Martin Lang, South Glengarry
Lachlan McDonald, South Glengarry
- STAFF: Alison McDonald, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Josianne Sabourin, Administrative Assistant
Phil Barnes, Team Lead, Watershed Management
Lissa Deslandes, Regulations Officer
Brendan Jacobs, Stewardship Specialist
Vincent Pilon, Communications Specialist
Pete Sabourin, Team Lead, Field Operations
Jason Symington, Resource Specialist
Lisa Van De Ligt, Team Lead, Communications and Stewardship
- REGRETS: Bryan McGillis, South Stormont, Chair
Adrian Bugelli, North Stormont

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice-Chair Jacques Massie, who acted as Chair for the meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read, recognizing that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee peoples, the Mohawks of Akwesasne, original keepers of this land, past and present. The acknowledgment included gratitude for the opportunity to gather and thanks to all generations who have cared for the land for thousands of years.

PPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION #14/25

Moved by: Andrew Guindon
Seconded by: Martin Lang

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

Staff presented Project Updates through a PowerPoint presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION #15/25:

Moved by: Lachlan McDonald

Seconded by: Martin Lang

That the minutes of January 9, 2025, meeting of the Raisin Region Conservation Authority BE APPROVED with a minor correction to the list of attended staff, specifically the addition of Alison McDonald and the removal of Richard Pilon.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION #16/25:

Moved by: Carilyne Hebert

Seconded by: Claude McIntosh

That representatives be appointed to various Committees and Associations for 2025, as follows:

Source Protection Committee

Bryan McGillis

Source Protection Management Committee

Bryan McGillis

Jacques Massie

Claude McIntosh

Alison McDonald

Conservation Ontario Council

Bryan McGillis – Voting Delegate

Jacques Massie – First Alternate

Alison McDonald - Second Alternate

St. Lawrence River Restoration Council

Lisa Van De Ligt

Brendan Jacobs (Alternate)

City of Cornwall Environment & Climate Change Committee

Lisa Van De Ligt

South Glengarry Environment Committee

Lissa Deslandes

Friends of the Glengarry Trails Association

Mathew Levac

CARRIED

ANNUAL REPORT ON PERMIT STATISTICS, TIMELINES & COMPLIANCE

RESOLUTION #17/25:

Moved by: Lachlan McDonald

Seconded by: Andrew Guindon

THAT the Board of Directors receives the Annual Report on Permit Statistics, Timelines and Compliance and that the Board of Directors direct staff to post the report on the RRCA website.

CARRIED

REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN: CONTRACTED SERVICES

RESOLUTION #18/25:

Moved by: Carilyne Hebert

Seconded by: Martin Lang

THAT the Board of Directors approve contracting the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne to support water quality improvement projects in the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern to an upset limit of \$55,000.

CARRIED

2025 FLOOD CONTINGENCY PLAN

RESOLUTION #19/25:

Moved by: Andrew Guindon

Seconded by: Lachlan McDonald

THAT the Board of Directors receives the RRCA's 2025 Flood Contingency Plan.

CARRIED

GRANT SUBMISSIONS

RESOLUTION #20/25:

Moved by: Carilyne Hebert

Seconded by: Martin Lang

THAT the Board of Directors approve requesting up to \$250,000 from Conservation Ontario under the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program to support agriculture stewardship.

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors approve requesting up to \$3,000 from Ontario Power Generation to deliver an outreach workshop at the Saunders Hydro Dam Visitor Centre.

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors approve entering into an agreement with funders, as required.

CARRIED

FUTURE MEETINGS

RRCA Board of Directors starting at 9:00 am – Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION #21/25:

Moved by: Claude McIntosh
Seconded by: Andrew Guindon

THAT the Board of Directors Meeting move into Closed Session to discuss a land matter.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #22/25:

Moved by: Carilyne Hebert
Seconded by: Martin Lang

THAT the Board of Directors Meeting move into Open Session.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #23/25:

Moved by: Martin Lang
Seconded by: Andrew Guindon

THAT the Board of Directors authorize staff to pursue action item dealing with the land matter discussed in the Closed Session.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION #24/25:

Moved by: Claude McIntosh
Seconded by: Lachlan McDonald

THAT the Board of Directors Meeting of February 6, 2025, be adjourned.

Jacques Massie
Chair

Alison McDonald
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer



To: Board of Directors
From: Brendan Jacobs, Stewardship Specialist
Date: March 19, 2025
Subject: St. Lawrence River Strategy – Memorandum of Understanding

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors approve the signing of the St. Lawrence River Strategy Memorandum of Understanding.

BACKGROUND:

The St. Lawrence River at Cornwall/Akwesasne was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) in 1987 by the International Joint Commission, under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States which included the development of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP). A RAP is a required cleanup plan for all designated AOCs in the Great Lakes / St. Lawrence River. These plans focus on restoring ecological impairments that resulted from historic human activity. The RRCA is part of the coordinated efforts with government, Indigenous community, and industry partners to address identified environmental challenges through the RAP.

The St. Lawrence River offers many ecological, recreational, and economic beneficial water uses. When human activity negatively interferes with the use or enjoyment of a water use, it's called a Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI). This may include changes to the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of the ecosystem. For the St. Lawrence River AOC to be "delisted", or removed from the list of AOCs, there can no longer be any BUIs. Recognizing that it is not feasible to restore all BUIs completely due to human influences having permanent impacts on the natural environment, a set of "delisting criteria" have been set for each BUI. These are measurable environmental conditions that need to be achieved before the BUI can be considered restored and the AOC delisted.

A new community-based initiative, the River Strategy, has recently been established by the Mohawks of Akwesasne and the River Institute to bring together communities and organizations throughout the St. Lawrence River watershed to continue collaboration once the BUIs have been addressed.

DISCUSSION:

The River Strategy provides a detailed framework for organizations and communities wishing to work together to improve the health of the St. Lawrence River and surrounding tributaries through a collaborative approach. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has recently been developed to ensure that River Strategy partners understand and agree to the principals of the framework. The MOU outlines the River Strategy's guiding principles, roles and responsibilities of the membership, and decision-making process.

The RRCA has supported the development of the River Strategy initiative since its onset in May 2021 by attending various meetings. Participation in the River Strategy continues to connect with RRCA with local partners on collaborative stewardship efforts for the St. Lawrence River watershed.

Following this report, staff will sign the St. Lawrence River Strategy Memorandum of Understanding to demonstrate RRCA's commitment to the initiative.



Brendan Jacobs
Stewardship Specialist

Attached: River Strategy



St Lawrence Kahnekarónnion (River) Strategy

Memorandum of Understanding

INTENTION:

The purpose of this document is to articulate the roles and responsibilities of the members of the Kahnekarónnion (River) Strategy and speak into existence the unity and shared values guiding their relationships, drawing on principles and knowledge from Haudenosaunee Teachings.

PREAMBLE:

Akwe:kon enska entitewahwehnon:ni ne onkwa'nikon:ra tanon teiethinonhwera:ton ne oneka'shon:ah, tsi kahnekaronnion, kanientara'ko:wa, kanientarahere, tsi iohonwa:taien tanon ne ohwentsiakonhshon iotnekahtenkionhakie. Tsi she:kon wa:tons ionkwaha'tanawenhsta... eh kati'niihtonhak ne onkwa'nikon:ra.

We bring our minds together as one and give thanks for water; the rivers, the lakes, the oceans, and that clean water keeps running all over the earth. It keeps our thirst quenched... now our minds are one.

KAHNEKARÓNNIION (RIVER) STRATEGY

The purpose of the Kahnekarónnion (River) Strategy Collective is to facilitate inclusive and equitable communication and collaboration along the St. Lawrence River and beyond.

To achieve increased communication and collaboration, the River Strategy Collective cultivates a community agreed-upon, value-informed space for people and organizations from across the region to gather, connect with each other, share knowledge and information, and identify opportunities to work together towards shared goals for the river.

SIGNATORIES

Anyone with an interest in the river can become a member of the Kahnekarónnion (River) Strategy Collective, for example, community groups, non-profit organizations, municipalities, academic institutions, industry, government agencies, researchers, and anyone that has love for the river. It is important to remember that everyone has a place here and their thoughts and insights are valuable to the mission. As non-Indigenous allies, you are agreeing to comply with the guiding principles as well as the roles and responsibilities articulated hereafter. For Indigenous signatories, your signature is to comply with the guiding principles and agree to the articulation of roles and responsibilities for allies.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Drawing from the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment Research Advisory Committee, the Kahnékarónnion (River) Strategy is founded on the principles of *skennen*, *kanikonriio* and *kasastensera*.

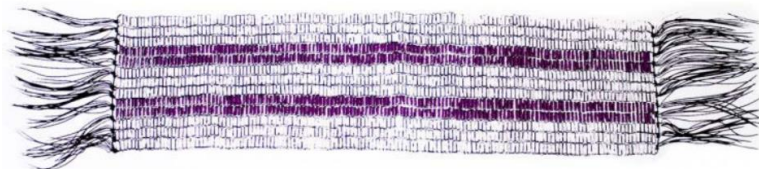
Skennen (Peace): The community will embody a holistic (mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual) understanding to ensure a peaceful relationship amongst each other and creation. Conflict will arise, but we must hold our responsibilities to care for each other and all of creation through striving for unity and a path toward righteousness and reason. Where necessary, we enact peace through education, public opinion, and political action.

Kanikonriio (Good Mind): This is described as "the shared ideology of the people using their purest and most unselfish minds." We will cultivate a community that puts their minds and emotions in harmony with creation, which are all part of our family. There is equity here for everyone, where our contributions are valued, acknowledged, and celebrated. There is no place for oppressive systems here in any form.

Kasastensera (Power): There is power in this community. We are stronger together. The power flows from carrying Kanikonriio to use rational, relational, and reciprocal thinking and actions to channel the inherent goodwill of our community to work towards peace, justice, and unity, which will prevent the abuse of all of creation – human and non-human alike.

These are collectively the principles of righteousness that demand a rejection of prejudice, privilege, and superiority from our minds. We must recognize that we are part of creation and that we all carry roles and responsibilities to each other where we reason from a place that ensures the holistic health and rights of Akwe:kon (Everyone) are protected for future generations.

The **Kaswentha (Two Row Wampum)** already embodies these principles as a treaty without paper or signatures. The Kaswentha belt graphically represents the parties of the agreement with rows of purple wampum, separated by white wampum. One purple row represents Dutch ships, while the other row represents Haudenosaunee canoes. The separation symbolizes mutual respect for each party's autonomy in perpetuity. As we are composed of Haudenosaunee and non-Haudenosaunee, we must ensure that our worldviews are respected here, which is made possible through careful negotiation and intentions.



[Image from Univeristy of Waterloo](#)

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF NON-INDIGENOUS ALLIES:

The roles and responsibilities of Kahnekarónnion (River) Strategy Collective non-Indigenous members, as allies, build on these foundational Teachings of the Haudenosaunee and include calls to action, for justice, and to affirm rights for everyone living on *Anowarah':ne [Turtle Island]*, such as those outlined in documents such as within the “Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future,” “Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,” and the “United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples.” Part of fulfilling these roles and responsibilities is a reflection on what it means to be an ally with Indigenous Communities, which have been articulated into 9 principles below. It is important to remember that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to allyship and that the right approach will change over time, so flexibility is needed. Further, consent, like learning, is a continual process.

LEARN

Learn about the true history of *Anowarah':ne* as well as Indigenous history of and around Kaniatarowanenneh (St. Lawrence River). Learn about and celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ history, cultures, pride, and diversity (MMIWG Final Report, 2019). Remember, it is not the responsibility of Indigenous Communities to educate non-Indigenous people, and learning is an ongoing process (Swiftwolfe et al., 2019). Commit to ongoing learning through participation through readings, events, and training when available that are told by Indigenous Peoples.

LISTEN

Listen to Indigenous peoples – they are the experts of their reality, which is diverse and context-specific (Jonas, 2021) – and build direct lines of communication with Indigenous Peoples (i.e. cultivate meaningful relationships and community). Listen to the truths shared by Indigenous Communities, and acknowledge the burden of human and Indigenous rights violations, and how they impact Indigenous Communities and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people today (MMIWG Final Report, 2019).

REFLECT

Move forward with humility and the critical self-reflection of on-going learning. Remember that discomfort is part of the journey – the process of learning and reflection is not about being comfortable, you may need to learn biases or make mistakes in the process – accountability is an expression of care and opportunity for growth (Jonas, 2021). Similarly, be critical of motivations – engaging or supporting Indigenous Communities is not an opportunity to “further one’s own self-interest, nor are they there as extra-curricular activities” (Swiftwolfe et al., 2019).

ACKNOWLEDGE & RESPECT

Acknowledge you are a guest on these land and waters due to the forced dispossession of Indigenous Peoples who have a long history of caring for them. Further, there are many nations that exist across Turtle Island (Swiftwolfe et al., 2019) that have diverse cultural protocols and traditions that emerged from thousands of years of relationship-building with the lands and waters.

Acknowledge and respect the value of every person and every community, as well as the right of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to generate their own, self-determined solutions (MMIWG Final Report, 2019).

It is also important to respect that many Indigenous Peoples have to act as advocates on a wide range of issues that affect them and their communities. Being involved is often not a choice with an option to opt out, and pressures on time and energy can lead to being spread thin in many directions (*10 Ways to Be an Ally to First Nations Communities*, 2022). Therefore, think before you ask for an Indigenous Person to contribute their time and energy and when possible compensate for expertise.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Being a strong ally involves more than just tolerance; it means actively working to break down barriers and supporting others in every relationship and encounter in which you participate (MMIWG Final Report, 2019). However, when working with Indigenous Peoples, ensure the community is centered in your mind and actions because harm can be done unintentionally, which you are accountable to. This requires a continuous process of consent and checking in, which is a way to be responsible for yourself and to identify when to take a step back. Saviors are not needed here; solidarity is (*10 Ways to Be an Ally to First Nations Communities*, 2022).

SPEAK OUT

Confront and speak out against racism, sexism, ignorance, homophobia, and transphobia, and teach or encourage others to do the same, wherever it occurs: in your home, in your workplace, or in social settings. Denounce and speak out against violence against Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people (MMIWG Final Report, 2019).

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Create time and space for building relationships based on respect as human beings, supporting and embracing differences with kindness, love, and respect. Learn about Indigenous principles of being in good relationships specific to those Nations or Communities in your local area and work, and put them into practice in all of your relationships with Indigenous Peoples (MMIWG Final Report, 2019). For example, reflect on the guiding principles within this strategy when working with Haudenosaunee Communities.

GIVE BACK

Where appropriate, use your labor, resources, and skills to actively support Indigenous Peoples to achieve their goals and carry out their initiatives (*10 Ways to Be an Ally to First Nations Communities*, 2022). There are many different ways to give back to Indigenous communities and one of the current calls is in the name of “Land Back!” This concept is described by Riley Yesno (2024) as, “[A] slogan that originated online and has been proliferated by Indigenous Youth, especially. It emphasizes material restitution for Indigenous Peoples over symbolic gestures.” Expanding on this, Piertos et al. (2021) state, “Land Back is about reclaiming Indigenous spheres of influence and sovereignty and extending our values to result in better stewardship of ecological, political, and economic systems.” These beautiful and complex expressions of Land Back can be intimidating, but it is a concept that emerged from

community organizing and sought to address historical harms towards a transformed and hopeful future.

HOLD INSTITUTIONS ACCOUNTABLE

Help hold all powerful institutions accountable to act on existing calls to justice and uphold their obligations and commitments to Indigenous Peoples (MMIWG Final Report, 2019). A daunting ask from allies and yet a reminder to reject hyper-individualism and lean into community. To embody this principle, we must act from our various places and experiences in the world, hence positionality. Positionality simply being a reflection of how a person understands their place in the world and acts as an opportunity to deconstruct harmful ideas and reflect on why you are here to be an ally.

Bringing all of these principles together will take time and mistakes will be made. Yet, let us be kind and patient with each other while also being accountable - the greatest expression of love by a community. These principles of allyship are expressed towards Indigenous People and can be extended to the land because the land is part of us as a relative. Remember, damage on the land is damage on Indigenous People and their culture, so is **HEALING**.

DECISION MAKING

The decision-making process for the River Strategy will build on the values and principles described above and will follow a consensus-based approach. Consensus-based decision making is a collaborative process which entails the entire group contributing to a decision, while respecting the group and individual members. The goal is to consider the best interest of the collective, while also considering individual ideas (Horn-Miller, 2014).

WRITER POSITIONALITY

I am Abraham Francis – Kaniienkehaka (Mohawk) from Akwesasne and Wakeneniothrónon (Deer Clan). I consider myself an Akwesasronon Ecologist and have had the wonderful opportunity to help in the creation of this MOU, which is inspired by so many different experiences across my life. In particular, I have thought of this process of creating a wampum belt, which is a living agreement that requires a shared understanding, renewal, and dynamic interpretation. In particular, I hope to express the roles and responsibilities of various dimensions of the River Strategy Community, which has been brought together through our shared love for the Kaniatarowenneh (St. Lawrence River) and all of creation. This document is firmly rooted in Haudenosaunee Teachings because it is part of respecting the culture that emerged from this landscape that can help us maintain healthy relationships with each other and creation.

Date document last revised: November 1, 2024

Signatory Print Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____

Definitions:

Inclusive

Inclusion refers to the notion of belonging, feeling welcome and valued. It also speaks to a capacity to engage and succeed in a given institution, program, or setting. Inclusion calls for recognizing, reducing, and removing barriers to participation created by social disadvantage or oppression, and can result in the reimagination of an institution, program, or setting (Adapted from McGill University Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan 2020-2025).

Equitable

Unlike the notion of equality, equity is not about sameness of treatment. It speaks to fairness and justice in process and in results. Equitable outcomes often require differential treatment and resource redistribution to achieve a level playing field among all individuals and communities. This requires recognizing and addressing barriers to opportunities for all to thrive (Adapted from McGill University Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategic Plan 2020-2025).

2SLGBTQIA+

This acronym represents individuals who are two-spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and all other sexual orientations and genders.

Haudenosaunee

Refers to the Haudenosaunee (alternatively known as the Iroquois) Confederacy, which is an alliance of six nations connected by the Kainarekowa (Great Law). Each nation has its own identity and language. These nations are known as: Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, and Tuscarora. The original homelands of these communities are primarily in the northeastern *Anowarah':ne* along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region.

Anowarah':ne (Turtle Island)

An English translation of a name used by many Indigenous Peoples for the continent commonly known as North America.

Indigenous Peoples

The term 'Indigenous' is an umbrella-term with diverse meanings and applications that vary across imposed settler- and post-colonial-state boundaries. The term on a global level for Indigenous People works to build community between different Indigenous Communities around the world (Francis, 2019).

REFERENCES

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To: Board of Directors
From: Lisa Van De Ligt, Team Lead, Communications and Stewardship
Date: March 19, 2025
Subject: Conservation Areas Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors receive the Conservation Areas update.

BACKGROUND:

The RRCA owns and manages three Conservation Areas which enable residents and visitors to step into nature through various amenities such as park and picnic areas, wildlife viewing blinds and platforms, a marina, campground, interpretive centre, and trails.

DISCUSSION:

Below us an update on the RRCA's three Conservation Areas:

Gray's Creek Conservation Area

- 2025 Visitation (up to March 17): 8,193 (2024 total: 113,000)
- Marina will re-open April 28 to September 28, 2025*
- Three Marina Attendants have been recruited
- Biodiversity garden underway to replace the administration office flower beds (supported by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation)

Charlottenburgh Park Conservation Area

- 2025 Visitation (up to March 17): 1,574 (2024 total: 26,000)
- Campground to re-open on May 16, 2025 to October 13, 2025
- Nine summer staff have been recruited
- Funding secured under the St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan to replace the wetland interpretive signage along trails

Cooper Marsh Conservation Area

- 2025 Visitation (up to March 17): 2,633 (2024 total: 34,500)
- One summer staff (i.e. Nature Interpreter) recruited
- Visitors Centre to re-open May 2 to August 29, 2025*
 - Weekend guided walks offered by Nature Interpreter
 - Lending library available (e.g. binoculars, dip nets, species identification guides)
- Past outreach summary:
 - February 1, 2025 event: World Wetlands Day in partnership with Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (200+ attendees)
 - March 11-14, 2025: March Break activities held in partnership with River Institute (189 participants)
- Upcoming outreach held in partnership with River Institute:
 - Eco Friends Summer Day Camp
 - July 21-25 and July 28-August 1
 - School workshops
- Funding secured under St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan for wetland outreach (e.g. World Wetlands Day event, Visitors Centre enhancements), biological inventories, and habitat enhancements

*Dates are subject to change based on available staffing resources.



Lisa Van De Ligt
Lisa Van De Ligt,
Team Lead, Communications and Stewardship



To: Board of Directors
From: Lisa Van De Ligt, Team Lead, Communications and Stewardship
Date: March 19, 2025
Subject: Grant Submissions

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors approve requesting up to \$7,000 from TD Bank Group to host a TD Tree Days event;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors approve requesting \$6,500 from Ducks Unlimited Canada to support a wetland restoration and enhancement project;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors approve entering into an agreement with funders, as required.

BACKGROUND:

To support and enhance the RRCA's programs and services, staff consistently investigate funding and partnership opportunities and submit grant applications when applicable. Funding opportunities may be annual grants typically secured by the RRCA or new funding opportunities. When a funder offers a different funding amount than the RRCA's original request, staff will adjust the workplan accordingly prior to accepting the funding.

Below is a summary of the 2025 grant application requests submitted to date:

- Requested: \$188,640
- Approved: \$29,100
- Pending: \$159,540
- Not approved: \$0

Below is a summary of the 2024 grant application requests:

- Requested: \$1,471,055
- Approved: \$1,136,280
- Pending: \$160,190
- Not approved: \$123,085

DISCUSSION:

The following funding opportunities were identified by staff as a potential source of revenue for RRCA programs and projects:

1. Project Title: TD Tree Days

- **Funder:** TD Bank Group
- **Request:** up to \$7,000
- **Summary:** Since 2018, the RRCA has partnered with TD Bank Group to host TD Tree Days, a community tree planting event, and proposes to partner with TD again in 2025.
- **Submission Deadline:** April 25, 2025

2. Project Title: Gauthier Wetland Enhancement Project

- **Funder:** Ducks Unlimited Canada
- **Request:** up to \$6,500
- **Summary:** Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)'s support will be allocated towards a RRCA wetland restoration and enhancement project on privately-owned land within Charlottenburgh Marsh. The purpose of the Gauthier Wetland Enhancement Project is to create open water habitat and increase habitat availability and diversity for fish and various focal wildlife species. This wetland enhancement project is an initiative under the St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan financially supported by the provincial and federal government.
- **Submission Deadline:** N/A



Lisa Van De Ligt
Lisa Van De Ligt,
Team Lead, Communications and Stewardship

Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: OGRA Delegation Request – Charlottenburgh Park Lease Renewal

Content for website submission form <https://goodroads.ca/conference/delegation/>

Prepared by: Township of South Glengarry and Raisin Region Conservation Authority

MINISTRY / PARTY: Tourism, Culture and Gaming

HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH THE MINISTRY ABOUT THIS ISSUE PREVIOUSLY? No.

ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED (max. 1,000 characters; at 877 characters):

Charlottenburgh Park is located along the St. Lawrence River in the Township of South Glengarry in eastern Ontario. The Park is managed by one of the Township's valued partners, Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA). This 235-acre Conservation Area is leased from the St. Lawrence Parks Commission (SLPC), a government agency overseen by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Gaming.

The current 20-year lease agreement for Charlottenburgh Park expires on April 30, 2026. The lease agreement includes a 20-year renewal option. In 2023, the RRCA advised the SLPC in writing of its intent to renew the agreement; however, a new agreement has not been negotiated. To seamlessly continue offering excellent service at this highly visited eco-tourism destination, we are seeking provincial support to enter early negotiation to finalize the 20-year renewal agreement with SLPC.

ISSUE RATIONALE (max 2,000 characters; at 1,994 characters):

SLPC contracted the RRCA from 2002-2006 to restore Charlottenburgh Park, which was a campground operated by the SLPC until 1990. Following the 1990 closure, the Park was vandalized, buildings and roads fell into disrepair, and the beach and campground became overgrown. The RRCA not only restored the Park's infrastructure and recreation potential, but it also enhanced valuable woodland and coastal wetland habitat. This restoration supports international environmental initiatives including the St. Lawrence River Remedial Action Plan and the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Agreement. Through a collaborative effort, RRCA and its municipal partners brought together federal, provincial, municipal, partner, and local investments to help restore this beautiful waterfront attraction for the benefit of residents and tourists.

In 2006, the SLPC entered into a lease agreement with the RRCA to manage the Park, which features a campground, trails, boat launch, and the only publicly accessible beach in South Glengarry. The Park is enjoyed by over 27,000 visitors annually and provides summer employment experience for local youth who are instrumental in supporting the Park's services.

The local municipalities and Conservation Authority have invested over \$5 million to date in Charlottenburgh Park; these investments were made based on the negotiated lease and 20-year renewal term. The Park revenue is redirected into the local economy through investments in Park enhancements, offsets municipal Conservation Authority levies, and covers the SLPC rent (10% of gross annual revenue).

In 2023, the RRCA advised the SLPC in writing about its intent to renew the agreement as capital investments were needed at the Park. Although several meetings took place between the RRCA and SLPC, a new agreement has not been negotiated. Early renewal discussions are imperative for the RRCA to strategically plan for the 2026 Park operations and asset management planning for major improvements.

Name: Kelli Campeau
Title: General Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk
Municipality: Township of South Glengarry
E-mail: kcampeau@southglengarry.com
Phone: 613.347.1166 ext. 2102

Supporting Information:

- RRCA jurisdiction map
- Charlottenburgh Park trail map



Raisin Region Conservation Authority

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Tel: 613-938-3611 Fax: 613-938-3221 www.rrca.on.ca

March 10, 2025

Mr. Nolan Quinn, M.P.P
120 Second Street West
Cornwall, ON
K6J 1G5

Re: Congratulations on your re-election as MPP for Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry

Dear MPP Quinn,

On behalf of the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA), we would like to congratulate you on your recent re-election as MPP for Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry. We look forward to continuing to work with you on our shared priorities for natural resource management within the substantial area shared by your constituency and our watershed jurisdiction.

Ontario's easternmost conservation authority, the RRCA supports its five member municipalities in a 1,680 km² jurisdiction home to approximately 86,500 residents. Our programs and services include supporting safe and sustainable development, protecting people and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion, conserving environmentally significant lands, protecting municipal drinking water at the source, fostering landowner stewardship, and providing recreation and eco-tourism opportunities.

Ontario's internationally recognized conservation authority model means municipalities work together with nature's own systems for the benefit of our environment, residents, and economy. For RRCA's municipalities, this means rapid access to experts for *Planning Act* file reviews, a dependable Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, peace of mind for developers, nearly 1.3 million trees planted since 1994, the operation of eight water control structures, three publicly-accessible Conservation Areas beloved by the community – Cooper Marsh, Gray's Creek, and Charlottenburgh Park – and much more.

The RRCA's accomplishments are made possible thanks to the strong support from our community, corporate, Indigenous, and government partners. In recent years alone, the RRCA has implemented numerous initiatives thanks to funding provided by the Government of Ontario.

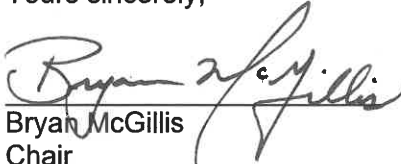


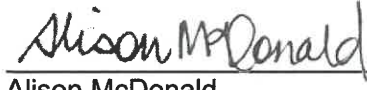
Within your constituency, these include significant enhancements to flood hazard mapping for the Eastman Municipal Drain in the Township of South Stormont and City of Cornwall; improvements to water control structures like the large-scale Fly Creek Flood Control in the City of Cornwall; strengthening of shorelines through erosion control projects and tree planting; mapping of invasive phragmites for future management; updates to the local Drinking Water Source Protection Plan; major rehabilitation of the ring dykes and pumps at Cooper Marsh Conservation Area in South Glengarry, and the implementation of numerous agriculture best management practices to improve the health and resilience of our watersheds.

We would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss how we can continue our collaboration on our shared goals for the resilience and sustainability of our region. We also wanted to note that our Board recently submitted an Ontario Good Roads conference delegation request through the municipality of South Glengarry related to Charlottenburgh Park lease agreement.

Your office may contact Josianne Sabourin at (613) 938-3611 ext. 221 or Josianne.Sabourin@rrca.on.ca to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,


Bryan McGillis
Chair


Alison McDonald
General Manager / Secretary Treasurer