

Shoreline Areas Sustainable Community Plan Public Open House / Workshop #2

Agenda

1. Public Open House (7:00-7:30 pm)
2. Presentation (7:30-8:00 pm)
3. Working Groups (8:00-9:00 pm)
4. Report back to Group (9:00-9:30 pm)
5. Concluding Remarks





Shoreline Areas Sustainable Community Plan

Public Open House/Workshop #2
September 29 and 30, 2010

Presentation Outline

1. Introduction
2. Preliminary Study Area
3. Study Process/Timeline
4. “Sustainability” as the Basis for Planning
5. Preliminary Assets, Issues, Opportunities and Constraints
6. Draft Vision Statements
7. Sustainability Strategies
8. Next Steps
9. Workshop



Introduction

The purpose of the Shoreline Areas Sustainable Community Plan study is to:

- » Develop a vision(s) for the shoreline areas of the Municipality
- » Implement more detailed planning policies to manage growth and change
- » Develop sustainable strategies – including specific “actions” – to realize the vision(s)

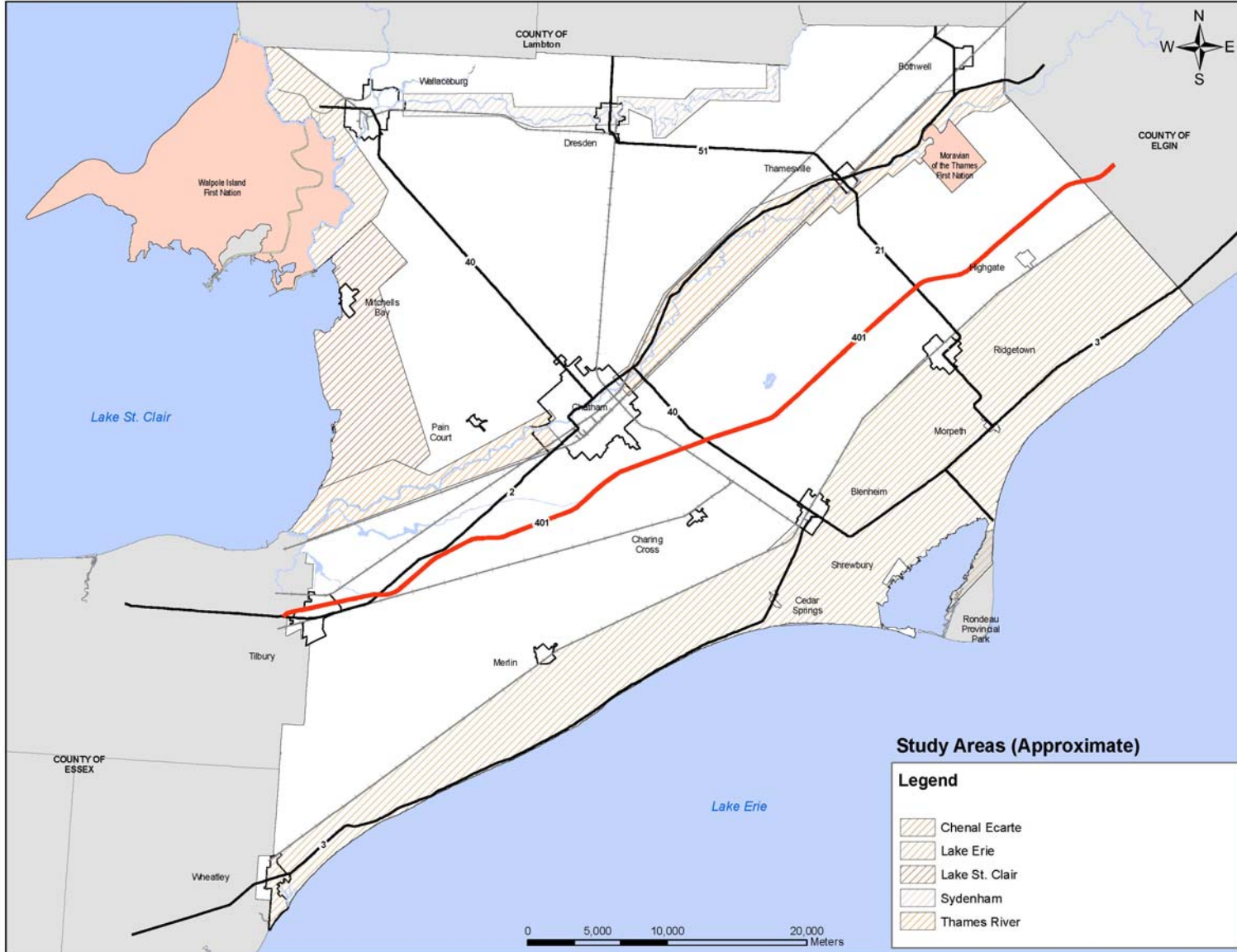
The study recognizes that the overall health of the Municipality is dependent on the long-term health of the shoreline areas.

Funding for this study is provided by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and its funding partners:

- » The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), through their Green Municipal Fund (GMF)
- » The Community Futures Development Corporation of Chatham-Kent
- » The Government of Canada through Canada’s Economic Action Plan



Preliminary Study Area



Preliminary Study Area

Quick facts:

- » Encompasses approx. 40% of the land in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- » Many of the Municipality's Provincially significant natural heritage features are found within the shoreline areas
- » Over 130 km of shoreline on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie
- » Over 170 km of riverfront shoreline
- » Includes urban areas/settlements of:
 - › Chatham, Wallaceburg, Blenheim, Ridgetown, Dresden, Thamesville, Wheatley, Eriean, Erie Beach, Mitchell's Bay, Merlin, Shrewsbury, Cedar Springs, Morpeth
- » Adjacent to the Study Area are the:
 - › Walpole Island First Nation
 - › Moravian of the Thames First Nation



Study Process/Timeline



Sustainability as the Basis for Planning

The Plan consists of two documents:

- » **Secondary Plan:** Guides decision making through more detailed policies
- » **Community Sustainability Plan and Implementation Strategy:** Outlines specific actions and sets the stage for developing partnerships between the Municipality, agencies and the private-sector to implement the Plan



Secondary Plan

- » A statutory document (amendment to the Official Plan)
- » More detailed policies to guide land use decisions
- » Secondary Plan may address:
 - › establishing a more comprehensive natural heritage system strategy
 - › focus growth and redevelopment through more specific policies (waterfront revitalization)
 - › more detailed development policies within the shoreline areas
 - › define areas that require more detailed study
 - › policies to encourage/promote agriculture, tourism and recreation uses

Community Sustainability Plan and Implementation Strategy

- » Non-statutory document (Council-endorsed)
- » Outlines the vision, goals and objectives
- » Identify sustainable action strategies and tools, such as:
 - › green initiatives
 - › shoreline management
 - › energy conservation initiatives
 - › partnerships between the Municipality, agencies and the private sector
- » Identify short, medium and long-term priorities
- » Identify specific targets and an implementation strategy to ensure that the strategies are achieved
- » Answers the question 'who needs to do what and when?'

Preliminary Assets, Opportunities, Constraints and Issues to be Considered

The Steering Committee and the public have identified the assets, opportunities, constraints and issues which need to be addressed through this Study.

Assets:

- Beaches, parks, trails and public access to the water
- Quiet atmosphere
- Biodiversity/wildlife/ecological systems/habitat
- Boating, fishing
- Agricultural production
- History/heritage
- Settlements

Opportunities:

- Hunting
- Green tourism
- Underutilized boating and marine industry development opportunities
- Water supply
- Opportunity for oil/gas extraction industry
- Cottage rentals
- Boat tours/boat rentals/ferry service
- Potential for new trails (i.e., abandoned railways)
- Potential to attract American tourists
- Potential to develop environmental education institutions or programs

Preliminary Assets, Opportunities, Constraints and Issues to be Considered

Constraints:

- Low water/boating speeds
- Lack of understanding of ecological, biological and other aspects of the waterways
- Lack of municipal sanitary systems or the impacts of septic systems
- Inaction by government and/or lack of accountability or unclear responsibilities
- Not enough public awareness about the assets of the shoreline areas
- Lack of “soft landings” (canoes/kayaks)
- Shallow water, fluctuating water levels
- Poor diversity and vulnerability of industry types
- No good destinations to attract boaters to come up the rivers
- Lack of growth and development

Issues:

- Ecological, aesthetic and other impacts of phragmites
- Potential impact of wind farm development on birds
- Threats to historical sites and buildings
- Water pollution/pollution from adjacent agricultural uses
- Declining boat traffic
- Erosion/sedimentation
- Debris/dead trees in the waterways

Draft Vision Statements

As a starting point, the Study Team proposed several draft vision statements

- » Embodies sustainability principles – balancing social, economic and environmental needs
- » Incorporates the preliminary assessment of Chatham-Kent's assets, issues opportunities and constraints

At the first public workshop held on June 22, 2010, we obtained valuable feedback on the vision statements, and have refined and added two new vision statements.



Draft Vision Statements

1. **Sustainable** - The ecological, economic and social assets are balanced to contribute to a healthy and vibrant community.
2. **Connected** - The shoreline areas and settlements are well-connected through parks, conservation areas, trails, sidewalks, streets and ecological corridors.
3. **Identifiable** - The shoreline areas provide a sense of place through aesthetically pleasing and inviting public spaces, reflective of local history and context.
4. **Accessible** - The public spaces are improved and easily accessible by all persons, while respectful of private property.
5. **Visible** – Views of important focal points and vistas from the shoreline areas and the water are protected, preserved and enhanced.



Draft Vision Statements

- 6. Historic** – Cultural heritage resources and landscapes are preserved and celebrated.
- 7. Active** – Promote active and healthy lifestyles by accommodating opportunities for recreation (walking, cycling, hiking, water activities), social activities and cultural activities and amenities that respond to the needs of residents and visitors.
- 8. Conserved** – The ecological features, functions and habitats are preserved and enhanced.
- 9. Collaborative** – The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with agencies, community groups, First Nations groups, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.
- 10. Renowned** – The shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent are renowned for their regional, provincial, national and international significance, as established through Chatham-Kent's commitment to supporting and promoting its shoreline areas.



Sustainable Strategies: Natural Heritage System Strategy

- The Provincial Policy Statement and Chatham-Kent Official Plan provides support for establishing a more comprehensive natural heritage system which goes beyond what is currently protected through the Official Plan.
- A Natural Heritage System (NHS) Strategy could identify additional natural features not identified in the Official Plan and identify potential corridors/linkages which may warrant further study and protection. This may include such features as:
 - » Locally significant wetlands
 - » Woodlands <2ha in size with significant attributes
 - » Shoreline landforms
 - » Natural features within Important Bird Areas
 - » Regional Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI's) etc.

Sustainable Strategies: Natural Heritage System Strategy

The Natural Heritage System would be primarily implemented through:

1. Watershed/Subwatershed Studies (landscape review)

- detailed, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary inventories of natural heritage features and functions within an ecologically-defined functional unit.
- Studies at these scales provide a landscape-based approach to implementation of NHS principles and objectives (e.g. identification of NHS features, and linkages).

2. Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) (site-specific review)

- Where development or site alteration is proposed, a site-specific review of the potential impact on the natural heritage feature(s) and adjacent area is undertaken.
- The EIS study area is typically guided by the limits of the proposed land use change, and consequently covers a much smaller land area.

Sustainable Strategies: Natural Heritage System Strategy

A Natural Heritage System Strategy could be established through the following strategies/options:

1. Most Comprehensive - Official Plan Policy and Schedule Amendments

- Amend Official Plan policies and mapping (where appropriate) to identify the additional natural heritage features and corridors/linkage areas.
- *Would also incorporate strategies 2 and 3 below.*

2. Identify Natural Heritage Priority Areas

- Amend Official Plan to identify Areas of Policy Interest (API's) and Potential Enhancement Opportunities (PEO's), which represent existing concentrations of natural features where greater consideration could be given to identify and protect/enhance these features and establish linkages.
- *Would also incorporate strategy 3 below.*

3. Less Comprehensive – Enhanced Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Requirements

- Amend Official Plan policies regarding the preparation of an EIS to identify additional study requirements to review and assess the additional natural heritage features.
- **The purpose of our workshop is to review and discuss these options to identify a preferred NHS Strategy approach.**

More detailed and comprehensive

Sustainable Strategies: Focus of Growth and Redevelopment

- The Provincial Policy Statement and Chatham-Kent Official Plan focuses development within existing Primary and Secondary Urban Centres, and more limited growth in Hamlets where suitable water and sanitary servicing is provided.
- The Provincial Policy Statement requires that a comprehensive review be undertaken when identifying a settlement area expansion.
- The Shoreline Study is not intended to satisfy the comprehensive review requirements and as a result the expansion of settlement areas is not open to discussion.
- **The purpose of our workshop is to identify settlement areas and specific areas which may provide opportunity for redevelopment or enhancement to improve the shoreline areas, consideration may be given to:**
 - » **Prominent shoreline areas where enhanced recreational opportunities may be considered or expanded.**
 - » **Existing public lands/parks where improved recreational amenities may be warranted.**
 - » **Cultural or heritage sites which may be enhanced.**
 - » **Vacant or underutilized parcels where a comprehensive plan or policies are required to encourage redevelopment, and/or areas where more detailed study is required and should be considered during the next review of the Official Plan.**

Community Sustainability Strategies:

- A review of numerous Sustainable Community Plans was undertaken to identify sustainability best practices and approaches which could be implemented into the preparation of the Secondary Plan and/or Community Sustainability Plan.
- The purpose of our workshop is to identify in what order you would prioritize each of the strategies and/or identify other strategies which should be considered.

1. Community Improvement Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial incentives for green initiatives 	6. Shoreline Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • best management practices for landowners
2. Blue Flag Eco-label <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • international designation for renowned beaches and marinas 	7. Cultural heritage and recreational assets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designate Heritage Conservation Districts, scenic routes
3. Public Use/Acquisition Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve public access to the waterfront 	8. Community outreach programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • website, advertising, interpretive signage
4. Energy Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pursue energy retrofit programs 	9. Establish a Sustainability Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversee implementation of the Plan
5. Green community/building design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Star, LEED and LEED ND standards 	10. Identify and Establish Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with agencies/institutions to implement shoreline strategies

Next Steps

- » Preparation of the Sustainable Shoreline Strategy: Framework Report
 - › Analyze the issues, policy framework and recommend policy directions in the Secondary Plan
 - › Identify possible actions which can be undertaken through the Sustainable Community Plan & Implementation Strategy
- » Following completion and refinement of the Framework Report, we will begin to prepare the Draft Sustainable Community Plan and Secondary Plan.

- » We welcome and encourage your input!



Workshop

- » Break-out into working groups
- » Review the workshop discussion hand-out to guide discussion
- » Facilitated by a staff/consulting team member
- » Before starting, please select a representative to report back to the group
- » Agenda:
 - › Natural Heritage System Strategies (20 minutes)
 - › Focus of Growth and Redevelopment (20 minutes)
 - › Community Sustainability Plan Strategies (20 minutes)
 - › Report back to Group (30 minutes)

