



# 2024 Board and Committee Report

**January 2, 2025**

# 2024 Boards & Committees

- Committee of Adjustment
- Drainage Board
- Hearing Committee
- Police Services Board transition to OPP Detachment Board - North
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Mayor's Arts Awards Committee
- Dog Pound Committee
- Belle River BIA Board of Management
- Lakeshore-Tecumseh Inter-Municipal Committee
- Election Compliance Audit Committee
- Executive Committee

# Committee of Adjustment

12 meetings in 2024

## Committee highlights

- The Committee of Adjustment is appointed by Council to hold hearings under the Planning Act for minor variances, consents, enlargements, extensions, or changes to legal non-conforming uses; consent to mortgages, partial discharge of mortgages, validation of title, access right-of-ways, easements, and leases over 21 years.
- In 2024, the committee considered:
  - 46 Minor Variances were approved, 1 Minor Variance denied
  - 14 Consents were approved, 1 consent was deferred (not yet revisited) and 2 Consent cancellations were approved
  - Requests for change to the conditions of previously granted Consent was approved for 2 consent files
- No decisions were appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal

# Drainage Board

## Nine meetings in 2024

### Board highlights

- The Drainage board consists of five community members. The board is considered an extension of Council that must adhere to the Drainage Act. The Drainage Superintendent is the board's staff liaison.
- Lakeshore has approximately 650 municipal drains, totaling over 1046 km, along with 60 municipal pumps.
- The board is responsible for reviewing engineers' reports and listening to residents' concerns on the technical component of the report.
- The board is also responsible for listening to residents if they have issues with their assessment in the engineer's report (this is the Court of Revision).
- The Drainage Act was created to provide for one or a series of landowners to convey their water safely across or through neighboring lands without causing any undue damage to those properties. Municipal drainage projects are predominantly "user pay."

# Hearing Committee

Three meetings in 2024

## Committee highlights

- The Hearing Committee was established by by-law under the Building Code Act, 1992, and other regulatory by-laws, to hear appeals to orders under the Property Standards By-law and other regulatory by-laws.
- In 2024, there were three appeals to the Hearing Committee:
  - One appeal relating to an order under the Property Standards By-law
  - Two appeals relating to dangerous dog orders under the Animal Care and Control By-law

# Police Services Board

## Two meetings in 2024

### Committee highlights

- In accordance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, the Police Services Board was dissolved in 2024 and replaced by a regional committee: the OPP Detachment Board – North. This board represents the Town of Essex, Municipality of Lakeshore and the Town of Tecumseh
- An annual report is required to be presented to Council on or before June 30 each year in compliance with the Act. The OPP Detachment Board – North presented its annual report to Council on June 25, 2024.

# Accessibility Advisory Committee

Four meetings in 2024

## Committee highlights

- Attended the first Essex County "Accessibility for All" event in Colchester
- Completed a Multi-year Accessibility Plan, to be presented to Council for approval in early 2025
- Created AODA Guidelines for Municipal Infrastructure, to be presented to Council in 2025 following expected legislative changes to the Act.

# Mayor's Art Awards

Six meetings in 2024

## Committee highlights

- A committee was established to provide advice and recommendations to the Mayor regarding applications for the awards. Although approved as a 5-member committee, only one advisor was appointed for the 2022-2026 term. Awards are held on a bi-annual basis.
- Awarded 6 local artists and supporters of local art in 2024
  - Student Artist Award (Kristen Alexander and Hailey Cassidy)
  - Emerging Artist Award (Justin Jewell)
  - Creative Entrepreneur Award (Stephanie Kriza)
  - Artistic Excellence Award (Christian Vegh)
  - Patron of the Arts Leadership Award (Laurie D'Alessandro)
- Submissions will open Fall 2025 for the 2026 Awards





# Dog Pound Committee

One meeting in 2024

## Committee highlights

- The committee is made up of one Councillor each from Lakeshore, LaSalle, Essex and Tecumseh.
- The committee ensures that the Dog Pound meets its obligations under the *Animals For Research Act* which governs Dog Pounds in Ontario.
- The Dog Pound is inspected at least once per year by Animal Welfare Inspectors to ensure that the facility is compliant and kept sanitary.
- The committee also approves the annual operating budget since it operates independently of the municipalities.
- Following the death of Councillor Paddy Byrne in July 2024, Councillor Michael Hoffman was appointed as the Chair of the Dog Pound Committee.

# Belle River BIA Board of Management

## 11 meetings in 2024

### Board highlights

- The BIA represents a portion of Lakeshore's community of Belle River.
- Under the Municipal Act, 2001, a BIA utilizes its budget and resources to:
  - Oversee the improvement, beautification, and maintenance of municipally-owned land and structures in the area.
  - Promote the area as a business or shopping area.
- In 2024, the Board hosted:
  - Five Stroll the Streets events (May, June, August, September and October)
  - Annual Sunsplash Festival
- New in 2024
  - Appointed a new Executive Director
  - Continued strategic planning

# Lakeshore-Tecumseh Inter-Municipal Committee

No meetings in 2024

## Committee highlights

- Established to maintain a productive relationship, facilitate dialogue and information sharing between municipal councils and staff. The committee provides a forum to review and comment on a range of topics of mutual interest.
- Lakeshore hosted the last meeting on November 2, 2023 and discussed the following topics: transit services, joint branding study, Lakeshore Wastewater Master Plan Update/Regional Servicing Feasibility Study, municipal garbage collection, and the new OPP detachment board.
- The Town of Tecumseh will host the next meeting in spring 2025.

# Election Compliance Audit Committee

No meetings in 2024

## Committee highlights

- The Election Compliance Audit Committee was established as required by the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, to review applications for a compliance audit of a candidate's or registered third party's election campaign finances.
- There were no applications for compliance audits following the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election. This committee remains in effect for the remainder of the term of Council (2022-2026) should there be any by-elections during this time.
- Following the death of Councillor Paddy Byrne in July 2024, Council appointed Michael Hoffman as Councillor – Ward 2. Since this was an appointment, there was no by-election and therefore no election financial audits were applicable.

# Executive Committee

Six meetings in 2024

## Committee highlights

- The Executive Committee was established in January 2024. This is an advisory committee responsible for reviewing human resources matters that require Council approval, prior to Administration presenting the matters to Council.
- The Committee provides recommendations relating to:
  - Council policies regarding human resource matters;
  - Key human resources performance metrics, including recruitment and health and safety;
  - Staff and Council compensation and benefits;
  - Mandates for all bargaining negotiations;
  - Council policies pertaining to staffing matters with respect to attraction and retention.