

December 5, 2022

To Planning and Building Departments of Watershed Municipalities

## **RE: Conservation Authority Program and Services Update – Bill 23**

Further to the Royal Assent of Bill 23, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) would like to share the following information and clarification regarding its programs and services.

### **Plan Review Services**

It is business as usual for our plan review services, accordingly, planning applications should continue to be circulated for review. Plan review and commenting under the Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation (O.R. 686/21) which includes natural hazards and source water protection continues to be unaffected. Changes to our non-mandatory review and commenting services for development applications will not take effect until such time as the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (NRF) issues a clarifying regulation. The UTRCA will notify you when this regulation is published.

In the meantime, we continue to provide all plan review services in a timely manner to support your ability to meet the legislated deadlines under the *Planning Act*.

### **Permits**

It is business as usual for permitting services except for new provisions concerning Minister's Zoning Orders and Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator Orders (*Conservation Authorities Act*, s. 28.0.1). We will collaborate with you on efficient delivery of such permits as they arise.

The provision allowing the Minister to issue regulations to exempt certain development projects with *Planning Act* approval in certain municipalities from conservation authority permits is not currently in effect.

### **Updated Fee Schedule**

The attached fee schedule for 2023 meets the requirements of the Minister's List of classes of programs and services for which conservation authorities may charge a fee. This fee schedule remains in effect unless the Minister issues a direction to freeze our fees. You will be notified should such a direction be issued. You will also be notified if any fees for development review and commenting services are affected by the above referenced NRF Minister regulation.

**Other Services Provided through MOUs/Agreements**

The recent legislative changes do not affect other services provided to municipalities. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority will continue work on formalizing these arrangements through Memoranda of Understanding and agreements where they are not already present.

We look forward to providing you with exemplary services. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Jenna Allain, extension 223 or myself at extension 253.

Yours Truly,



Tracy Annett  
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer



Jenna Allain  
Manager, Environmental Planning & Regulations

Encl: Planning and Regulations Fees Schedule