
MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

**MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
EXTENSION OF BACHAND STREET AND STORM SEWER
OUTLET**

PROJECT FILE REPORT



BMROSS
engineering better communities

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September 18, 2026

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Introduction

The Municipality of Bluewater initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) study in July of 2025 to identify impacts associated with the extension of Bachand Street and installation of a new storm sewer outlet. The study process followed the procedures set out in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document, dated September 2023 (Municipal Engineers Association, 2023). B. M. Ross and Associates Limited (BMROSS) was engaged to conduct the MCEA investigation on behalf of the Municipality.

In 2025, the Municipality of Bluewater approved a petition to assume the maintenance of Gendron and Bachand Street. Following the direction of Council, the Municipality plans to undertake improvements to bring the roads up to the current municipal standard. That work includes opening Georgianna Street between Gendron Street and Bachand Street, which is subject to the requirements of the MCEA. The MCEA investigation involved an evaluation of the impacts associated with extending Bachand Street within an unopened road allowance and a new storm sewer outlet. The framework of the study built upon evaluating impacts associated with extending Bachand Street westward and then approximately 150 metres north to connect to Gendron Street. A new storm sewer outlet to Fourcier Drain, north of Gendron Street is also under consideration.

The purpose of this report is to document the MCEA planning and design process followed for this project. The report includes the following major components:

- An overview of the general project area.
- A summary of the existing conditions.
- A description of the alternative solutions considered for resolving the defined problem(s).

- A synopsis of the decision-making process conducted to select a preferred alternative.
- A detailed description of the preferred alternative.

1.2 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Process

Municipalities must adhere to the Environmental Assessment Act of Ontario (EA Act) when completing road, sewer or waterworks activities. The Act allows the use of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process for most types of municipal infrastructure projects. A MCEA is an approved planning document which describes the process that proponents must follow in order to meet the requirements of the EA Act. The MCEA approach allows for the evaluation of alternatives to a project, and alternative methods of carrying out a project, and identifies potential environmental impacts. The process involves mandatory requirements for consultation. MCEA studies are a method of dealing with projects that have the following common characteristics:

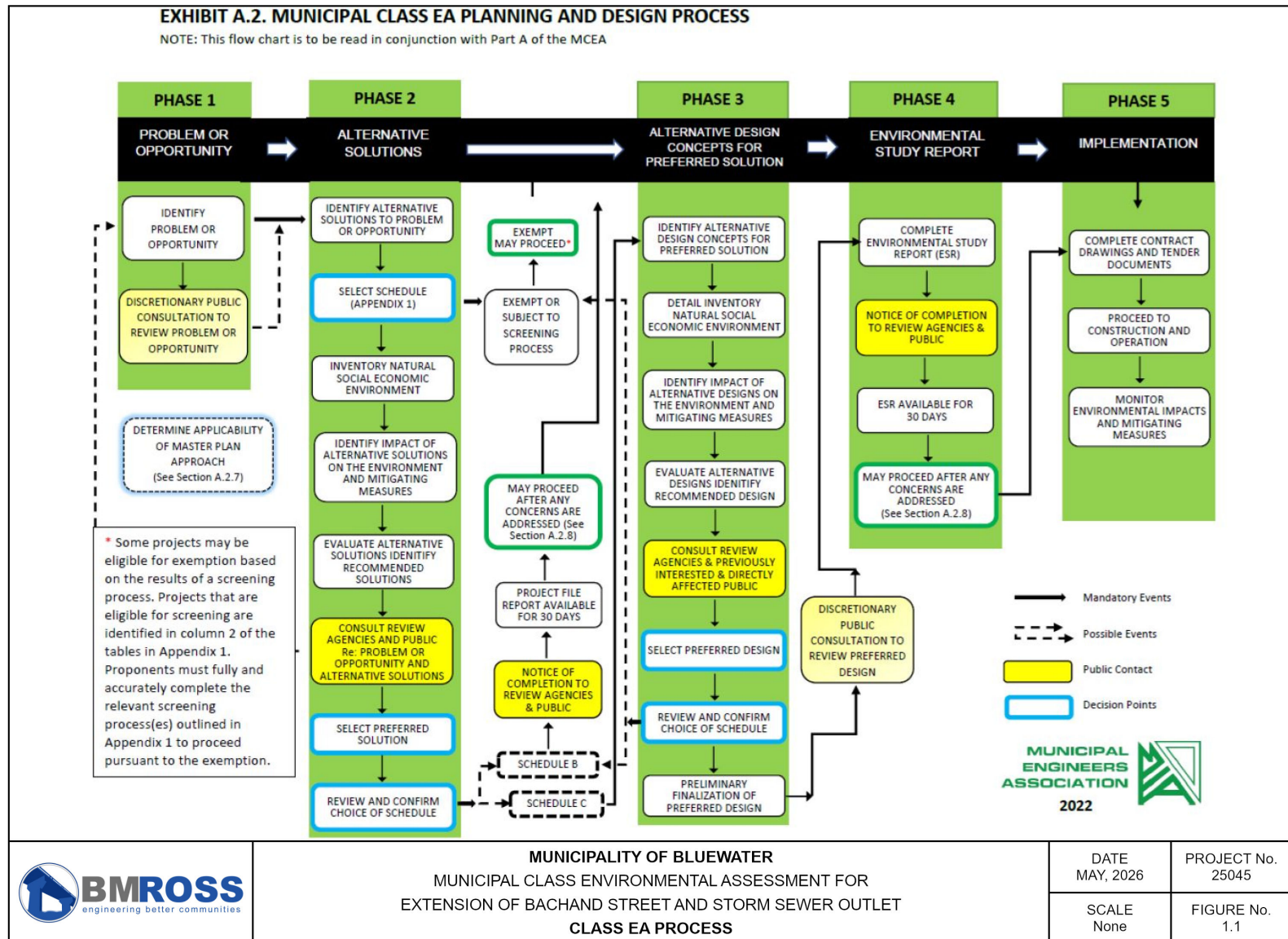
- They are recurring.
- They are usually similar in nature.
- They are usually limited in scale.
- They have a predictable range of environmental effects.
- They are responsive to mitigating measures.

If a MCEA planning process is followed, a proponent does not have to apply for formal approval under the EA Act. The development of this investigation has followed the procedures set out in the MCEA. Figure 1.1 presents a graphical outline of the procedures.

The MCEA planning process is divided into the following phases:

- Phase 1 – Problem identification.
- Phase 2 – Evaluation of alternative solutions to the defined problems and selection of the preferred solution.
- Phase 3 – Identification and evaluation of alternative design concepts and selection of a preferred design concept.
- Phase 4 – Preparation and submission of an Environmental Study Report (ESR) for public and government agency review.
- Phase 5 – Implementation of the preferred alternative and monitoring of any impacts.

Figure 1.1 Municipal Class EA Process



Throughout the MCEA process, proponents are responsible for having regard for these principles of environmental planning:

- Consultation with affected parties throughout the process.
- Examination of a reasonable range of alternatives.
- Consideration of effects on all aspects of the environment.
- Application of a systematic methodology for evaluating alternatives.
- Clear documentation of the decision-making process to permit traceability.

1.3 Classification of Project Schedules

Projects are classified into different project schedules according to the potential complexity and the degree of environmental impacts that could be associated with the project. Four schedules are included in the MCEA process:

- Exempt and exempt following completion of the archaeological potential screening and/or collector road screening
- Schedule B – Projects that are approved following the completion of a screening process that incorporates Phase 1 and 2 of the MCEA process as a minimum.
- Schedule C – Projects that are approved subject to following the full MCEA process.

The MCEA process is self-regulating, and municipalities are expected to identify the appropriate level of environmental assessment based upon the project and alternatives they are considering.

1.4 Project File Report

The Project File Report (PFR) is prepared at the conclusion of the MCEA process and provides documentation of the decision-making process that was carried out. The report documents the planning and design phases of the process which will terminate with the construction of a project. It includes a discussion of the purpose of the project, including background information, outlines the existing natural and social characteristics of the project area, details the planning alternatives considered, and identifies any environmental impacts and mitigation measures associated with the implementation of the project.

The PFR, when completed, will be submitted to the Municipality for final approval and put into the public record. The report will be made available at various locations for review by all interested parties. A Notice of Completion, outlining the details of the project and locations where the PFR can be reviewed, will be advertised in the local newspapers and posted on the Municipality's website.

If no written objections are received by the proponents within 30 days of the publication of the Notice of Completion of the PFR, subject to receipt of all other approvals, the Municipality can proceed with the construction of the project.

1.5 Mechanism to Request a Higher Level of Environmental Assessment

Under the terms of the MCEA, the requirements to prepare an Individual Environmental Assessment for approval is waived. However, if it is found that a project going through the MCEA process has associated with it significant environmental impacts, a person/party may request that the Municipality of Bluewater voluntarily elevate the project to a higher level of environmental assessment. A request may be made to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for an order requiring a higher level of study, or that a condition be imposed on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests made to the Ministry on other grounds will not be considered.

1.6 MCEA Framework

The Municipality of Bluewater is considered the project proponent under the terms of the MCEA. The Municipality has engaged BMROSS to carry out an MCEA on their behalf.

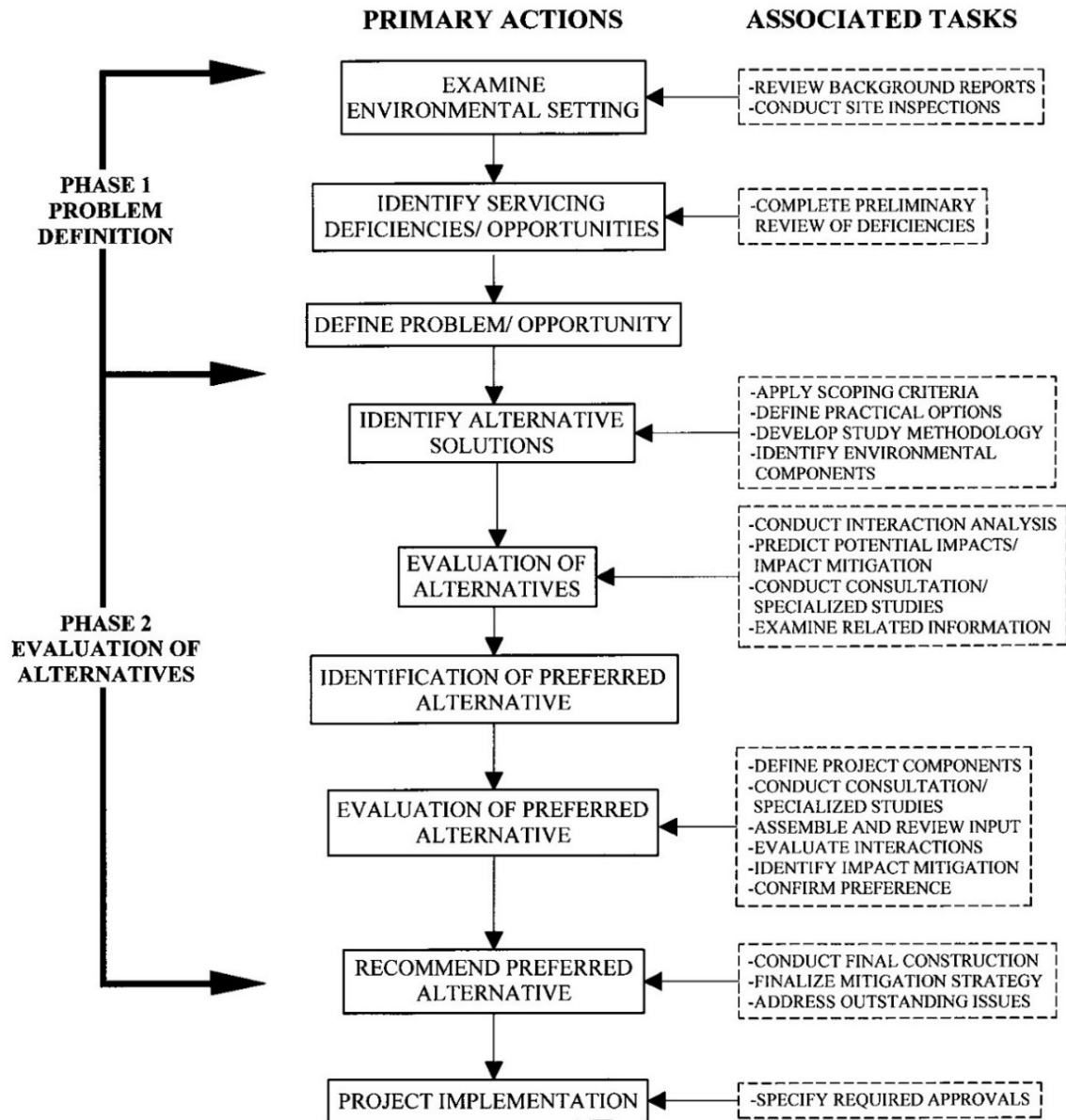
The MCEA process being followed is Schedule B, requiring the completion of Phase 1 – Problem or Opportunity and Phase 2 – Alternative Solutions. This PFR summarizes the process followed.

1.7 General MCEA Approach

The Municipality initiated the formal MCEA process in July 2025 to define and evaluate the impacts associated with the establishment of an extension of Bachand Street and storm outlet in the community of St. Joseph. The MCEA requirements for Schedule B projects was identified as the appropriate process, based on an assessment of the MCEA project schedules. The assessment followed the environmental screening process prescribed for Schedule B projects in the MCEA document. The Schedule B screening process incorporates the following primary components:

- Background review
- Problem/opportunity definition
- Identification of practical solutions
- Evaluation of alternative solutions
- Selection of a preferred alternative solution and implementation

Figure 1.2 illustrates the general tasks associated with the screening process. The following section of this report documents the findings associated with each stage of the assessment.



2.0 BACKGROUND REVIEW

2.1 Methodology

A background review was carried out to obtain a general characterization of the project study area and to identify factors that could influence the selection of alternative solutions to the defined problem.

The background review for this MCEA process incorporated the following activities:

- Assembly of information on the existing infrastructure and the environmental setting.
- Review of existing infrastructure within the study area and potential future needs.

A desktop analysis of the project setting was completed as part of the background review process. The following represents the key sources of information for this analysis:

- BMROSS files and related studies.
- Huron County GIS Mapping Services
- Ontario GeoHub databases:
 - Aquatic Resource Area Line Segment, Land Information Ontario (Land Information Ontario, n.d.)
 - Constructed Drain, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture (OMAFRA, n.d.)
- Environment Canada, Species at Risk Public Registry. SARA Schedule 1 Species List.
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Natural Heritage Information Centre website (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2024).
- Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario website (Birds Canada, 2021).
- ON Reptile and Amphibian Areas, Ontario Nature (Ontario Nature, 2023)
- Ausable Bayfield Source Water Region Assessment Report.
- County of Huron, Official Plan (OP) (County of Huron Planning and Development, 2021)
- Municipality of Bluewater OP and Zoning By-law.

2.2 General Description of Study Area

2.2.1 Municipality of Bluewater

The Municipality of Bluewater is located within Huron County in southwestern Ontario. The Municipality has a land base of approximately 415 km² with a population of over 7,000 permanent residents and an additional 2,500 seasonal residents. Bluewater was

formed through the amalgamation of former townships of Hay and Stanley and the villages of Hensall, Zurich and Bayfield. The Municipality consist of agricultural lands, the villages of Hensall, Zurich and Bayfield, and smaller hamlets including St. Joseph, Varna, Dashwood and Brucefield. The Municipality Bluewater is bordered to the south by the Municipality of South Huron, to the east by the Municipality of Huron East, and by the Municipality of Central Huron to the north, and lastly Lake Huron to the west. Bluewater is located within the Ausable Bayfield watershed.

2.2.2 Study Area – Community of St. Joseph

The hamlet of St. Joseph is located on the shoreline of Lake Huron in the former Township of Hay. St. Joseph is situated at the intersection of Huron County Road 84 (Zurich Hensall Rd) and the King's Highway 21 (Bluewater Hwy). The community is primarily a residential area, with a mix of permanent homes and cottages. At the intersection of Highway 21 and Huron County Road 84 there is a gas station with a convenience store, and furniture retailer. The urban settlement area for St. Joseph is shown in Figure 2.1 and includes the lands from Antoinette's Lane south to Moore Court, from the Lake Huron shoreline to just east of Highway 21. The community is suburban in nature, dominated by low density single-detached homes.

Bachand Street extends west from Highway 21, south of Huron County Road 84 and Gendron Street (Figure 2.2). Presently, the street extends approximately 180 m west, towards Lake Huron, from Highway 21. The road is currently gravel, with 5 residences fronting onto it. The Bachand Street road allowance extends a further 60 m west from the current end of the road surface. There is also an unopened road allowance (Georginna Street) between the end of the Bachand Street road allowance and Gendron Street to the north.

Bachand Street is a gravel road with grassed ditches along the north and south sides. Utility poles are located along the south side of the road, as is a line of trees. Gendron Street is also an unassumed, east-west gravel road. There are ditches for stormwater drainage on either side of the street. On Gendron Street, immediately east of Highway 21 for approximately 230 m, there are four residences along the south side of the street. On the north side is a gully for the Fourcier Drain, which generally travels in a northwest direction from Gendron Street and Highway 21. Utility poles are located on the north side of the street. There are 11 residences east of the Georginna Street road allowance on Gendron Street.

The Georginna Street road allowance is currently mowed grass. There are trees along the southeastern edge of the road allowance. A small footbridge has been installed within the road allowance to cross the ditch along the south side of Gendron Street. This footbridge has presumably been by local residents and is not maintained by the Municipality. At the northern end of Georginna Street, there are number of small trees within the road allowance. Figures 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 show Bachand Street, Gendron Street and the Georginna Street road allowance.

Figure 2.1 St. Joseph Area, Municipality of Bluewater

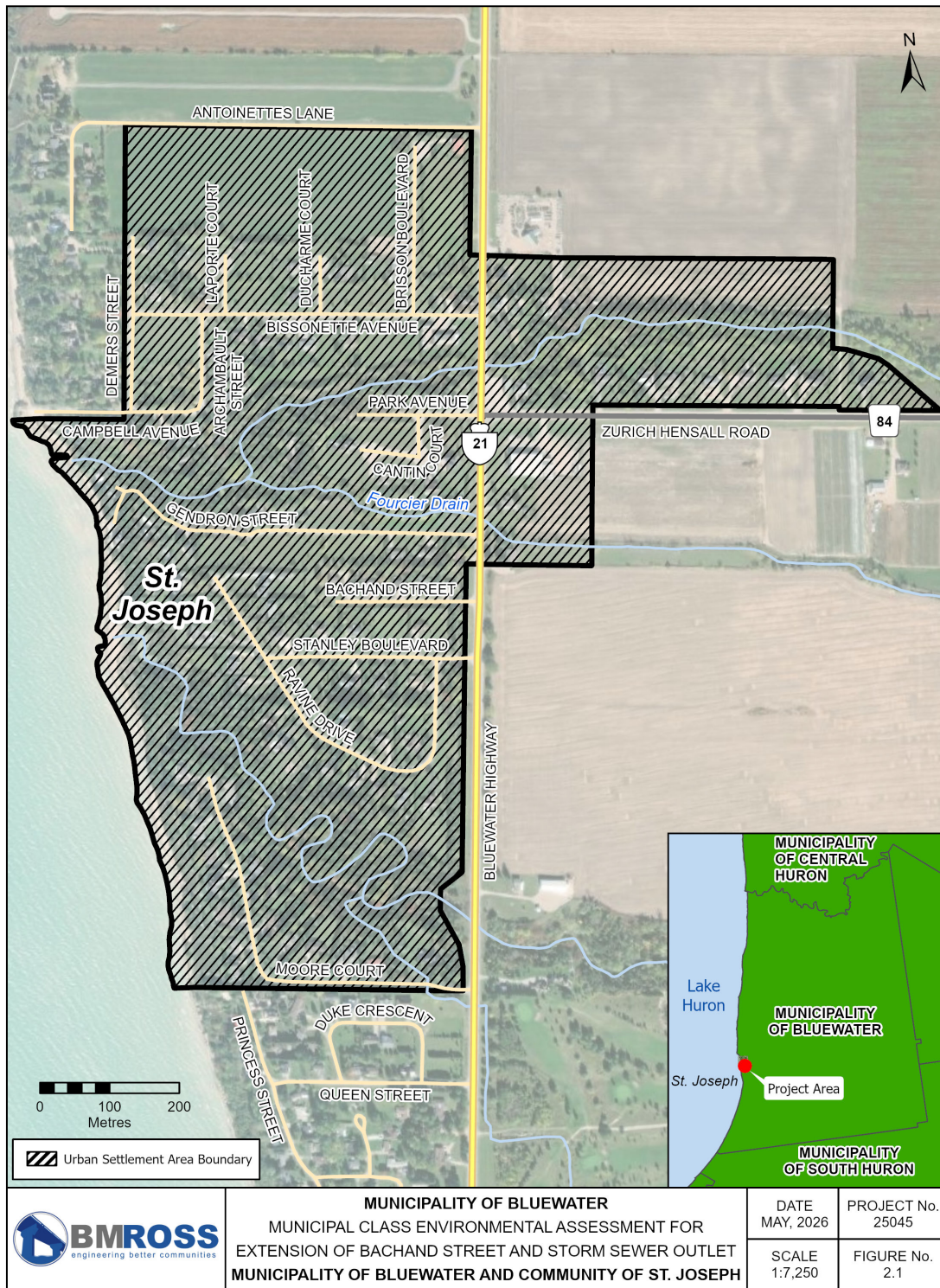


Figure 2.2 Study Area

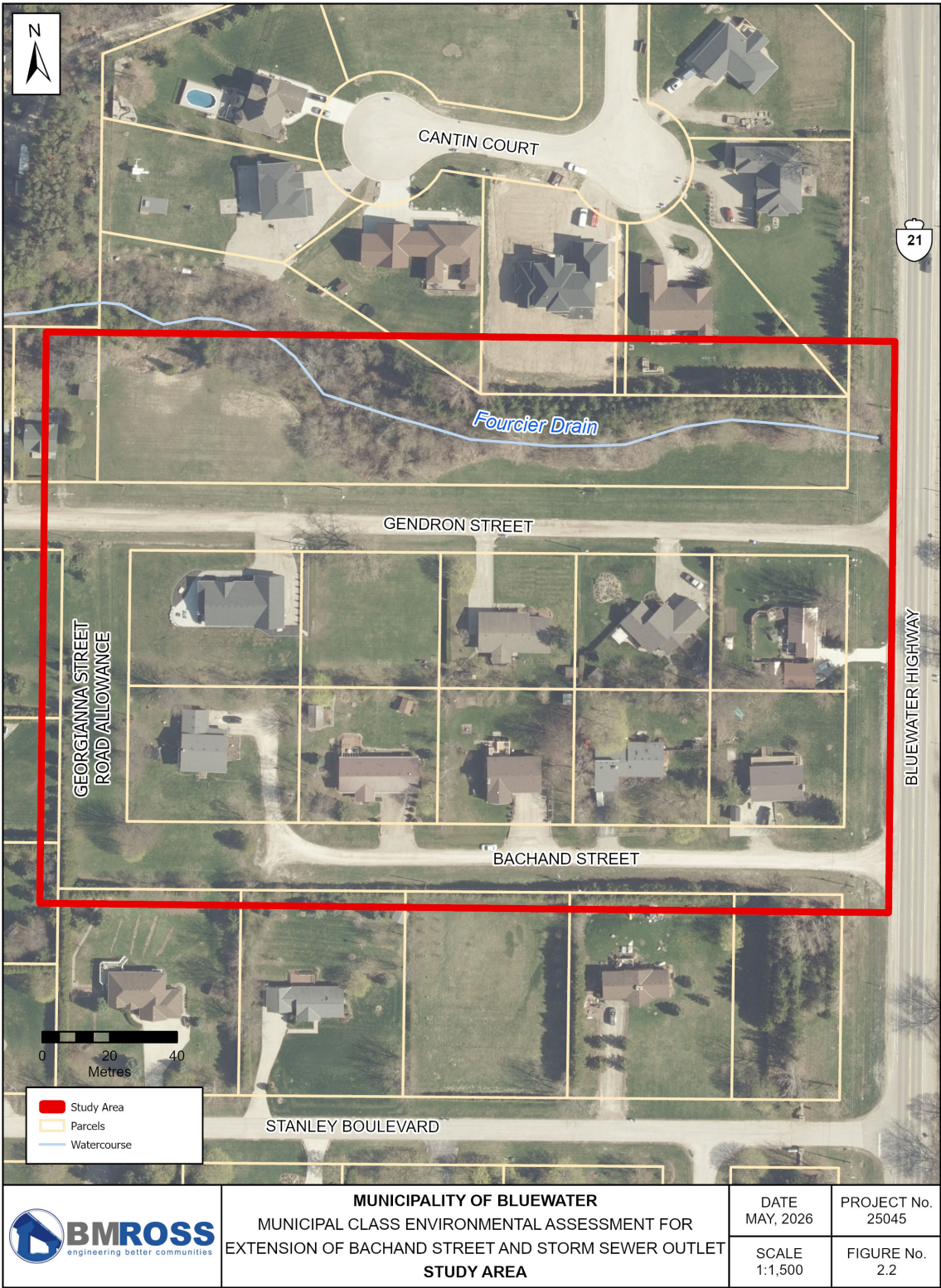


Figure 2.3 Bachand Street, Looking West



Figure 2.4 Gendron Street, Looking West



Figure 2.5 Georgianna Street Road Allowance



2.3 Environmental Setting

2.3.1 General Physiography

The project area is located in the Huron Fringe and the Huron Slope physiographic regions (Chapman & Putnam, 1984). The Huron Fringe is the wave cut terraces between the current Lake Huron shore and the clay plains at the top of the shoreline bluff. In this area, the terrace is relatively narrow. The Huron Slope physiographic region includes the lands east of the Huron Fringe to the Wyoming Moraine. It is a clay plain, characterized by the presence of deep gullies at the intersection with the shoreline bluff.

2.3.2 Significant Natural Areas

A desktop review of sensitive natural heritage features in the vicinity of the project area was carried out through the course of the MCEA process. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) database was consulted to determine the presence of potential or significant natural features within the vicinity of the project area. From the review of the database there are no significant wetlands or woodlands within the project area.

The MNR has identified significant natural features that are representative of significant terrestrial and geological features within the landscape. These features include wetlands, woodlands, and geologic formations. These areas, known as Areas of Natural and

Scientific Interest (ANSI), are designated by the province and can be regionally or provincially significant. ANSI's take two forms; Earth Science, which is representative of significant landforms, and Life Science, which is representative of significant terrestrial features within the landscape such as wetlands and woodlands. The MNR recommends that development in areas adjacent to ANSI consider impacts on the natural feature or their ecological function.

There are no ANSIs within the project area. The nearest ANSI is an Earth Science ANSI - St. Joseph Till located approximately 2.5 km northwest of the project area (see Figure 2.6). It is classified as regionally significant and related to the waterlain sediment, which exposed an unrecognized glacial retreat that occurred in Lake Huron (Broster, 1982). However, it's a non-sensitive class which means it is not critical for protection or conserved.

2.4 Species At Risk

A desktop evaluation was undertaken to identify the likelihood of the presence of species at risk and potential for species at risk habitat. The following federal and provincial legislation directs the protection of species at risk and their associated habitats:

- The Federal Species at Risk Act, 2002 (SARA) provides for the recovery and legal protection of listed wildlife species and associated critical habitats that are extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern and secures the necessary actions for their recovery on lands that are federally owned. Only aquatic species and bird species included in the Migratory Bird Convention Act (1994) are legally protected on lands not federally owned; and
- The Provincial *Species Conservation Act 2025* (SCA), provides legal protection for endangered and threatened species in Ontario by regulating activities that may harm protected species or their habitats.

A number of sources were consulted for the information related to the occurrence of species at risk and their associated habitats. The sources are listed below. A summary of the federally and provincially recognized species with the potential to be present within the project study area of St. Joseph is listed in Table 2.1.

- Natural Heritage Information Centre, *Make a Natural Heritage Map* (Ministry of Natural Resources, 2026)
 - The 1 km NHIC square corresponding with the study area in St Joseph is 17MJ4206
- Protected Species in Ontario List (Government of Ontario, n.d.)
- Environment Canada, Species at Risk Public Registry. SARA Schedule 1 Species List (Government of Canada, 2026)
- Canadian Aquatic Species at Risk, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) (Government of Canada, 2026)
- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 3 (Birds Canada, 2021)
 - The 10 km square corresponding with the study area is Square 17MJ40.
- Ontario Reptile & Amphibian Areas, Ontario Nature (Ontario Nature, 2023)

- The 10 km square corresponding with the study area is Square 17MJ40.
- Ontario Insect Atlas (Macnaughton, Layberry, Cavašin, Edwards, & Jones, 2025)
 - The 10 km square corresponding with the study area is Square 17MJ40.

2.5 Observations in the St. Joseph, Bluewater area Breeding Birds

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 3 (2026) was used to identify the bird species that have confirmed, probable, and possible breeding habitats in the designated study area. The Atlas counts birds within 100 km² square. The study area is found within square 17TMJ40 and the latest count has 89 bird species identified.

Within the square, 26 bird species are confirmed to be breeding within the area, including species at risk such as Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Chimney Swift and Bank Swallow. An additional 30 species were categorized as having probable breeding status, including one species at risk (Grasshopper sparrow), and 33 are considered to have possible breeding status, including species at risk such as Canada Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warbler in the area (Birds Canada, 2026).

It should be noted the Atlas square that encompasses the study area includes a variety of habitat types (woodlands, meadows, agricultural areas, wetlands, shoreline and riverine environments). The project area itself includes limited habitat for identified species. For instance, the project area includes manicured lawn and a gully fringed with trees and shrubs and a residential area with significant disturbance.

2.6 Aquatic Habitat

The Fourcier Drain is located north of Gendron Street, draining the agricultural land to the east and outleting into Lake Huron. The drain is an open and under the DFO classification system is identified as a Class F drain, which have intermittent flow. Potential fish species in the watercourse include: Brook Stickleback, Creek Chub, Fathead Minnow, Northern Redbelly Dace, Rainbow Trout and White Sucker.

2.7 Aquatic Habitat

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Figure 2.6 Natural Heritage Features

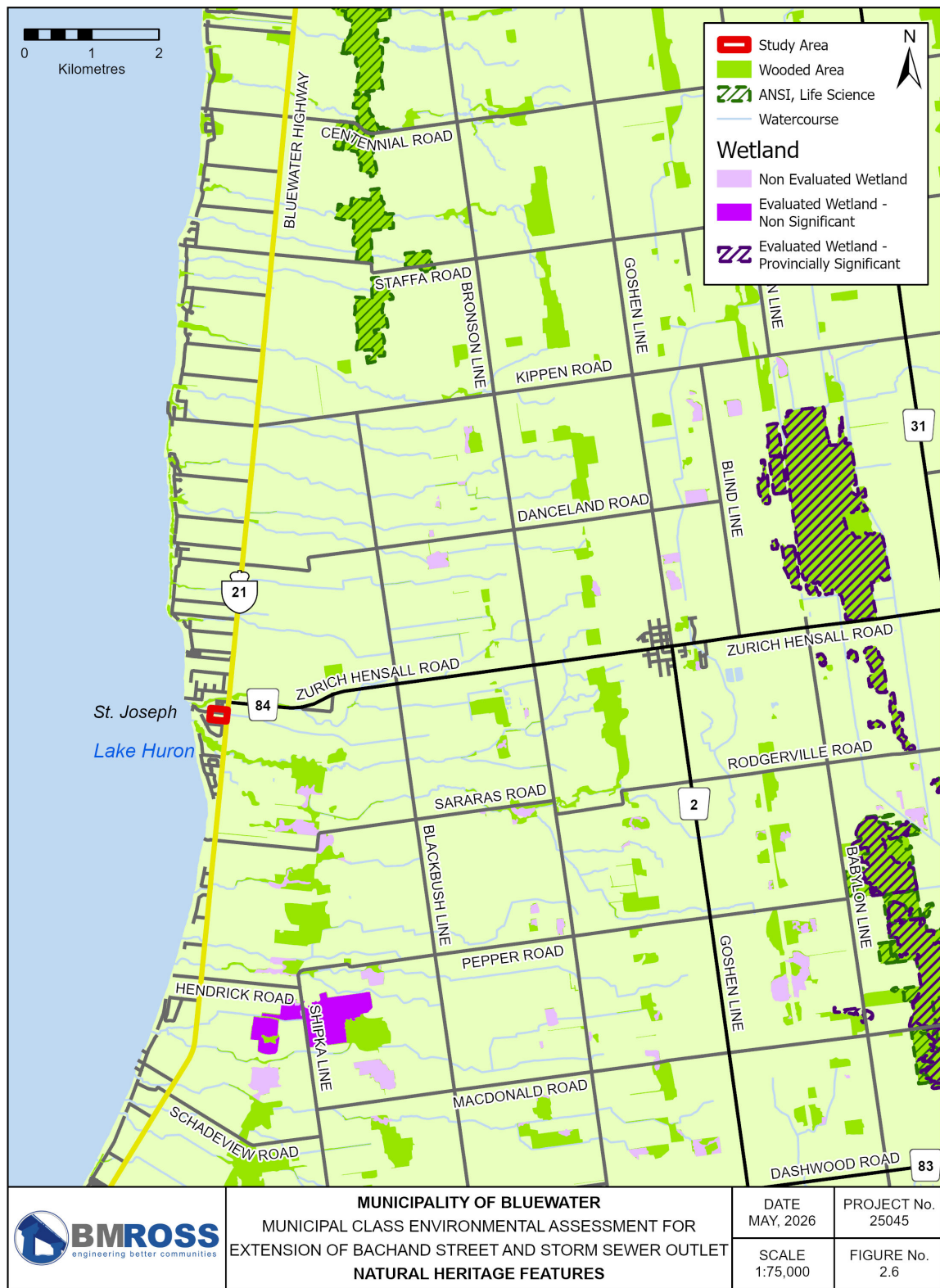


Table 2.1 Potential Species at Risk Within the Study Area

Type	Species	Scientific Name	Federal Status ¹	Ontario Status ²	Status on the Protected Species in Ontario List ³	Likely to be present or impact on habitat
Bird	Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Not listed	Low
Bird	Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Not listed	Low
Bird	Eastern Whip-poor-will	<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Not listed	Potential
Bird	Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Not listed	Low
Bird	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Threatened	Special Concern	Not listed	Potential
Bird	Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Not listed	Potential
Plant Community	Sea Rocket Sand Beach Type		G2G4 (globally vulnerable)	S2S3 (rare, of high conservation concern)	Not listed	Low
Reptile	Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Not listed	Low
Amphibian	Mudpuppy	<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed	Very low
Fish	Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	Threatened	Endangered	Endangered	Very low
Fish	Shortnose Cisco	<i>Coregonus reighardi</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Not listed	Very low
Insect	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Special concern	Special concern	Not listed	Potential
Insect	Baltimore Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>	Not listed	Special concern	Not listed	Very low

¹ Environment Canada, Species at Risk Public Registry, SARA Schedule 1 Species List (Government of Canada, 2026)

² Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO). [Assessment results](#) (COSSARO, 2026)

³ Government of Ontario. Species at Risk Protected Species in Ontario List (Government of Ontario, 2026)

2.8 Source Water Protection

The project area is within the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Region. The study area is supplied municipal water via the Bluewater Distribution System and Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System (LHPWSS). The LHPWSS intake is located in Port Blake in the Municipality of South Huron.

The study area is not located within any Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) or Intake Protection Zones (IPZ). It is also not located within a Highly Vulnerable Area. The Fourcier Drain is identified as a Significant Groundwater Recharge Area, but no vulnerability score has been assigned to the area. Given this, there are no specific source water protection policies that apply within the project area.

2.9 Cultural Heritage Resources

Cultural heritage resources, which include archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes are an important aspect of the cultural environment and could be impacted by the proposed undertaking. The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) provides screening checklists to assist in the determination of the potential for cultural heritage resources.

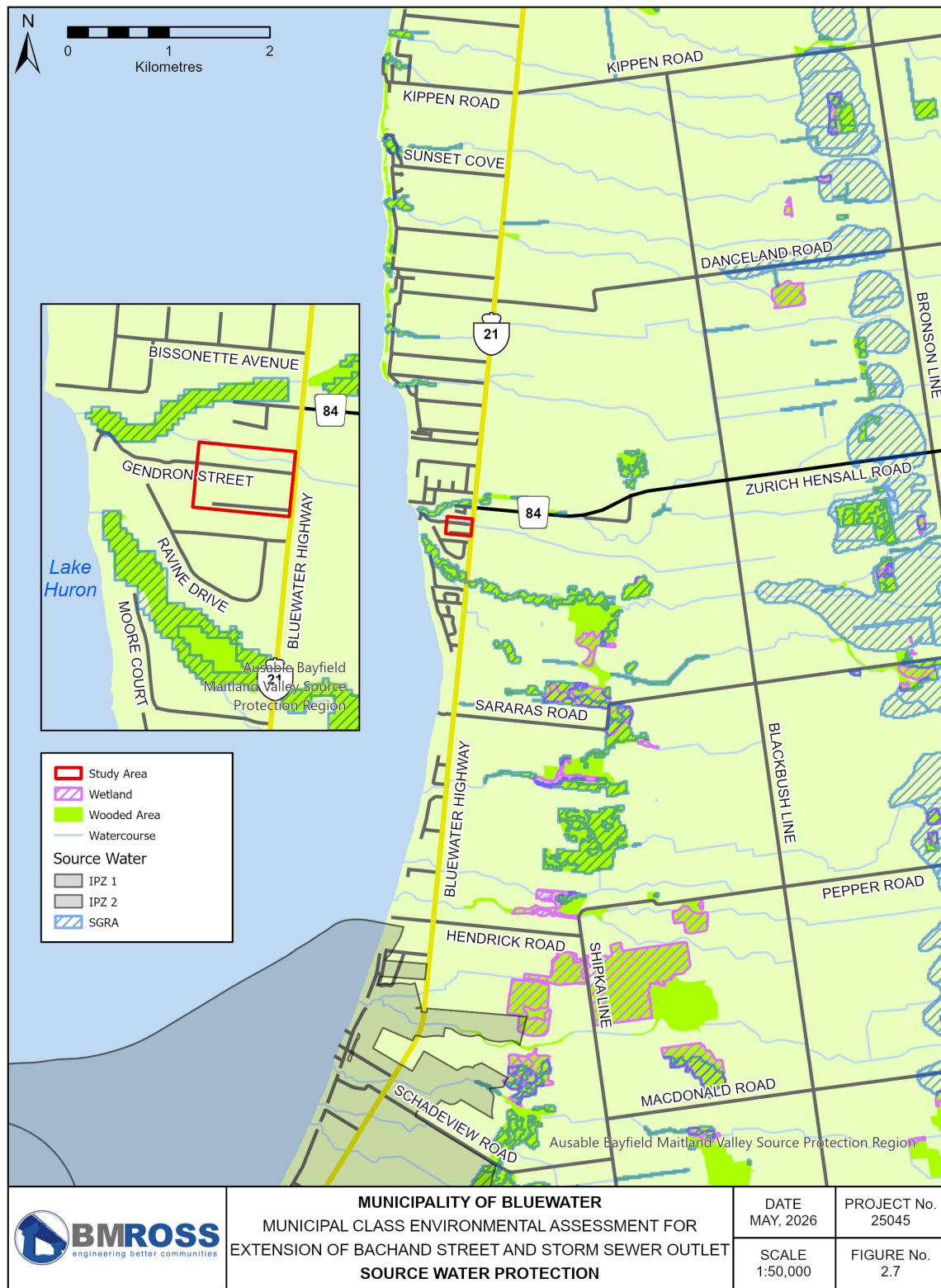
2.9.1 Archaeological Resources

The screening checklist Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential was completed (see Appendix A) and concluded that the study area has archaeological potential based on its proximity to a watercourse, early settlement area, thoroughfares and structures.

A Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment (under Project Information Form #P1189-0110-2025) was completed to identify areas of archaeological potential and determine if further archaeological assessment (Stage 3-4) were required. The Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment was completed by Timmins-Martelle Heritage Consultants and included test pits of the study area at 5 m intervals. Areas existing of built features, previously disturbed and steeply sloped lands were deemed to have low archaeological potential land and were photo-documented. Through the assessment process, no archaeological resources were found and as such, the no further archaeological assessment was recommended. The report was entered into the Public Register of Archaeological Reports on January 2, 2026. A copy of the report is included in Appendix B.

The proposed works do not include any works within natural watercourses or waterbodies, therefore, no marine archaeological assessment has been undertaken.

Figure 2.7 Source Water Protection Areas



2.9.2 Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

The screening checklist Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes was completed (see Appendix A) and concluded there is low potential for built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the study area. Therefore, no further technical cultural heritage studies are recommended.

2.10 Air Quality, Dust and Noise

The study area includes residential properties, which are classified as sensitive receptors. The existing roadways, given the low levels of traffic and low speeds are not significant sources of noise. Within the study area there are no sources of significant noise, dust or air pollution.

2.11 Contaminated Sites

There are no known contaminated sites or former landfill sites located within or in close proximity to the study area.

2.12 Servicing and Utilities

Municipal water services the residential properties within the study area. The water system is owned and operated by the Municipality of Bluewater and supplied by the LHPWSS.

Electrical services are provided utilizing overhead lines. Telecommunication services are located within the road allowances in the study area.

Sanitary sewage is treated by private, on-site septic systems for the residences within the study area.

2.13 Climate Change

As part of the MCEA process, the impacts associated with climate change need to be evaluated. Some of the phenomena associated with climate change that will need to be considered include:

- Changes in frequency, intensity, and duration of precipitation, wind, and heat events.
- Changes in soil moisture.
- Changes in sea/lake levels.
- Shifts in plant growth and growing seasons.
- Changes in the geographic extent of species ranges and habitats.

There are two approaches that can be utilized to address climate change in project planning. These are as follows:

- I. Climate Change Mitigation – reducing a project’s impact on climate change. Strategies may include:
 - a. Reducing the impact of greenhouse gas emissions related to the project.
 - b. Alternative method to completing the project that would reduce adverse contributions to climate change.
- II. Climate Change Adaption – increasing the projects and local ecosystems' resilience to climate change. Strategies may include:
 - a. Reducing vulnerability to climate-related severe weather events.
 - b. Alternative methods of carrying out the project that would reduce negative impacts associated with climate change.

Through the evaluation of alternatives to the MCEA process, a consideration of each of these approaches is included and considered in the final determination of the preferred approach to completing a project.

2.14 Adjacent Land Uses

Adjacent land uses to the study area include residential and vacant residential lands. North of Gendron Street, between the Georginna Street road allowance and Highway 21 is a property owned by the Municipality of Bluewater that contains a treed gully with the Forcier Drain.

2.15 Planning Policies

2.15.1 Provincial Planning Policy

The Provincial Policy Statement, 2024 (PPS) provides policy direction for land use planning and development across the province. Local planning policies and land use decisions must conform with the policies of the PPS. The PPS intends to promote long-term prosperity, environmental health, public safety, and social well-being through efficient land use and development patterns (Ministry of Muncial Affairs and Housing, 2024).

With respect to infrastructure, the PPS states that infrastructure and public services facilities will be provided in an efficient manner while accommodating projected needs. It further provides guidance that the use of existing infrastructure and public services facilities should be optimized.

The PPS includes a number of policies planning for stormwater management. It specifies that planning for stormwater management shall:

- Minimize, or where possible, prevent or reduce increases in stormwater volumes and contaminant loads.
- Mitigate risks to human health, safety, property and the environment.

- Maximize the extent and function of vegetative and pervious surfaces.

2.15.2 Land Use Planning

The Municipality of Bluewater's Official Plan and Zoning By-law were consulted to determine land use designations within the project study area and related planning policies. The Official Plan identifies the following goals for infrastructure and servicing:

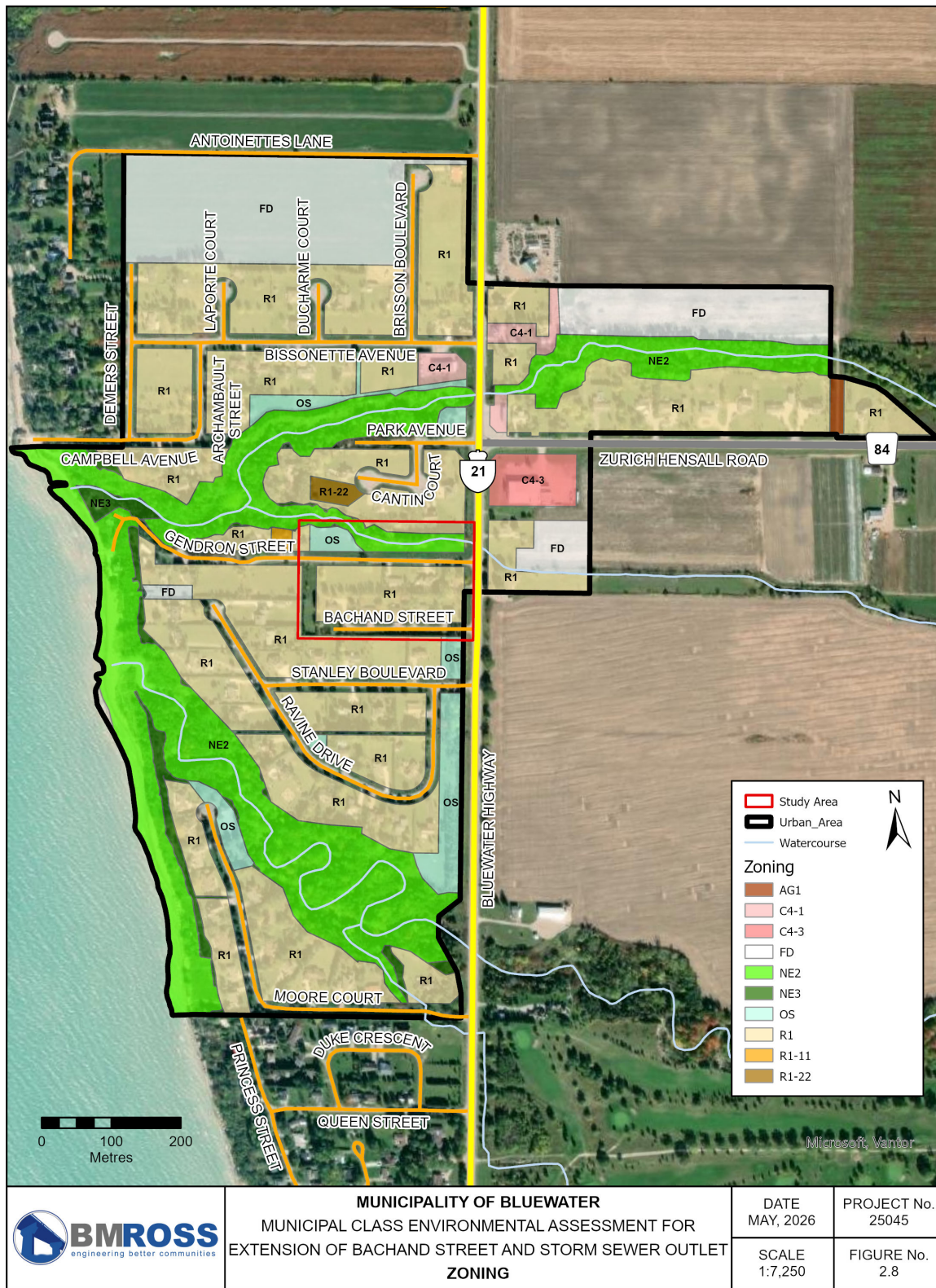
- To reduce deficiencies and improve municipal services in order to maintain the quality, safety and stability of the community. This includes the creation of new services where necessary, having regard to the needs of the residents of the Municipality.
- To provide efficient, cost effective and compatible locations for infrastructure and utilities.
- To establish a road system capable of providing for the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services.
- To provide a system of Municipal services consistent with the needs and resources of the community, including: high standards of design and sound planning, engineering, and environmental practices.

It is the intent of the Municipality of Bluewater to provide and maintain efficient, cost-effective and reliable transportation systems.

Zoning designations within the study area include Residential (R1), Open Space (OS), and Natural Environment (NE) 2 (see Figure 2.8). The residential areas are zoned (R1), while the grassed area to the north of Gendron Street is zoned OS. The gully area is zoned NE2.

Within the Zoning By-law, the use of any lands as a street or for the installation of public services and utilities, such as storm sewers, is permitted, providing: the approval of the Municipality has been obtained, the appropriate approval under the Environmental Assessment is obtained (as required), no goods, materials or equipment will be stored in the open in a residential zone, and any excessive noise or fumes resulting from such utility service is mitigated to reduce compliance issues with adjacent residences.

Figure 2.8 Zoning within the Study Area



Data: County of Huron.

3.0 MCEA PHASE 1 IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEM

3.1 Phase 1 - Identification of the Problem/Opportunity

The first phase of the MCEA process is the identification and definition of the problem or opportunity to be addressed. The problem/opportunity statement is the framework for identifying practical and feasible alternative solutions.

In 2025, the Municipality of Bluewater approved a petition to assume the maintenance of Gendron and Bachand Street. Following the direction of Council, the Municipality plans to undertake improvements to bring the roads up to the current municipal standard, which could include constructing Georgianna Street between Gendron Street and Bachand Street.

For the purposes of this MCEA, the following opportunity statement has been identified based on the above-noted needs.

The Municipality of Bluewater has the opportunity to construct a new municipal road within the existing Georgianna Street road allowance, to connect Bachand Street and Gendron Street.

4.0 MCEA PHASE 2 – IDENTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVES

4.1 Identification of Alternatives

The second phase of the MCEA process involves the identification and evaluation of feasible and practical alternative solutions to the defined opportunity. Once the feasible and practical alternatives are identified, the technical, economic, and environmental impacts associated with each implementation are evaluated. Mitigation measures that could lessen environmental impacts are also defined. A preferred solution or solutions is then selected.

Initially, a list of alternatives is generated as part of Phase 2 of the MCEA process. These alternatives are evaluated in terms of practicality and feasibility. The alternatives and their initial evaluation is summarized in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Long List of Alternative Solutions

Alternative	Initial Evaluation	Carried Forward for Further Evaluation (Yes or No)
1. Extend Bachand Street, and construct Georgianna Street	• Would involve extending Bachand Street to the west to the Georgianna Street road allowance, constructing a new urban road (Georgianna Street) north to Gendron Street. • Stormwater would be conveyed from the road allowances via a new storm sewer north to Gendron and then east to a new outlet at the Fourcier Drain. • May improve local drainage. • New road would be built to the municipal standard. • Assists with municipal snow clearing on Bachand Street.	Yes – carry forward for further evaluation.
2. Do Nothing	• Do not extend Bachand or construct Georgianna Street. • Does not assist with municipal snow clearing on Bachand Street. • Least costly option.	Yes – carry forward for further evaluation.

From the preliminary analysis of alternatives, there are two alternatives to carry forward for further analysis.

4.2 Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street.

This alternative requires the extension of Bachand Street to the west to the Georgianna Street road allowance. Bachand Street will be widened to accommodate two 2.75 m wide lanes. Georgianna Street will be constructed, consisting of two 2.75 m wide lanes with roadside ditches, catch basins and a 450 mm storm sewer. The new road will be approximately 150 m long, and will connect Bachand Street to Gendron Street. A stop sign will control traffic moving from Georgianna Street to Gendron Street.

The storm sewer will convey stormwater approximately 65 m east along the north side of Gendron Street to an outlet at Fourcier Drain. A riprap drain outlet would be constructed from the top of the slope at the Fourcier Drain to the toe, to direct water into the drain. The construction of the outlet will require removal of a small area of vegetation along the slope of the Fourcier Drain.

The construction of Georgianna Street will require the removal of existing trees within the road allowance. These trees are generally located east of the existing hydro poles. An existing wooden foot bridge that crosses the southern ditch at Gendron Street will be removed.

The components of Alternative 1 are shown in Figure 4.1.

4.3 Alternative 2- Do Nothing

Under the Do Nothing alternative, there would be no extension of Bachand Street or opening of the Georgianna Street road allowance. No stormwater infrastructure would be installed.

Under this scenario, the Municipality may or may not pave Bachand Street and Gendron Streets in the future.

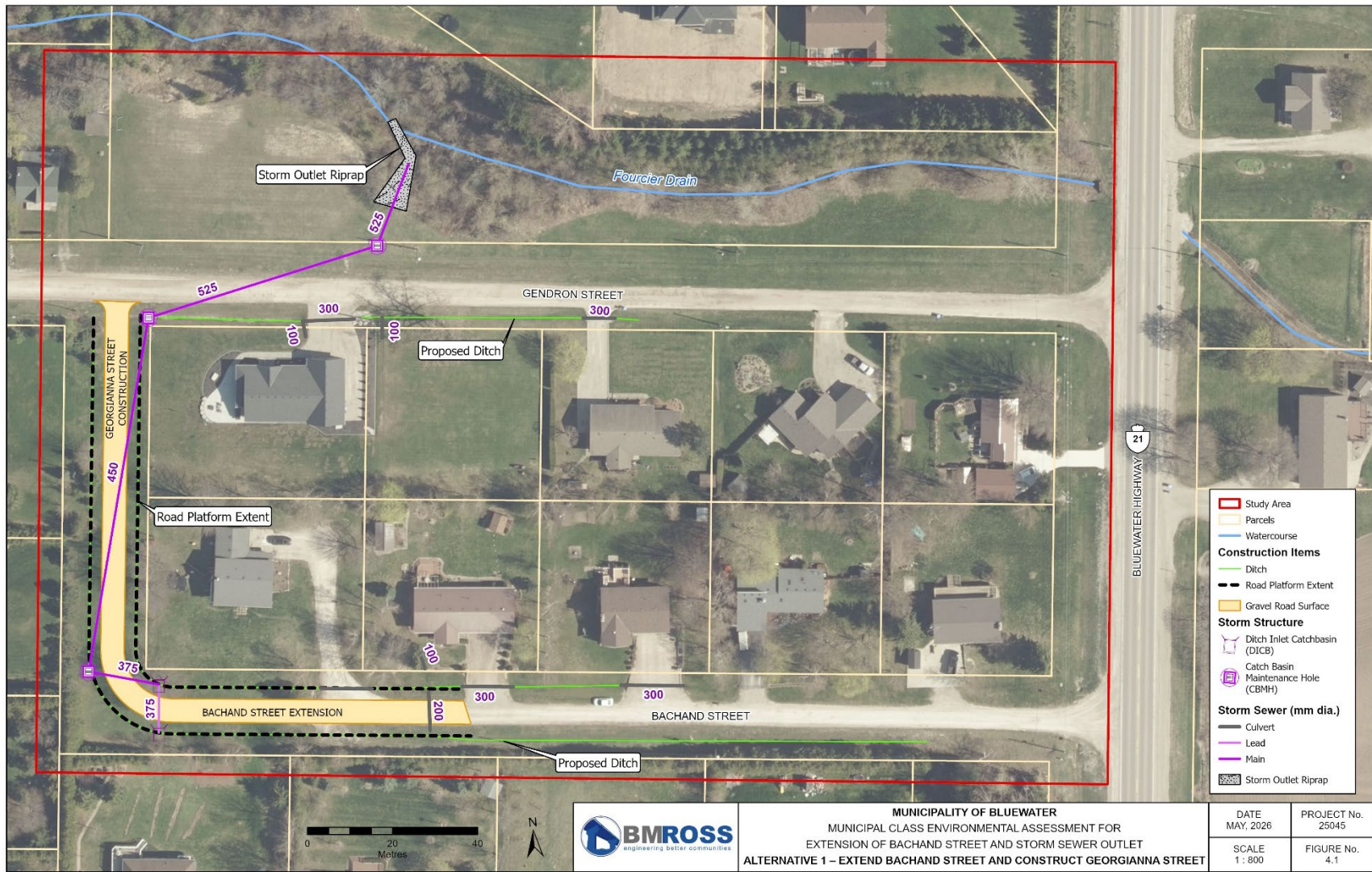
This alternative is carried forward through the MCEA process as it may be implemented if the other alternatives have impacts that are determined to be too significant or cannot be sufficiently mitigated.

4.4 Evaluation of Alternatives

Following the identification of practical and feasible alternative solutions, the alternatives are evaluated. The purpose of this is to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed works and to examine potential mitigation measures for any identified impacts. The evaluation stage generally involved the following activities:

- Evaluation of environmental impacts.
- Preliminary selection of a preferred alternative.
- Consultation with the general public and review agencies.
- Final selection of the preferred alternative.

Figure 4.1 Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street



4.5 Evaluation Methodology and Procedure

The evaluation of alternatives was carried out using a comparative assessment methodology, designed to predict the nature and magnitude of environmental impacts resulting from each defined option and to assess the relative merits of the alternative solutions. The evaluation methodology involved the following principal tasks:

- Identification of existing environmental conditions (baseline conditions, inventories).
- Assessment of existing land use activities, infrastructure, natural features, and socioeconomic characteristics.
- Review of proposed alternatives and related works.
- Determination of the level of complexity required to complete the impact assessment.
- Identification of environmental components and subcomponents that may be affected by the defined alternative (i.e., define evaluation criteria).
- Prediction of the environmental impacts (positive, negative) resulting from the construction and operation of the defined options.
- Identification and evaluation of measures to mitigate adverse effects.
- Selection of a preferred alternative following a comparative analysis of the relative merits of each option.

During the evaluation process, it is necessary to determine what effect or impact the practical alternatives will have on the environment and what measures can be taken to mitigate the impact. The intent of this exercise is to:

- Minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects associated with the project.
- Incorporate environmental factors into the decision-making process.

Under the terms of the EA Act, the environment is divided into five general components:

- Natural environment.
- Social environment.
- Cultural environment.
- Economic environment.
- Technical environment.

Each environmental component can be further subdivided into specific elements that have the potential to be affected by the implementation of a solution. Table 4.2 provides

an overview of the preliminary environmental components being considered as part of this investigation.

The environmental effects of each alternative on the specific components are generally determined through an assessment of various impact predictors (i.e., impact criteria). Given the works associated with the alternative solutions, the following key impact criteria were examined during the course of the assessment:

- Nature (direct, indirect or cumulative).
- Magnitude (including the scale, intensity, geographic scope, frequency and duration of potential impacts).
- Technical complexity.
- Mitigation potential (which considers avoidance, compensation and degree of reversibility).
- Public perception.
- Scarcity and uniqueness of affected components.
- Compliance with the applicable regulations and public policy objectives.

Table 4.2 Environmental Components Being Evaluated

Environmental Component	Sub-Component
Natural Environment	• Significant natural features • Aquatic habitat • Species at Risk • Wildlife • Vegetation • Surface water quality and quantity • Groundwater resources • Air quality, dust and noise • Physiographic features and soils • Drainage characteristics • Climate change • Excess soil
Social	• Adjacent Land Uses • Visual Impacts and Aesthetics • Source Water Protection • Local disruptions • Noise • Health and safety • Construction impacts
Cultural	• Archaeological Resources

Environmental Component	Sub-Component
	Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes
Economic	- Capital and operating costs - Property acquisition - Lifecycle costs
Technical	- Maintenance - Traffic Levels

Using the above criteria, the potential impacts of each practical alternative were systematically evaluated. The significance of the potential impacts posed by each alternative was evaluated, considering the anticipated severity of the following:

- Direct changes occurring at the time of project completion.
- Indirect effects following project completion.
- Induced changes resulting from the project.

For the purposes of this MCEA, impact determination criteria developed by Natural Resources Canada have been applied to predict the magnitude of environmental effects resulting from the implementation of the project. Table 4.3 summarizes the impact criteria.

Table 4.3 Level of Impact Effects and Criteria

Level of Effect	General Criteria
High	Implementation of the project could threaten the sustainability of the feature and should be considered a management concern. Additional remediation, monitoring, and research may be required to reduce impact potential.
Moderate	Implementation of the project could result in a resource decline below baseline, but impact levels should stabilize following project completion and into the foreseeable future. Additional management actions may be required for mitigation purposes.
Low	Implementation of the project could have a limited impact upon the resource during the lifespan of the project. Research, monitoring and/or recovery initiatives may be required for mitigation purposes.
Minimal	Implementation of the project could impact the resources during the construction phase of the project but would have a negligible impact on the resources during the operation phase.

Given the criteria defined above, the significance of adverse effects is predicated on the following assumptions:

- Impacts from a proposed alternative assessed as having a Moderate or High level of effect on a given feature would be considered significant and;

- Impacts from a proposed alternative assessed as having a Minimal to Low level of effect on a given feature would not be considered significant.

4.5.1 Environmental Evaluation

The potential interactions between the identified alternatives and environmental features are examined as part of the second phase of the MCEA process. The purpose of this analysis is to determine, in relative terms, the environmental effects of constructing and operating each identified option on the defined environmental component and subcomponents. Table 4.4 summarizes the preliminary evaluation of alternatives. The following symbols are used to indicate:

○ Minimal Impact

◐ Low Impact

◑ Moderate Impact

● High Impact

Table 4.4 Preliminary Evaluation of Alternatives

Environmental Component	Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street	Alternative 2 – Do Nothing
Natural Environment – Significant Natural Features	○ No significant natural features (i.e. ANSI) within the vicinity of or adjacent to project area. ○ Minimal level of impact	○ No significant natural features within the vicinity of or adjacent to the project area. ○ Minimal level of impact
Natural Environment – Aquatic Habitat	○ Will result in creation of new stormwater outlet to Fourcier Drain. ● Potential for stormwater quality and quantity impacts to aquatic habitat within Fourcier Drain. ● Moderate level of impact	○ No change to Fourcier Drain. ○ Minimal level of impact
Natural Environment – Species at Risk	○ Limited potential for species at risk habitat within the existing road allowances. The road allowances are currently utilized as grass lawn and are regularly mowed. ● Vegetation removal associated with construction may impact species at risk birds. Impacts may be mitigated by timing removal of trees after August 31 and before April 1. ● Low level of impact	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact
Natural Environment – Wildlife	● New road has the potential to impact wildlife as it could increase wildlife mortality through vehicle collisions. ● Low level of impact	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact

Environmental Component	Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street	Alternative 2 – Do Nothing
Natural Environment – Vegetation	● Construction of road will require clearing of vegetation for roadway. ● Trees within the existing road allowance will be removed. ● Vegetation will be removed to accommodate the new stormwater outlet at Fourcier Drain. ● Moderate level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions, ○ Minimal level of impact
Natural Environment – Surface Water (Quality and Quantity)	● Potential for impacts to water quality and quantity in Fourcier Drain from stormwater flows. ● Moderate level of impact	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact
Natural Environment – Groundwater Resources	○ Construction of road not expected to impact groundwater resources. ○ Local residents serviced by municipal water from Lake Huron, not local groundwater wells. ○ Minimal level of impact	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact
Natural Environment – Air Quality, Dust and Noise	● Construction of road will result in localized, short-term increases in dust and noise. ● Construction of the road is not expected to result in additional local traffic that would significantly increase noise, dust or air quality impacts. ○ Paving of the roadways could reduce dust locally. ● Low level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.

Environmental Component	Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street	Alternative 2 – Do Nothing
Natural Environment – Physiographic Features and Soils	☛ Soils and materials excavated during the construction will be disposed of appropriately. ☛ Riprap and geotextile material will be used to reduce potential to impact of construction and operation of stormwater outlet along the Fourcier Drain slope. ☛ Low level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Natural Environment – Drainage characteristics	○ Stormwater from road allowance will be directed to a constructed outlet. ○ May locally improve drainage (i.e. reducing ponding) adjacent to the roadway. ○ Increases impervious areas locally. ○ Minimal level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. Residents may experience local ponding. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Natural Environment – Climate Change	○ Construction will require heavy equipment that will release Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) as emissions. Impacts related to construction may be reduced through equipment and materials selection. ○ Minimal level of impact.	○ No changes to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Natural Environment – Excess Soils	○ Excess soil from the construction will be disposed of in accordance with O. Reg. 406/19. ○ Excess soil is not expected to be contaminated. ○ Minimal level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.

Environmental Component	Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street	Alternative 2 – Do Nothing
Social – Adjacent Land Uses	● Construction of road and stormwater infrastructure may impact adjacent residences during the construction period with additional noise, traffic, and dust. ● May reduce ponding on adjacent properties. ● Existing wooden footbridge on Gendron will be removed. ● Moderate level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Social – Visual Impacts and Aesthetics	● Grassed lawn areas will be replaced with roadway. ● Roadway will look similar to existing roadways in the vicinity. ● Low level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Social - Source Water Protection	○ Not expected to have any impacts related to Source Water protection or related policies. ○ Minimal level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Social – Local Disruptions	● Construction of the roadway and stormwater will result in temporary noise and disruptions for adjacent property owners. ● May have temporary road closures during construction. ● Moderate level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.

Environmental Component	Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street	Alternative 2 – Do Nothing
Social – Noise	➤ Construction of the roadway and stormwater will result in temporary noise for adjacent property owners. ○ The new road is not expected to generate enough additional traffic to increase noise locally. ➤ Low level of impact.	○ No change to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Social – Health and Safety	➤ A new roadway will be a local hazard for residents. This is mitigated by the low levels of traffic and low speeds. ➤ Low level of impact.	○ No changes to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Social – Construction Impacts	➤ Adjacent residents may experience local disruptions and additional dust, traffic and noise during construction. ➤ Moderate level of impact.	○ No impacts anticipated. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Cultural – Archaeological Resources	○ Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment (P1189-0110-2025) completed and found low potential for archaeological resources. See Appendix B. ○ Minimal level of impact.	○ No changes to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Cultural – Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	➤ Checklists for built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes identified low potential for resources (see Appendix A). ➤ Low level of impact.	○ No changes to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.

Environmental Component	Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street	Alternative 2 – Do Nothing
Economic – Capital and Operating Costs	● Capital costs associated with construction of road and stormwater infrastructure. ● Operating costs expected to be similar to other local municipally assumed roads. ● Moderate level of impact.	○ Least expensive option ○ Minimal level of impact.
Economic – Property Acquisition	○ No additional property required. ○ Minimal level of impact.	○ No additional property required. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Economic – Lifecycle Costs	● Will add additional assets for future maintenance and replacement. ● Taxation levels may increase in the future to accommodate additional operating and future replacement costs. ● Low level of impact	○ No additional assets for future replacement. ○ Minimal level of impact.
Technical – Maintenance	● Roadway is expected to have minimal maintenance needs. ● Catchbasins and outlet will require periodic cleaning to ensure debris does not inhibit flow. ● Low level of impact	● Does not support municipal maintenance and snow clearing operations. ● Moderate level of impact.
Technical – Traffic Levels	● The new roadway is not expected to generate additional traffic as it is a short extension to connect two existing, low traffic roads. ● Low level of impact.	○ No changes to existing conditions. ○ Minimal level of impact.

4.6 Evaluation Summary

The evaluation completed in the previous section identified the potential impacts associated with the two alternatives. The evaluation process included consideration of natural, social, economic, cultural and technical criteria.

The review of potential impacts associated with Alternative 1- Extend Bachand Street and construct Georgianna Street, identified moderate potential impacts associated with vegetation removal, impacts to surface water, construction impacts related to air, dust and noise during construction, impacts during construction to adjacent properties, and local disruptions during construction. This alternative also is more expensive than the Do Nothing option and will require funding through the Municipality of Bluewater budget. Many of the potential impacts are associated with construction, which will be localized and limited in time, and have the potential for mitigation measures to reduce magnitude of the impacts. This alternative may locally improve stormwater drainage and municipal snow clearing operations.

The Do Nothing alternative (Alternative 2) has minimal impacts associated with it as it results in very little change from the current conditions. It will maintain status quo. The impact associated with this alternative is associated with future maintenance, as it would make it more difficult for municipal snow clearing operations and would require plow operators to turn around at the end of Bachand Street. This alternative could still be considered if Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street is not implemented.

4.7 Selection of Preferred Alternative

Following the evaluation of alternatives, the preferred alternative is Alternative 1 Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street. This alternative address the opportunity identified by creating a new municipal road that will connect Bachand Street and Gendron Street. The new road, Georgianna Street, is within an existing unopened road allowance. The work, in addition to building of a new road, will include roadside ditches, catchbasins and a storm sewer. The storm sewer will convey stormwater from the roadway to a new outlet at the Fourcier Drain.

5.0 CONSULTATION PROGRAM

5.1 General

Consultation is an integral component of the MCEA process. Consultation allows for an exchange of information which assists the proponent in making informed decisions during the evaluation of alternative solutions. During Phases 1 and 2 of the study process, consultation was undertaken to obtain input from the general public, review agencies, and stakeholders who might have an interest in the project.

The components of the consultation program employed during the initial MCEA study are summarized in this section of the Project File Report and documented in Appendix C.

5.2 Initial Notice

Contents:	General study area description, summary of proposed works
Issued:	July 16, 2025
Placed in:	Municipality of Bluewater website, Exeter Lakeshore Times Advance
Circulated to:	7 review agencies, and 8 Indigenous communities, 29 adjacent property owners
Input period:	July 16 to August 6, 2025

Following the initial notice, responses were received from agencies, Indigenous communities and a number of adjacent property owners. The comments received and responses are summarized in the subsequent sections of this report.

5.3 Government Review Agencies

Input into the MCEA process was solicited from government review agencies and identified stakeholders by way of email correspondence. Agencies and organizations that might have an interest in the project were sent a letter outlining the proposed project and a copy of the initial notice. The agencies circulated included:

- Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
- County of Huron
- Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
- Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

The organizations were asked to comment on the project on or before May 6, 2025. A copy of the agency letter and list of agencies contacted is included in Appendix C.

Table 5.1 summarizes the comments received from review agencies following the initial circulation letter.

Table 5.1 Summary of Review Agency Comments

Review Agency	Comments	Action Taken
Monika Macki Environmental Resource Planner /Environmental Assessment Coordinator, MECP Received via email August 1, 2025.	- Provided updated “Areas of Interest” regarding ministry’s interests with respect to the MCEA process. - MECP is delegating procedural aspects of consultation with the following Indigenous communities: Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Bkejwanong (Walpole Island), Caldwell First Nation, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames - Please ensure a copy of the Notice of Completion is sent to the EA notification email account.	Identified Indigenous communities contacted as part of consultation plan.
Amanda Antwi-Nsiah Heritage Planner, MCM Received via email July 25, 2025.	- Project should be screened using the Ministry’s checklists for archaeological potential, marine archaeological potential (if applicable) and built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. If municipal bridges may be impacts, the Municipal Heritage Briges Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Cultural Heritage Resources should be completed. - All technical heritage studies and recommendations are to be addressed and incorporated into EA projects. - Please advice MCM of any technical cultural heritage studies and provide them prior to issuing a Notice of Completion.	-Project screened utilizing checklists. -Completed Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment. Report sent to MCM and findings incorporated into EA documentation.
Daniel King Water Resources Engineer & POA Officer, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	- Request to be appraised of updates as the Class EA proceeds. - A permit from the Authority will be required for the outlet and any other works within the regulated area.	Proposed drawings sent to May 28, 2026 and follow up email sent July 15, 2026. No

Review Agency	Comments	Action Taken
Received via email August 7, 2025.		response to date.

5.4 Indigenous Consultation

5.4.1 Indigenous Consultation Process

The Crown has a duty to consult with First Nation and Métis communities if there is a potential to impact Aboriginal or treaty rights. This requirement is delegated to project proponents as part of the MCEA process, therefore the project proponent has a responsibility to conduct an adequate and thorough consultation with Aboriginal communities as part of the MCEA consultation process. The information was circulated to eight Aboriginal communities on July 16, 2025. They were asked to comment on the project on or before August 6, 2026.

5.4.2 Background Review

In order to identify Aboriginal Communities potentially impacted by the project the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS) was consulted. A search was conducted for Aboriginal Communities, including their traditional territories that would lie within a 50 km radius of the project study area. Utilizing this process and feedback received from the MECP, eight aboriginal communities/organizations were identified in conjunction with this project including:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- Oneida Nation of the Thames
- Munsee-Delaware Nation
- Bkejwanong Territory Walpole Island First Nation
- Metis Nation of Ontario
- Delaware Nation
- Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

A letter was sent to each community detailing the proposed project, as well as the initial notice.

5.4.3 Indigenous Consultation Log

The consultation with local Indigenous communities is summarized in a consultation log, included as Table 5.2. Copies of all correspondence are included in Appendix C.

Table 5.2 Consultation Log, Indigenous Communities

Log No.	To	From	Comments	Action Taken/Response
1	Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Lynn Rosales, Environmental Coordinator and Chief Janelle Nahmabin – July 16, 2025 via email	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• No response received
2	Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Chief Joe Miskokomon – July 16, 2025 via Nations Connect	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• Response received September 5, 2025. See Log No. 9.
3	Oneida Nation of the Thames – Brandon Doxtator, Environmental Coordinator and Chief Todd Cornelius – July 16, 2025 via email	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• No response received
4	Munsee-Delaware Nation, Consultation Coordinator and Chief Thoams Lewis – July 16, 2025 via email	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• No response received
5	Bkejwanong Territory, Dean Jacobs, Consultation Manager, Lisa Williams Community Planner, Chief Leela Thomas – July 16, 2025 via email	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• No response received
6	Metis Nation of Ontario, Kathleen Anderson Region 9 Councillor and consultations@metisnation.org – July 16, 2025 via email	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• No response received

Log No.	To	From	Comments	Action Taken/Response
7	Delaware Nation, Chief Justin Logan – July 16, 2025 via email	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• No response received
8	Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Chief Kimberly Bresette – July 16, 2025 via email	BMROSS	• Provided letter outlining project scope, map of project area, and copy of initial notice.	• Response received September 9. See Log No. 10.
9	BMROSS, September 5, 2025 via Nations Connect	Chippewas of the Thames First Nation	• Thank you for the information, we do not have the capacity to engage at this time. • Please ensure Kettle and Stony Point First Nation are kept informed to the degree requested.	• Noted.
10	BMROSS, September 9, 2025 via email	Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation	• We have minimal concerns about this specific project based on community perspectives and priorities. • We are concerned about the cumulative impacts of all development and land use change in our territory. We want proponents to be aware and welcome collaboration or support in our community-led assessments on cumulative impacts. • We would like to stay informed on the project and would be interested in reviewing the project reports as they become available.	• Noted. Project information will be forward as it is available. • See Log 11.

Log No.	To	From	Comments	Action Taken/Response
11	Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation June 9, 2026 via Nations Connect	BMROSS	• Provided Notice of Public Information Centre, preliminary drawings and copy of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment.	• No response received.

A copy of the Project File Report and Notice of Completion will be provided to Chippewas of the Kettle via Nations Connect.

5.5 Public Meeting

A public meeting for the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) for the extension of Bachand Street and a new stormwater outlet was held on Tuesday June 16, 2026 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Notice of the meeting was mailed to the 22 property owners in the vicinity of the project area. Email notices were sent to those who had previously contacted the study team.

The meeting was held on site, on Gendron Street, with representatives from B. M. Ross and Associates Limited and the Municipality of Bluewater in attendance. There were 16 members of the public in attendance. A copy of the sign-in sheet is included in Appendix C.

The meeting started at 6:30 PM with introductions. An overview of the MCEA process was given followed by a review of the proposed project. Drawings showing the road extension and stormwater works were passed among those in attendance. A copy of the drawings presented are provided in Appendix C. Residents were invited to ask questions and take comment sheets. Because several breakout conversations occurred simultaneously, some questions may not have been fully captured in the official record. The following questions and comments were received:

- Question: Why is the road being opened?
 - Response: The Municipality received a petition to assume the local unassumed roads. To support the assumption and future maintenance and operation activities, such as snow clearing, the extension of Bachand Street is required as there is not enough space for a turn around.
- Comment: The road will never be used for traffic.
- Question: What will the road surface be?
 - Response: The road is proposed to have a gravel surface, similar to the existing roads in the area.
- Question: Will the roads be paved?
 - Response: At this time, it is not proposed to pave the roads.
- Question: How wide is the road allowance?
 - Response: Gendron is 20.12 metres (66 feet) while the north/south leg is 20.25 metres or slightly more than 66 feet wide.
- Question: How wide will the road be?
 - Response: 5.5 metres or approximately 18 feet.
- Question: Will this address water issues on Stanley Street?
 - Response: No, this specific project does not directly address water issues on Stanley Street. However, the proposed stormwater infrastructure (including storm sewers, ditching, and berming) is designed to intercept external runoff that currently flows through the lots backing onto Bachand.

By redirecting this water, the project will minimize the amount of runoff impacting adjacent property owners.

- Question: Can additional efforts be made to reduce the amount of external runoff through the lots backing onto Bachand?
 - Response: It may be possible to extend the intercepting swale farther east. BMROSS will investigate the feasibility.
- Question: What are the next steps in the process?
 - Response: Following this meeting, we will incorporate feedback and comments into the evaluation of impacts and document them in the Project File Report. The draft Project File Report will be issued for agency review and then public review. Following the 30 day public review, the EA process is considered complete, and the Municipality could then proceed with design and construction at its discretion.
- Question: How long will construction take?
 - Response: Approximately 4 weeks. The storm sewer crossing at Gendron may require temporary access disruption for a day. Notification will be provided to those who may be impacted.

Residents were encouraged to submit any comments or questions following the meeting and the meeting ended at 7:25 PM.

5.6 Public Comments

Table 5.3 summarizes the comments and questions received during the MCEA process. Comments were received following the issuance of the Notice of Commencement and the Notice of Public Meeting.

Table 5.3 Summary of Public Comments

Contact	Comments	Response
July 16, 2025 via email Local Resident	- Asked where the plans for the proposed drainage for Bachand Street can be viewed. - Concerned about potential to cause basement flooding.	Noted the project is in the initial phases and drawings are not yet available. The work will include a topographic survey of the local area. A public meeting will be hosted in the future when more information is available.
July 28, 2025 via telephone Local Resident	- Owns property on Stanley Street. Noted that stormwater runs from Bachand Street to Stanley, across the road and into ditches on the other side of the road. - Neighbours have built berms along the back of properties to stop overland flow. - Thinks that the ditches on Stanley and Bachand need to be dug out and made deeper. - No opposition to extending road but would like the stormwater issues addressed. - Noted that local soils are heavy clays.	Proposed stormwater improvements along Bachand should alleviate some overland flow. Comments forward to Municipality.
July 30, 2025 via email Local Resident	- Please provide the data to show how the extension of Bachand Street west and north will necessitate the construction of a new stormwater outlet to the Fourcier Drain. - Currently the area drains to the south.	We are currently in the initial stages of the study. A topographic survey will be undertaken as a first step. We are looking at the need for a stormwater outlet as we will be creating an impermeable surface that may alter where stormwater would have naturally travelled.
July 31, 2025 via email Local Resident	- You indicated you are looking at options related to dealing with stormwater associated with the extension of Bachand Street. Yet, without any data, you are proposing only a single option over to Fourcier Drain. Is Gendron not an impermeable surface as well and would block any stormwater running north. Is there a hidden agenda with this drain.	Through the environmental assessment process, alternative solutions are considered. The first step in the process is to collect background information, then identify potential solutions to find the preferred solution. We do not yet have a preferred solution and are in the

Contact	Comments	Response
		background information collection stage of the process.
August 1, 2025 via email Local Resident	- Have concerns regarding the proposed storm sewer emptying into the ravine. - Experience active erosion issues in the gully behind our cottage. - Concerned the storm sewer will add to our erosion problem.	We are in the initial stages of the environmental assessment process, but the local information is helpful as we look at options for the stormwater. We will also be consulting with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.
August 5, 2025 via email Local Resident	- Have noticed the erosion in the ravine since the storm drain was added to the other side of the ravine. The water course is not on our property, which limits our options to prevent further erosion. We would appreciate your opinion and consideration moving forward.	Thank you for the additional details. Confirmed the other storm outlet is on the north side.
March 10, 2026 via email Local Resident	- Looking for information for the planning and development of this street extension. Are there any more details available?	Engineers are working on the design details and when that is ready, a public meeting will be held. If possible, the Municipality would like to construct the road this year.
May 26, 2026 via email Local Resident	- Could you please provide a summary list of the options from which you selected this preliminary design to be the best fit?	The list of alternative designs is relatively short, as we are just looking at options related to the Bachand Road extension. • One option always considered during the EA process is the 'Do Nothing' option. Under this option, the road would not be extended nor would any additional stormwater infrastructure be installed. • We considered running the storm system directly to the west but in the

Contact	Comments	Response
		absence of municipal property it was ruled out as an option. - We considered alternative locations for the proposed storm sewer within the Georgianna Street road allowance and finalized the location based on the most efficient routing. - We looked at having the storm outlet go directly north from the end of the unopened road allowance at Gendron Street to the Fourcier Drain, but given the steeper slope at that location, it was less preferred. We were also concerned about potential erosion.
May 27, 2026 via email Local Resident	- I would like to propose an additional option – take the stormwater south from Bachand to Stanley Blvd, into the ditch and creek south of Stanley Blvd. - Advantages include, hundreds less feet of drain pipe required, much less excavation, no danger of eroding Fourcier, Drain, takes advantage of natural water flow, no need to change the existing water course, no disruption crossing Gendron Street, much less cost to taxpayers.	Challenge with taking stormwater to the south is the lack of municipally-owned land, which would require the Municipality to purchase land or obtain an easement through private property. Also, the ditches along the north side of Stanley are relatively shallow and would likely require the installation of a storm sewer to convey the flows to the outlet so excavation would still be necessary.
May 28, 2026 via email Local Resident	The private property directly south of Bachand is presently absorbing all the stormwater from the land in question. There is already a small drain on private property to help direct water to Stanley Blvd. Where is all the extra water coming that requires such massive infrastructure.	Storm sewers are generally designed for what is called the 5-year storm, or the intensity and amount of rainfall that is expected in the type of storm that has a 1 in 5 year chance of happening every year. With changes to rainfall patterns, the intensity and amount of rainfall expected in the 5-year storm today is greater

Contact	Comments	Response
		than the 5-year storm used to design infrastructure in the past.
March 29, 2026 via email Local Resident	- My next solution is to run the collected stormwater eastward along the south ditch of Bachand to Highway 21. Could you please ask the Bluewater Drainage Superintendent to contact the MTO to see if the MTO would grant permission to open up the culvert where the south ditch of Bachand intersects with Highway 21.	See June 1 Response
June 1, 2026 via email Local Resident	- It is unacceptable to discharge untreated or polluted stormwater directly into a Lake Huron watercourse. Runoff from roads flows completely unfiltered into the lake, carrying harmful contaminants. To prevent environmental degradation, municipalities and conservation authorities use stormwater management features such as stormwater retention/detention basins.	Regarding your suggestion to utilize the existing ditch on the south side of Bachand Street to discharge into the Highway 21 corridor, we looked into the elevations to see if that route would be viable. Unfortunately, the topography creates an issue. The ground at the west end of Bachand sits at an elevation of roughly 192.0 meters, while the highway ditch to the east is actually higher, at about 192.8 meters. To get water to flow downhill properly, a new ditch along Bachand requires a minimum grade of 0.5%. Over that 225-meter stretch, the ditch would need to meet the MTO corridor at an elevation of 190.9 meters—which means digging the existing highway ditch more than a meter deeper than it is today. Aside from the physical grade challenge, getting permission from the province is a major hurdle. In our 60+ years of dealing with

Contact	Comments	Response
		the MTO, they rarely accept new surface drainage into their systems, and they would typically not accommodate modifications that require deepening their existing infrastructure by over a meter. Because the grade change doesn't work naturally and the MTO typically rejects these types of requests, we don't see this as a feasible option. Regarding your concerns about stormwater treatment, the drainage design for the 120-meter gravel road extension follows standard municipal engineering practices. While stormwater management facilities like retention or detention basins are mandatory for larger developments with significant paved surfaces (such as subdivisions), they are not required—nor are they standard practice—for a short gravel road extension of this scale. However, the runoff from this new section of roadway is not going "unfiltered" into the watercourse. Environmental protection is built into the design through natural, passive treatment methods: - Grassed Ditches: Open, vegetated ditches act as natural filters. As water flows through them, vegetation slows the velocity, allowing sediment, debris, and associated contaminants to settle out naturally before the water reaches any discharge point.

Contact	Comments	Response
		- Catchbasin & Maintenance Hole Sumps: The infrastructure includes deep sumps designed specifically to capture and trap heavier sediment and road grit at the bottom, preventing it from traveling down the system. This combination of ditch filtration and sump collection provides appropriate, standard treatment for a rural gravel road extension Because this project is following the Class Environmental Assessment process, all necessary regulatory agencies will be circulated for input, including ABCA, and will have the opportunity to comment on the approach.
June 3, 2026 via email Local Resident	- Could the road allowance be staked out prior to the public meeting on June 18 th ?	Yes, the study team will mark out the road allowance property boundaries prior to the public meeting.
June 9, 2026 via email Local Resident	- Could you provide the minimum road standards required on the extension to make it eligible for assumption by Bluewater?	A typical road standard drawing was provided.
June 18, 2026 via email Local Resident	- 1. I have owned homes on Gendron Street, Bluewater, for 35 years and am well acquainted with all issues concerning this assessment. Drainage with any properties along the road has never been an issue as the adjacent drain that runs along the south side of the road and drains into the lake has done it's job very well. I was a member of Ontario Drainage Tribunal and there	Thank you for providing your comments. They will be included in the Project File Report and circulated to Bluewater staff.

Contact	Comments	Response
	are many places that could use some input but Gendron or Bachand issue present none. - 2. There has been no street for last thousand years where there is now a request to put one. I can think of no better way to disrupt the drainage along this green and grassy field than to dig it up for a road that has no purpose. - 3. The lack of green space along south side of Hwy 21 subdivisions makes this area one place that the foxes, rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels can use without fear of becoming "roadkill". - 4. The issue of snow removal was presented as a need for this road. For a Municipality that struggles to find resources and balance budget for snow removal it is a bogus and slightly devious suggestion that this extension would somehow fix any snow issues. It might just create more. - I would like for these reasons that BM Ross and Associates find this road extension could do more harm than good to this Municipal Environment.	
	Our comments and question concerning this project is: Knowing the drainage issue of water all along Bachand St. and with the entire street being assumed by the township, why does the new drainage only start halfway along?	Thank you for your comments regarding the Bachand Street project and the drainage concerns for your property. Following a review of the area in light of your feedback (and some of your other neighbours), we have updated the project drawings to enhance the management of

Contact	Comments	Response
	For all the water to enter the proposed drain system, all of the water will be diverted to the corner in one spot behind our property. If that ever was clogged or overburdened, it would be catastrophic for our house as we are directly downhill of this location. As it stands in the plan, there are no drain catch basins where the water problem is; the full length of the south side of Bachand. We would also like to point out we are opposed of the extension to Bachand St. It is unnecessary.	runoff from the external drainage area. The revisions include: 1. A larger ditch inlet catch basin at the southwest corner of Bachand Street to handle higher volumes of water during frequent storm events. This is in addition to two other inlet structures included in the design that will intercept runoff from the lands upstream of Bachand Street. 2. An extended roadside ditch (to within 50 meters of the Highway corridor) to intercept and minimize external runoff onto the rear lots of Stanley Boulevard backing onto Bachand Street. These flows will be directed to the structures located in the south-west corner of Bachand. We have also recorded your opposition to the Bachand Street extension.

5.7 Final Consultation

Following preparation of the PFR, a Notice of Completion, will be issued. The Notice will be mailed directly to local property owners, indigenous communities and agencies. A copy of the PFR will be placed on the Municipality of Bluewater website for review.

The Notice will outline the 30-day public review period and where comments can be directed to.

6.0 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

6.1 Framework of Analysis

Following the selection of Alternative 1 as the preliminary preferred alternative, a study framework was developed to further evaluate the potential impacts of implementing this project. For reference, Figure 6.1 illustrates the preferred solution. The purpose of this review was to assess the environmental interactions resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed works, and to determine if the identified interactions that would generate potential environmental impacts.

The assessment of the preferred alternative incorporated these activities:

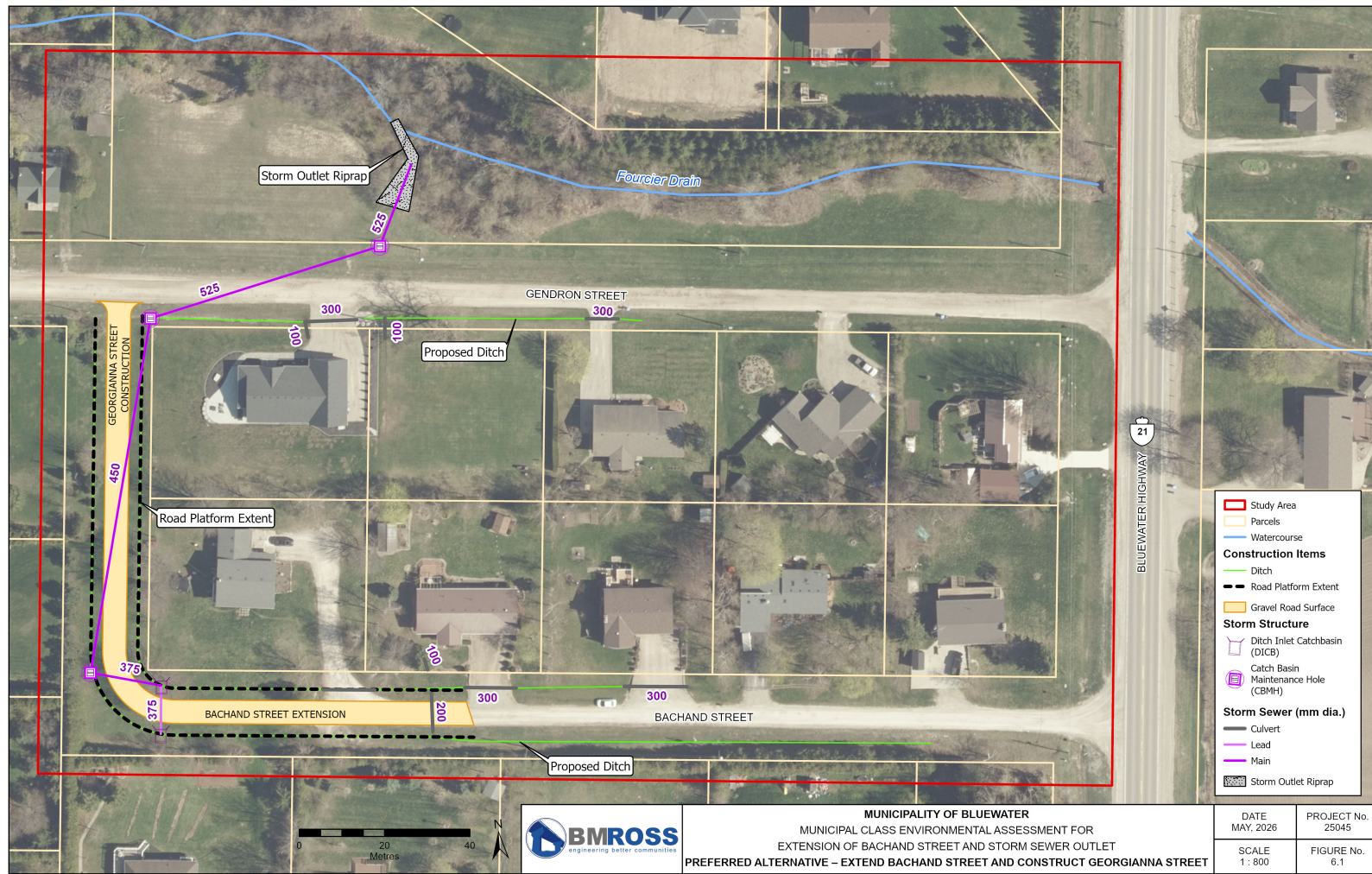
- Preliminary assessment of impacts associated with preferred alternative.
- Assessment of the construction and operational requirements of the proposed works.
- Consultation with the public, stakeholder groups, and government agencies.
- Reviewing engineering methodologies associated with the construction a new road and associated stormwater infrastructure.
- Prediction of the environmental interactions between the proposed works and the identified environmental components.
- Evaluation of the potential impacts of the project on the environmental features, including residual effects following mitigation.

6.2 General Project Scope

The works summarized below and illustrated conceptually in Figure 6.1 represent the scope of construction planned for this project. It is expected that the connection to Inverhuron will be the primary water supply source. The project is expected to involve the following general components:

- Contractor mobilization to the site.
- Clearing of grass, trees, and topsoil within road allowance.
- Excavation for road base, ditches and catchbasins.
- Installation granular road base, catchbasins and storm sewer.
- Construction of storm sewer outlet at Fourcier Drain.
- Restoration work (seeding/ topsoil) and
- Demobilization

Figure 6.1 Preferred Alternative – Extended Bachand Street and Construct Georgianna Street



6.3 Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

6.4 Assessment of Impacts

In reviewing the various criteria identified in Section 4.5 of this report and additional comments received during the consultation program, a number of specific environmental elements were identified which could be adversely affected by the implementation of the preferred alternative. The potential impacts are associated with the following environmental or project components:

- Aquatic Habitat
- Vegetation
- Surface Water (Quantity and Quality)
- Adjacent land uses/local disruptions
- Construction impacts

6.5 Discussion of Potential Impacts and Mitigation

6.5.1 Aquatic Habitat

Construction of the stormwater infrastructure and drain has the potential to impact aquatic habitat within the Fourcier Drain. The impact could be the result of contaminated stormwater, sediment and increased erosion. The proposed stormwater infrastructure will include grassed ditches. The vegetated ditches act as natural filters, slowing the velocity of stormwater and allowing sediment, debris and associated contaminants to settle out naturally before reaching the outlet at the Fourcier Drain. It is also proposed that the works will include deep sumps designed to capture and trap heavier sediment and road grit at the bottom of the structure. This will prevent it from traveling downstream.

The proposed outlet includes riprap to slow flow prior to entering the Fourcier Drain. This will mitigate potential erosion impacts.

6.5.2 Vegetation

The extension of the road and new stormwater infrastructure will impact a number of existing trees within the Georgianna Street road allowance. The smaller trees on the Georgianna Street road allowance near Gendron Street could potentially be removed and replanted, if desired by adjacent property owners. For larger trees slated for removal, the Municipality of Bluewater could consider replacement with a native tree species elsewhere. A potential site could be the municipally-owned lands on the north side of Gendron Street.

The majority of the project area is currently grass that is maintained by adjacent property owners. The grass areas disturbed outside of the road area will be restored to grass following construction.

The vegetation disturbed along the slope of the Fourcier Drain will be restored with native tree and shrub species.

6.5.3 Surface Water (Quality and Quantity)

The proposed stormwater works will direct additional flow to the Fourcier Drain. This has the potential to impact surface water quality and quantity. The potential impact associated with surface water quality is the introduction of contaminants and additional nutrients (e.g. phosphorus and nitrogen). The potential for contaminants entering the surface water is mitigated by the low density residential land uses surrounding the study area. Potential contaminants could include gasoline, oil and grease from vehicles and sediment from the roadway. A mitigating factor is the use of vegetated ditches. The grassed ditches will act to slow flow within the ditches, allowing contaminants to filter and settle out. Additionally, the catch basins will include sumps which will be where larger material settles out.

The outlet at the Fourcier Drain will be designed to accommodate flows associated with the 5-year storm. It is anticipated that the additional flow to the Fourcier Drain, provided it is sufficiently attenuated by the rip rap outlet, will be accommodated by the existing water course.

6.5.4 Adjacent land uses and local disruptions

Construction of the road and associated stormwater infrastructure is expected to take approximately 4 weeks to complete. During the construction period, local residents will experience increased local vehicle activity and noise. The construction activities may result in temporary lane reductions or times when driveways may not be accessible. Construction notices will provide local residents with information on the planned construction activities, and how it may impact activities like garbage and recycling collection.

The new roadway and stormwater infrastructure is expected to have minimal impacts on adjacent property owners. Traffic levels on the new roadway are not expected to be significant and generally to consist of local residents.

There will be new ditches constructed as part of this project. Considering there are existing ditches along the existing roadways, the addition ditches are not expected to have further impacts on local residents.

6.5.5 Construction-Related Impacts

Construction-related activities associated with project implementation have the potential to impact existing environmental features, the general public, and construction workers. The Contractor will therefore be responsible for carrying out these activities in

accordance with industry safety standards and all applicable legislation. Mitigation measures will also be incorporated into the construction specifications to ensure that operations are conducted in a manner that limits detrimental effects to the environment.

Table 6.1 outlines a series of mitigation measures that are typically incorporated into construction specifications. For this project, contract specifications may need to be modified depending on the nature of the construction activities and any additional requirements of the regulatory agencies.

Table 6.1 Summary of Mitigation Measures for Construction Activities

Construction Activity	Planned Mitigation
Refueling and Maintenance	• Identify suitable locations for designated refueling and maintenance areas outside of any vulnerable areas. • Restrict refueling or maintaining equipment near watercourses and ditches. • Avoid cleaning equipment in watercourses and in locations where debris can gain access to sewers or watercourses. • Prepare to intercept, clean up, and dispose of any spillage that may occur (whether on land or water).
Traffic Control	• The Contractor shall prepare and submit a traffic plan to the Project Engineer for review and acceptance. If it is necessary to detour traffic, the Contractor will co-ordinate the routing and provide adequate signage and barricades. • Traffic flow for private access should generally be maintained at all times during construction. If access to a private driveway has to be restricted for a period of time the property owner will be notified and access would be restored by the end of each working day. • A minimum of one lane of traffic, controlled by barricades, delineators, etc. shall be maintained for emergency vehicles to access the road. • Provide adequate signage and barricades.
Disposal	• Dispose of all construction debris in approved locations. • Avoid emptying fuel, lubricants or pesticides into sewers or watercourses.
Work in Sensitive Areas	• All work will occur in dry conditions. • Any slopes disturbed by the construction will be stabilized upon completion of the work

Construction Activity	Planned Mitigation
Drainage and Water Control	• All portions of the work should be properly and efficiently drained during construction. • Provide temporary drainage and pumping to keep excavation and site free from water. • Control disposal or runoff of water containing suspended materials or other harmful substances in accordance with approval agency requirements. • Provide settling ponds and sediment basins as required. • Do not direct water flow over pavements, except through approved pipes/troughs. • Provide splash pads where water is discharged to a watercourse.
Dust Control	• Cover or wet down dry materials and rubbish to prevent blowing dust or debris. • Avoid the use of chemical dust control products.
Site Clearing	• Equipment or vehicles shall not be parked, repaired or refueled near the dripline area of any tree not designated for removal. • Minimize stripping of topsoil and vegetation. • Soils excavated from the site are to be re-used on site if possible or disposed of in accordance with Excess Soil regulations. • Restrict tree removal to areas designated by the Contract Administrator.
Sedimentation and Erosion Control	• Erect sediment fencing to control excess sediment loss during the construction period. • Minimize the removal of vegetation from slopes. • Protect ditches from sediment intrusion. • Complete restoration works following construction.
Noise Control	• Site procedures should be established to minimize noise levels in accordance with local bylaws. This should include avoidance of weekend work and encouraging the contractor to avoid letting equipment idle. • Employ devices to minimize noise levels in the construction area (as practical), which could include white-noise reversing alarms. • Nighttime or Sunday work shall not be permitted, except in emergency situations.

6.5.1 Operational Phase

Upon completion of the planned construction, the Municipality will assume and maintain the road and stormwater infrastructure in accordance with regular Municipal practices. In this regard, the new infrastructure would be subjected to maintenance activities in the

future, and will be added to the works department maintenance schedule and budget allocation, as determined by the Municipality.

6.5.2 Economic Impacts

It is anticipated that the costs of constructing Alternative 1 will be paid through the Municipality's capital budget. Currently, the Municipality intends to utilize its own staff for the construction, which will provide some cost mitigation. If sufficient funds are not available to support the project, the Municipality could defer the project until funds are available or seek grant funding.

7.0 APPROVALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

7.1 General

Implementation of the recommended solution is subject to the receipt of all necessary approvals. Following a review of the existing framework of legislation, it was determined a number of approvals are required prior to implementation of the preferred solution. This section of the report identifies the applicable legislation and summarizes the intent of the associated approvals process.

7.2 Environmental Assessment Act

The recommended solution is considered a Schedule B project under the terms of the MCEA document, as the project involves the construction of a new road and stormwater outlet. This project is considered approved under the requirements of the MCEA and Environmental Assessment Act following the completion of an environmental screening process.

The following activities are required in order to complete the formal MCEA screening process:

- Complete the 30-day review period, defined in the Notice of Completion.
- Address any outstanding issues.
- Finalize the Project File Report.
- Advise the Municipality and MECP when the MCEA study process is complete.

7.3 Ontario Heritage Act

The recommendations of the Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment (AA) will be followed. Any further recommended assessment (e.g., Stage 2, 3, and 4 AAs) will be completed as early as possible in the detailed design phase and prior to any ground disturbing activities. The Municipality of Bluewater has received written confirmation from MCM that the archaeological assessment report has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment, in compliance with Section 48(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 requires that any person discovering human remains must cease all activities immediately and notify the police or coroner. If the coroner does not suspect foul play in the disposition of the remains, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 30/11 the coroner shall notify the

Registrar, Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, which administers provisions of that Act related to burial sites. In situations where human remains are associated with archaeological resources, the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism should also be notified (at archaeology@ontario.ca) to ensure that the archaeological site is not subject to unlicensed alterations which would be a contravention of the Ontario Heritage Act.

7.4 Ontario Water Resources Act

If dewatering is required, and if the dewatering is over 50,000 L/day, but less than 400,000 L/day; the Contractor will be required to register the water-taking activity with the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR). A PTTW would be required for water-takings over 400,000 L/day under section 34.1 of the Ontario Water Resources Act is required. Should a PTTW be required, the Municipality will apply for the permit and not undertake dewatering activities until the required permit is received.

7.5 Environmental Compliance Approval Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Form SW1

The Municipality of Bluewater has an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for the Municipality's stormwater management system. The ECA covers the entire municipal stormwater system, including storm sewers, culverts, ditches, stormwater management facilities and outlet, owned and operated by the Municipality of Bluewater.

The additional storm sewer, ditches and outlets that will be constructed as a result of this project will be incorporated into the Municipality's ECA. A Form SW1 Record of Future Alteration Authorized for Storm Sewers/Ditches/Culverts will be completed and retained for municipal records.

7.6 Ontario Regulation 406/19 – Excess Soil Management

Management of excess soils will be completed in conformity with the guidelines and regulations issued under Ontario Regulation 406/19 – On-Site and Excess Soil Management regulation.

7.7 Migratory Birds Convention Act

The Migratory Birds Convention Act protects migratory birds and their nests from destruction. Should any tree removal be required in conjunction with this project, tree removal will take place September 1 to April 1 of a given year, outside of active nesting periods. Should tree removal be required within nesting periods, a biologist will be required to attend the site and make a determination on the presence of active nests.

7.8 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Permit

The project includes areas regulated by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). A permit from ABCA will be required O. Reg. 41/24 prior to construction.

7.9 Environmental Commitments

As an outcome of the MCEA process, the Municipality is committed to carrying out the following measures to mitigate potential environmental impacts related to project implementation:

- Implementation of standard construction mitigation measures (e.g., sediment and erosion control, site restoration) as presented in Table 6.1, where appropriate, during the construction phase of the project to minimize constructed-related impacts to the natural and social environments.
- Any tree removal should take place between September 1 and April 1. Outside of this period, a qualified biologist should be engaged to check for any active bird nests.
- Any trees and shrubs identified for replacement will be replaced with native species.
- Any activities occurring as a result of the construction that result in the management of excess soil will be completed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 406/19, On-Site and Excess Soil Management, and current guidance documents entitled Management of Excess Soil – A Guide for Best Management Practices.
- Submission of relevant applications for required approvals, as well as implementation of all conditions issued in association with the subsequent approvals.
- Adjacent property owners will be advised in advance of the construction.
- Local residents will be advised, with as much notice of possible, of any planned service interruptions, if required.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Selection of a Preferred Alternative

Given the foregoing, **Alternative 1 – Extend Bachand Street and Construct Georginna Street** is identified as the preferred solution to the identified problem. Figure 6.1 illustrates the location of the preferred solution.

8.2 Impact Mitigation

Based upon a review of the current environmental setting, there were no significant impacts associated with the implementation of the preferred alternative that could not be mitigated. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed preferred alternative is appropriate for the identified problem and is not expected to result in any significant impacts to the natural, social, economic, cultural, or technical environment. The merits of this option were also seen to substantially outweigh those identified for the other alternative solution considered in this process.

8.3 Final Public Consultation

A Notice of Completion will be circulated to local residents, stakeholders, government review agencies and Indigenous communities. The Notice will identify the preferred alternative and provide the process for providing comments and submitting a Section 16 Order request to the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

8.4 MCEA Schedule

The recommended solution has been evaluated as a Schedule B activity under the terms of the MCEA document, as the project involves the construction of a new road and stormwater outlet. The project is approved following the completion of an environmental screening process.

8.5 Section 16 Order

Under Section 16 of the EA Act, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks may order a proponent to undertake an Individual EA or impose conditions on the project. A person may request an order under Section 16 if there is a concern that potential adverse impacts to Aboriginal or treaty rights have not been addressed through the MCEA process. A request can only be made on the grounds that the order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on Constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. If a Section 16 Order is submitted, the project may not proceed until direction is provided by the Minister.

A Section 16 Order must be made within the 30 day public comment period. A Section 16 order request must include:

- Name, address and email address of the submitter
- Project name

- Proponent name
- Type of order being request (i.e. a request for additional conditions or request for an individual environmental assessment)
- Details about concerns on impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights and how an Order may prevent, mitigate or remedy the impacts
- Information on any efforts to discuss or resolve concerns with the proponent
- Any other information to support your request.

9.0 SUMMARY

This Project File Report documents the MCEA process completed for the Municipality of Bluewater's proposed extension of Bachand Street and construction of Georgianna Street, including associated stormwater infrastructure and a new outlet to the Fourcier Drain. The project was initiated to support the assumption and maintenance of Gendron Street and Bachand Street and to provide a municipal road connection within the existing, unopened Georgianna Street road allowance.

The assessment followed the Schedule B MCEA process, including a background review, identification of the problem or opportunity, development and evaluation of alternative solutions, consultation with review agencies, indigenous communities, and the public, and selection of a preferred alternative. The study area is located in the community of St. Joseph and includes Bachand Street, Gendron Street, the unopened Georgianna Street road allowance, and lands draining toward the Fourcier Drain.

The background review considered natural heritage, species at risk, aquatic habitat, source water protection, cultural heritage and archaeological resources, existing utilities, adjacent land uses, climate change, and planning policy. No significant natural heritage features were identified within the project area. A Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment found no archaeological resources and low potential for archaeological resources.

Two alternatives were carried forward for evaluation: extending Bachand Street and constructing Georgianna Street with stormwater infrastructure, and the Do Nothing alternative. The preferred alternative is to extend Bachand Street, construct Georgianna Street as a gravel municipal road with roadside ditches, with stormwater collected and outletted to Fourcier Drain. This option addresses the identified opportunity by creating a road connection that supports municipal maintenance and snow-clearing operations while improving local drainage.

The evaluation found that the preferred alternative may result in localized and mostly construction-related impacts, including vegetation removal, temporary disruption to adjacent residents, dust and noise, and potential effects on surface water quality and aquatic habitat. These impacts are expected to be mitigated through standard construction controls, erosion and sediment measures, grassed ditches, catch basin sumps, riprap outlet protection, restoration of disturbed areas, appropriate timing of tree removal, and compliance with applicable approvals and regulations.

Consultation included notices to agencies, Indigenous communities, and local property owners; agency correspondence; Indigenous consultation; a public meeting; and documentation of public comments. Key public concerns related to the need for the road, drainage, stormwater routing, potential erosion, construction disruption, and effects on adjacent properties. The Project File Report records these comments and the responses provided, and final consultation will occur through issuance of the Notice of Completion and a 30-day public review period.

Subject to completion of the MCEA review period and receipt of required approvals, including any applicable stormwater, heritage, excess soil, migratory bird, and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority requirements, the Municipality may proceed with implementation of the preferred alternative. The report concludes that the preferred alternative is appropriate for the identified opportunity and is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.

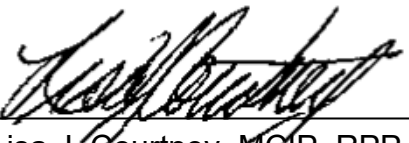
All of which is respectfully submitted.

Yours very truly

B. M. ROSS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED



Per



Lisa J. Courtney, MCIP, RPP
Environmental Planner



Per



Dale Erb P. Eng.
Senior Engineer

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11.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
BUILT HERITAGE CHECKLISTS**

The **purpose of the checklist** is to determine:

- if a property(ies) or project area may contain archaeological resources i.e., have archaeological potential
- it includes all areas that may be impacted by project activities, including – but not limited to:
 - the main project area
 - temporary storage
 - staging and working areas
 - temporary roads and detours

Processes covered under this checklist, such as:

- *Planning Act*
- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- *Aggregates Resources Act*
- *Ontario Heritage Act* – Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties

Archaeological assessment

If you are not sure how to answer one or more of the questions on the checklist, you may want to hire a licensed consultant archaeologist (see page 4 for definitions) to undertake an archaeological assessment.

The assessment will help you:

- identify, evaluate and protect archaeological resources on your property or project area
- reduce potential delays and risks to your project

Note: By law, archaeological assessments **must** be done by a licensed consultant archaeologist. Only a licensed archaeologist can assess – or alter – an archaeological site.

What to do if you:

- **find an archaeological resource**

If you find something you think may be of archaeological value during project work, you must – by law – stop all activities immediately and contact a licensed consultant archaeologist

The archaeologist will carry out the fieldwork in compliance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* [s.48(1)].

- **unearth a burial site**

If you find a burial site containing human remains, you must immediately notify the appropriate authorities (i.e., police, coroner's office, and/or Registrar of Cemeteries) and comply with the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*.

Other checklists

Please use a separate checklist for your project, if:

- you are seeking a Renewable Energy Approval under Ontario Regulation 359/09 – [separate checklist](#)
- your Parent Class EA document has an approved screening criteria (as referenced in Question 1)

Please refer to the Instructions pages when completing this form.

Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

A Checklist for the Non-Specialist

The **purpose of the checklist** is to determine:

- if a property(ies) or project area:
 - is a recognized heritage property
 - may be of cultural heritage value
- it includes all areas that may be impacted by project activities, including – but not limited to:
 - the main project area
 - temporary storage
 - staging and working areas
 - temporary roads and detours

Processes covered under this checklist, such as:

- *Planning Act*
- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- *Aggregates Resources Act*
- *Ontario Heritage Act* – Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties

Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER)

If you are not sure how to answer one or more of the questions on the checklist, you may want to hire a qualified person(s) (see page 5 for definitions) to undertake a cultural heritage evaluation report (CHER).

The CHER will help you:

- identify, evaluate and protect cultural heritage resources on your property or project area
- reduce potential delays and risks to a project

Other checklists

Please use a separate checklist for your project, if:

- you are seeking a Renewable Energy Approval under Ontario Regulation 359/09 – [separate checklist](#)
- your Parent Class EA document has an approved screening criteria (as referenced in Question 1)

Please refer to the Instructions pages for more detailed information and when completing this form.

Project or Property Name

Municipality of Bluewater, MCEA for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormsewer outlet (Community of St. Joseph)

Project or Property Location (upper and lower or single tier municipality)

Municipality of Bluewater

Proponent Name

Dave Kester

Proponent Contact Information

publicworks@municipalityofbluewater.ca

Screening Questions

	Yes	No
1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?	☐	☒

If Yes, please follow the pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process.

If No, continue to Question 2.

Part A: Screening for known (or recognized) Cultural Heritage Value

	Yes	No
2. Has the property (or project area) been evaluated before and found not to be of cultural heritage value?	☐	☒

If Yes, do not complete the rest of the checklist.

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the previous evaluation and
- add this checklist to the project file, with the appropriate documents that demonstrate a cultural heritage evaluation was undertaken

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority

If No, continue to Question 3.

	Yes	No
3. Is the property (or project area):		
a. identified, designated or otherwise protected under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> as being of cultural heritage value?	☐	☒
b. a National Historic Site (or part of)?	☐	☒
c. designated under the <i>Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act</i> ?	☐	☒
d. designated under the <i>Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act</i> ?	☐	☒
e. identified as a Federal Heritage Building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO)?	☐	☒
f. located within a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site?	☐	☒

If Yes to any of the above questions, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, if a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value has not previously been prepared or the statement needs to be updated

If a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value has been prepared previously and if alterations or development are proposed, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) – the report will assess and avoid, eliminate or mitigate impacts

If No, continue to Question 4.

Part B: Screening for Potential Cultural Heritage Value

	Yes	No
4. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that:		
a. is the subject of a municipal, provincial or federal commemorative or interpretive plaque?	☐	☒
b. has or is adjacent to a known burial site and/or cemetery?	☐	☒
c. is in a Canadian Heritage River watershed?	☐	☒
d. contains buildings or structures that are 40 or more years old?	☐	☒

Part C: Other Considerations

	Yes	No
5. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area):		
a. is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important in defining the character of the area?	☐	☒
b. has a special association with a community, person or historical event?	☐	☒
c. contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape?	☐	☒

If Yes to one or more of the above questions (Part B and C), there is potential for cultural heritage resources on the property or within the project area.

You need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER)

If the property is determined to be of cultural heritage value and alterations or development is proposed, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) – the report will assess and avoid, eliminate or mitigate impacts

If No to all of the above questions, there is low potential for built heritage or cultural heritage landscape on the property.

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the conclusion
- add this checklist with the appropriate documentation to the project file

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement e.g. under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act* processes
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority

Instructions

Please have the following available, when requesting information related to the screening questions below:

- a clear map showing the location and boundary of the property or project area
 - large scale and small scale showing nearby township names for context purposes
- the municipal addresses of all properties within the project area
- the lot(s), concession(s), and parcel number(s) of all properties within a project area

For more information, see the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's [Ontario Heritage Toolkit](#) or [Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties](#).

In this context, the following definitions apply:

- **qualified person(s)** means individuals – professional engineers, architects, archaeologists, etc. – having relevant, recent experience in the conservation of cultural heritage resources.
- **proponent** means a person, agency, group or organization that carries out or proposes to carry out an undertaking or is the owner or person having charge, management or control of an undertaking.

1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?

An existing checklist, methodology or process may already be in place for identifying potential cultural heritage resources, including:

- one endorsed by a municipality
- an environmental assessment process e.g. screening checklist for municipal bridges
- one that is approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) under the Ontario government's [Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties](#) [s.B.2.]

Part A: Screening for known (or recognized) Cultural Heritage Value

2. Has the property (or project area) been evaluated before and found not to be of cultural heritage value?

Respond 'yes' to this question, if all of the following are true:

A property can be considered not to be of cultural heritage value if:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) - or equivalent - has been prepared for the property with the advice of a qualified person and it has been determined not to be of cultural heritage value and/or
- the municipal heritage committee has evaluated the property for its cultural heritage value or interest and determined that the property is not of cultural heritage value or interest

A property may need to be re-evaluated, if:

- there is evidence that its heritage attributes may have changed
- new information is available
- the existing Statement of Cultural Heritage Value does not provide the information necessary to manage the property
- the evaluation took place after 2005 and did not use the criteria in Regulations 9/06 and 10/06

Note: Ontario government ministries and public bodies [prescribed under Regulation 157/10] may continue to use their existing evaluation processes, until the evaluation process required under section B.2 of the Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties has been developed and approved by MTCS.

To determine if your property or project area has been evaluated, contact:

- the approval authority
- the proponent
- the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

3a. Is the property (or project area) identified, designated or otherwise protected under the *Ontario Heritage Act* as being of cultural heritage value e.g.:

i. designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

- individual designation (Part IV)
- part of a heritage conservation district (Part V)

Individual Designation – Part IV

A property that is designated:

- by a municipal by-law as being of cultural heritage value or interest [s.29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*]
- by order of the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport as being of cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance [s.34.5]. **Note:** To date, no properties have been designated by the Minister.

Heritage Conservation District – Part V

A property or project area that is located within an area designated by a municipal by-law as a heritage conservation district [s. 41 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*].

For more information on Parts IV and V, contact:

- municipal clerk
- [Ontario Heritage Trust](#)
- local land registry office (for a title search)

ii. subject of an agreement, covenant or easement entered into under Parts II or IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

An agreement, covenant or easement is usually between the owner of a property and a conservation body or level of government. It is usually registered on title.

The primary purpose of the agreement is to:

- preserve, conserve, and maintain a cultural heritage resource
- prevent its destruction, demolition or loss

For more information, contact:

- [Ontario Heritage Trust](#) - for an agreement, covenant or easement [clause 10 (1) (c) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*]
- municipal clerk – for a property that is the subject of an easement or a covenant [s.37 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*]
- local land registry office (for a title search)

iii. listed on a register of heritage properties maintained by the municipality

Municipal registers are the official lists - or record - of cultural heritage properties identified as being important to the community.

Registers include:

- all properties that are designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Part IV or V)
- properties that have not been formally designated, but have been identified as having cultural heritage value or interest to the community

For more information, contact:

- municipal clerk
- municipal heritage planning staff
- municipal heritage committee

iv. subject to a notice of:

- intention to designate (under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*)
- a Heritage Conservation District study area bylaw (under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*)

A property that is subject to a **notice of intention to designate** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest and the notice is in accordance with:

- section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*
- section 34.6 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. **Note:** To date, the only applicable property is Meldrum Bay Inn, Manitoulin Island. [s.34.6]

An area designated by a municipal by-law made under section 40.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a **heritage conservation district study area**.

For more information, contact:

- municipal clerk – for a property that is the subject of notice of intention [s. 29 and s. 40.1]
- [Ontario Heritage Trust](#)

- v. included in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's list of provincial heritage properties

Provincial heritage properties are properties the Government of Ontario owns or controls that have cultural heritage value or interest.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) maintains a list of all provincial heritage properties based on information provided by ministries and prescribed public bodies. As they are identified, MTCS adds properties to the list of provincial heritage properties.

For more information, contact the MTCS Registrar at registrar@ontario.ca.

3b. Is the property (or project area) a National Historic Site (or part of)?

National Historic Sites are properties or districts of national historic significance that are designated by the Federal Minister of the Environment, under the *Canada National Parks Act*, based on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

For more information, see the [National Historic Sites website](#).

3c. Is the property (or project area) designated under the *Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act*?

The *Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act* protects heritage railway stations that are owned by a railway company under federal jurisdiction. Designated railway stations that pass from federal ownership may continue to have cultural heritage value.

For more information, see the [Directory of Designated Heritage Railway Stations](#).

3d. Is the property (or project area) designated under the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act*?

The *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act* helps preserve historically significant Canadian lighthouses. The Act sets up a public nomination process and includes heritage building conservation standards for lighthouses which are officially designated.

For more information, see the [Heritage Lighthouses of Canada](#) website.

3e. Is the property (or project area) identified as a Federal Heritage Building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office?

The role of the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) is to help the federal government protect the heritage buildings it owns. The policy applies to all federal government departments that administer real property, but not to federal Crown Corporations.

For more information, contact the [Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office](#).

See a [directory of all federal heritage designations](#).

3f. Is the property (or project area) located within a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site?

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place listed by UNESCO as having outstanding universal value to humanity under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. In order to retain the status of a World Heritage Site, each site must maintain its character defining features.

Currently, the Rideau Canal is the only World Heritage Site in Ontario.

For more information, see Parks Canada – [World Heritage Site website](#).

Part B: Screening for potential Cultural Heritage Value

4a. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that has a municipal, provincial or federal commemorative or interpretive plaque?

Heritage resources are often recognized with formal plaques or markers.

Plaques are prepared by:

- municipalities
- provincial ministries or agencies
- federal ministries or agencies
- local non-government or non-profit organizations

For more information, contact:

- [municipal heritage committees](#) or local heritage organizations – for information on the location of plaques in their community
- Ontario Historical Society's [Heritage directory](#) – for a list of historical societies and heritage organizations
- Ontario Heritage Trust – for a [list of plaques](#) commemorating Ontario's history
- Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada – for a [list of plaques](#) commemorating Canada's history

4b. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that has or is adjacent to a known burial site and/or cemetery?

For more information on known cemeteries and/or burial sites, see:

- Cemeteries Regulations, Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services – for a [database of registered cemeteries](#)
- Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) – to [locate records of Ontario cemeteries](#), both currently and no longer in existence; cairns, family plots and burial registers
- Canadian County Atlas Digital Project – to [locate early cemeteries](#)

In this context, adjacent means contiguous or as otherwise defined in a municipal official plan.

4c. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that is in a Canadian Heritage River watershed?

The Canadian Heritage River System is a national river conservation program that promotes, protects and enhances the best examples of Canada's river heritage.

Canadian Heritage Rivers must have, and maintain, outstanding natural, cultural and/or recreational values, and a high level of public support.

For more information, contact the [Canadian Heritage River System](#).

If you have questions regarding the boundaries of a watershed, please contact:

- your conservation authority
- municipal staff

4d. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that contains buildings or structures that are 40 or more years old?

A 40 year 'rule of thumb' is typically used to indicate the potential of a site to be of cultural heritage value. The approximate age of buildings and/or structures may be estimated based on:

- history of the development of the area
- fire insurance maps
- architectural style
- building methods

Property owners may have information on the age of any buildings or structures on their property. The municipality, local land registry office or library may also have background information on the property.

Note: 40+ year old buildings or structure do not necessarily hold cultural heritage value or interest; their age simply indicates a higher potential.

A building or structure can include:

- residential structure
- farm building or outbuilding
- industrial, commercial, or institutional building
- remnant or ruin
- engineering work such as a bridge, canal, dams, etc.

For more information on researching the age of buildings or properties, see the Ontario Heritage Tool Kit Guide [Heritage Property Evaluation](#).

Part C: Other Considerations

5a. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area) is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important to defining the character of the area?

Local or Aboriginal knowledge may reveal that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that has potential landmarks or defining structures and sites, for instance:

- buildings or landscape features accessible to the public or readily noticeable and widely known
- complexes of buildings
- monuments
- ruins

5b. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area) has a special association with a community, person or historical event?

Local or Aboriginal knowledge may reveal that the project location is situated on a parcel of land that has a special association with a community, person or event of historic interest, for instance:

- Aboriginal sacred site
- traditional-use area
- battlefield
- birthplace of an individual of importance to the community

5c. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area) contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape?

Landscapes (which may include a combination of archaeological resources, built heritage resources and landscape elements) may be of cultural heritage value or interest to a community.

For example, an Aboriginal trail, historic road or rail corridor may have been established as a key transportation or trade route and may have been important to the early settlement of an area. Parks, designed gardens or unique landforms such as waterfalls, rock faces, caverns, or mounds are areas that may have connections to a particular event, group or belief.

For more information on Questions 5.a., 5.b. and 5.c., contact:

- Elders in Aboriginal Communities or community researchers who may have information on potential cultural heritage resources. Please note that Aboriginal traditional knowledge may be considered sensitive.
- [municipal heritage committees](#) or local heritage organizations
- Ontario Historical Society's "[Heritage Directory](#)" - for a list of historical societies and heritage organizations in the province

An internet search may find helpful resources, including:

- historical maps
- historical walking tours
- municipal heritage management plans
- cultural heritage landscape studies
- municipal cultural plans

Information specific to trails may be obtained through [Ontario Trails](#).

Project or Property Name

Municipality of Bluewater, MCEA for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormsewer outlet (Community of St. Joseph)

Project or Property Location (upper and lower or single tier municipality)

Municipality of Bluewater

Proponent Name

Dave Kester

Proponent Contact Information

publicworks@municipalityofbluewater.ca

Screening Questions

	Yes	No
1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?	☒	☐

If Yes, please follow the pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process.

If No, continue to Question 2.

	Yes	No
2. Has an archaeological assessment been prepared for the property (or project area) and been accepted by MTCS?	☐	☒

If Yes, do **not** complete the rest of the checklist. You are expected to follow the recommendations in the archaeological assessment report(s).

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the previous assessment
- add this checklist to the project file, with the appropriate documents that demonstrate an archaeological assessment was undertaken e.g., MTCS letter stating acceptance of archaeological assessment report

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement e.g., environmental assessment document
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority

If No, continue to Question 3.

	Yes	No
3. Are there known archaeological sites on or within 300 metres of the property (or the project area)?	☐	☐

	Yes	No
4. Is there Aboriginal or local knowledge of archaeological sites on or within 300 metres of the property (or project area)?	☐	☐

	Yes	No
5. Is there Aboriginal knowledge or historically documented evidence of past Aboriginal use on or within 300 metres of the property (or project area)?	☐	☐

	Yes	No
6. Is there a known burial site or cemetery on the property or adjacent to the property (or project area)?	☐	☒

	Yes	No
7. Has the property (or project area) been recognized for its cultural heritage value?	☐	☒

If Yes to any of the above questions (3 to 7), do **not** complete the checklist. Instead, you need to hire a licensed consultant archaeologist to undertake an archaeological assessment of your property or project area.

If No, continue to question 8.

	Yes	No
8. Has the entire property (or project area) been subjected to recent, extensive and intensive disturbance?	☐	☒

If Yes to the preceding question, do **not** complete the checklist. Instead, please keep and maintain a summary of documentation that provides evidence of the recent disturbance.

An archaeological assessment is not required.

If No, continue to question 9.

	Yes	No
9. Are there present or past water sources within 300 metres of the property (or project area)?	☒	☐

If Yes, an archaeological assessment is required.

If No, continue to question 10.

	Yes	No
10. Is there evidence of two or more of the following on the property (or project area)?	☐	☐

- elevated topography
- pockets of well-drained sandy soil
- distinctive land formations
- resource extraction areas
- early historic settlement
- early historic transportation routes

If Yes, an archaeological assessment is required.

If No, there is low potential for archaeological resources at the property (or project area).

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the conclusion
- add this checklist with the appropriate documentation to the project file

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement e.g., under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act* processes
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority

Instructions

Please have the following available, when requesting information related to the screening questions below:

- a clear map showing the location and boundary of the property or project area
 - large scale and small scale showing nearby township names for context purposes
- the municipal addresses of all properties within the project area
- the lot(s), concession(s), and parcel number(s) of all properties within a project area

In this context, the following definitions apply:

- **consultant archaeologist** means, as defined in Ontario regulation as an archaeologist who enters into an agreement with a client to carry out or supervise archaeological fieldwork on behalf of the client, produce reports for or on behalf of the client and provide technical advice to the client. In Ontario, these people also are required to hold a valid professional archaeological licence issued by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.
- **proponent** means a person, agency, group or organization that carries out or proposes to carry out an undertaking or is the owner or person having charge, management or control of an undertaking.

1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?

An existing checklist, methodology or process may be already in place for identifying archaeological potential, including:

- one prepared and adopted by the municipality e.g., archaeological management plan
- an environmental assessment process e.g., screening checklist for municipal bridges
- one that is approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport under the Ontario government's [Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties](#) [s. B.2.]

2. Has an archaeological assessment been prepared for the property (or project area) and been accepted by MTCS?

Respond 'yes' to this question, if all of the following are true:

- an archaeological assessment report has been prepared and is in compliance with MTCS requirements
 - a letter has been sent by MTCS to the licensed archaeologist confirming that MTCS has added the report to the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports (Register)
- the report states that there are no concerns regarding impacts to archaeological sites

Otherwise, if an assessment has been completed and deemed compliant by the MTCS, and the ministry recommends further archaeological assessment work, this work will need to be completed.

For more information about archaeological assessments, contact:

- approval authority
- proponent
- consultant archaeologist
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport at archaeology@ontario.ca

3. Are there known archaeological sites on or within 300 metres of the property (or project area)?

MTCS maintains a database of archaeological sites reported to the ministry.

For more information, contact MTCS Archaeological Data Coordinator at archaeology@ontario.ca.

4. Is there Aboriginal or local knowledge of archaeological sites on or within 300 metres of the property?

Check with:

- Aboriginal communities in your area
- local municipal staff

They may have information about archaeological sites that are not included in MTCS' database.

Other sources of local knowledge may include:

- property owner
- [local heritage organizations and historical societies](#)
- local museums
- [municipal heritage committee](#)
- published local histories

5. Is there Aboriginal knowledge or historically documented evidence of past Aboriginal use on or within 300 metres of the property (or property area)?

Check with:

- Aboriginal communities in your area
- local municipal staff

Other sources of local knowledge may include:

- property owner
- [local heritage organizations and historical societies](#)
- local museums
- [municipal heritage committee](#)
- published local histories

6. Is there a known burial site or cemetery on the property or adjacent to the property (or project area)?

For more information on known cemeteries and/or burial sites, see:

- Cemeteries Regulation Unit, Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services – for [database of registered cemeteries](#)
- Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) – to [locate records of Ontario cemeteries](#), both currently and no longer in existence; cairns, family plots and burial registers
- Canadian County Atlas Digital Project – to [locate early cemeteries](#)

In this context, 'adjacent' means 'contiguous', or as otherwise defined in a municipal official plan.

7. Has the property (or project area) been recognized for its cultural heritage value?

There is a strong chance there may be archaeological resources on your property (or immediate area) if it has been listed, designated or otherwise identified as being of cultural heritage value by:

- your municipality
- Ontario government
- Canadian government

This includes a property that is:

- designated under *Ontario Heritage Act* (the OHA), including:
 - individual designation (Part IV)
 - part of a heritage conservation district (Part V)
 - an archaeological site (Part VI)
- subject to:
 - an agreement, covenant or easement entered into under the OHA (Parts II or IV)
 - a notice of intention to designate (Part IV)
 - a heritage conservation district study area by-law (Part V) of the OHA
- listed on:
 - a municipal register or inventory of heritage properties
 - Ontario government's list of provincial heritage properties
 - Federal government's list of federal heritage buildings
- part of a:
 - National Historic Site
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site
- designated under:
 - *Heritage Railway Station Protection Act*
 - *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act*
- subject of a municipal, provincial or federal commemorative or interpretive plaque.

To determine if your property or project area is covered by any of the above, see:

- Part A of the MTCS Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

Part VI – Archaeological Sites

Includes five sites designated by the Minister under Regulation 875 of the Revised Regulation of Ontario, 1990 (Archaeological Sites) and 3 marine archaeological sites prescribed under Ontario Regulation 11/06.

For more information, check [Regulation 875](#) and [Ontario Regulation 11/06](#).

8. Has the entire property (or project area) been subjected to recent extensive and intensive ground disturbance?

Recent: after-1960

Extensive: over all or most of the area

Intensive: thorough or complete disturbance

Examples of ground disturbance include:

- quarrying
- major landscaping – involving grading below topsoil
- building footprints and associated construction area
 - where the building has deep foundations or a basement
- infrastructure development such as:
 - sewer lines
 - gas lines
 - underground hydro lines
 - roads
 - any associated trenches, ditches, interchanges. **Note:** this applies only to the excavated part of the right-of-way; the remainder of the right-of-way or corridor may not have been impacted.

A ground disturbance does **not** include:

- agricultural cultivation
- gardening
- landscaping

Site visits

You can typically get this information from a site visit. In that case, please document your visit in the process (e.g., report) with:

- photographs
- maps
- detailed descriptions

If a disturbance isn't clear from a site visit or other research, you need to hire a licensed consultant archaeologist to undertake an archaeological assessment.

9. Are there present or past water bodies within 300 metres of the property (or project area)?

Water bodies are associated with past human occupations and use of the land. About 80-90% of archaeological sites are found within 300 metres of water bodies.

Present

- Water bodies:
 - primary - lakes, rivers, streams, creeks
 - secondary - springs, marshes, swamps and intermittent streams and creeks
- accessible or inaccessible shoreline, for example:
 - high bluffs
 - swamps
 - marsh fields by the edge of a lake
 - sandbars stretching into marsh

Water bodies not included:

- man-made water bodies, for example:
 - temporary channels for surface drainage
 - rock chutes and spillways
 - temporarily ponded areas that are normally farmed
 - dugout ponds
- artificial bodies of water intended for storage, treatment or recirculation of:
 - runoff from farm animal yards
 - manure storage facilities
 - sites and outdoor confinement areas

Past

Features indicating past water bodies:

- raised sand or gravel beach ridges – can indicate glacial lake shorelines
- clear dip in the land – can indicate an old river or stream
- shorelines of drained lakes or marshes
- cobble beaches

You can get information about water bodies through:

- a site visit
- aerial photographs
- 1:10,000 scale [Ontario Base Maps](#) - or [equally detailed and scaled maps](#).

10. Is there evidence of two or more of the following on the property (or project area)?

- elevated topography
- pockets of well-drained sandy soil
- distinctive land formations
- resource extraction areas
- early historic settlement
- early historic transportation routes

• **Elevated topography**

Higher ground and elevated positions - surrounded by low or level topography - often indicate past settlement and land use.

Features such as eskers, drumlins, sizeable knolls, plateaus next to lowlands, or other such features are a strong indication of archaeological potential.

Find out if your property or project area has elevated topography, through:

- site inspection
- aerial photographs
- [topographical maps](#)

• **Pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially within areas of heavy soil or rocky ground**

Sandy, well-drained soil - in areas characterized by heavy soil or rocky ground - may indicate archaeological potential

Find out if your property or project area has sandy soil through:

- site inspection
- [soil survey reports](#)

- **Distinctive land formations**

Distinctive land formations include – but are not limited to:

- waterfalls
- rock outcrops
- rock faces
- caverns
- mounds, etc.

They were often important to past inhabitants as special or sacred places. The following sites may be present – or close to – these formations:

- burials
- structures
- offerings
- rock paintings or carvings

Find out if your property or project areas has a distinctive land formation through:

- a site visit
- aerial photographs
- 1:10,000 scale [Ontario Base Maps](#) - or [equally detailed and scaled maps](#).

- **Resource extraction areas**

The following resources were collected in these extraction areas:

- food or medicinal plants e.g., migratory routes, spawning areas, prairie
- scarce raw materials e.g., quartz, copper, ochre or outcrops of chert
- resources associated with early historic industry e.g., fur trade, logging, prospecting, mining

Aboriginal communities may hold traditional knowledge about their past use or resources in the area.

- **Early historic settlement**

Early Euro-Canadian settlement include – but are not limited to:

- early military or pioneer settlement e.g., pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes
- early wharf or dock complexes
- pioneers churches and early cemeteries

For more information, see below – under the early historic transportation routes.

- **Early historic transportation routes** - such as trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes, canals.

For more information, see:

- historical maps and/or historical atlases
 - for information on early settlement patterns such as trails (including Aboriginal trails), monuments, structures, fences, mills, historic roads, rail corridors, canals, etc.
 - [Archives of Ontario](#) holds a large collection of historical maps and historical atlases
 - digital versions of historic atlases are available on the [Canadian County Atlas Digital Project](#)
- commemorative markers or plaques such as local, [provincial](#) or [federal](#) agencies
- [municipal heritage committee](#) or other [local heritage organizations](#)
 - for information on early historic settlements or landscape features (e.g., fences, mill races, etc.)
 - for information on commemorative markers or plaques

APPENDIX B

STAGE 1-2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)

Archaeology Program Unit
Heritage Operations Branch
Citizenship, Inclusion and Heritage Division
5th Floor, 400 University Ave.
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tel.: (705) 492-1395
Email: Rebecca.Gray@Ontario.ca

Ministère des Affaires civiques et du Multiculturalisme (MCM)

Unité des programme d'archéologie
Direction des opérations du patrimoine
Division de la citoyenneté, de l'inclusion et du patrimoine
5e étage, 400 ave. University
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tél. : (705) 492-1395
Email: Rebecca.Gray@Ontario.ca



Jan 2, 2026

Kelly Gostick (P1189)
TMHC Inc.
105 - 1108 Dundas LONDON ON N5W3A7

RE: Entry into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports: Archaeological Assessment Report Entitled, "Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Bachand Street Extension and Storm Sewer Outlet Community of St. Joseph, Municipality of Bluewater Part of Lot 11, West of Lake Road Concession Geographic Township of Hay Huron County, Ontario", Dated Dec 19, 2025, Filed with MCM on N/A, MCM Project Information Form Number P1189-0110-2025, MCM File Number 0024040

Dear Kelly Gostick (P1189):

The above-mentioned report, which has been submitted to this ministry as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18, has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports without technical review.¹

Please note that the ministry makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of reports in the register.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to send your inquiry to Archaeology@Ontario.ca

cc. Archaeology Licensing Officer
Lisa J. Courtney, B.M. Ross and Associates Limited
Alex Basciano, Municipality of Bluewater

¹In no way will the ministry be liable for any harm, damages, costs, expenses, losses, claims or actions that may result: (a) if the Report(s) or its recommendations are discovered to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent; or (b) from the issuance of this letter. Further measures may need to be taken in the event that additional artifacts or archaeological sites are identified or the Report(s) is otherwise found to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent.

**Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment
Bachand Street Extension and Storm Sewer Outlet
Community of St. Joseph, Municipality of Bluewater
Part of Lot 11, West of Lake Road Concession
Geographic Township of Hay
Huron County, Ontario**

Original Report

Submitted to:
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

Prepared for:
B.M. Ross and Associates Limited
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Prepared by:
TMHC Inc.
1108 Dundas Street, Unit 105
London, ON N5W 3A7
519-641-7222
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Licensee: Kelly Gostick, MA, P1189
PIF No: P1189-0110-2025
Project No: 2025-078
Dated: December 19, 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment was conducted as part of a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) following a Schedule B process for the proposed extension of Bachand Street and a new stormwater outlet in the community of St. Joseph, located in the Municipality of Bluewater, Ontario. The project consists of a proposed road extension and stormwater outlet, and as such the project area comprises two distinct parcels, north and south of Gendron Street. Together, the project area is roughly 0.31 ha (0.77 ac) in size and is located within Lot 11, West of Lake Road, in the Geographic Township of Hay, Huron County. The project area encompasses portions of lightly treed manicured lawns. In 2025, TMHC Inc. (TMHC) was contracted by B.M. Ross and Associates Limited to undertake the assessment, which was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The purpose of the assessment was to determine whether there were archaeological resources present within the project area.

The Stage 1 background study included a review of current land use, historic and modern maps, past settlement history for the area and a consideration of topographic and physiographic features, soils and drainage. It also involved a review of previously registered archaeological resources within 1 km of the project area and previous archaeological assessments within 50 m. The background study indicated that the project area had potential for the recovery of archaeological resources due the proximity (i.e., within 300 m) of features that signal archaeological potential, namely:

- watercourses (unnamed tributaries of Lake Huron);
- a mapped 19th-century early settlement (Lakeview);
- mapped 19th-century thoroughfares (Zurich Hensall Road, Bluewater Highway, and an unnamed road);
- mapped 19th-century structures; and,
- a provincial plaque (Narcisse M. Cantin).

The project area consists of non-ploughable lands; these were subject to Stage 2 assessment via standard test pit survey at a 5 m transect interval (93.5%; 0.29 ha), in keeping with provincial standards. The remainder of the project area consists of built features that were previously disturbed (3.2%; 0.01 ha), and lands that were steeply sloped (3.2%; 0.01 ha). These areas were deemed of low archaeological potential and were photo-documented.

All work met provincial standards, and no archaeological material was documented during the assessment. As such, no further archaeological assessment is recommended.

These recommendations are subject to the conditions laid out in Section 5.0 of this report, and to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM's) review and acceptance of this report into the provincial register of archaeological reports.



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PROJECT PERSONNEL

Project Manager	Kelly Gostick, MA (PI 189)
Project Administrators	Kellie Theaker, CHRP Victoria Bohdanowicz, MA, MLis Sara Harvey
Health and Safety Coordinator	Wendi Jakob, C.Tech, CAPM
Fieldwork Coordinators	Patryk Weglorz, MSc (RI 170) Ayla Mykytey, BA (RI 002)
Field Director	Robert Brown, BA (RI 403)
Field Technicians	Steven Naftel, PhD Amelia Poole, BA Brandon Thompson, BA Jared Thuss
GIS Technician	Isaac Bender, BA (RI 325)
Report Writer	Casey Lun, MSc
Senior Reviewer	Matthew Beaudoin, PhD (P324)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lisa J. Courtney	B.M. Ross and Associates Limited
Dave Kester	Municipality of Blue Water



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The project area is located within the Huron Tract Purchase (Treaty No. 29) of 1827, on the traditional lands and territory of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek) people of the Aamjiwnaang (Am-JIN-nun) First Nation, Chippewa of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, and the Walpole Island First Nation who represent the Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwa (ow-jib-wei), Odawa (ow-daa-wuh), and Potawatomi (pow-tuh-waa-tuh-mee) Nations and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant between the Three Fires Confederacy and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, as per the 1701 Fort Albany Treaty.

These First Nation groups are the stewards of the lands, waters and resources of their territories, including archaeological resources and cultural heritage values. These lands also continue to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g., First Nations, Métis and Inuit) who are contemporary stewards of the land.



INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANTS

Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Environment Coordinator	Lynn Rosales
TriTribal Monitoring	Wanda Maness
Fieldwork Monitor	Laura Rogers

Wiiwkwedong (Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation)

Consultation and Monitoring Coordinator	Jana George
Fieldwork Monitor	Robert Myers

Deshkan Ziiibiing (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)

Coordinators	Fallon Burch	Carolyn Albert	Jennifer Mills
Fieldwork Monitor	Lisa Kechego		

Ony^ayota a:ka Lotiyaneshu

Loyane (Chief) – Sonohse:s (Turtle) Clan and Coordinator	Al Day
Fieldwork Monitor	Elton (Bear) John

Onyta'a:ka (Oneida Nation of the Thames) Elected Council

Environment and Consultation Coordinators	Jenelle Cornelius
---	-------------------

Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation)

Coordinators	Dean Jacobs
	Taylor Myers



ABOUT TMHC

Established in 2003 with a head office in London, Ontario, TMHC Inc. (TMHC) provides a broad range of archaeological assessment, heritage planning and interpretation, cemetery, and community consultation services throughout the Province of Ontario. We specialize in providing heritage solutions that suit the past and present for a range of clients and intended audiences, while meeting the demands of the regulatory environment. Over the past two decades, TMHC has grown to become one of the largest privately-owned heritage consulting firms in Ontario and is today the largest predominately woman-owned CRM business in Canada.

Since 2004, TMHC has held retainers with Infrastructure Ontario, Hydro One, the Ministry of Transportation, Metrolinx, the City of Hamilton, and Niagara Parks Commission. In 2013, TMHC earned the Ontario Archaeological Society's award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management. Our seasoned expertise and practical approach have allowed us to manage a wide variety of large, complex, and highly sensitive projects to successful completion. Through this work, we have gained corporate experience in helping our clients work through difficult issues to achieve resolution.

TMHC is skilled at meeting established deadlines and budgets, maintaining a healthy and safe work environment, and carrying out quality heritage activities to ensure that all projects are completed diligently and safely. Additionally, we have developed long-standing relationships of trust with Indigenous and descendent communities across Ontario and a good understanding of community interests and concerns in heritage matters, which assists in successful project completion.

TMHC is a Living Wage certified employer with the [Ontario Living Wage Network](#) and a member of the [Canadian Federation for Independent Business](#).



KEY STAFF BIOS

Matthew Beaudoin, PhD, Principal

Matthew received a PhD in Anthropology from Western University in 2013 and has a professional archaeological license with the Province of Ontario (P324). During his archaeological career, Matthew has conducted extensive field research and artifact analysis in Labrador and Ontario, and has taught the Field Methods Course and Principals of archaeology courses as a part-time faculty member at Western University. Matthew has also conducted ethnographic projects in Labrador, and has volunteered with the OAS to provide archaeological training to several Indigenous communities throughout the province.

Over the course of his career, Matthew has supervised over 900 archaeological assessments in Ontario, including Stages 1-4, under a variety of regulatory triggers including provincial and municipal Environmental Assessments, Green Energy projects, development projects under the *Planning Act*, and as due diligence process. Matthew has extensive experience managing large and complex archaeological projects in conjunction with other disciplines, specialists, and Indigenous communities including Enbridge Line 10 Westover Segment, Imperial Oil from Waterdown to Finch, and Highway 3 Widening in Kingsville. Since joining TMHC in 2008, Matthew has also been involved with several notable projects, such as the archaeological assessment of Stoney Point/Camp Ipperwash. For these and other projects, Matthew works closely with heritage staff at TMHC and with heritage staff employed by clients and stakeholder communities.

Matthew is an active member of the Canadian Archaeological Association, the Ontario Archaeological Association, the Society for American Archaeology, and the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Amanda Parks, MA Manager – Environmental Assessments Project Division

Amanda began her career in archaeology in 2004 and has dedicated her work to the conservation of cultural heritage resources in Ontario. Amanda has worked on numerous Stage 1-4 archaeological assessments in a multitude of roles: project manager, field director, report writer, artifact analyst, and engagement specialist. Regarding the latter, Amanda has worked regularly with Indigenous communities throughout Ontario, engaging communities for archaeological projects, environmental assessments, and property management plans. She has established good working relationships with communities by focusing on a collaborative approach to the protection and documentation of archaeological sites.

Amanda earned a BA in Archaeological Science from the University of Toronto in 2012 and completed her MA in Applied Archaeology at Western in 2018. Her masters research focused on the sweat baths at the Redeemer site, a Middle Ontario Iroquoian site located in the City of Hamilton.

Kelly Gostick, MA, Unit Manager - Municipal Environmental Assessments

Kelly received her Master's Degree in Archaeology from the University of Western Ontario in 2017, studying Late Woodland period settlement patterns. With over ten years' experience in consulting archaeology, Kelly has performed numerous roles including field director, report writer, artifact analysis and lab manager. Since joining TMHC in 2016 Kelly has performed all aspects of archaeological work including lab work, archaeological field work and report writing. Kelly is a member of the Ontario Archaeological Society.



STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

The attached Report (the “Report”) has been prepared by TMHC Inc. (TMHC) for the benefit of the Client (the “Client”) in accordance with the agreement between TMHC and the Client, including the scope of work detailed therein (the “Agreement”).

The information, data, recommendations and conclusions contained in the Report (collectively, the “Information”):

- is subject to the scope, schedule, and other constraints and limitations in the Agreement and the qualifications contained in the Report (the “Limitations”);
- represents TMHC’s professional judgement in light of the Limitation and industry standards for the preparation of similar reports;
- may be based on information provided to TMHC which has not been independently verified;
- has not been updated since the date of issuance of the Report and its accuracy is limited to the time period and circumstances in which it was collected, processed, made or issued;
- must be read as a whole and sections thereof should not be read out of such context; and
- was prepared for the specific purposes described in the Report and the Agreement.

TMHC shall be entitled to rely upon the accuracy and completeness of information that was provided to it and has no obligation to update such information. TMHC accepts no responsibility for any events or circumstances that may have occurred since the date on which the Report was prepared and, in the case of subsurface, environmental or geotechnical conditions, is not responsible for any variability in such conditions, geographically or over time.

TMHC agrees that the Report represents its professional judgement as described above and that the Information has been prepared for the specific purpose and use described in the Report and the Agreement, but TMHC makes no other representations, or any guarantees or warranties whatsoever, whether express or implied, with respect to the Report, the Information or any part thereof.

Except (1) as agreed to in writing by TMHC and Client; (2) as required by-law; or (3) to the extent used by governmental reviewing agencies for the purpose of obtaining permits or approvals, the Report and the Information may be used and relied upon only by Client.

TMHC accepts no responsibility, and denies any liability whatsoever, to parties other than Client who may obtain access to the Report or the Information for any injury, loss or damage suffered by such parties arising from their use of, reliance upon, or decisions or actions based on the Report or any of the Information (“improper use of the Report”), except to the extent those parties have obtained the prior written consent of TMHC to use and rely upon the Report and the Information. Any injury, loss or damages arising from improper use of the Report shall be borne by the party making such use.

This Statement of Qualifications and Limitations is attached to and forms part of the Report and any use of the Report is subject to the terms hereof.



QUALITY INFORMATION

Report prepared by:

Casey Lun, MSc
Report Writer

Project managed by:

Kelly Gostick, MA (PI 189)
Unit Manager - Municipal Environmental Assessments

Report reviewed by:

Matthew Beaudoin, PhD (P324)
Principal



I PROJECT CONTEXT

I.1 Development Context

I.1.1 Introduction

A Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment was conducted as part of a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) following a Schedule B process for the proposed extension of Bachand Street and a new stormwater outlet in the community of St. Joseph, located in the Municipality of Bluewater, Ontario. The project consists of a proposed road extension and stormwater outlet, and as such the project area comprises two distinct parcels, north and south of Gendron Street. Together, the project area is roughly 0.31 ha (0.77 ac) in size and is located within Lot 11, West of Lake Road, in the Geographic Township of Hay, Huron County. The project area encompasses portions of lightly treed manicured lawns. In 2025, TMHC Inc. (TMHC) was contracted by B.M. Ross and Associates Limited to undertake the assessment, which was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The purpose of the assessment was to determine whether there were archaeological resources present within the project area.

All archaeological assessment activities were performed under the professional archaeological license of Kelly Gostick, MA (PI 189) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MTC 2011, “*Standards and Guidelines*”). Permission to enter the project area and carry out all required archaeological activities, including collecting artifacts when found, was given by B.M. Ross and Associates Limited.



1.1.2 Purpose and Legislative Context

1.1.2.1 Ontario Heritage Act

The *Ontario Heritage Act* (R.S.O. 1990) ([OHA](#)) provides legislative oversight for the conservation, protection, and preservation of heritage resources in the Province of Ontario, including archaeological resources. The *OHA* assigns responsibility for doing so to a provincial ministry, now the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM). The MCM regulates how archaeological sites are dealt with by:

- Establishing a system to license individuals permitted to identify and investigate archaeological sites;
- Creating technical standards and guidelines for archaeological fieldwork and reporting;
- Maintaining a list of registered archaeological sites; and
- Overseeing transfers of archaeological collections.

The *OHA* does not speak to the need for undertaking archaeological assessments prior to land development. Instead, it regulates how such work must be undertaken and how archaeological sites are dealt with when the need for an archaeological assessment is prompted by other pieces of legislation.

In 2011, the Province of Ontario implemented the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (*Standards and Guidelines*) which must be followed by licensed archaeologists when undertaking archaeological assessments. In addition, the MCM provides further guidance through technical bulletins, the periodic issuance of answers to frequently answered questions (FAQ), and informal communications as a response to requests for advice and archaeological assessment report review.

1.1.2.2 Environmental Assessment

The planning for this project is following the environmental screening process set out for Schedule B activities under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) document. The Class EA process involves consultation with the public and review agencies to ensure that the project can be carried out in an environmentally-sound manner.

The *Environmental Assessment Act* provides for the protection and conservation of the environment. In this case, the environment is widely defined to cover “cultural heritage” resources. Section 5(3)(c) of the Act stipulates that heritage resources to be affected by a proposed undertaking be identified during the environmental screening process. Within the EA process, the purpose of a Stage 1 background study is to determine if there are known cultural resources within the proposed Project Area, or potential for such resources to exist. Subsequently, it can act as a planning tool by identifying areas of concern that, where possible, could be avoided to minimize environmental impact. It is also used to determine the need for a Stage 2 field assessment involving the search for archaeological sites.

2 STAGE I BACKGROUND REVIEW

2.1 Research Methods and Sources

A Stage I overview and background study was conducted to gather information about known and potential cultural heritage resources within the project area. According to the *Standards and Guidelines*, a Stage I background study must include a review of:

- an up-to-date listing of sites from the MCM's PastPortal for 1 km around the project area;
- reports of previous archaeological fieldwork within a radius of 50 m around the project area;
- topographic maps at 1:10,000 (recent and historical) or the most detailed scale available;
- historical settlement maps (e.g., historical atlas, survey);
- archaeological management plans or other archaeological potential mapping when available; and,
- commemorative plaques or monuments on or near the project area.

For this project, the following activities were carried out to satisfy or exceed the above requirements:

- a database search was completed through MCM's PastPortal system that compiled a list of registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the project area (completed October 6, 2025);
- a review of known prior archaeological reports for the project area and adjacent lands;
- Ontario Base Mapping (1:10,000) was reviewed through ArcGIS and mapping layers under the Open Government Licence – Canada and the Open Government Licence- Ontario;
- detailed mapping provided by the client was reviewed; and,
- a series of historic maps and photographs was reviewed related to the post-1800 land settlement.

Additional sources of information were also consulted, including modern aerial photographs, local history accounts, soils data provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), physiographic data provided by the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and detailed topographic data provided by Land Information Ontario.

When compiled, background information was used to create a summary of the characteristics of the project area, in an effort to evaluate its archaeological potential. The Province of Ontario (MTC 2011; Section 1.3.1) has defined the criteria that identify archaeological potential as:

- previously identified archaeological sites;
- water sources;
 - primary water sources (e.g., lakes, rivers, streams, creeks);
 - secondary water sources (e.g., intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps);
 - features indicating past water sources (e.g., glacial lake shorelines, relic river or stream channels, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes, cobble beaches);
 - accessible or inaccessible shorelines (e.g., high bluffs, sandbars stretching into a marsh);
- elevated topography (e.g., eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateau);
- pockets of well-drained sandy soils;
- distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places (e.g., waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, promontories and their bases);
- resource areas, including:



- food or medicinal plants (e.g., migratory routes, spawning areas, prairies);
- scarce raw materials (e.g., quartz, copper, ochre, or chert outcrops);
- early industry (e.g., fur trade, logging, prospecting, mining);
- areas of early 19th-century settlement, including:
 - early military locations;
 - pioneer settlement (e.g., homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes);
 - wharf or dock complexes;
 - pioneer churches;
 - early cemeteries;
- early transportation routes (e.g., trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes);
- a project area listed on a municipal register, designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, or that is a federal, provincial, or municipal historic landmark or site; and,
- a project area that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical event, activities, or occupations.

In Southern Ontario (south of the Canadian Shield), any lands within 300 m of any of the features listed above are considered to have potential for the discovery of archaeological resources.

Typically, a Stage 1 assessment will determine potential for Indigenous and 19th-century sites independently. This is due to the fact that lifeways varied considerably during these eras, so the criteria used to evaluate potential for each type of site also varies.

It should be noted that some factors can also negate the potential for discovery of intact archaeological deposits. The *Standards and Guidelines* (MTC 2011; Section 1.3.2) indicates that archaeological potential can be removed in instances where land has been subject to extensive and deep land alterations that have severely damaged the integrity of any archaeological resources. Major disturbances indicating removal of archaeological potential include, but are not limited to:

- quarrying;
- major landscaping involving grading below topsoil;
- building footprints; and,
- sewage and infrastructure development.

Some activities (agricultural cultivation, surface landscaping, installation of gravel trails, etc.) may result in minor alterations to the surface topsoil but do not necessarily affect or remove archaeological potential. It is not uncommon for archaeological sites, including structural foundations, subsurface features and burials, to be found intact beneath major surface features like roadways and parking lots. Archaeological potential is, therefore, not removed in cases where there is a chance of deeply buried deposits, as in a developed or urban context or floodplain where modern features or alluvial soils can effectively cap and preserve archaeological resources.



2.2 Project Context: Archaeological Context

2.2.1 Project Area: Overview and Physical Setting

The project area is located between Bachand Street and Gendron Street, in the Municipality of Bluewater, Ontario. It is roughly 0.31 ha (0.77 ac) in size and is located within Lot 11, West of Lake Road, in the Geographic Township of Hay, Huron County (Maps 1 and 2). The project area encompasses portions of lightly treed manicured lawns. The north parcel is bound to the north by woodlot and to the south by Gendron Street, while manicured grass continues to the east and west. The south parcel is bound to the north by Gendron Street, and to the east, south, and west by residential properties.

The west half of the project area falls within the Huron Fringe physiographic region, a narrow stretch of land oriented northeast to southwest covering an area of 1,100 square kilometres extending along the eastern shore of Lake Huron from Sarnia to Tobermory (Chapman and Putnam 1984:161; Map 3). It is comprised of the wave-cut terraces of glacial Lakes Algonquin and Nipissing and is characterized by the presence of boulders, gravel bars and sand dunes (Chapman and Putnam 1984:161). The Huron Fringe is the result of the glacial scouring of limestone located just above the current lake level and is backed by either beaches or sand dunes and the occasional swamp (Chapman and Putnam 1984:161). This physiographic region lies over the Norfolk formation which consists of fine-grained limestone, magnesium limestone and dolomite bedrock (Hoffman and Richards 1954:14). The east half of the project area lies within the physiographic region known as the Huron Slope, an area occupying roughly 2590 square kilometres along the eastern side of Lake Huron situated between the glacial Lake Algonquin shorecliff and the Wyoming Moraine (Chapman and Putnam 1984:160; Map 3). Essentially a vast clay plain, the Huron Slope is modified by a narrow strip of sand and the twin beaches of glacial Lake Warren which flank the moraine (Chapman and Putnam 1984:160). A shore cliff lies roughly 200 m west of the project area, along Lake Huron.

Soils within the project area consist of Brookston clay loam (Map 4). Brookston clay loam developed on heavy textured till soils and exhibits poor drainage (Hoffman et. al 1952).

The project area lies within the Lake Huron drainage. Three unnamed water courses are within the vicinity of the project area, including one that flows into the Fourcier Drain, roughly 15 m north of the project area (Map 1).

2.2.2 Summary of Registered or Known Archaeological Sites

According to PastPortal (accessed October 6, 2025) there are no registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the project area.

2.2.3 Summary of Past Archaeological Investigations within 50 m

During the course of this study no record was found of any archaeological investigations within 50 m of the project area. However, it should be noted that the MCM currently does not provide an inventory of archaeological assessments to assist in this determination.



2.2.4 *Dates of Archaeological Fieldwork*

The Stage 2 fieldwork was conducted on October 6, 2025, in sunny, clear, and hot weather conditions under the direction of Robert Brown, BA (RI403).



2.3 Project Context: Historical Context

2.3.1 Indigenous Settlement in Huron County

In recent years, our archaeological knowledge of Huron County has improved greatly, largely due to various cultural resource management surveys that have accompanied Green Energy Act development projects. Nonetheless, our knowledge of past Indigenous land use in the area is still incomplete. Using province-wide and region-specific data, a generalized cultural chronology for Indigenous settlement in the area can be proposed. The following paragraphs provide a basic textual summary of the known general cultural trends and a tabular summary appears in Table 1.

Table 1: Chronology of Indigenous Settlement in Huron County

Period	Time Range	Diagnostic Features	Archaeological Complexes
Early Paleo	9000-8400 BCE	fluted projectile points	Gainey, Barnes, Crowfield
Late Paleo	8400-8000 BCE	non-fluted and lanceolate points	Holcombe, Hi-Lo, Lanceolate
Early Archaic	8000-6000 BCE	serrated, notched, bifurcate base points	Nettling, Bifurcate Base Horizon
Middle Archaic	6000-2500 BCE	stemmed, side & corner notched points	Brewerton, Otter Creek, Stanly/Neville
Late Archaic	2000-1800 BCE	narrow points	Lamoka
Late Archaic	1800-1500 BCE	broad points	Genesee, Adder Orchard, Perkiomen
Late Archaic	1500-1100 BCE	small points	Crawford Knoll
Terminal Archaic	1100-950 BCE	first true cemeteries	Hind
Early Woodland	950-400 BCE	expanding stemmed points, Vinette pottery	Meadowood
Middle Woodland	400 BCE-500 CE	dentate, pseudo-scallop pottery	Saugeen
Transitional Woodland	500-900 CE	first corn, cord-wrapped stick pottery	Princess Point
Late Woodland	900-1300 CE	first villages, corn horticulture, longhouses	Glen Meyer
Late Woodland	1300-1400 CE	large villages and houses	Uren, Middleport
Late Woodland	1400-1650 CE	tribal emergence, territoriality	
Contact Period - Indigenous	1650 CE-present	treaties, mixture of Indigenous & European items	
Contact Period - Settler	1796 CE-present	industrial goods, homesteads	pioneer life, municipal settlement



2.3.1.1 Paleo Period

The first human populations to inhabit southern Ontario arrived between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago, coincident with the end of the last period of glaciation. Climate and environmental conditions were significantly different then they are today; local environs would not have been welcoming to anything but short-term settlement. Ontario's earliest peoples would have crossed the landscape in small groups (i.e., bands or family units) searching for food, particularly migratory game species. In this area, caribou may have provided the staple of Paleo Period diet, supplemented by wild plants, small game, birds and fish.

Given the low density of populations on the landscape at this time and their mobile nature, Paleo Period sites are small and ephemeral. They are sometimes identified by the presence of fluted projectile points manufactured with high quality raw materials. Sites or find spots are frequently located adjacent to the strandlines of large glacial lakes. This settlement pattern has been attributed to the strategic placement of camps in high, dry areas and at logistical points for the interception of migrating caribou herds.

2.3.1.2 Archaic Period

The archaeological record of early Indigenous life in southern Ontario indicates a change in lifeways beginning circa 8000 BCE at the start of what archaeologists call the Archaic Period. The Ontario populations are better known than their Paleo Period predecessors, with numerous sites found throughout the area. The characteristic projectile points of early Archaic Period populations appear similar in some respects to early varieties and are likely a continuation of early trends. Archaic Period populations continued to rely heavily on game, particularly caribou, but diversified their diet and exploitation patterns with changing environmental conditions. A seasonal pattern of warm season river or lakeshore settlements and interior cold weather occupations has been documented in the archaeological record. Since the large cold weather mammal species that formed the basis of the Paleo Period subsistence pattern became extinct or moved northward with the onset of warmer climate, Archaic Period populations had a more varied diet, exploiting a range of plant, bird, mammal and fish species. Reliance on specific food resources like fish, deer and nuts becomes more pronounced through time and the presence of more hospitable environs and resource abundance led to the expansion of band and family sizes. In the archaeological record, this is evident in the presence of larger sites and aggregation camps, where several families or bands would come together in times of resource abundance.

The coniferous forests of earlier times were replaced by stands of mixed coniferous and deciduous trees by about 4000 BCE. The transition to more productive environmental circumstances led to a rise in population density. As a result, Archaic Period sites become more abundant over time. Artifacts typical of these occupations include a variety of stemmed and notched projectile points, chipped stone scrapers, ground stone tools (e.g., celts, adzes) and ornaments (e.g., bannerstones, gorgets), bifaces or tool blanks, animal bone and waste flakes, a byproduct of the tool making process.

2.3.1.3 Early, Middle and Transitional Woodland Periods

Significant changes in cultural and environmental patterns are witnessed in the Woodland Period (c. 950 BCE-1700 CE). By this time, the coniferous forests of earlier times were replaced by stands of mixed and deciduous species. Occupations became increasingly more substantial in this period, culminating in major semi-permanent villages by 1,000 years ago. Archaeologically, the most significant changes by Woodland Period times are the appearance of artifacts manufactured from modeled clay and the construction of house structures. The Woodland Period is often defined by the occurrence of pottery, storage facilities and residential areas commonly associated with incipient agricultural practices worldwide.



The Early and Middle Woodland periods are also characterized by extensive trade in raw materials, objects and finished tools, with sites in Ontario containing trade items with origins in the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys. A rise in mortuary ceremonialism is also evident, culminating in the construction of large burial mounds.

2.3.1.4 Late Woodland Period

Beginning circa 1000 CE the archaeological record of Southern Ontario documents the emergence of more substantial, semi-permanent settlements and the adoption of corn horticulture. These developments are most often associated with Iroquoian-speaking populations, the ancestors of the Wendat (Huron), Tionontati (Petun - Tobacco Nation) and Attawandaron (Neutral) nations who were known to have resided in the province upon the arrival of the first European explorers and missionaries. Iroquoian villages incorporated a number of longhouses, multi-family dwellings that contained several families related through the female line. Pre-contact Iroquoian sites may be identified by a predominance of well-made pottery decorated with various simple and geometric motifs, triangular projectile points, clay pipes and ground stone artifacts. Sites post-dating European contact are recognized through the appearance of various items of European manufacture. The latter include materials acquired by trade (e.g., glass beads, copper/brass kettles, iron axes, knives and other metal implements) in addition to the personal items of European visitors and Jesuit missionaries (e.g., finger rings, stoneware, rosaries, and glassware).

2.3.1.5 Algonquian Populations

At the time of European contact in the early 17th century the Bruce peninsula was occupied by Algonkian speaking groups (Odawa, Potawatomi, Ojibwa) who maintained a close relationship with the Iroquoian speaking Petun peoples living along the southern end of Georgian Bay (Fox 1990:461). Like other First Peoples in the area, these groups were dispersed in the mid-17th century as a result of the conflict between the Five Nations Iroquois and the Wendat-Petun. Many moved along the Lake Huron shoreline, with others settling in the peninsula proper. Several probable Algonquin sites on the Bruce peninsula and Georgian Bay have been documented, including a component on the Inverhuron-Lucas site on the Lake Huron shoreline.

The archaeological record of more recent “historic” Indigenous occupation in the Goderich area is poorly known. Our lack of archaeological knowledge of the area is attributable to a number of factors including the ephemeral nature of many resource utilization sites and the archaeological “invisibility” of historic-era Indigenous sites. The latter stems from the fact that Indigenous material culture assemblages of the mid-19th- to mid-20th century are not superficially dissimilar from the very prevalent and better documented settler sites of the same time. Further, traditional colonial histories generally speak little of Indigenous groups, their land use or site locations during the late 18th and early 19th-century municipal settlement period. Thus, information regarding the locales of historic-era Indigenous settlements is limited and difficult to collect through the use of traditional historical sources.

The information bias is particularly strong for the northern reaches of southern Ontario. In the past, land surveyor’s field notes have proved useful in highlighting the location of 19th century land use sites.



2.3.2 Treaty History

Indigenous peoples have used the lands that are now known as Huron County for thousands of years. Prior to the displacement caused by early European settlement, this area was actively used for hunting by a number of Anishinaabe peoples. The area which became Hay Township was part of the Huron Tract, approximately 2.76 million acres of land subject to Provisional Treaty No. 27 ½ between the local Chippewa nations (including what would become Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, and Walpole Island (Bkejwanong) First Nation) and the British Crown signed on April 26, 1825 (Surtees 1984). An earlier 1819 agreement was never realized and for six years the territory remained in limbo. The provisional treaty was finally reached as a result of John Galt's intention to form the Canada Company which required one million acres of land to sell to prospective settlers (Surtees 1894).

The Chippewa nations transferred most of the Huron Tract to the Crown but maintained their territories in four reserve lands along the St. Clair River and on the shores of Lake Huron near Kettle Point and the Ausable River (River aux Sable). Two of these reserves would become the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. The remaining two, a reserve at Kettle Point, and a reserve at Stony Point would later become the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. The agreement was formalized in 1827 through Treaty No. 29 (Canadian Legal Information Institute 2000; Duern 2017).

In 1701, the Fort Albany/Nanfan Treaty was signed between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the acting governor of New York, on behalf of the British Crown. That agreement covered a vast territory encompassing most of the lower Great Lakes, claimed as the Haudenosaunee's Beaver Hunting Grounds. Much of the same territory also falls within the Dish with One Spoon Wampum. The wampum represents an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabeg to share the hunting territories around the Great Lakes (Glover 2020). In 1840, after losing their land base in New York State, over 200 Oneida members formed Oneida Nation of Thames near Delaware, Ontario. The community purchased their new settlement lands with their own funds and did not receive a Crown allotted reserve (Oneida Nation of the Thames 2023). Their presence reintroduced Haudenosaunee stewardship practices to the region which continue today.



2.3.3 Nineteenth-Century and Municipal Settlement

Historically the project area falls within Lot 11, West of Lake Road, in the Geographic Township of Hay, Huron County, Ontario. A brief discussion of 19th-century settlement and land use in the township is provided below in an effort to identify features signaling archaeological potential.

2.3.3.1 Huron County

Early settlement in Huron County was facilitated by John Galt and the Canada Company. Incorporated in 1824, the company was organized by Galt and a number of wealthy investors who wished to wrest some control from Clergy and Crown who held reserves amounting to two sevenths of lands in Upper Canada in the early-19th century. The lands held by the Clergy and Crown were considered largely vacant and uninhabited, thereby acting to impede any sustained settlement efforts in the area and across much of what is now the Province of Ontario. Galt's plans, however, were vehemently opposed by Church of England officials, and its considerable influence prevented the sale of lands held by the church (Beecroft 1984:20). In May of 1826, the Canada Company purchased lands from the British Government that included all 15 townships in Huron County. Nine of these townships were part of the Huron Tract.

Much of Huron County at this time was covered by dense forest that had to be cleared, and access to these areas was difficult. In 1827, Dr. William Dunlop and Mahlon Burwell were contracted to undertake a preliminary survey for a colonization road into the tract. The official survey for what would become the Huron Road was carried out by John McDonald in 1828-29 (Beecroft 1984:37). McDonald was responsible for surveying all of the townships in Huron County, with the exception of Goderich Township, which was undertaken by Deputy Provincial Surveyor David Gibson (Lee 2004:226). Completion of the Huron Road did not, however, initially attract settlers to the region. Five years after the road was finished there were only 385 inhabitants in all of Huron County (Scott 1966:52). Galt made plans for three "inns" to be erected along the course of the Huron Road, where settlers could stay on their journey into the deeper reaches of the tract. In the following years, hundreds of families utilized the inns as they made their way through Huron County (Scott 1966:44). The Canada Company often constructed temporary residences for the accommodation of the settlers until they were able to build their own homes (H. Belden & Co. 1879:8).

Censuses for Huron County show that the population in 1837 was 385, in 1838 it was 1,168, and by 1842 it had reached 7,190. Most of these early settlers were people of German descent that came to Canada by way of Pennsylvania, or from Great Britain (Scott 1966:57).

2.3.3.2 Hay Township

Hay Township was settled somewhat later than other townships within the county. Early settlement occurred along the London Road in the late 1830s. Many of the early settlers in township were of German descent who settled in the western part of the township where the land was better for farming (H. Belden & Co. 1879:15). Zurich was the principal village within the township in 1879 (H. Belden & Co. 1879:15). The village was home to several stores and harness and carriage shops, hotels, churches, a public school, a post office, a town hall, a tannery, and various mills, including the first grist mill in the township. The smaller villages of Hensall, Dashwood, and the community of Johnson's Mills also housed stores, hotels, factories, mills, churches, and schools (H. Belden & Co. 1879:15).



2.3.4 Review of Historic Maps

The project area falls within Lot 11, West of Lake Road, in the Geographic Township of Hay, Huron County, Ontario. Several structures are depicted near the project area on Hermon, Martin, and Bolton's 1862 *Map of the County of Huron* (Map 5), including a saw mill to the west. The community of Lakeview is shown at the intersection of Zurich Hensall Road and Bluewater Highway, which are both depicted as open at this time. An unnamed road is shown bisecting the south parcel of the project area. A watercourse is also depicted roughly 190 m to the south, flowing into Lake Huron.

Numerous structures are shown near the project area on the *Map of Hay Township* contained within H. Belden & Co.'s 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron* (Map 6); nearly all of these are shown fronting Bluewater Highway, including the Johnson's Mills Post Office nearby. Although not labeled on this map, the community of Lakeview to the north was divided into parcels with several streets opened by this time, as evidenced in the *Lakeview, Hay TP* map contained in the 1879 atlas. Zurich Hensall Road and Bluewater Highway remain open; however, the unnamed road that bisected the project area is no longer depicted. The north half of Lot 11 is listed under D. Spencer, while the south half is listed under H. Heyrock.

A review of a 1955 aerial photograph shows that the project area, and the general area surrounding it, is characterized as agricultural as of this date (Map 7, left). Gendron Street was constructed by this time, and a residential property is seen fronting the road to the north. The watercourse north of the project area is visible. A section of Bachand Street was constructed by 1978, with a residential property seen at its western terminus, and the property north of Gendron Street has expanded (Map 7, right). Ground disturbances are visible within the project area near Bachand Street.

2.3.5 Review of Heritage Properties

There is one Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) plaque roughly 220 m to the northeast of the project area. Commemorating Narcisse M. Cantin, the plaque reads (OHT 2025):

Descended from a long line of French-Canadian shipbuilders, Cantin was born on a nearby farm which his grandfather acquired about 1850. An energetic entrepreneur, inventor and cattle trader, Cantin began work here, in 1897, on a city named St. Joseph from which he hoped to construct a canal linking Lake Huron and Erie. Undaunted by his inability to raise sufficient funds for this project, he initiated and, between 1900 and 1930, tirelessly promoted the concept of a Great Lakes seaway system which "would take passengers and freight from all ocean ports on the globe direct to all the principal ports of the Great Lakes".



2.4 Analysis and Conclusions

As noted in Section 2.1, the Province of Ontario has identified numerous factors that signal the potential of a project area to contain archaeological resources. Based on the archaeological and historical context reviewed above, the project area is in proximity (i.e., within 300 m) to features that signal archaeological potential, namely:

- watercourses (unnamed tributaries of Lake Huron);
- a mapped 19th-century early settlement (Lakeview);
- mapped 19th-century thoroughfares (Zurich Hensall Road, Bluewater Highway, and an unnamed road);
- mapped 19th-century structures; and,
- a provincial plaque (Narcisse M. Cantin).

2.5 Recommendations

Given that the project area demonstrated potential for the discovery of archaeological resources, a Stage 2 archaeological assessment was recommended. In keeping with provincial standards, the areas within the project area that consist of grassed or treed areas are recommended for assessment by a test pit survey at a 5 m transect interval to achieve the provincial standard. As the project area is considered to have archaeological potential pending Stage 2 field inspection, a separate map detailing zones of archaeological potential is not provided herein (MTC 2011; Section 7.7.4, Standard 1 and Section 7.7.6, Standards 1 and 2).

3 STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Field Methods

All fieldwork was undertaken in good weather and lighting conditions. No conditions were encountered that would hinder the identification or recovery of artifacts. The project area boundaries were determined in the field based on proponent mapping and property markers.

The project area is comprised of non-ploughable lands (manicured grass). As such, the project area was subject to a standard test pit assessment, employing a 5 m transect interval (93.5%; 0.29 ha; Images 1-3). Test pits measuring at least 30 cm (shovel-width) were excavated through the first 5 cm of subsoil with all fill screened through 6 mm hardware cloth. Once screening was finished, the stratigraphy in the test pits was examined and then the pits were backfilled as best as possible, tamped down by foot and shovel and re-capped with sod. Test pitting extended up to 1 m from all standing features, including trees and buildings, when present.

It was anticipated that when cultural material was found, the test pit survey would be intensified (reduced to 2.5 m) to determine the size of the site. If not enough archaeological materials were recovered from the intensification test pits, a 1 m² test unit would be excavated atop of one of the positive test pits to gather additional information.

Test pits within the south parcel contained roughly 30 cm of brown clay loam soil over orange-brown clay subsoil (Image 4). Within the north parcel, test pits contained roughly 18 cm of brown clay loam over yellow-tan clay (Image 5). Soils within the test pits were generally heavily mottled.

As per Section 2.1, Standard 2 of the *Standards and Guidelines* (MTC 2011:28-29), certain physical features and deep land alterations are considered as having low archaeological potential and are thus exempt from the standard test pit survey. Approximately 3.2% (0.01 ha) of the project area was disturbed, consisting of a section of a gravel driveway, and the road embankment, ditch, and buried utilities within the Gendron Street right-of-way (Images 6-8). Roughly 3.2% (0.01 ha) of the project area was determined to be steeply sloped (Image 9). These areas were photo-documented.

Map 8 illustrates the Stage 2 field conditions and assessment methods; the location and orientation of all photographs appearing in this report are also shown on this map. As the proponent map was supplied in a KMZ (a zip-compressed Keyhole Markup Language [KML] file) format, no separate map of Stage 2 assessment methods overlaid on the proponent map is provided. Map 2 can be viewed as the layout that was provided.



3.2 Record of Finds

No archaeological materials or sites were identified during the Stage 2 archaeological assessment of the project area. Table 2 provides an inventory of the documentary records generated during this project.

All files are currently being stored at the TMHC corporate office located at 1108 Dundas Street, Unit 105, London, ON, N5W 3A7.

Table 2: Documentary Records

Date	Field Notes	Field Maps	Digital Images
October 6, 2025	Digital and hard copies	Digital and hard copies	38 Images

3.3 Analysis and Conclusions

A Stage 2 field assessment was conducted in keeping with the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines* (MTC 2011). The test pit survey did not result in the documentation of archaeological resources.

3.4 Recommendations

All work met provincial standards, and no archaeological material was documented during the assessment. As such, no further archaeological assessment is recommended.

These recommendations are subject to the conditions laid out in Section 5.0 of this report and to the MCM's review and acceptance of this report into the provincial register.



4 SUMMARY

A Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment was conducted as part of a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) following a Schedule B process for the proposed extension of Bachand Street and a new stormwater outlet in the community of St. Joseph, located in the Municipality of Bluewater, Ontario. The project area is roughly 0.31 ha (0.77 ac) in size and is located within Lot 11, West of Lake Road, in the Geographic Township of Hay, Huron County. The Stage 1 assessment revealed that the project area had potential for the discovery of archaeological resources and a Stage 2 survey was recommended and carried out. The Stage 2 assessment (test pit assessment at a 5 m interval) did not result in the documentation of archaeological resources. As such, no further archaeological assessment is recommended.

5 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

This report is submitted to the MCM as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the MCM, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.

It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) requires that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement.

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7 IMAGES

Image 1: South Parcel – Test Pit Survey at 5 m Interval

Looking Northwest



Image 2: South Parcel – Test Pit Survey at 5 m Interval

Looking North



Image 3: North Parcel – Test Pit Survey at 5 m Interval

Looking East



Image 4: South Parcel – Typical Test Pit



Image 5: North Parcel – Typical Test Pit

Looking North



Image 6: South Parcel – Gravel Driveway

Looking West



Image 7: South Parcel – Gendron Street Embankment, Ditch and Utilities

Looking Southwest



Image 8: South Parcel – Gendron Street Embankment and Ditch

Looking West



Image 9: North Parcel – Area of Steep Slope

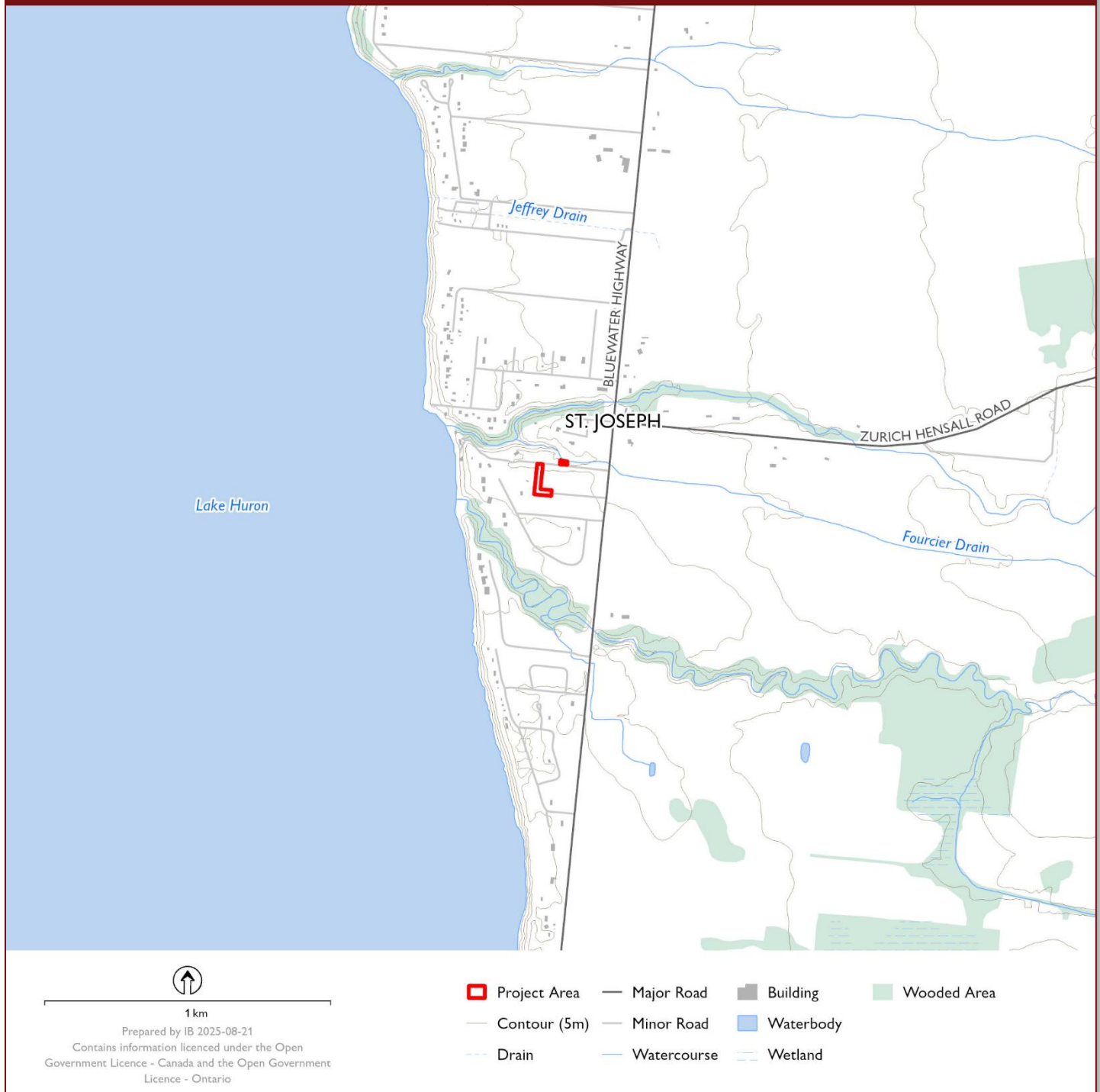
Looking West





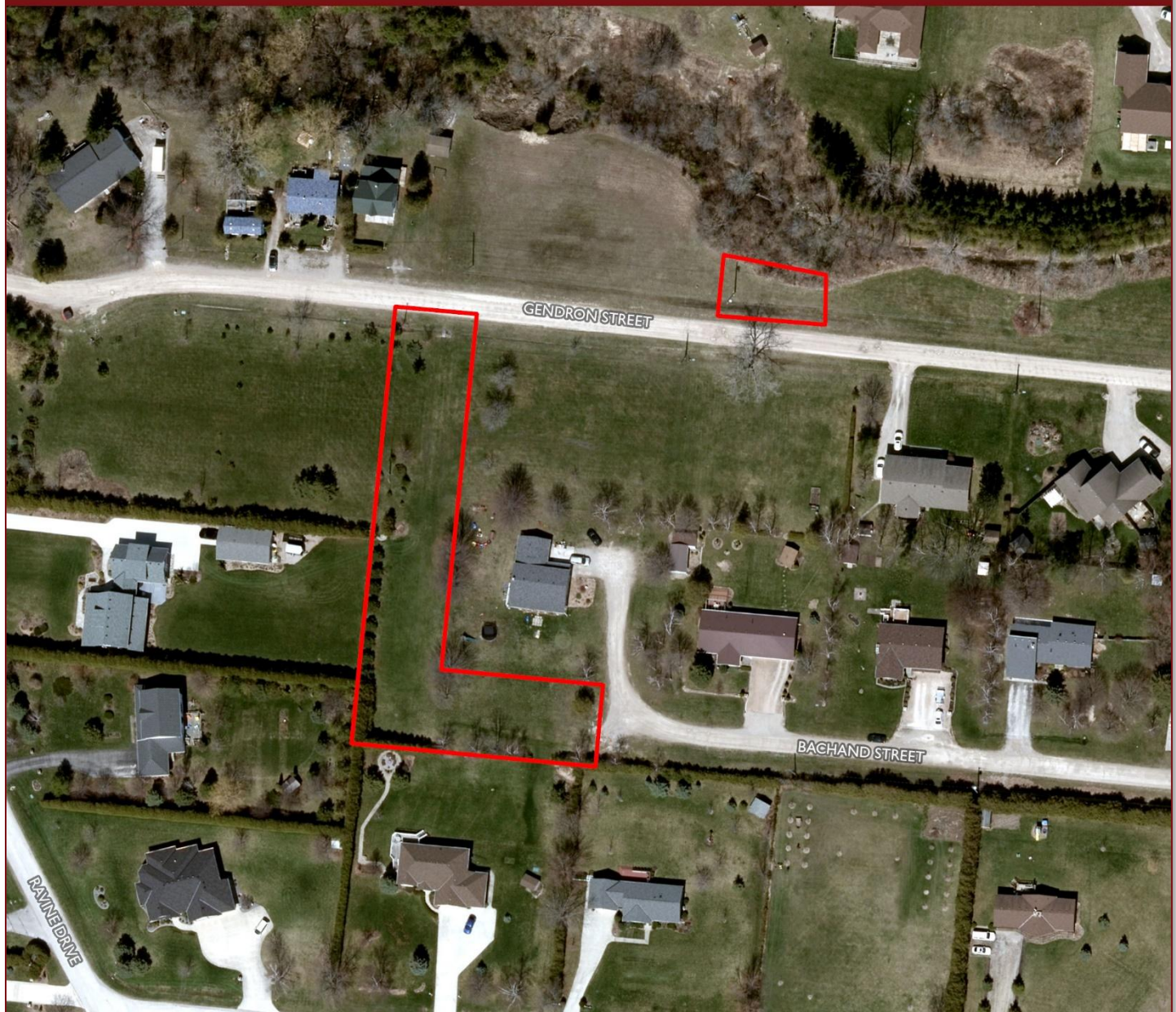
8 MAPS

PROJECT LOCATION



Map I: Location of the Project Area in Huron County, ON

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
HURON COUNTY (2020)



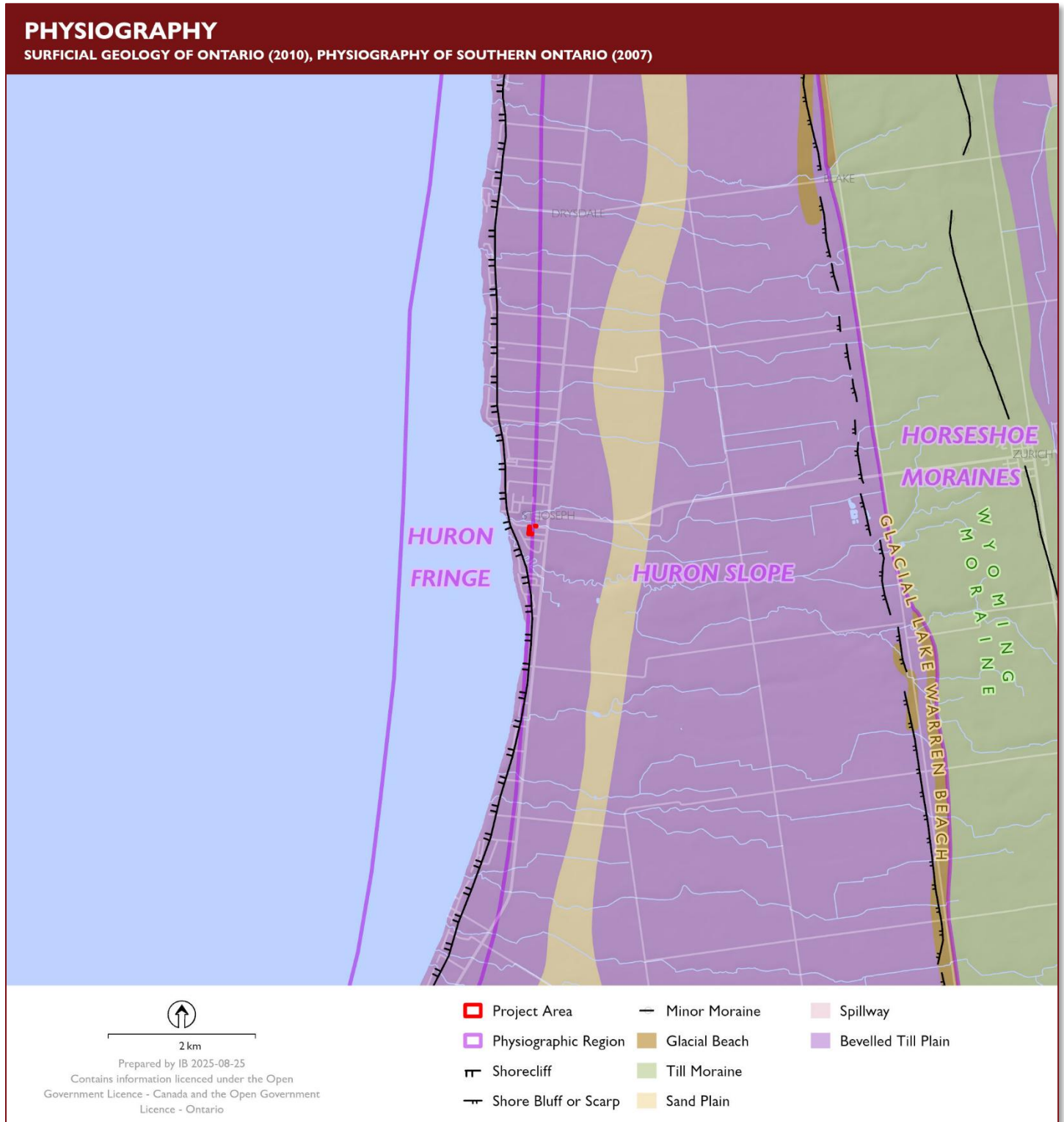
60 m

Prepared by IB 2025-08-21

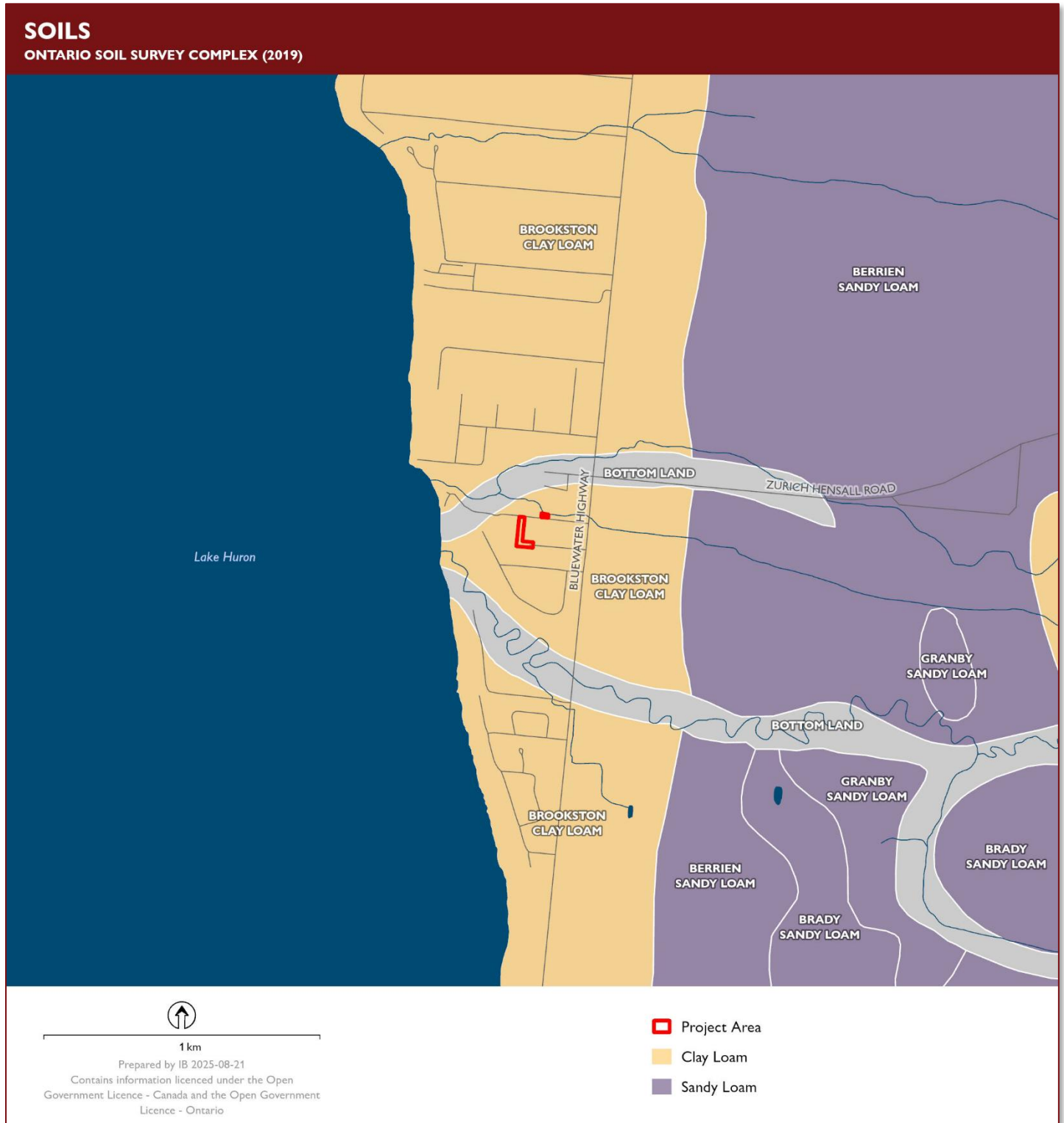
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 Project Area

Map 2: Aerial Photograph Showing the Location of the Project Area



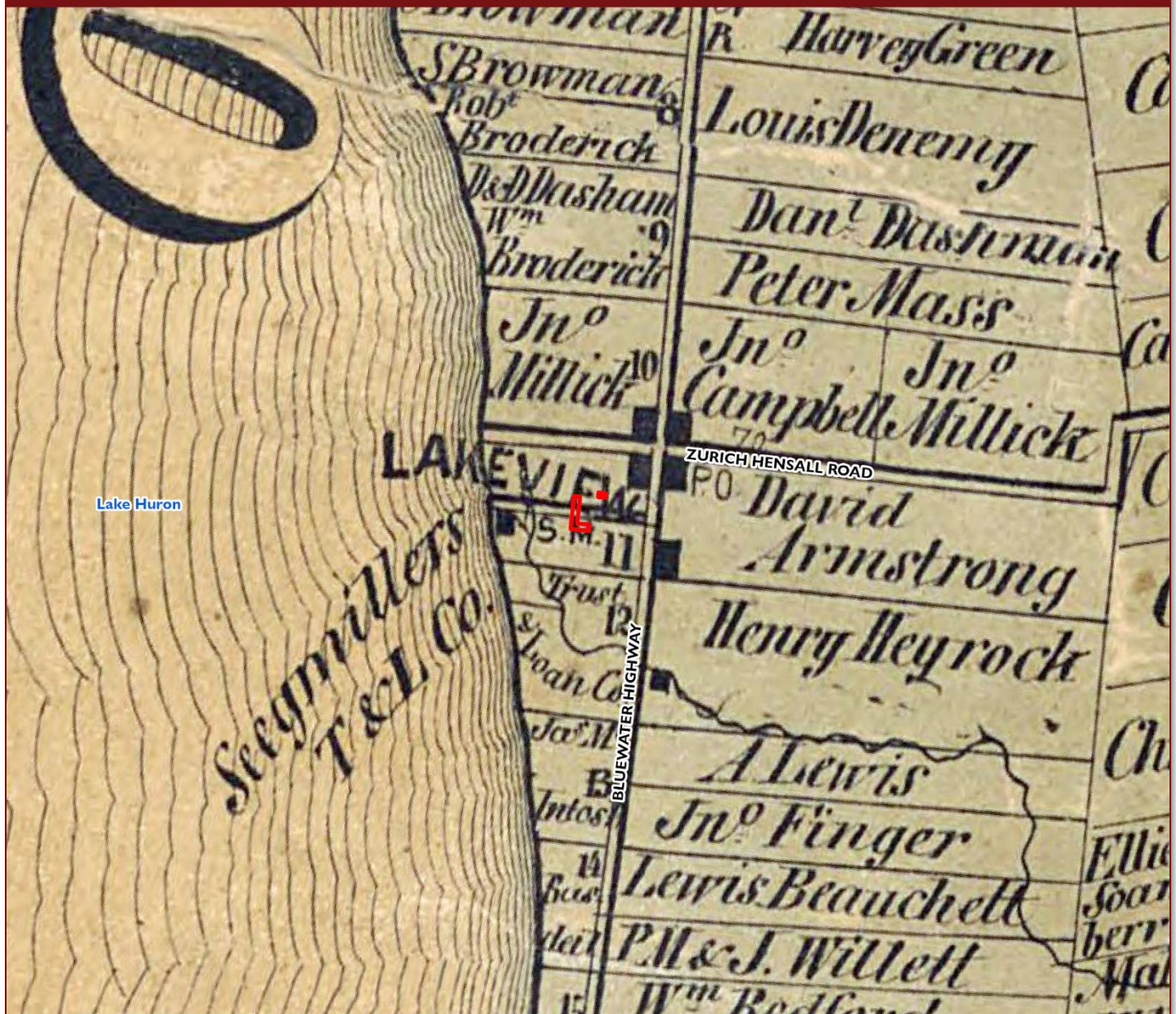
Map 3: Physiography Within the Vicinity of the Project Area



Map 4: Soils Within the Vicinity of the Project Area

1862 HISTORIC MAP

MAP OF THE COUNTY OF HURON (HERMON, MARTIN & BOLTON)



1 km

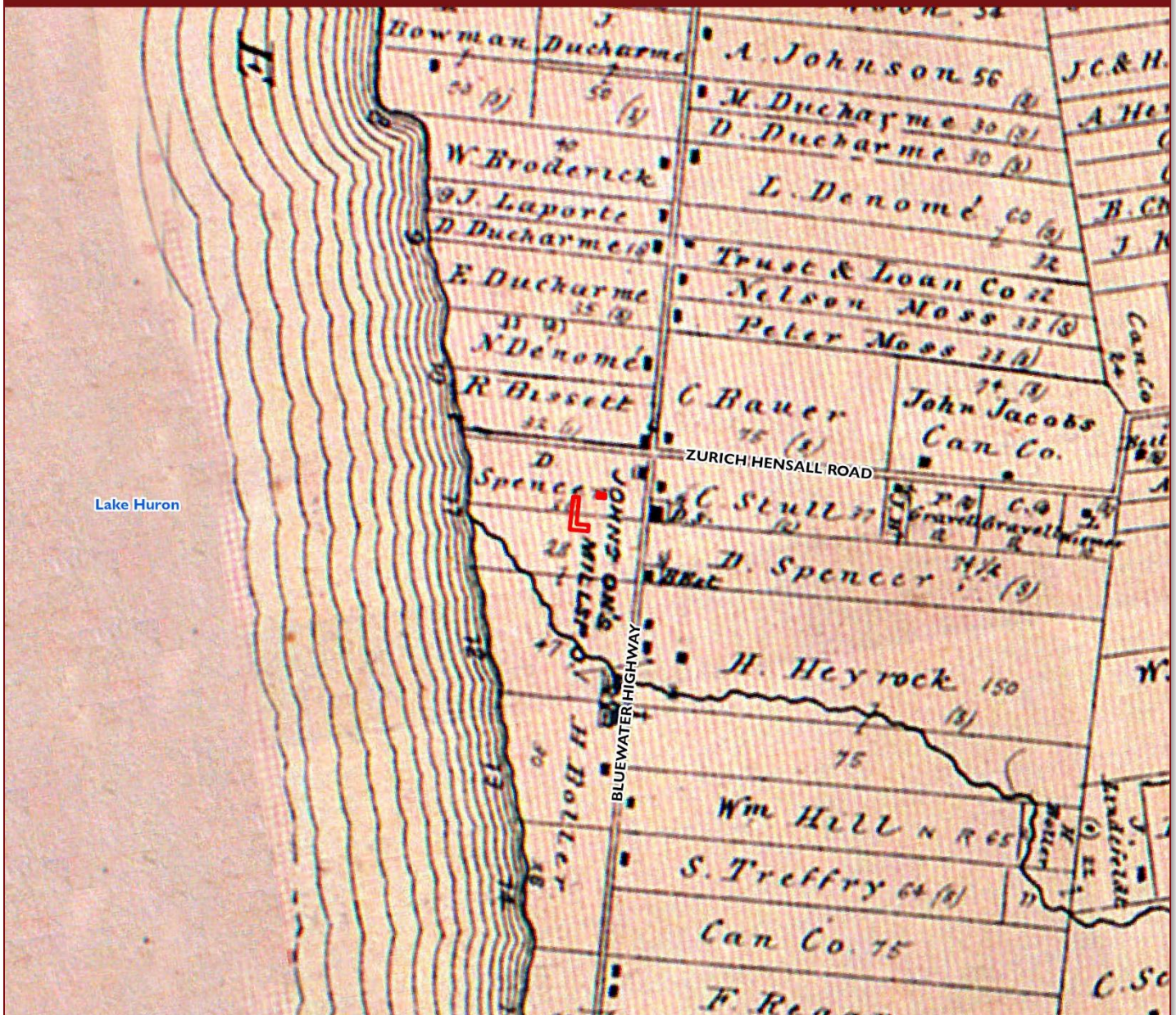
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 Project Area

Map 5: Location of the Project Area Shown on the 1862 Map of Huron County

1879 HISTORIC MAP

ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE COUNTY OF HURON, ONT (H. BELDEN & CO.)



1 km

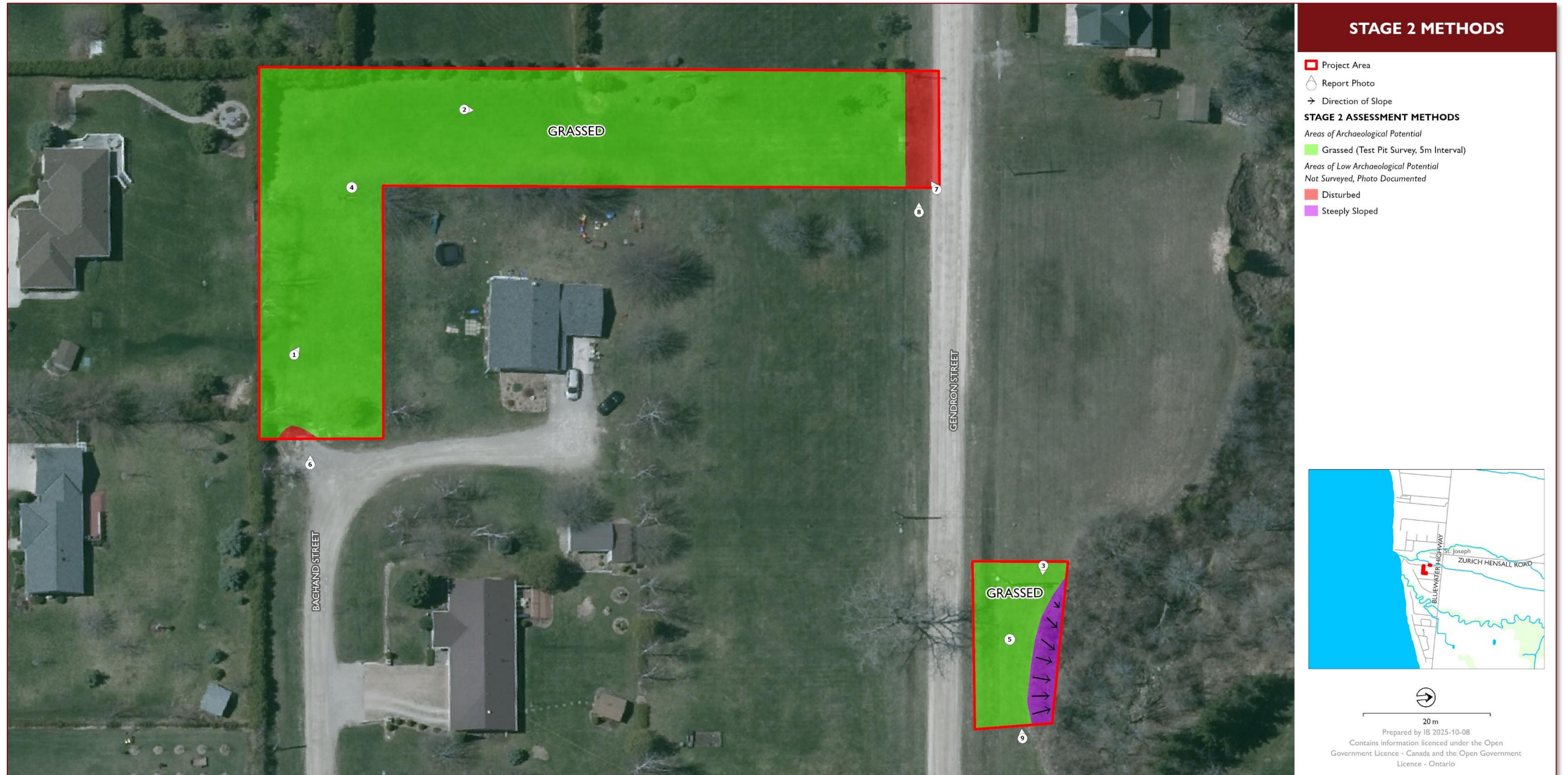
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 Project Area

Map 6: Location of the Project Area Shown on the 1879 Map of Hay Township



Map 7: Location of the Project Area Shown on 1955 and 1978 Aerial Imagery

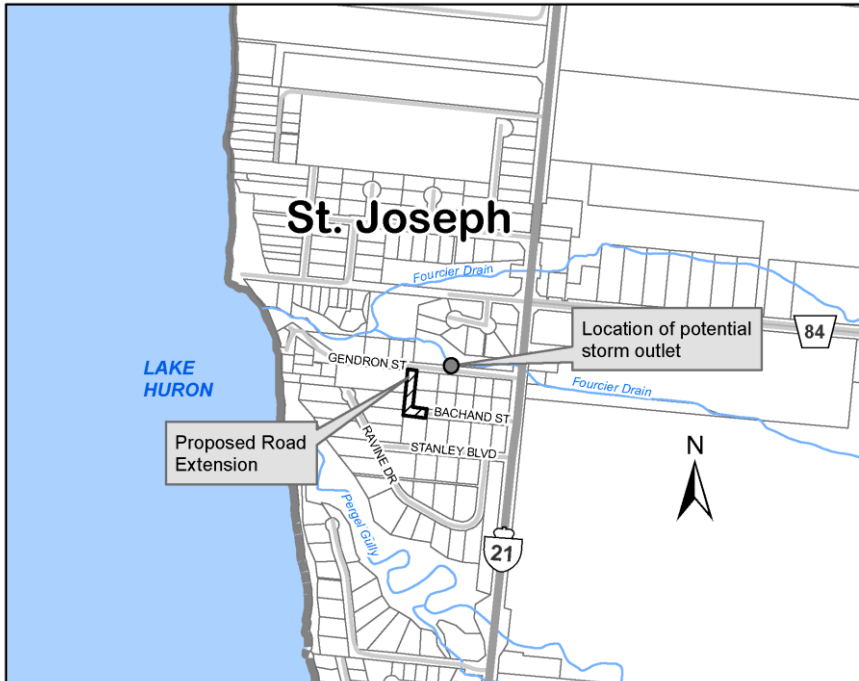


Map 8: Stage 2 Field Conditions and Assessment Methods

APPENDIX C

CONSULTATION MATERIALS

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT



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B. M. ROSS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street, Goderich, ON N7A 2T4
p. (519) 524-2641 www.bmross.net

File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Review Agency
(See attached list)

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand
Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)**

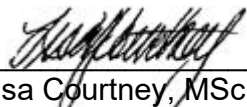
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Yours very truly

B. M. ROSS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Per 

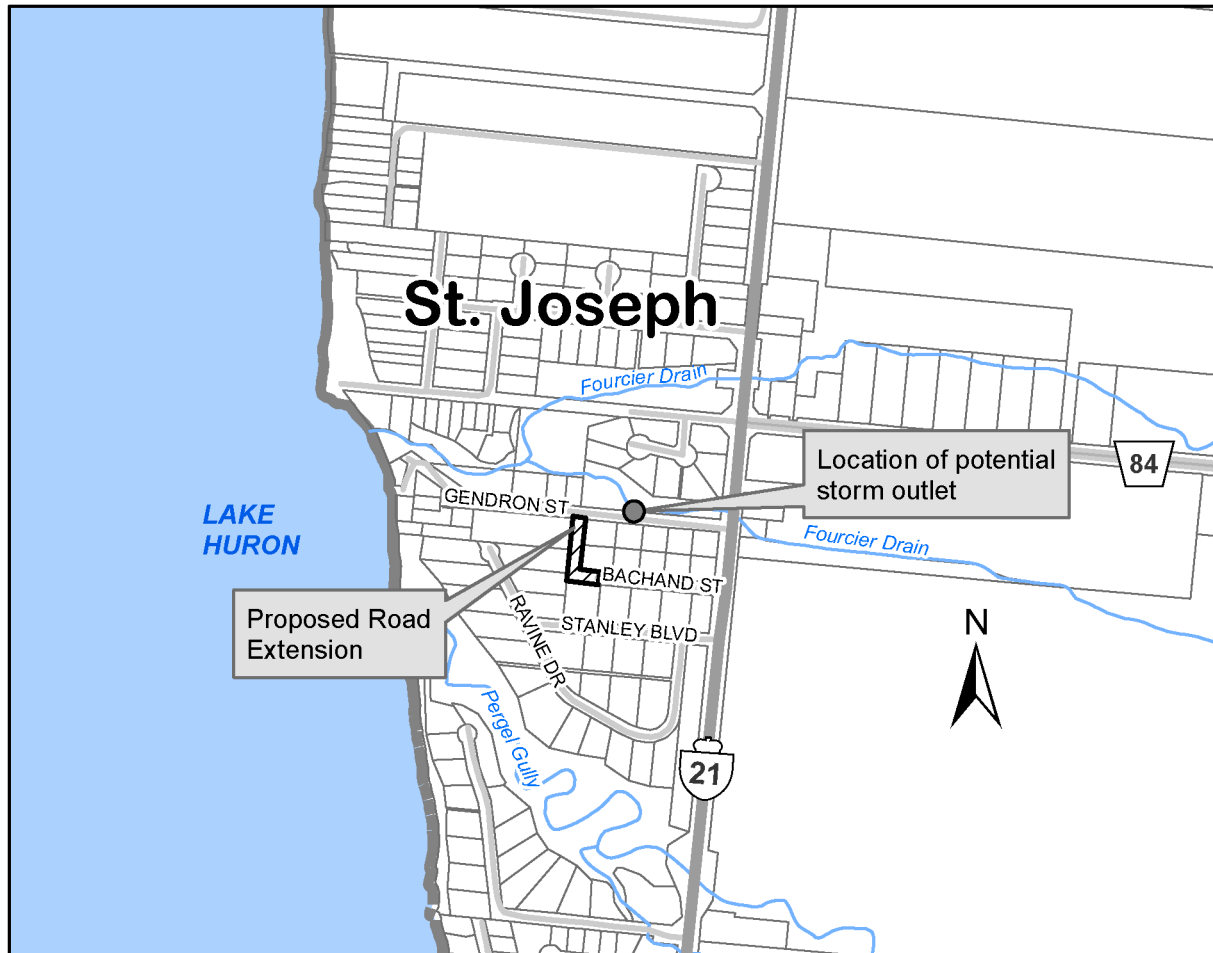
Lisa Courtney, MSc., MCIP, RPP
Environmental Planner

LJC:es

c.c. Dave Kester, Municipality of Bluewater

Z:\25045-Blue-Bachand_St_Rd_Extension_Outlet\Projects\MCEA\Consultation\Agency

Figure 1: Key Plan Showing Current Extent of the Community of St Joseph and Existing Road and Stormwater Features



MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR EXTENSION OF BACHAND STREET AND INSTALLATION OF STORMWATER OUTLET TO FOURCIER DRAIN (ST. JOSEPH)

BMROSS File # 25045 AGENCY CIRCULATION LIST - JULY 2025

_____	_____	_____	_____
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (London)	Email Notice and Letter	Email: eanotification.swregion@ontario.ca	Mandatory Contact
Ministry of Natural Resources	Email Notice and Letter	Email: SR.Planning@ontario.ca	Potential Impacts on Natural Heritage Features
Ministry of Transportation	Email Notice and Letter	Isaac Ferreira, Regional Operations Officer Email: isaac.ferreira@ontario.ca	Potential Impacts on Transit and Transportation Infrastructure
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	Email Notice and Letter	Karla Barboza, Team Lead (A), Heritage Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Email: karla.barboza@ontario.ca	Potential impacts on cultural and archaeological resources
County of Huron	Email Notice and Letter	Planning and Development Email: planning@huroncounty.ca Public Works Email: publicworks@huroncounty.ca	General Information and Implications for Long-Term Development
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	Email Notice and Letter	Andrew Bicknell Manager of Water and Planning Email: abicknell@abca.ca	Potential Impact on Natural Features
Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region	Email Notice and Letter	Elizabeth Balfour and Donna Clarkson Program Co-Supervisors ebalfour@abca.ca ebalfour@abca.ca	Potential Impact on Source Water Protection

B. M. ROSS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street, Goderich, ON N7A 2T4
p. (519) 524-2641 www.bmross.net

File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Aamjiwnaang Administration Office
Lynn Rosales, Environmental Coordinator lrosales@aamjiwnaang.ca
Chief Janelle Nahmabin chief.plain@aamjiwnaang.ca
978 Tashmoo Ave.
Sarnia, ON N7T 7H5

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
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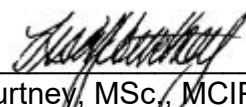
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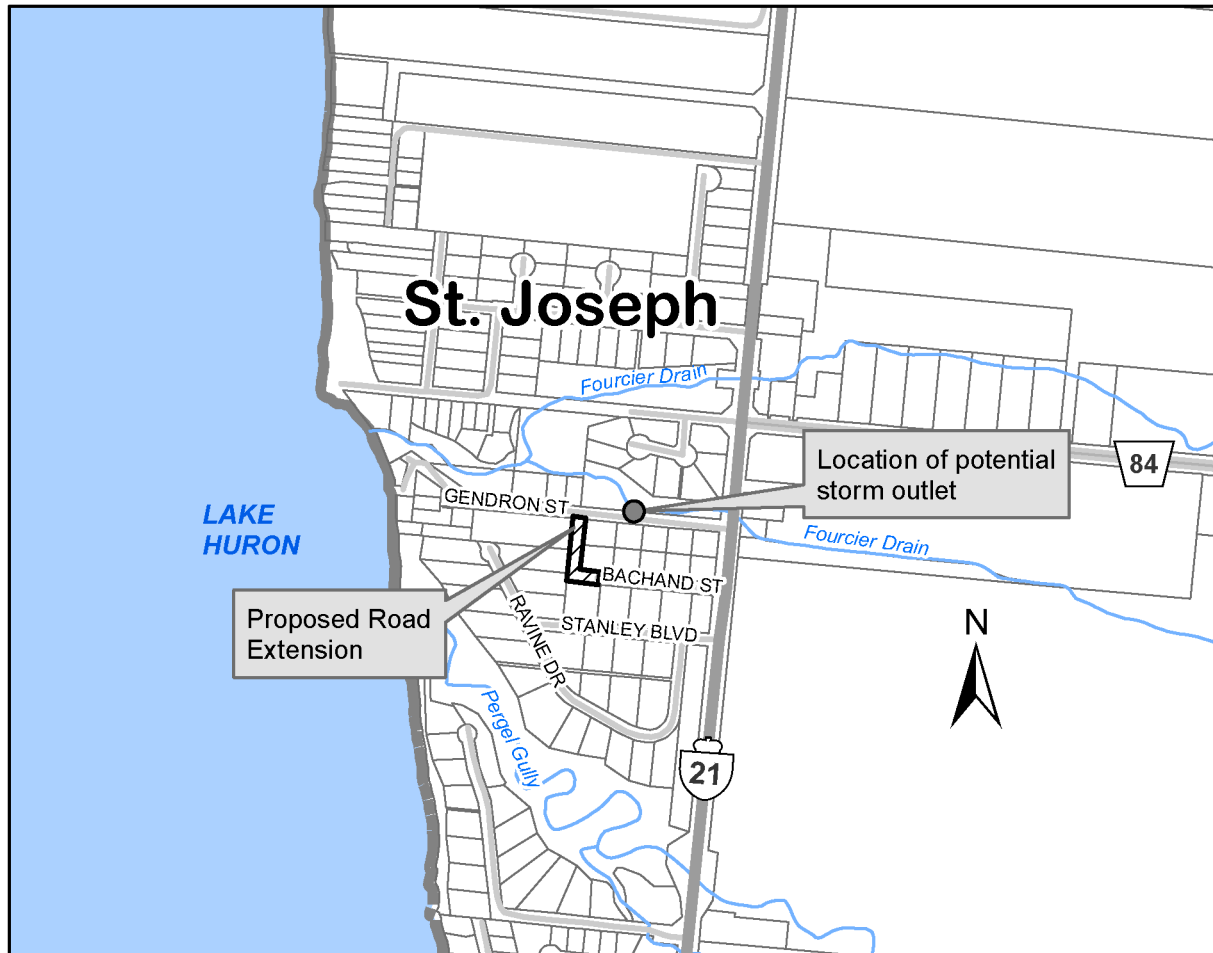
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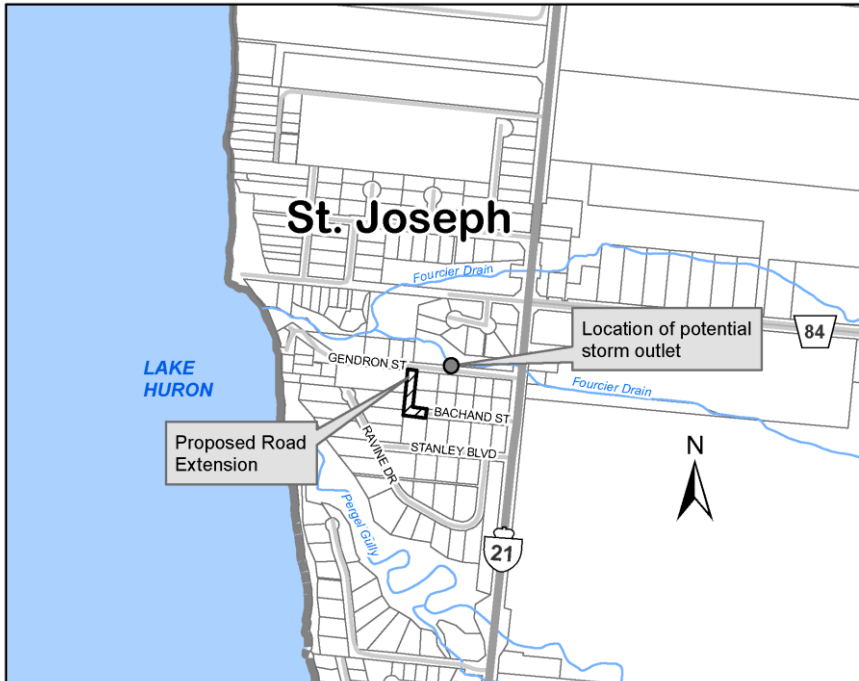
Per 
Lisa Courtney, MSc., MCIP, RPP
Environmental Planner

LJC:es
c.c. Dave Kester, Municipality of Bluewater

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Engineers and Planners
62 North Street, Goderich, ON N7A 2T4
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File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Bkejwanong Territory
Walpole Island First Nation
Dean Jacobs, Consultation Manager dean.jacobs@wifn.org
Lisa Williams, Community Planner lisa.williams@wifn.org
Chief Leela Thomas leela.thomas@wifn.org
R.R. #3
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4K9

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand
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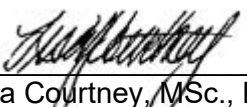
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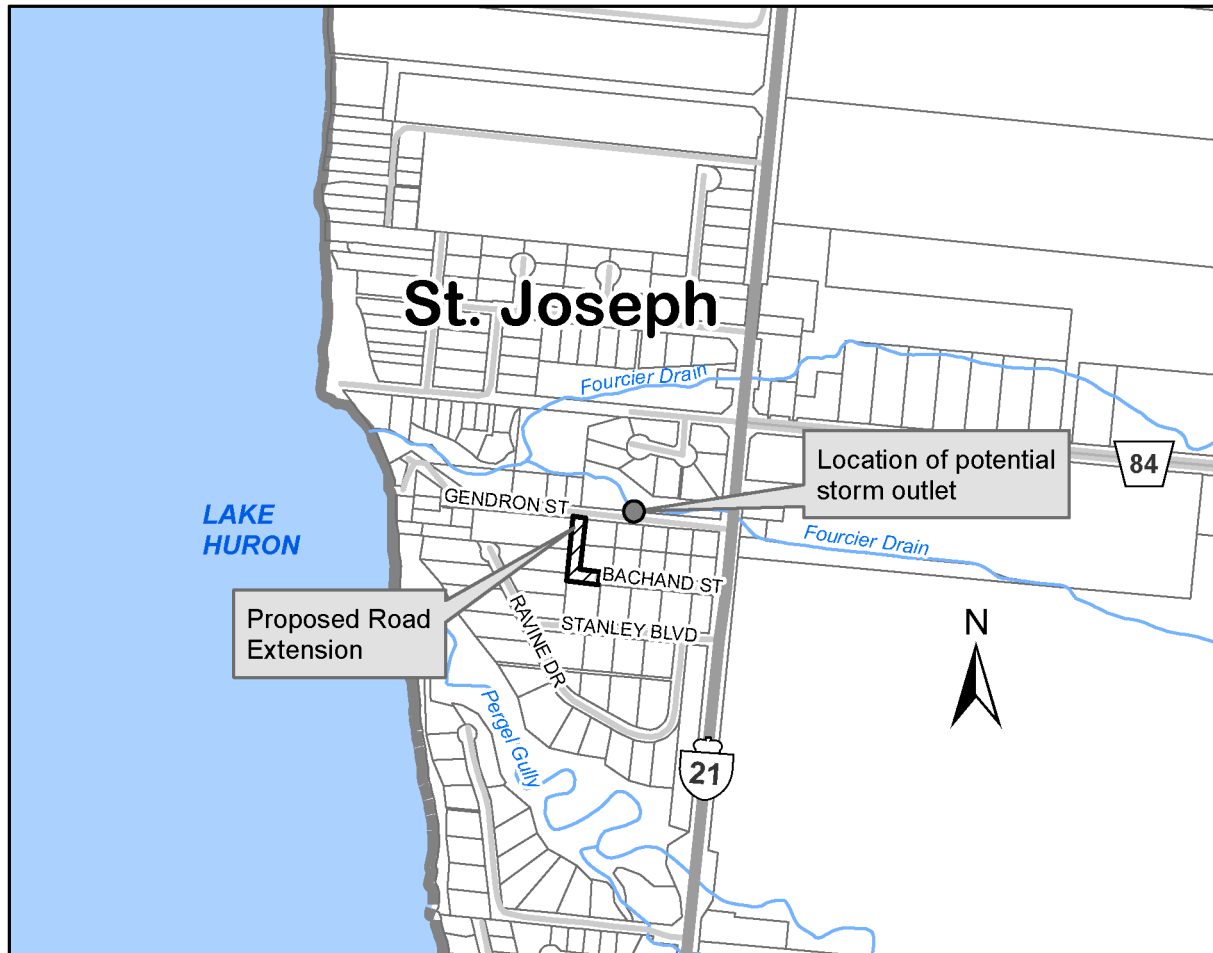
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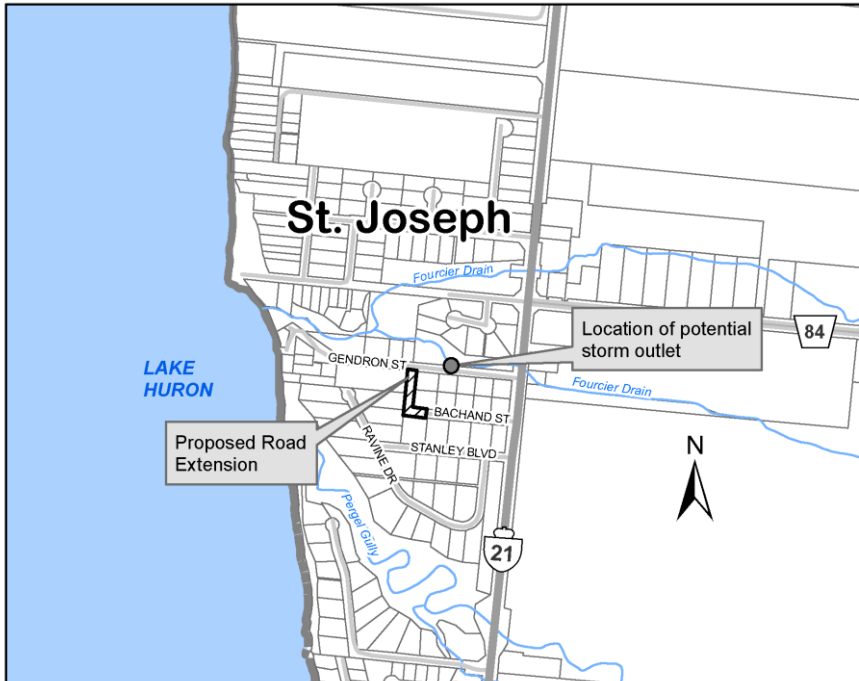
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File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
Chief Kimberly Bresette kimberely.bresette@kettlepoint.org
6247 Indian Lane
Kettle & Stony Point FN, ON N0N 1J1

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
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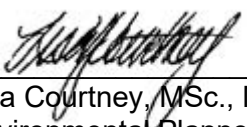
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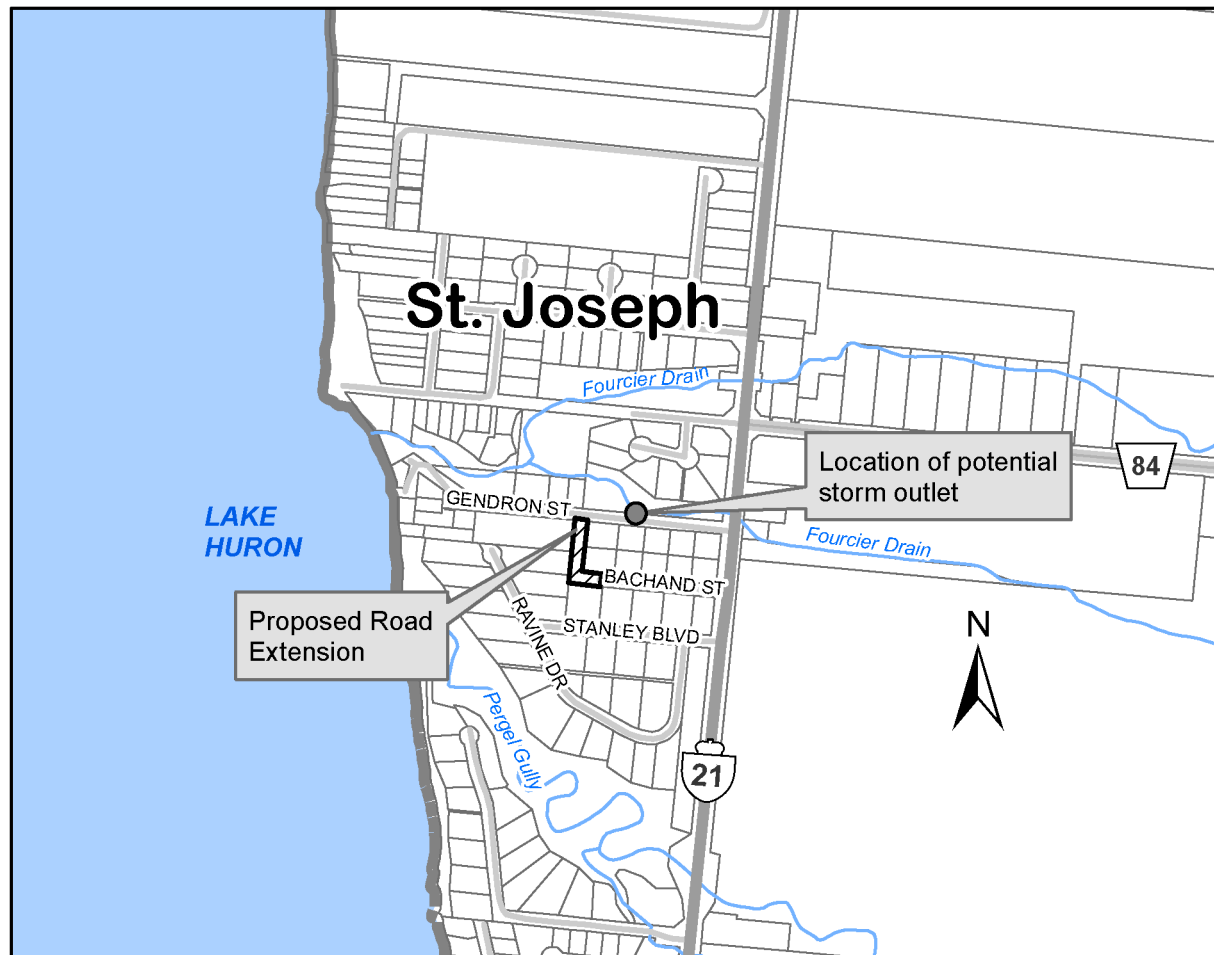
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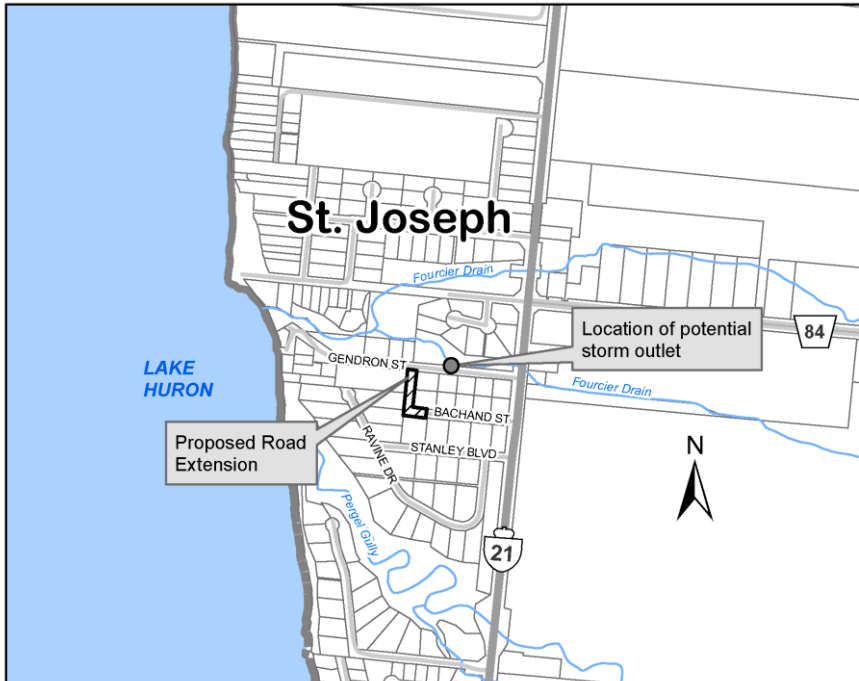
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KPAssistant@kettlepoint.org
fdesk@kettlepoint.org

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Chief Joe Miskokomon
320 Chippewa Road,
Muncey, ON N0L 1Y0
chief.plain@aamjiwnaang.ca

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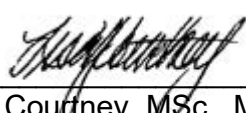
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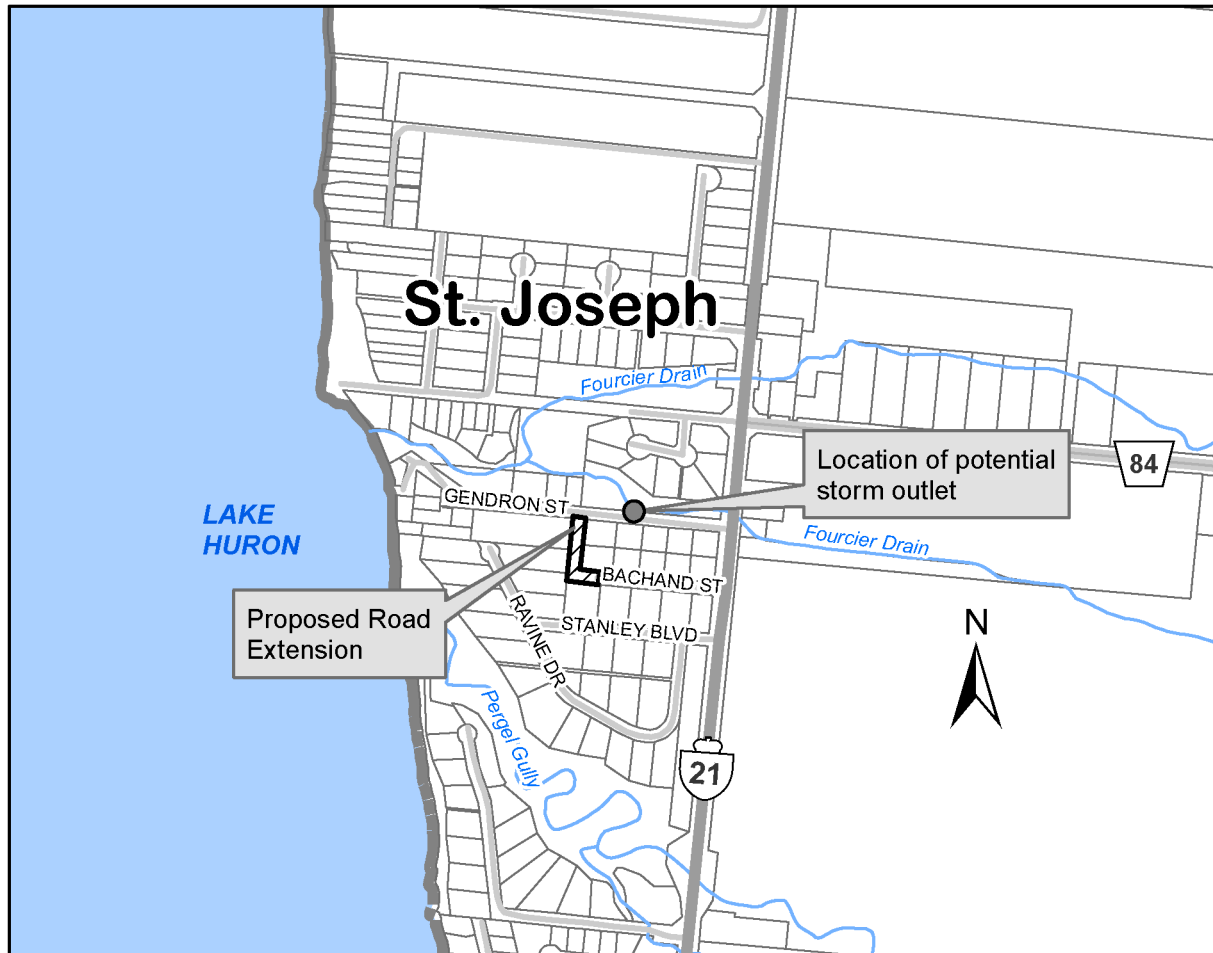


Lisa Courtney, MSc., MCIP, RPP
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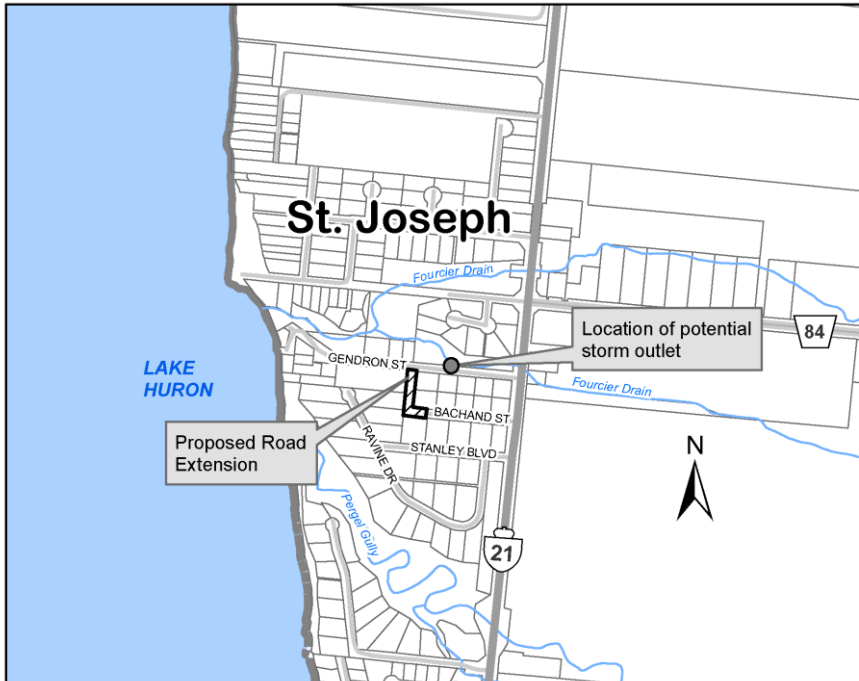
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B. M. ROSS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street, Goderich, ON N7A 2T4
p. (519) 524-2641 www.bmross.net

File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Delaware Nation
(Moravian of the Thames)
Chief Justin Logan
justin.logan@delawarenation.on.ca
14760 School House Line, R.R. #3
Thamesville, ON N0P 2K0

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand
Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)**

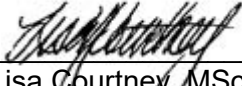
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Yours very truly

B. M. ROSS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED

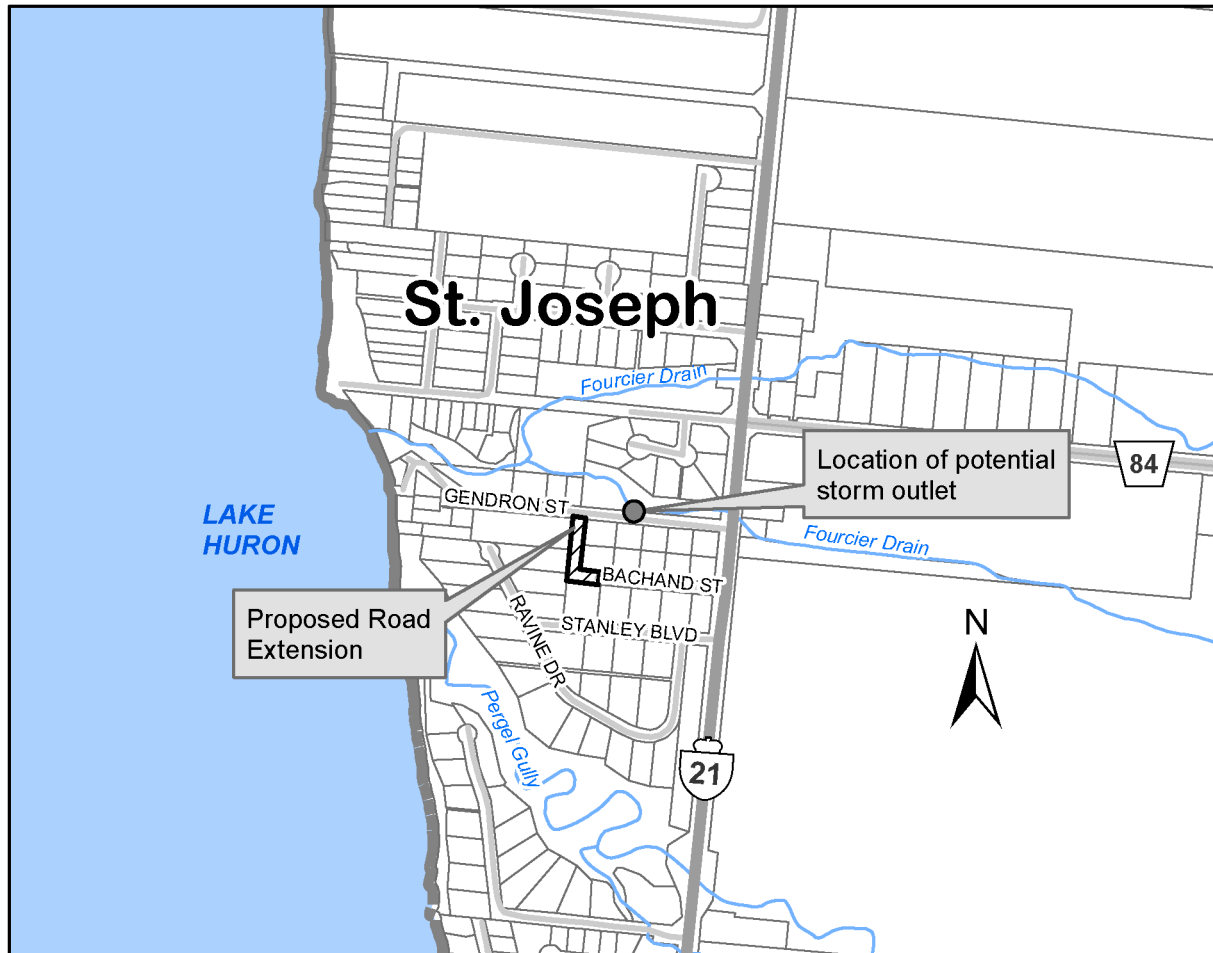
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Lisa Courtney, MSc., MCIP, RPP
Environmental Planner

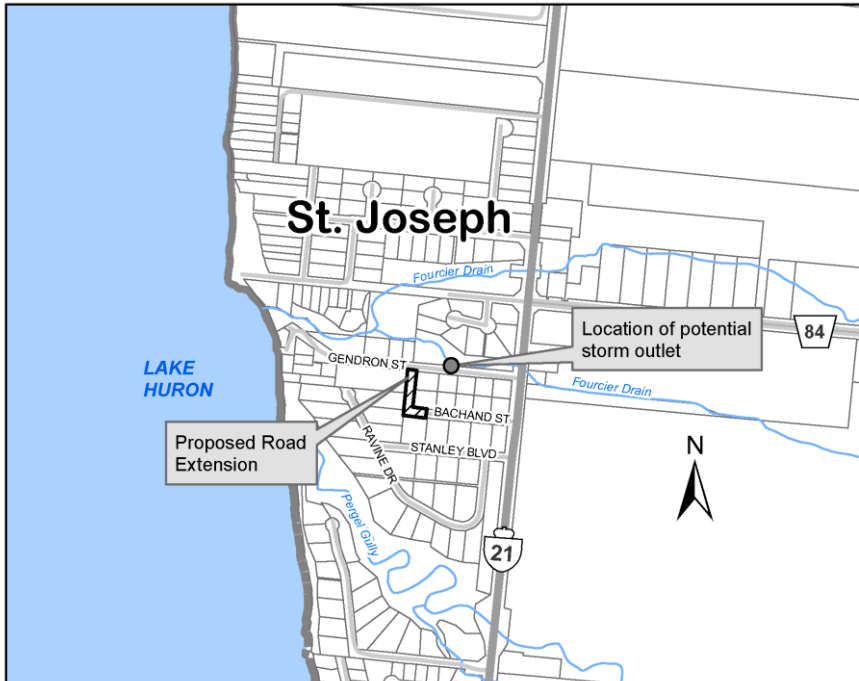
LJC:es

c.c. Dave Kester, Municipality of Bluewater

Figure 1: Key Plan Showing Current Extent of the Community of St Joseph and Existing Road and Stormwater Features



NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT



THE PROJECT:

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File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Métis Nation of Ontario
Kathleen Anderson, Region 9 Councillor
KathleenA@metisnation.org
consultations@metisnation.org
500D Old St. Patrick St., Unit 3
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand
Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)**

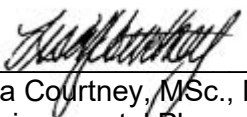
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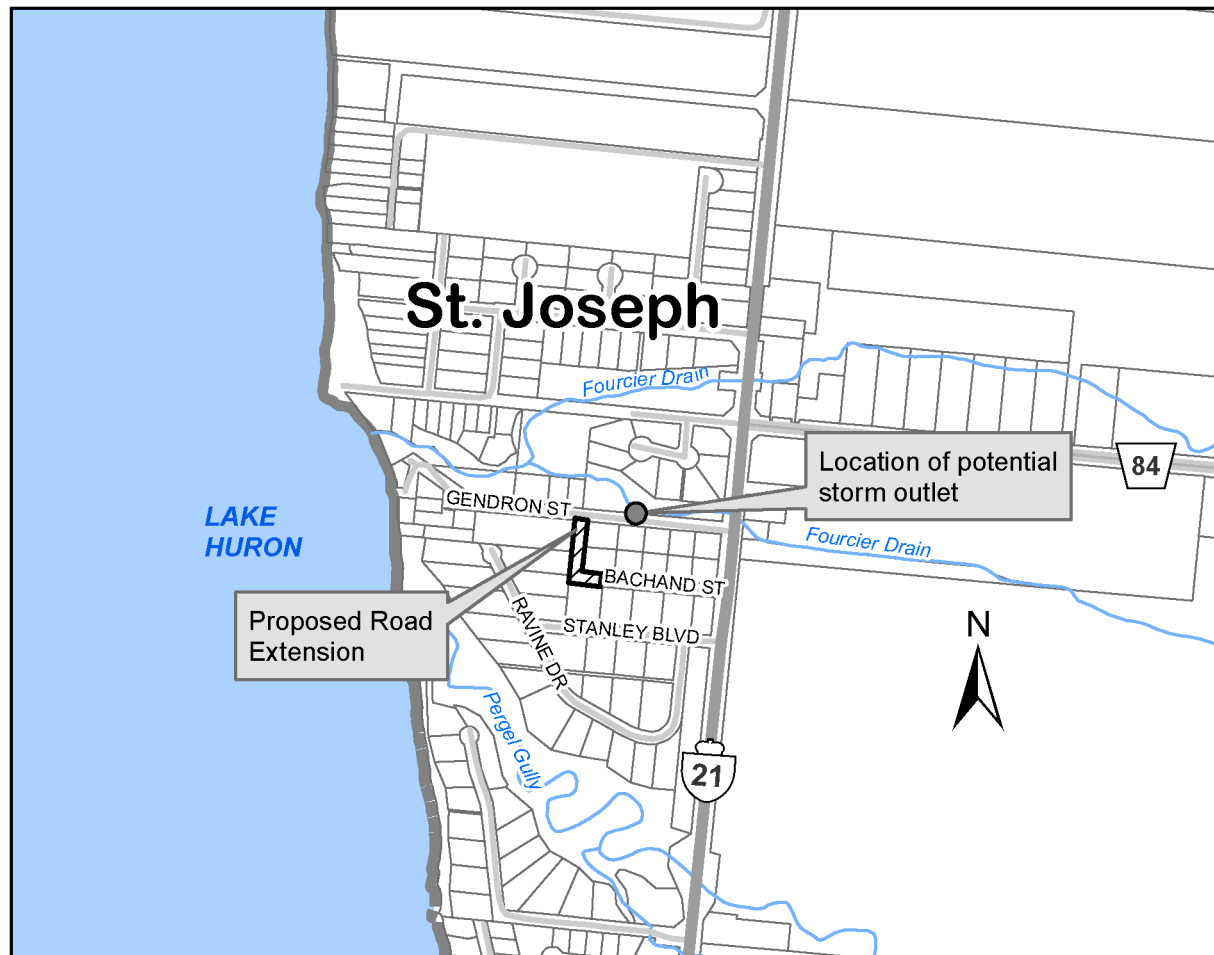
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Environmental Planner

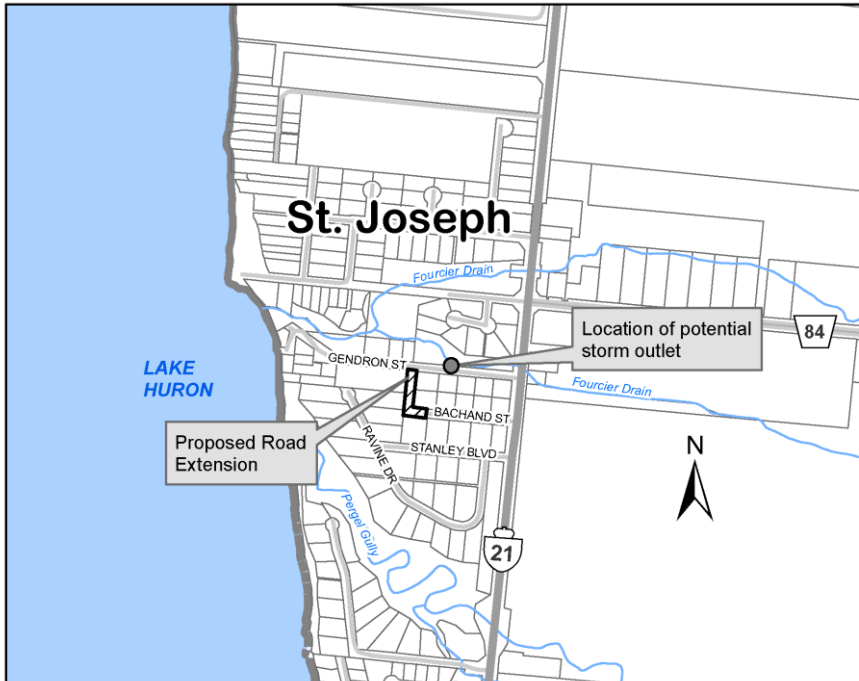
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c.c. Dave Kester, Municipality of Bluewater

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NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT



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File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Munsee-Delaware Nation
Consultation Coordinator consultation@munsee.ca
Chief Thomas Lewis chief@munsee.ca
RR#1
Muncey, ON N0L 1Y0

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand
Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)**

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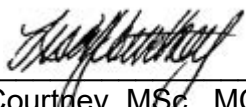
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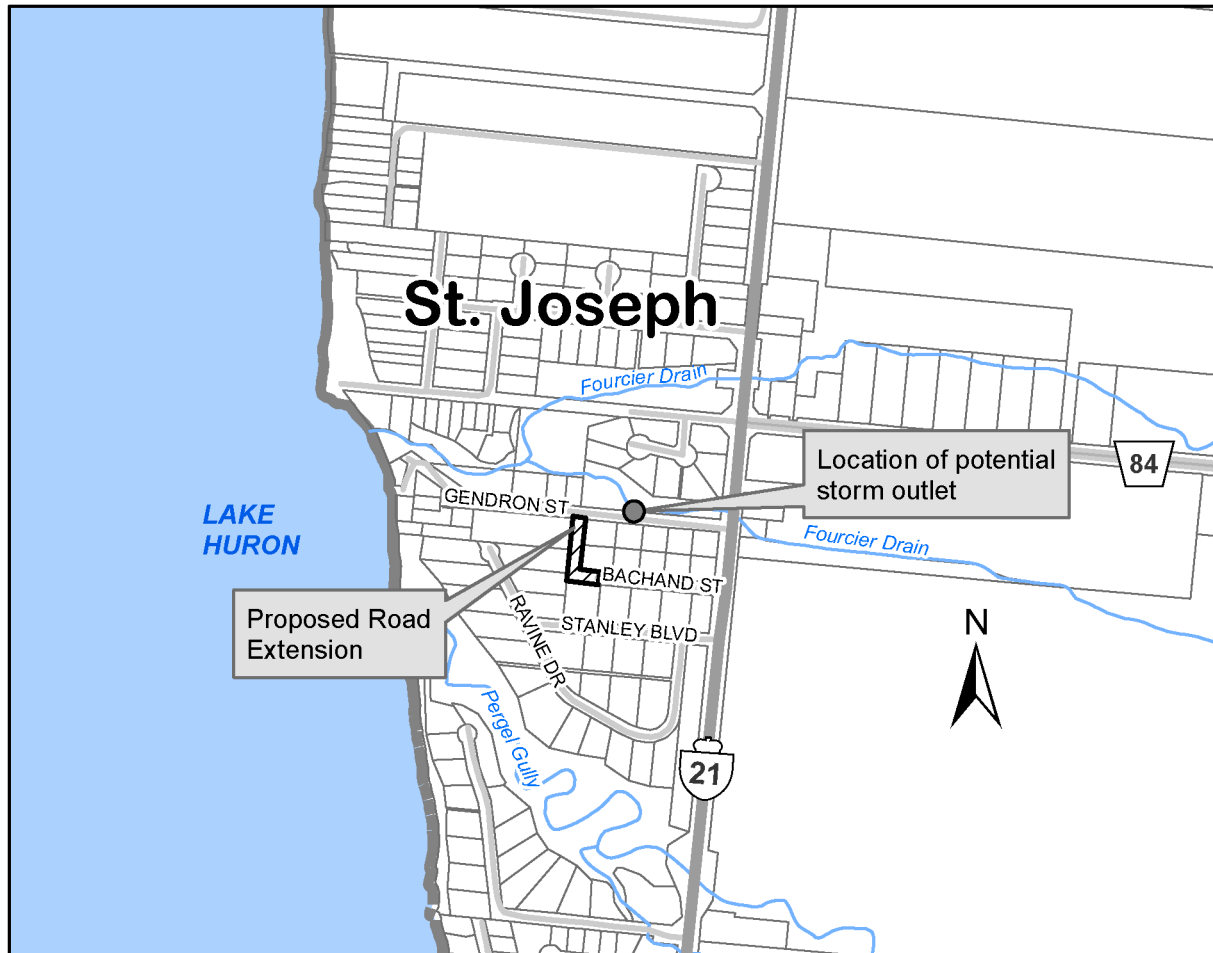
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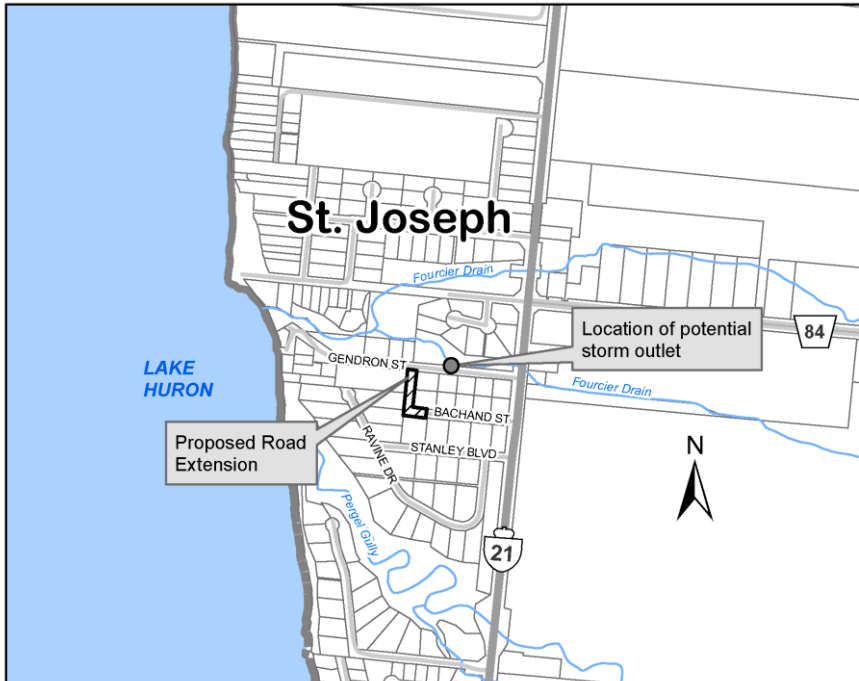
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File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Oneida Nation of the Thames
Brandon Doxtator, Environment Coordinator
environment@oneida.on.ca
2212 Elm Ave
Southwold, ON N0L 2G0

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
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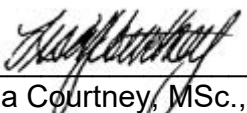
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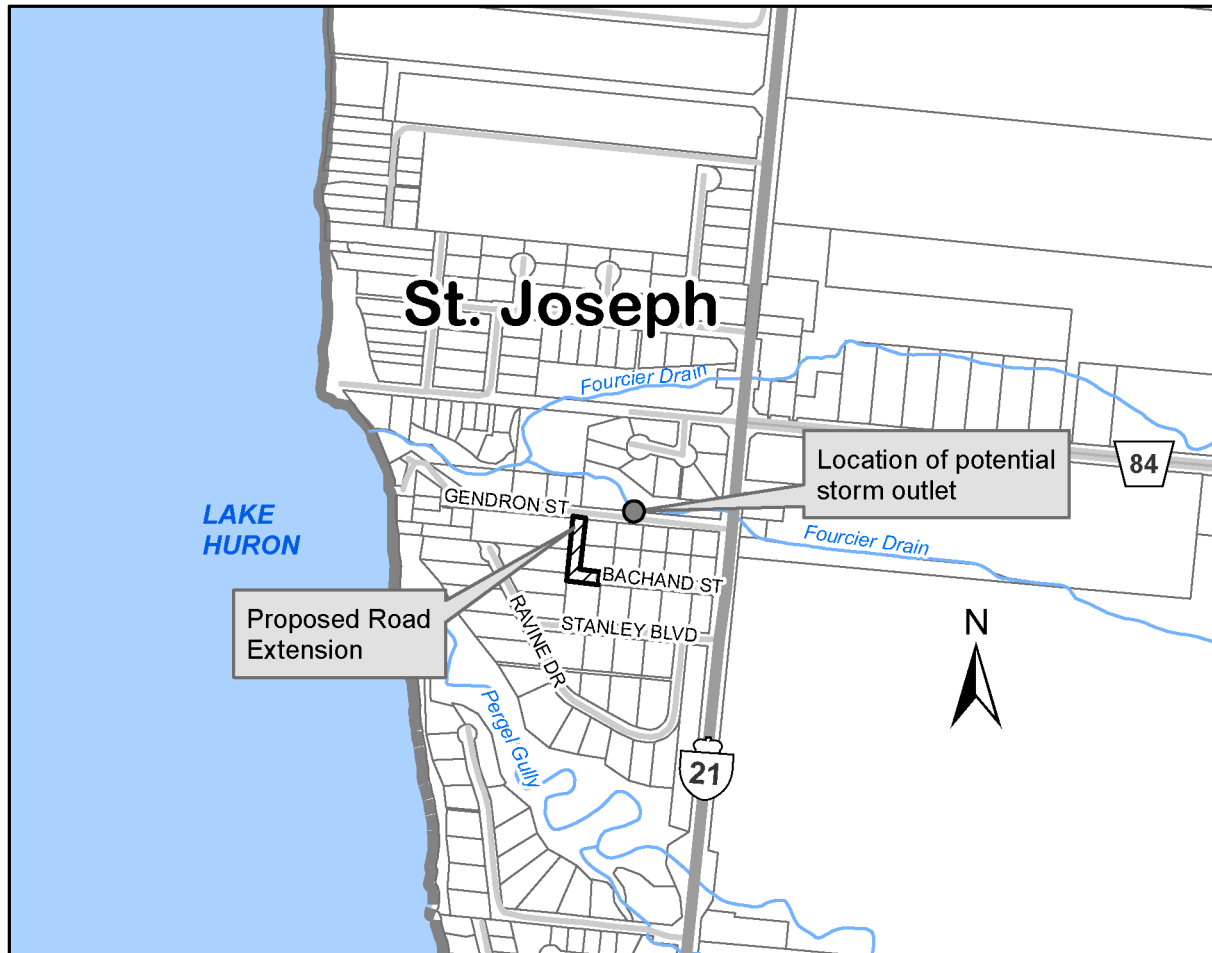
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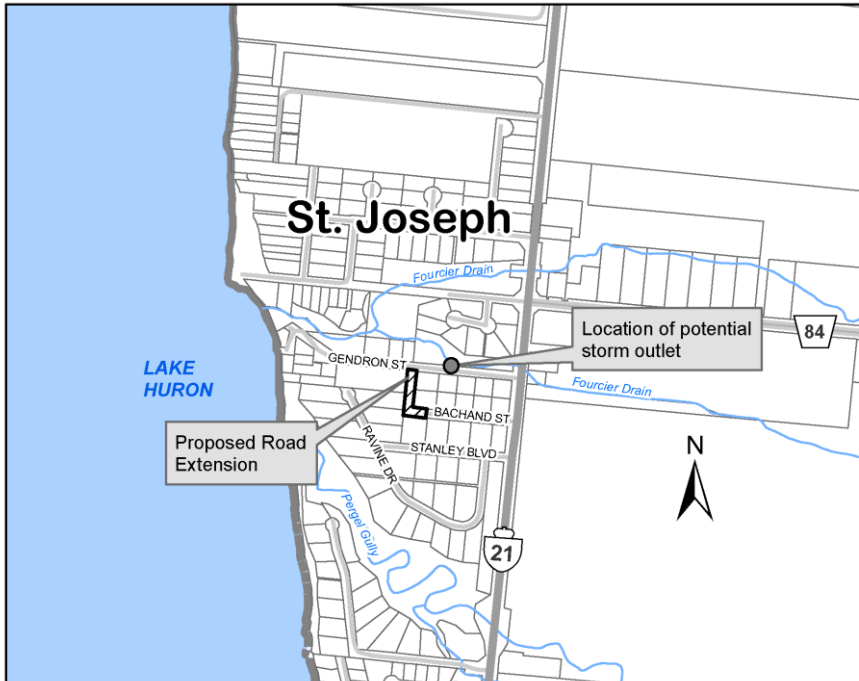
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Engineers and Planners
62 North Street, Goderich, ON N7A 2T4
p. (519) 524-2641 www.bmross.net

File No. 25045

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 16, 2025

Dear Property Owner

**RE: Municipality of Bluewater
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand
Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)**

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B. M. ROSS AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED

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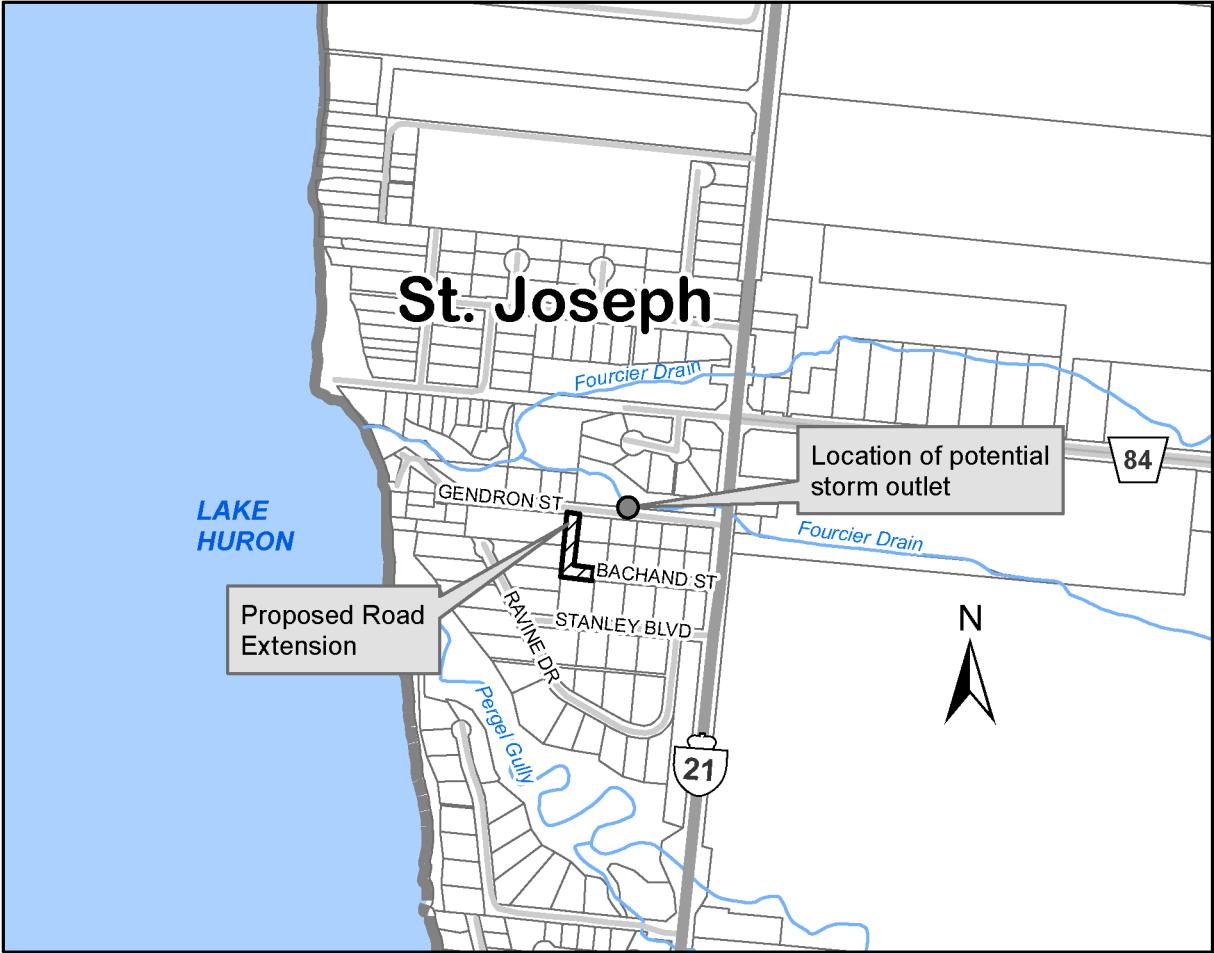
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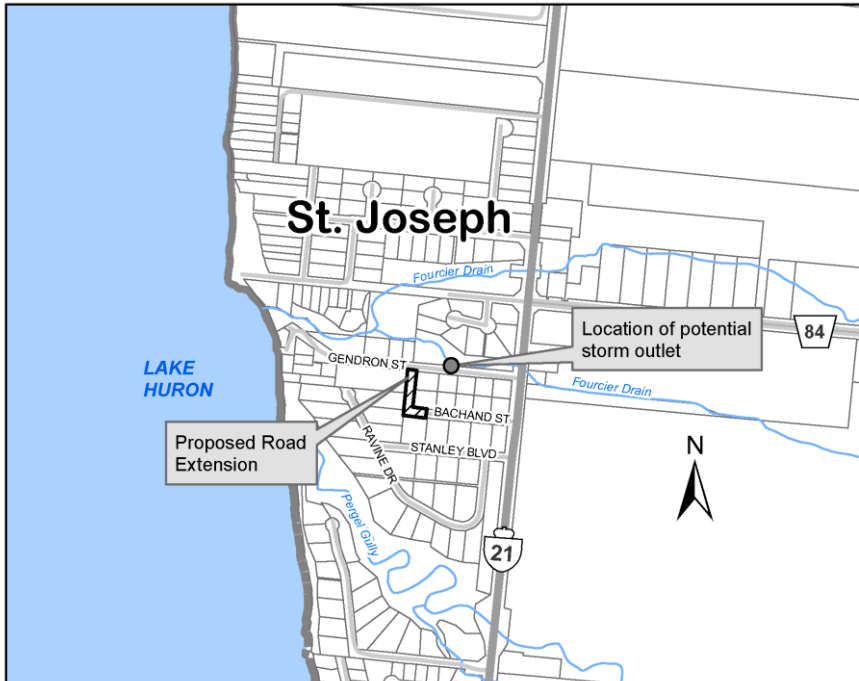
c. c. Dave Kester, Municipality of Bluewater

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**Ministry of Citizenship
and Multiculturalism**

Heritage Planning Unit
Heritage Operations Branch
Citizenship, Inclusion and
Heritage Division
5th Flr, 400 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 1S7
Tel.: 437-212-5945

**Ministère des Affaires civiques
et du Multiculturalisme**

Planification relative au patrimoine
Opérations relatives au patrimoine
Division des affaires civiques, de
l'inclusion et du patrimoine
5e étage, 400, av. University
Toronto, ON M5G 1S7
Tél.: 437-212-5945



July 25, 2025

EMAIL ONLY

Lisa Courtney, MSc., MCIP, RPP
Environmental Planner
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
62 North Street, Goderich, ON N7A 2T4
lcourtney@bmross.net

MCM File : 0024040
Proponent : Municipality of Bluewater
Subject : Municipal Class Environmental Assessment – Schedule B – Notice of Commencement
Project : Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet
Location : Community of St. Joseph, Municipality of Bluewater, Huron County

Dear Lisa Courtney:

Thank you for providing the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) with the Notice of Commencement for the above-referenced project.

MCM's interest in this project relates to its mandate of conserving Ontario's cultural heritage, which includes:

- archaeological resources, including land and marine;
- built heritage resources, including bridges and monuments; and
- cultural heritage landscapes.

Under the EA process, the proponent is required to determine a project's potential impact on known (previously recognized) and potential cultural heritage resources.

Project Summary

The Municipality of Bluewater is initiating a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to investigate potential impacts associated with constructing an extension of Bachand Street and a new stormwater outlet.

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be required to manage stormwater from the road extension. The potential site for the outlet is at the Fourcier Drain, north of Gendron Street. The project will follow the environmental screening process set out for Schedule B activities under the MCEA process.

Identifying Cultural Heritage Resources

While some cultural heritage resources may have already been formally identified, others may be identified through screening and evaluation.

Archaeological Resources

This EA project may impact archaeological resources and should be screened using the Ministry's [Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Potential](#) and [Criteria for Evaluating Marine Archaeological Potential](#) (if shoreline or in-water works are proposed) to determine if an archaeological assessment is needed.

If the EA project area exhibits archaeological potential, then an archaeological assessment (AA) shall be undertaken by an archaeologist licenced under the *Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)*, who is responsible for submitting the report directly to MCM for review.

Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

The Ministry's [Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes](#) should be completed to help determine whether this EA project may impact known or potential built heritage resources and/or cultural heritage landscapes.

If any municipal bridges may be impacted by this project, the Municipal Heritage Bridges: Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Cultural Heritage Resources ([checklist](#) and [background information](#)) should be completed. The checklist was developed by the Municipal Engineers Association in consultation with MCM.

If there is potential for built heritage resources and/or cultural heritage landscapes on the property or within the project area, a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) should be undertaken by a qualified person to determine the cultural heritage value or interest of the property (or project area). If the property (or project area) is determined to be of cultural heritage value or interest and alterations or development is proposed, MCM recommends that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared by a qualified consultant, be completed to assess potential project impacts. Please send the HIA to MCM for review and comment and make it available to local organizations or individuals who have expressed interest in review.

Community input should be sought to identify locally recognized and potential cultural heritage resources. Sources include, but are not limited to, municipal heritage committees, historical societies and other local heritage organizations.

Cultural heritage resources are often of critical importance to Indigenous communities. Indigenous communities may have knowledge that can contribute to the identification of cultural heritage resources, and we suggest that any engagement with Indigenous communities includes a discussion about known or potential cultural heritage resources that are of value to them.

Environmental Assessment Reporting

All technical cultural heritage studies and their recommendations are to be addressed and incorporated into EA projects. Please advise MCM whether any technical cultural heritage studies will be completed for this EA project, and provide them to MCM before issuing a Notice of Completion. If screening has identified no known or potential cultural heritage resources, or no impacts to these resources, please include the completed checklists and supporting documentation in the EA report or file.

Please note that the responsibility for administration of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and matters related to cultural heritage have been transferred from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM). Individual staff roles and contact information remain unchanged. Please continue to send any notices, report and/or documentation **via email only** to both Karla Barboza and myself.

- Karla Barboza, Team Lead - Heritage | Heritage Planning Unit (Citizenship and Multiculturalism) | 416-660-1027 | karla.barboza@ontario.ca
- Amanda Antwi-Nsiah, Heritage Planner | Heritage Planning Unit (Citizenship and Multiculturalism) | 437-212-5945 | Amanda.Antwi-Nsiah@ontario.ca

Thank you for consulting MCM on this project and please continue to do so throughout the EA process. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Amanda Antwi-Nsiah
Heritage Planner
Amanda.Antwi-Nsiah@ontario.ca

Copied to: Karla Barboza, Team Lead, Heritage Planning Unit, MCM
Dave Kester, Manager of Public Works, Municipality of Bluewater
Alex Jackman, B.M. Ross and Associates Limited

It is the sole responsibility of proponents to ensure that any information and documentation submitted as part of their EA report or file is accurate. The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of the any checklists, reports or supporting documentation submitted as part of the EA process, and in no way shall MCM be liable for any harm, damages, costs, expenses, losses, claims or actions that may result if any checklists, reports or supporting documents are discovered to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment, in compliance with Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33* requires that any person discovering human remains must cease all activities immediately and notify the police or coroner. If the coroner does not suspect foul play in the disposition of the remains, in accordance with *Ontario Regulation 30/11* the coroner shall notify the Registrar, Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement, which administers provisions of that Act related to burial sites. In situations where human remains are associated with archaeological resources, the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism should also be notified (at archaeology@ontario.ca) to ensure that the archaeological site is not subject to unlicensed alterations which would be a contravention of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature
et des Parcs**

Environmental Assessment
Branch

Direction des évaluations
environnementales

1st Floor
135 St. Clair Avenue W
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Tel.: 416 314-8001
Fax.: 416 314-8452

Rez-de-chaussée
135, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Tél. : 416 314-8001
Télec. : 416 314-8452

August 1, 2025

Lisa Courtney
Environmental Planner
B.M. Ross and Associates Limited
lcourtney@bmross.net

BY EMAIL ONLY

Re: **Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand Street and
Stormwater sewer Outlet (Community of St .Joseph)
Municipality of Bluewater
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, Schedule B
Acknowledgement of Notice of Commencement**

Dear Lisa Courtney,

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has received your Notice of Commencement for the above project. The Municipality of Bluewater (Proponent) is following the Schedule B process with respect to project, to which the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) applies.

The **updated** attached "Areas of Interest" document provides guidance regarding the ministry's interests with respect to the Class EA process. Please address all areas of interest in the EA documentation at an appropriate level for the EA study.

Based on the ministry's review of the Notice of Commencement, the Municipality is required to consult with the following Indigenous communities, who have been identified as being potentially interested or affected by the project:

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- Bkejwanong (Walpole Island)
- Caldwell First Nation
- Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point
- Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- Oneida Nation of the Thames

The identified Indigenous communities should be contacted directly throughout the planning process. These communities may be interested in the proposed undertakings generally or may have Constitutionally protected Aboriginal or Treaty rights that may be impacted by the project.

Steps that the proponent may need to take in relation to Indigenous consultation for the proposed undertakings are outlined in the Class EA in section A.3 (Consultation) generally and more specifically in A.3.7.

Proponents are required to contact the Director of Environmental Assessment Branch (EABDirector@ontario.ca) if information is shared by an Indigenous community about potential adverse impacts to Aboriginal or Treaty rights or sites of cultural significance, if consultation with any Indigenous communities or other stakeholder has reached an impasse or if a Section 16 Order request is expected. The MECP will then assess whether and what additional steps should be taken, including what role you will be asked to play. While there is currently no across-the-board obligation to provide capacity funding to Indigenous communities being consulted; it is important that communities can effectively engage in the process, and this may require capacity funding. The MECP strongly encourages proponents to consider reasonable requests for such funding.

Please ensure a copy of the Notice of Completion is sent to the ministry's Southwestern Region email account (eanotification.swregion@ontario.ca) after the draft report is reviewed and finalized.

Should you or any members of your project team have any questions regarding the material above, please contact me at monika.macki@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Monika Macki

Monika Macki
Regional Environmental Planner – Southwestern Region
Project Review Unit, Environmental Assessment Branch

Enclosed: Areas of Interest

Attached: Client's Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk

AREAS OF INTEREST

It is suggested that you check off each section after you have considered / addressed it.

Planning and Policy

- Applicable plans and policies should be identified in the report, and the proponent should describe how the proposed project adheres to the relevant policies in these plans.
 - The [Provincial Planning Statement \(PPS\) \(2024\)](#) contains policies that protect Ontario's natural heritage and water resources. Applicable policies in the PPS 2024 should be referenced in the report, and the proponent should describe how the proposed project is consistent with these policies. **The PPS 2024 replaces the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (2020) and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (APTG) (2019).**
 - Projects located in MECP Central or Eastern Region may be subject to the [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan \(2017\)](#) or the [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan \(2014\)](#).
 - Projects located in MECP Central, Southwest or West Central Region may be subject to the [Niagara Escarpment Plan \(2017\)](#).
 - Projects located in MECP Central, Eastern, Southwest or West Central Region may be subject to the [Greenbelt Plan \(2017\)](#). Due to Amendment 4 to the Greenbelt Plan, areas within the Greenbelt are still subject to applicable policies in the PPS (2020) and APTG (2019).
 - Projects located in MECP Northern Region may be subject to the [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario \(2011\)](#).
- In addition to the provincial planning and policy level, the report should also discuss the planning context at the municipal and federal levels, as appropriate.

Source Water Protection

The *Clean Water Act*, 2006 (CWA) aims to protect existing and future sources of drinking water. To achieve this, several types of vulnerable areas have been delineated around surface water intakes and wellheads for every municipal residential drinking water system that is located in a source protection area. These vulnerable areas are known as a Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and surface water Intake Protection Zones (IPZs). Other vulnerable areas that have been delineated under the CWA include Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVAs), Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs), Event-based modelling areas (EBAs), and Issues Contributing Areas (ICAs). Source protection plans have been developed that include policies to address existing and future risks to sources of municipal drinking water within these vulnerable areas.

Projects that are subject to the Environmental Assessment Act that fall under a Class EA, or one of the Regulations, have the potential to impact sources of drinking water if they occur in

designated vulnerable areas or in the vicinity of other at-risk drinking water systems (i.e. systems that are not municipal residential systems). MEA Class EA projects may include activities that, if located in a vulnerable area, could be a threat to sources of drinking water (i.e. have the potential to adversely affect the quality or quantity of drinking water sources) and the activity could therefore be subject to policies in a source protection plan. Where an activity poses a risk to drinking water, policies in the local source protection plan may impact how or where that activity is undertaken. Policies may prohibit certain activities, or they may require risk management measures for these activities. Municipal Official Plans, planning decisions, Class EA projects (where the project includes an activity that is a threat to drinking water) and prescribed instruments must conform with policies that address significant risks to drinking water and must have regard for policies that address moderate or low risks.

- In October 2015, the MEA Parent Class EA document was amended to include reference to the Clean Water Act (Section A.2.10.6) and indicates that proponents undertaking a Municipal Class EA project must identify early in their process whether a project is or could potentially be occurring with a vulnerable area. **Given this requirement, please include a section in the report on source water protection.**
 - The proponent should identify the source protection area and should clearly document how the proximity of the project to sources of drinking water (municipal or other) and any delineated vulnerable areas was considered and assessed. Specifically, the report should discuss whether or not the project is located in a vulnerable area and provide applicable details about the area.
 - If located in a vulnerable area, proponents should document whether any project activities are prescribed drinking water threats and thus pose a risk to drinking water (this should be consulted on with the appropriate Source Protection Authority). Where an activity poses a risk to drinking water, the proponent must document and discuss in the report how the project adheres to or has regard to applicable policies in the local source protection plan. This section should then be used to inform and be reflected in other sections of the report, such as the identification of net positive/negative effects of alternatives, mitigation measures, evaluation of alternatives etc.
- While most source protection plans focused on including policies for significant drinking water threats in the WHPAs and IPZs it should be noted that even though source protection plan policies may not apply in HVAs, these are areas where aquifers are sensitive and at risk to impacts and within these areas, activities may impact the quality of sources of drinking water for systems other than municipal residential systems.
- In order to determine if this project is occurring within a vulnerable area, proponents can use [Source Protection Information Atlas](#), which is an online mapping tool available to the public. Note that various layers (including WHPAs, WHPA-Q1 and WHPA-Q2, IPZs, HVAs, SGRAs, EBAs, ICAs) can be turned on through the “Map Legend” bar on the left. The

mapping tool will also provide a link to the appropriate source protection plan in order to identify what policies may be applicable in the vulnerable area.

- For further information on the maps or source protection plan policies which may relate to their project, proponents must contact the appropriate source protection authority. **Please consult with the local source protection authority to discuss potential impacts on drinking water. Please document the results of that consultation within the report and include all communication documents/correspondence.**

More Information

For more information on the *Clean Water Act*, source protection areas and plans, including specific information on the vulnerable areas and drinking water threats, please refer to [Conservation Ontario's website](#) where you will also find links to the local source protection plan/assessment report.

A list of the prescribed drinking water threats can be found in [section 1.1 of Ontario Regulation 287/07](#) made under the *Clean Water Act*. In addition to prescribed drinking water threats, some source protection plans may include policies to address additional "local" threat activities, as approved by the MECP.

Climate Change

The document "[Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process](#)" (Guide) is part of the Environmental Assessment program's Guides and Codes of Practice. The Guide sets out the MECP's expectation for considering climate change in the preparation, execution and documentation of environmental assessment studies and processes. The guide provides examples, approaches, resources, and references to assist proponents with consideration of climate change in EA. Proponents should review this Guide in detail.

- **The MECP expects proponents of Class EA projects to:**
 1. Consider during the assessment of alternative solutions and alternative designs, the following:
 - a. the project's expected production of greenhouse gas emissions and impacts on carbon sinks (climate change mitigation); and
 - b. resilience or vulnerability of the undertaking to changing climatic conditions (climate change adaptation).
 2. Include a discrete section in the report detailing how climate change was considered in the EA.

How climate change is considered can be qualitative or quantitative in nature and should be scaled to the project's level of environmental effect. In all instances, both a project's impacts on climate change (mitigation) and impacts of climate change on a project (adaptation) should be considered.

- The MECP has also prepared another guide to support provincial land use planning direction related to the completion of energy and emission plans. The "[Community Emissions Reduction Planning: A Guide for Municipalities](#)" document is designed to educate stakeholders on the municipal opportunities to reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and to provide guidance on methods and techniques to incorporate consideration of energy and greenhouse gas emissions into municipal activities of all types. We encourage you to review the Guide for information.

Air Quality, Dust and Noise

- If there are sensitive receptors in the surrounding area of this project, a quantitative air quality/odour impact assessment will be useful to evaluate alternatives, determine impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures. The scope of the assessment can be determined based on the potential effects of the proposed alternatives, and typically includes source and receptor characterization and a quantification of local air quality impacts on the sensitive receptors and the environment in the study area. The assessment will compare to all applicable standards or guidelines for all contaminants of concern.
Please contact this office for further consultation on the level of Air Quality Impact Assessment required for this project if not already advised.
- If a quantitative Air Quality Impact Assessment is not required for the project, the MECP expects that the report contain a qualitative assessment which includes:
 - A discussion of local air quality including existing activities/sources that significantly impact local air quality and how the project may impact existing conditions;
 - A discussion of the nearby sensitive receptors and the project's potential air quality impacts on present and future sensitive receptors;
 - A discussion of local air quality impacts that could arise from this project during both construction and operation; and
 - A discussion of potential mitigation measures.
- As a common practice, "air quality" should be used as an evaluation criterion for all road projects.
- Dust and noise control measures should be addressed and included in the construction plans to ensure that nearby residential and other sensitive land uses within the study area are not adversely affected during construction activities.
- The MECP recommends that non-chloride dust-suppressants be applied. For a comprehensive list of fugitive dust prevention and control measures that could be applied, refer to [Cheminfo Services Inc. Best Practices for the Reduction of Air Emissions from](#)

[Construction and Demolition Activities](#) report prepared for Environment Canada. March 2005.

- The report should consider the potential impacts of increased noise levels during the operation of the completed project. The proponent should explore all potential measures to mitigate significant noise impacts during the assessment of alternatives.

Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

- Any impacts to ecosystem form and function must be avoided where possible. The report should describe any proposed mitigation measures and how project planning will protect and enhance the local ecosystem.
- Natural heritage and hydrologic features should be identified and described in detail to assess potential impacts and to develop appropriate mitigation measures. The following sensitive environmental features may be located within or adjacent to the study area:
 - Key Natural Heritage Features: Habitat of endangered species and threatened species, fish habitat, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSIs), significant valleylands, significant woodlands; significant wildlife habitat (including habitat of special concern species); sand barrens, savannahs, and tallgrass prairies; and alvars.
 - Key Hydrologic Features: Permanent streams, intermittent streams, inland lakes and their littoral zones, seepage areas and springs, and wetlands.
 - Other natural heritage features and areas such as: vegetation communities, rare species of flora or fauna, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, Greenland systems etc.

We recommend consulting with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and your local conservation authority to determine if special measures or additional studies will be necessary to preserve and protect these sensitive features. In addition, for projects located in Central Region you may consider the provisions of the Rouge Park Management Plan if applicable.

Species at Risk

- The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has now assumed responsibility of Ontario's Species at Risk program. Information, standards, guidelines, reference materials and technical resources to assist you are found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk>.
- The Client's Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk (Draft May 2019) has been attached to the covering email for your reference and use. Please review this document for next steps.

- For any questions related to subsequent permit requirements, please contact SAROntario@ontario.ca.

Surface Water

- The report must include enough information to demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions of any watercourses within the study area. Measures should be included in the planning and design process to ensure that any impacts to watercourses from construction or operational activities (e.g. spills, erosion, pollution) are mitigated as part of the proposed undertaking.
- Additional stormwater runoff from new pavement can impact receiving watercourses and flood conditions. Quality and quantity control measures to treat stormwater runoff should be considered for all new impervious areas and, where possible, existing surfaces. The ministry's [Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual \(2003\)](#) should be referenced in the report and utilized when designing stormwater control methods. **A Stormwater Management Plan should be prepared as part of the Class EA process** that includes:
 - Strategies to address potential water quantity and erosion impacts related to stormwater draining into streams or other sensitive environmental features, and to ensure that adequate (enhanced) water quality is maintained
 - Watershed information, drainage conditions, and other relevant background information
 - Future drainage conditions, stormwater management options, information on erosion and sediment control during construction, and other details of the proposed works
 - Information on maintenance and monitoring commitments.
- Ontario Regulation 60/08 under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) applies to the Lake Simcoe Basin, which encompasses Lake Simcoe and the lands from which surface water drains into Lake Simcoe. If a proposed sewage treatment plant is listed in Table 1 of the regulation, the report should describe how the proposed project and its mitigation measures are consistent with the requirements of this regulation and the OWRA.
- Any potential approval requirements for surface water taking or discharge should be identified in the report. A Permit to Take Water (PTTW) under the OWRA will be required for any water takings that exceed 50,000 L/day, except for certain water taking activities that have been prescribed by the Water Taking EASR Regulation – *O. Reg. 63/16*. These prescribed water-taking activities require registration in the EASR instead of a PTTW. Please review the [Water Taking User Guide for EASR](#) for more information. Additionally, an

Environmental Compliance Approval under the OWRA is required for municipal stormwater management works.

Groundwater

- The status of, and potential impacts to any well water supplies should be addressed. If the project involves groundwater takings or changes to drainage patterns, the quantity and quality of groundwater may be affected due to drawdown effects or the redirection of existing contamination flows. In addition, project activities may infringe on existing wells such that they must be reconstructed or sealed and abandoned. Appropriate information to define existing groundwater conditions should be included in the report.
- If the potential construction or decommissioning of water wells is identified as an issue, the report should refer to Ontario Regulation 903, Wells, under the OWRA.
- Potential impacts to groundwater-dependent natural features should be addressed. Any changes to groundwater flow or quality from groundwater taking may interfere with the ecological processes of streams, wetlands or other surficial features. In addition, discharging contaminated or high volumes of groundwater to these features may have direct impacts on their function. Any potential effects should be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures should be recommended. The level of detail required will be dependent on the significance of the potential impacts.
- Any potential approval requirements for groundwater taking or discharge should be identified in the report. A Permit to Take Water (PTTW) under the OWRA will be required for any water takings that exceed 50,000 L/day, with the exception of certain water taking activities that have been prescribed by the Water Taking EASR Regulation – *O. Reg. 63/16*. These prescribed water-taking activities require registration in the EASR instead of a PTTW. Please review the [Water Taking User Guide for EASR](#) for more information.
- Consultation with the railroad authorities is necessary wherever there is a plan to use construction dewatering in the vicinity of railroad lines or where the zone of influence of the construction dewatering potentially intercepts railroad lines.

Excess Materials Management

- In December 2019, MECP released a new regulation under the Environmental Protection Act, titled “On-Site and Excess Soil Management” (O. Reg. 406/19) to support improved management of excess construction soil. This regulation is a key step to support proper management of excess soils, ensuring valuable resources don’t go to waste and to provide clear rules on managing and reusing excess soil. New risk-based standards referenced by

this regulation help to facilitate local beneficial reuse which in turn will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from soil transportation, while ensuring strong protection of human health and the environment. The new regulation is being phased in over time, with the first phase in effect on January 1, 2021. For more information, please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/handling-excess-soil>.

- The report should reference that activities involving the management of excess soil should be completed in accordance with O. Reg. 406/19 and the MECP's current guidance document titled "[Management of Excess Soil – A Guide for Best Management Practices](#)" (2014).
- All waste generated during construction must be disposed of in accordance with ministry requirements.

Contaminated Sites

- Any current or historical waste disposal sites should be identified in the report. The status of these sites should be determined to confirm whether approval pursuant to Section 46 of the EPA may be required for land uses on former disposal sites. We recommend referring to the [MECP's D-4 guideline](#) for land use considerations near landfills and dumps.
 - Resources available may include regional/local municipal official plans and data; provincial data on [large landfill sites](#) and [small landfill sites](#); Environmental Compliance Approval information for waste disposal sites on [Access Environment](#).
- Other known contaminated sites (local, provincial, federal) in the study area should also be identified in the report (Note – information on federal contaminated sites is found on the Government of Canada's [website](#)).
- The location of any underground storage tanks should be investigated in the report. Measures should be identified to ensure the integrity of these tanks and to ensure an appropriate response in the event of a spill. The ministry's Spills Action Centre must be contacted in such an event.
- Since the removal or movement of soils may be required, appropriate tests to determine contaminant levels from previous land uses or dumping should be undertaken. If the soils are contaminated, you must determine how and where they are to be disposed of, consistent with *Part XV.1 of the Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) and Ontario Regulation 153/04, Records of Site Condition, which details the new requirements related to site assessment and clean up. Please contact the appropriate MECP District Office for further consultation if contaminated sites are present.

Servicing, Utilities and Facilities

- The report should identify any above or underground utilities in the study area such as transmission lines, telephone/internet, oil/gas etc. The owners should be consulted to discuss impacts to this infrastructure, including potential spills.
- The report should identify any servicing infrastructure in the study area such as wastewater, water, stormwater that may potentially be impacted by the project.
- Any facility that releases emissions to the atmosphere, discharges contaminants to ground or surface water, provides potable water supplies, or stores, transports or disposes of waste must have an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) before it can operate lawfully. Please consult with MECP's Environmental Permissions Branch to determine whether a new or amended ECA will be required for any proposed infrastructure.
- We recommend referring to the ministry's [environmental land use planning guides](#) to ensure that any potential land use conflicts are considered when planning for any infrastructure or facilities related to wastewater, pipelines, landfills or industrial uses.

Mitigation and Monitoring

- Contractors must be made aware of all environmental considerations so that all environmental standards and commitments for both construction and operation are met. Mitigation measures should be clearly referenced in the report and regularly monitored during the construction stage of the project. In addition, we encourage proponents to conduct post-construction monitoring to ensure all mitigation measures have been effective and are functioning properly.
- Design and construction reports and plans should be based on a best management approach that centres on the prevention of impacts, protection of the existing environment, and opportunities for rehabilitation and enhancement of any impacted areas.
- The proponent's construction and post-construction monitoring plans must be documented in the report, as outlined in Section A.2.5 and A.4.1 of the MEA Class EA parent document.

Consultation

- The report must demonstrate how the consultation provisions of the Class EA have been fulfilled, including documentation of all stakeholder consultation efforts undertaken during the planning process. This includes a discussion in the report that identifies concerns that were raised and **describes how they have been addressed by the proponent** throughout

the planning process. The report should also include copies of comments submitted on the project by interested stakeholders, and the proponent's responses to these comments (as directed by the Class EA to include full documentation).

- Please include the full stakeholder distribution/consultation list in the documentation.

Class EA Process

- If this project is a Master Plan: there are several different approaches that can be used to conduct a Master Plan, examples of which are outlined in Appendix 4 of the Class EA. **The Master Plan should clearly indicate the selected approach for conducting the plan**, by identifying whether the levels of assessment, consultation and documentation are sufficient to fulfill the requirements for Schedule B or C projects. Please note that any Schedule B or C projects identified in the plan would be subject to Section 16 Order Requests under the Environmental Assessment Act, although the plan itself would not be. **Please include a description of the approach being undertaken (use Appendix 4 as a reference).**
- If this project is a Master Plan: Any identified projects should also include information on the MCEA schedule associated with the project.
- The report should provide clear and complete documentation of the planning process in order to allow for transparency in decision-making.
- The Class EA requires the consideration of the effects of each alternative on all aspects of the environment (including planning, natural, social, cultural, economic, technical). The report should include a level of detail (e.g. hydrogeological investigations, terrestrial and aquatic assessments, cultural heritage assessments) such that all potential impacts can be identified, and appropriate mitigation measures can be developed. Any supporting studies conducted during the Class EA process should be referenced and included as part of the report.
- Please include in the report a list of all subsequent permits or approvals that may be required for the implementation of the preferred alternative, including but not limited to, MECP's PTTW, EASR Registrations and ECAs, conservation authority permits, species at risk permits, MTO permits and approvals under the *Impact Assessment Act*, 2019.
- Ministry guidelines and other information related to the issues above are available at <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/environment-and-energy>. We encourage you to review all the available guides and to reference any relevant information in the report.

Notice of Completion

Once the EA Report is finalized, the proponent must issue a Notice of Completion providing a minimum 30-day period during which documentation may be reviewed and comment and input can be submitted to the proponent. The Notice of Completion must be sent to the appropriate MECP Regional Office email address.

The public can request a higher level of assessment on a project if they are concerned about potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. In addition, the Minister may issue an order on his or her own initiative within a specified time period. The Director (of the Environmental Assessment Branch) will issue a Notice of Proposed Order to the proponent if the Minister is considering an order for the project within 30 days after the conclusion of the comment period on the Notice of Completion. At this time, the Director may request additional information from the proponent. Once the requested information has been received, the Minister will have 30 days within which to make a decision or impose conditions on your project.

Therefore, the proponent cannot proceed with the project until at least 30 days after the end of the comment period provided for in the Notice of Completion. Further, the proponent may not proceed after this time if:

- a Section 16 Order request has been submitted to the ministry regarding potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, or
- the Director has issued a Notice of Proposed order regarding the project.

Please ensure that the Notice of Completion advises that outstanding concerns are to be directed to the proponent for a response, and that in the event there are outstanding concerns regarding potential adverse impacts to constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, Section 16 Order requests on those matters should be addressed in writing to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

and

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto ON, M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

From: [Daniel King](#)
To: lcourtney@bmross.net
Cc: [Andrew Bicknell](#)
Subject: Re: Municipality of Bluewater Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)
Date: August 7, 2025 12:02:12 PM

Good morning Ms. Courtney,

I am writing in response to the Municipal Class EA for the Banchand Street extension and SWM Outlet in the Municipality of Bluewater.

The ABCA would request to be appraised of updates as you go through the Class EA process. From the preliminary plans shared in the notification it appears that the Stormwater Outlet will be into an area regulated by the ABCA under the Conservation Authorities act, and as such a permit from this Authority will be required for the outlet, as well as any other works proposed within the regulation limit.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel

Daniel King P.Eng. MEPP *(he/him)*
Water Resources Engineer & P.O.A. Officer
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Creating Awareness • Taking Action

Confidentiality Notice:

The information contained here, including any attachments, may be confidential and is intended only for the use of the recipient(s) named above, and may be legally privileged. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, disclosure or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please re-send this communication back to the sender and delete it permanently from your computer system or communication device.

From: Andrew Bicknell <abicknell@abca.ca>
Sent: August 5, 2025 5:03 PM
To: Daniel King <dking@abca.ca>
Subject: FW: Municipality of Bluewater Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)

Here you go Daniel.

Sorry for not getting this to you sooner.

Hey, I've still got some back log with regs and permitting file. Do you happen to have any capacity to take on some permitting files by any chance or mentoring capacity to J and M?

Thanks.

Andy

Andrew Bicknell

Manager of Water and Planning

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

71108 Morrison Line

Exeter, ON. N0M 1S5

519-235-2610 x235

abicknell@abca.ca

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/03c0713b/9ArSQhgEI02W62gh49RZwQ?](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/03c0713b/9ArSQhgEI02W62gh49RZwQ?u=http://www.abca.ca/)

[u=http://www.abca.ca/](http://www.abca.ca/)

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From: Alex Jackman <ajackman@bmross.net>

Sent: July 16, 2025 9:21 AM

To: Andrew Bicknell <abicknell@abca.ca>

Subject: Municipality of Bluewater Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)

Good morning/afternoon.

Please find attached a letter and Notice of Commencement for the Municipality of Bluewater Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet (Community of St. Joseph)

Please submit any initial questions and comments prior to August 6th, 2025, to Lisa Courtney

(lcourtney@bmross.net) at B.M. Ross and Associates Limited, 62 North Street, Goderich ON N7A 2T4, (519)-524-2641.

Thanks, and cheers,

***Alex Jackman, H.BEDP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners***

*62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4*

Phone: (519) 524-2641
ajackman@bmross.net
https://link.edgepilot.com/s/aeef3d31/k5uRI_zy8U6lUchTBITs-A?u=http://www.bmross.net/

From: [NationsConnect](#)
To: ajackman@bmross.net
Subject: NationsConnect: Response regarding MCEA for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet
Date: September 5, 2025 2:57:55 PM

A new conversation has been started by Contact-8015 and you were indicated as a person to notify.

Subject: Response

Body: Thank you for the information. While the project is in COTTFN's Traditional Territory, we do not have the capacity to engage on it at this time. Please ensure that Kettle and Stony Point First Nation are kept informed, to the degree that they have requested.

Jen Mills

Please do not reply to this email as it is not monitored. Use the link below to reply.

[View conversation in NationsConnect](#)



9-Sep-2025 15:18 UTC

Re: MCEA for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet

Thank you for sharing information regarding the proposed project: MCEA for Extension of Bachand Street and Stormwater Outlet. We have minimal concerns about this specific project based on community perspectives and priorities. However, we are concerned about the cumulative impacts of all development and land use change in our territory. While this concern extends beyond this individual project, we want proponents to be aware and welcome collaboration or support in our community-led assessments on cumulative impacts. We would like to stay informed on the project and would be interested in reviewing the project reports as they become available.

If future projects may impact CKSPFN reserve lands or traditional territory, we would welcome future notices be shared via NationsConnect. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Regards,

Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point Consultation

cc: Jessica Wakefield, Major Projects and IBAs

cc: Jana George, Consultation and Monitoring Coordinator

From: [Lisa Courtney](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bachand Street extension water drainage
Date: July 16, 2025 2:11:00 PM

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for reaching out. We are just starting this project, so at this time we do not have any drawings or engineering details completed. One of our first tasks will be going out and completing a topographic survey to get the lay of the land so that we can then start looking at options on how to keep stormwater away from the existing residences. Once we get the survey done, reviewing the existing infrastructure, and have some time to look at practical and feasible options for the road and stormwater infrastructure, we would then be in a position to host a meeting and talk about those options. At this time, I do not have a timeline for when that meeting would be, but ahead of whenever that meeting is scheduled, we would circulate everyone in the area.

If you don't mind me asking, do you have any issues with flooding or water currently? We certainly appreciate local insight into any local conditions or issues.

Thanks and cheers,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641
lcourtney@bmross.net
www.bmross.net

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 16, 2025 12:36 PM
To: lcourtney@bmross.net
Subject: Bachand Street extension water drainage

Hi Lisa,

Where can I go to see the official plans for the proposed water drainage for the Bachand Street extension? I am the property owner of 33900 Stanley Blvd and this has potential to cause basement flooding in our home since we are directly down hill of the proposed extension.

Thanks in advance,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

25045 – Bachand Street Extension

July 28, 2025 9 AM

Call from [REDACTED]

- Owns a couple of properties on Stanley Street.
- Stormwater runs from Bachand Street to Stanley, across the road and into ditches on other side of the road.
- Neighbours have built berms along back of properties to stop overland flow.
- Think that ditches need to be dug out and deeper.
- Agree that road should be extended, no opposition to that. Would like stormwater issues addressed.
- Heavy clay in area.

From: [Lisa Courtney](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: MCEA St.Joseph's.... Bachand St. extension
Date: August 1, 2025 4:08:41 PM

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for reaching out. I appreciate you letting us know about the erosion issues and your concerns. We are just getting started with the environmental assessment process, so this information is very helpful as we get started looking at options on how we might deal with stormwater. We will also be consulting with Ausble Bayfield Conservation Authority.

I am going to share your email with our engineering team and add you to the contact list to receive updates as we get further along into the study.

Thanks and have a nice weekend

----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 2025-08-01 11:13 a.m. (GMT-05:00)
To: lcourtney@bmross.net
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: MCEA St.Joseph's.... Bachand St. extension

From : [REDACTED]
To : lcourtney@bmross.net [lcourtney@bmross.net]
Cc : Scott Sherin [ssherin@rogers.com]
Date : Friday, August 1 2025 11:12:30

Hi Lisa

I am writing you in response to the public notice we received , for input regarding the Bachand St. Extension and new storm sewer.

My husband and I own a property at 33928 Gendron St. And have concerns about the proposed storm sewer emptying into the ravine behind our cottage.

We are having active erosion issues with our backyard currently ,and have consulted the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Department in 2017 & 2024 about it. They suggested planting 100 dogwood plants on the slope , which we did a few years ago. But we continue to see our backyard eroding into the gully (behind our cottage)

We are worried this new storm sewer will add to our erosion problem, by increasing the volume of water in the stream, chipping away at our slope base.

We are hoping you can find a different solution to the proposed roadway's drainage needs.

Would you please email me to confirm you have received our letter today.

Thank you so much

[REDACTED]

From: [Lisa Courtney](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bachand Street Link to Gendron 25045
Date: March 10, 2026 4:28:00 PM

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for reaching out. The engineers here are working on the design and we are aiming to have a preliminary design we can show folks in about a month. Ideally, we would like to have a meeting with the neighbourhood following that. I believe the Municipality would like to construct the road this year, if possible, but I don't have any more specific details about a potential start date.

Thanks and have a nice night,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641
lcourtney@bmross.net
www.bmross.net

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: March 10, 2026 9:51 AM
To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>
Subject: Bachand Street Link to Gendron

Hi Lisa,

I'm looking for information for the planning and development of this street extension. Where does it stand right now and are there more details for the drainage design? Also is there a starting date set? We live at 33900 Stanley Blvd and this site goes across our backyard.

Thanks in advance,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lisa Courtney](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: dkester@municipalityofbluewater.ca; thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca
Subject: RE: Municipality of Bluewater MCEA for extension of Bachand Street and stormwater outlet 25045
Date: July 30, 2025 10:26:00 AM

Good morning [REDACTED]

We are in the very initial stages of looking at what options there are related to dealing with stormwater associated with the extension of Bachand Street, so there is no data to share yet. One of our first tasks will be to do a topographic survey to get the 'lay of the land', which will help us determine what practical and feasible options there are for directing the stormwater. We are looking at the need for a stormwater outlet because with the extension of the road we will be creating an impermeable surface that may change or alter where stormwater would have naturally travelled, so we want to be sure we look at it so we don't impact adjacent properties. We certainly appreciate you sharing the local knowledge on where stormwater currently flows.

We will have more information after we get the topographic survey done and look at what options there are for directing the stormwater.

Thanks and if you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to reach out.
Cheers,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641
lcourtney@bmross.net
www.bmross.net

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 30, 2025 8:19 AM
To: lcourtney@bmross.net
Cc: dkester@municipalityofbluewater.ca; thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca
Subject: Municipality of Bluewater MCEA for extension of Bachand Street and stormwater outlet

Lisa Courtney
B M Ross and Associates

Dear Ms Courtney:

Please provide the data to show how the extension of Bachand Street westwards, and the extension of Bachand Street northwards will necessitate the construction of a new

stormwater outlet to Fourcier Drain. Where will all the additional stormwater be coming from ?

To the east, Bluewater Highway 21 slopes south and drains south. To the west, Ravine Drive slopes south and drains south. All of the lands between these two boundaries slopes south and drains south.

I have lived on Gendron Street for seventeen years. and even after a heavy rain, no water run-off heads northwards.

Please show me the data that justifies the need for a proposed new stormwater (stormsewer) outlet at the Fourcier Drain north of Gendron Street.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [Lisa Courtney](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: dkester@municipalityofbluewater.ca; thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca
Subject: RE: Re[2]: Municipality of Bluewater MCEA for extension of Bachand Street and stormwater outlet 25045
Date: August 1, 2025 4:56:45 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
The environmental assessment process, we always look at alternatives solutions. The first step of the process is to collect background information, then identify potential solutions and evaluate them to find the preferred solution. We do not yet have a preferred solution, as we are just getting started in the EA process (still in the collection of background information stage).

Have a nice weekend,

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 2025-07-31 10:25 p.m. (GMT-05:00)
To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>
Cc: dkester@municipalityofbluewater.ca, thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca
Subject: Re[2]: Municipality of Bluewater MCEA for extension of Bachand Street and stormwater outlet 25045

From : [REDACTED]
To : Lisa Courtney [lcourtney@bmross.net]
Cc : dkester@municipalityofbluewater.ca [dkester@municipalityofbluewater.ca], thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca [thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca]
Date : Thursday, July 31 2025 22:25:38

Dear Ms. Courtney:

You indicate that you are looking at what options (with an "s" which means there must be more than one option) there are related to dealing with stormwater associated with the extension of Bachand Street.

Yet, without any data, and without any topographic elevations and surveys, you are proposing only a single option over to Fourcier Drain.

Is Gendron not an impermeable surface as well, that stands 90 degrees to the entire width of the Bachand Street extension, and would block any stormwater running north (uphill) ?

Is there a hidden agenda with this drain ? Are you 100 percent sure that you are only talking about a stormwater outlet and not a future tile drainage water outlet ?

[REDACTED]
----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To [REDACTED]
Cc hessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca
Date 2025-07-30 10:26:00 AM
Subject RE: Municipality of Bluewater MCEA for extension of Bachand Street and stormwater outlet 25045

Good morning [REDACTED]

We are in the very initial stages of looking at what options there are related to dealing with stormwater associated with the extension of Bachand Street, so there is no data to share yet. One of our first tasks will be to do a topographic survey to get the 'lay of the land', which will help us determine what practical and feasible options there are for directing the stormwater. We are looking at the need for a stormwater outlet because with the extension of the road we will be creating an impermeable surface that may change or alter where stormwater would have naturally travelled, so we want to be sure we look at it so we don't impact adjacent properties. We certainly appreciate you sharing the local knowledge on where stormwater currently flows.

We will have more information after we get the topographic survey done and look at what options there are for directing the stormwater.

Thanks and if you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to reach out.

Cheers,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
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62 North Street

Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641

lcourtney@bmross.net

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/a0efde2a/Bh7vo-e7vkiNPYcXZxj0Nw?u=http://www.bmross.net/>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: July 30, 2025 8:19 AM

To: lcourtney@bmross.net

Cc: dkester@municipalityofbluewater.ca; hessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca

Subject: Municipality of Bluewater MCEA for extension of Bachand Street and stormwater outlet

Lisa Courtney

B M Ross and Associates

Dear Ms Courtney:

Please provide the data to show how the extension of Bachand Street westwards, and the extension of Bachand Street northwards will necessitate the construction of a new stormwater outlet to Fourcier Drain. Where will all the additional stormwater be coming from ?

To the east, Bluewater Highway 21 slopes south and drains south. To the west, Ravine Drive slopes south and drains south. All of the lands between these two boundaries slopes south and drains south.

I have lived on Gendron Street for seventeen years. and even after a heavy rain, no

water run-off heads northwards.

Please show me the data that justifies the need for a proposed new stormwater (stormsewer) outlet at the Fourcier Drain north of Gendron Street.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Lisa Courtney](#)
Subject: Re[6]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045
Date: May 29, 2026 3:11:06 PM

Hello Lisa:

I am not having much success with my choices here.

My next solution is to run the collected storm water eastward, along the south ditch of Bachand, to discharge into the west ditch of Bluewater Highway 21. From there the water would flow south along Highway 21, and enter the same creek as discussed earlier.

Could you please ask the Bluewater drainage superintendent to contact MTO, to see if MTO would grant permission to open up the culvert where the south ditch of Bachand street intersects with Highway 21?

If this request was granted, all would stay within municipal property, and save a lot of taxpayer dollars.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Original Message -----
"Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To [REDACTED]

Date 2026-05-28 4:58:00 PM

Subject RE: Re[4]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for any confusion, a storm sewer would likely be required all the way to the creek. For your question about the amount of water, storm sewers are generally designed for what is called the '5-year storm', or the intensity and amount of rainfall that is expected in the type of storm that has a 1 in 5 chance of happening every year. With changes to rainfall patterns, the intensity and amount of rainfall expected in the 5-year storm today is greater than the 5-year storm used to design infrastructure in the past.

For your question about if the easement process was started by the private owner, I will have to ask the Municipality. I can pass it along, or if you like, you can ask staff directly at the public meeting.

Have a nice night,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
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lcourtney@bmross.net

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: May 28, 2026 3:29 PM

To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Subject: Re[4]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hi Lisa:

Thanks again for your prompt reply.

For clarification, please identify which outlet you are referring to that would need a storm sewer connection ?

The private property directly south of the proposed North -South extension to Bachand is presently absorbing ALL of the storm water from the land in question, and has been forever. There is already a small drain on private property to help direct water to Stanley Blvd.

My next question is where is all the extra water coming from that would require such a massive infrastructure as proposed in your preliminary design ?

Thanks again,
[REDACTED]

ps. What if the private land owner initiated the easement process ?

----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To [REDACTED] requires

Date 2026-05-28 1:28:00 PM

Subject RE: Re[2]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hello [REDACTED]

The challenge with taking the stormwater to the south is there is no municipally-owned land between Bachand and Stanley, so it would require the Municipality to purchase land or obtain an easement through private property – which can be an expensive and very time consuming endeavour. Also, the ditches along north side of Stanley are relatively shallow, so it would likely require installation of a storm sewer to convey the flows to the outlet, so there would still need to be excavation along the route to the outlet.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners

62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641

lcourtney@bmross.net

https://link.edgepilot.com/x/a_1RYGZ1QG82MrHU7x2b-cs?u=http://www.bmross.net/

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: May 27, 2026 2:28 PM

To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Subject: Re[2]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Thank you Lisa for your quick response .

Since this design is still in the preliminary stage, I would like to propose an option not mentioned in your list sent May 27, 2026.

From a viewpoint at the very South end of the proposed North - South portion of the Bachand Street extension, there is a direct line-of-sight southward sloping downwards to Stanley Blvd.

From where this line-of-sight intersects Stanley Blvd. approximately 20 feet west, there is a drain water culvert crossing underneath Stanley Blvd.

The culvert discharge water drains naturally south to the small creek which flows East to West, parallel to Stanley Blvd.

This creek discharges naturally into St. Joseph's ravine.

Advantages of this option.

- 1) There are hundreds less feet of drain pipe required.
- 2) There is much less excavation required.
- 3) There is no danger of eroding Fourcier Drain.
- 4) This takes advantage of the natural water flow in the area.
- 5) There is no need to change the existing water course.
- 6) There is no disruption crossing Gendron Street.
- 7) There is MUCH less cost to the taxpayers.

Please let me know if this option has merit.

Th

----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To [REDACTED]

Date

Subject RE: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hello [REDACTED]

Thanks for your question. The list of alternative designs is relatively short, as we are just looking at options related to the Bachand Road extension.

- One option always considered during the EA process is the 'Do Nothing' option. Under this option, the road would not be extended nor would any additional stormwater infrastructure be installed.
- We considered running the storm system directly to the west but in the absence of municipal property it was ruled out as an option.
- We considered alternative locations for the proposed storm sewer within the Georgianna Street road allowance and finalized the location based on the most efficient routing.
- We looked at having the storm outlet go directly north from the end of the unopened road allowance at Gendron Street to the Fourcier Drain, but given the steeper slope at that location, it was less preferred. We were also concerned about potential erosion.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks and cheers,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641

lcourtney@bmross.net

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: May 26, 2026 3:59 PM

To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Cc: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Subject: Re: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hello Lisa:

Could you please provide a summary list of the different options from which you selected this preliminary design to be the best fit ?

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To
Cc "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>
Date 2026-05-26 10:11:00 AM
Subject Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Good morning,
BMROSS and the Municipality of Bluewater will be hosting a public meeting to review the preliminary design for the extension of Bachand Street to Gendron Street on Tuesday June 16, 2026 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. We will meet in the grassed area on the north side of Gendron Street, just west of 33928 Gendron Street. Please feel free to bring any questions or comments and we will do our best to answer them. Please see the attached notice for a map showing the proposed road extension, storm sewer and outlet, as well as the public meeting location.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out.
Thanks and have a nice day,

***Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4***

Office: (519) 524-2641
lcourtney@bmross.net
<https://link.edgepilot.com/x/pjmODqZvs4OVwcv0teWy8U0?u=http://www.bmross.net/>

From: [Lisa Courtney](#)
To: [REDACTED] thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca; publicworks@municipalityofbluewater.ca
Subject: RE: Re[9]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045
Date: June 11, 2026 4:30:00 PM
Attachments: [RoadAssumptionDrawing.pdf](#)

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

I have attached a drawing shows the typical road standards for assumed roads. Here are the general details:

- 9.0 m Right of Way (ROW)
- 5.0 m wide road surface for low speed road
- 6.0 m wide road surface for high speed road
- Gravel surface

Note, this is a typical standard – there may be roads in Bluewater that do not meet this standards along the entire section of the road.

Have a nice evening,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641
lcourtney@bmross.net
www.bmross.net

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: June 9, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>; thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca;
publicworks@municipalityofbluewater.ca
Subject: Re[9]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Thank you Lisa for having the boundaries of the Bachand Street extension established.

Could you please detail the minimum road standards required on the extension to make it eligible for assumption by Bluewater ?

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>
To [REDACTED] thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca;
publicworks@municipalityofbluewater.ca

Date 2026-06-08 5:03:00 PM

Subject RE: Re[7]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you had a nice weekend. We will mark out the road allowance property boundaries ahead of the meeting.

Have a great night,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641

lcourtney@bmross.net

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: June 3, 2026 9:16 PM

To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>; thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca;
publicworks@municipalityofbluewater.ca

Subject: Re[7]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hi Lisa:

Regarding the public meeting on June 16 about the Bachand Street extension, could the entire west side of the road allowance be clearly staked out so that the property owners know exactly where the line will be in relation to their own individual lot lines.

Th [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To [REDACTED]; thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca;
pub

Date 2026-06-01 3:44:00 PM

Subject RE: RE: Re[4]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Regarding your suggestion to utilize the existing ditch on the south side of Bachand Street to discharge into the Highway 21 corridor, we looked into the elevations to see if that route would be viable. Unfortunately, the topography creates an issue. The

ground at the west end of Bachand sits at an elevation of roughly 192.0 meters, while the highway ditch to the east is actually higher, at about 192.8 meters.

To get water to flow downhill properly, a new ditch along Bachand requires a minimum grade of 0.5%. Over that 225-meter stretch, the ditch would need to meet the MTO corridor at an elevation of 190.9 meters—which means digging the existing highway ditch more than a meter deeper than it is today.

Aside from the physical grade challenge, getting permission from the province is a major hurdle. In our 60+ years of dealing with the MTO, they rarely accept new surface drainage into their systems, and they would typically not accommodate modifications that require deepening their existing infrastructure by over a meter. Because the grade change doesn't work naturally and the MTO typically rejects these types of requests, we don't see this as a feasible option.

Regarding your concerns about stormwater treatment, the drainage design for the 120-meter gravel road extension follows standard municipal engineering practices. While stormwater management facilities like retention or detention basins are mandatory for larger developments with significant paved surfaces (such as subdivisions), they are not required—nor are they standard practice—for a short gravel road extension of this scale.

However, the runoff from this new section of roadway is not going "unfiltered" into the watercourse. Environmental protection is built into the design through natural, passive treatment methods:

- Grassed Ditches: Open, vegetated ditches act as natural filters. As water flows through them, vegetation slows the velocity, allowing sediment, debris, and associated contaminants to settle out naturally before the water reaches any discharge point.
- Catchbasin & Maintenance Hole Sumps: The infrastructure includes deep sumps designed specifically to capture and trap heavier sediment and road grit at the bottom, preventing it from traveling down the system.

This combination of ditch filtration and sump collection provides appropriate, standard treatment for a rural gravel road extension.

Because this project is following the Class Environmental Assessment process, all necessary regulatory agencies will be circulated for input, including ABCA, and will have the opportunity to comment on the approach.

Have a nice afternoon,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2T4

Office: (519) 524-2641

lcourtney@bmross.net

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: June 1, 2026 2:23 PM

To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>; thessel@municipalityofbluewater.ca;
publicworks@municipalityofbluewater.ca

Subject: Fw: RE: Re[4]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hi Lisa:

I am disappointed that you have not responded to my last e-mail dated Thursday May 28, 2026 , regarding making use of the existing ditch on the south side of Bachand Street. I have come across new information that has not been disclosed.

It is unacceptable to discharge untreated or polluted stormwater directly into a Lake Huron watercourse.

While road storm drains are designed to direct runoff (like rain and snow melt) away from streets to prevent flooding, this water flows completely unfiltered into the lake. Consequently, it carries harmful contaminants straight into local waterways.

Stormwater picks up and transports a variety of contaminants from roads, driveways, and grassed areas. Common contaminants are chemicals, motor oil, fuel, high concentrations of chlorides from road salt and de-icing agents, excess fertilizers such as phosphorus, pet waste, chemical lawn sprays, debris and harmful sediment such as contaminated soil, litter and yard waste. Every single substance listed tends to degrade aquatic environments.

To prevent this environmental degradation, municipalities and conservation authorities (MVCA and ABCA) and Healthy Lake Huron, use stormwater management features such as stormwater retention/detention basins.

In Huron County, a detention basin must be sized to store runoff from a 25 year, 24-hour rainfall event.

As this issue has not been highlighted, I have added the original copy list from my August 2025 correspondence regarding the Bachand Street Extension EA.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@s.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@s.net)>
To [REDACTED]
Date [REDACTED]
Subject RE: Re[4]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for any confusion, a storm sewer would likely be required all the way to the creek. For your question about the amount of water, storm sewers are generally designed for what is called the '5-year storm', or the intensity and amount of rainfall that is expected in the type of storm that has a 1 in 5 chance of happening every year. With changes to rainfall patterns, the intensity and amount of rainfall expected in the 5-year storm today is greater than the 5-year storm used to design infrastructure in the past.

For your question about if the easement process was started by the private owner, I will have to ask the Municipality. I can pass it along, or if you like, you can ask staff directly at the public meeting.

Have a nice night,

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP
B. M. Ross and Associates Limited
Engineers and Planners
62 North Street
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: May 28, 2026 3:29 PM
To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>
Subject: Re[4]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hi Lisa:

Thanks again for your prompt reply.

For clarification, please identify which outlet you are referring to that would need a storm sewer connection ?

The private property directly south of the proposed North -South extension to Bachand is presently absorbing ALL of the storm water from the land in question, and has been forever. There is already a small drain on private property to help direct water to Stanley Blvd.

My next question is where is all the extra water coming from that would require such a

massive infrastructure as proposed in your preliminary design ?

Thanks again,
[REDACTED]

ps. What if the private land owner initiated the easement process ?

----- Original Message -----

From [REDACTED] [ss.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@ss.net)>

To [REDACTED] >requires

Date 2026-05-28 1:28:00 PM

Subject RE: Re[2]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hello [REDACTED]

The challenge with taking the stormwater to the south is there is no municipally-owned land between Bachand and Stanley, so it would require the Municipality to purchase land or obtain an easement through private property – which can be an expensive and very time consuming endeavour. Also, the ditches along north side of Stanley are relatively shallow, so it would likely require installation of a storm sewer to convey the flows to the outlet, so there would still need to be excavation along the route to the outlet.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Lisa J. Courtney, M.Sc. RPP, MCIP

B. M. Ross and Associates Limited

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: May 27, 2026 2:28 PM

To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Subject: Re[2]: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Thank you Lisa for your quick response .

Since this design is still in the preliminary stage, I would like to propose an option not mentioned in your list sent May 27, 2026.

From a viewpoint at the very South end of the proposed North - South portion of the Bachand Street extension, there is a direct line-of-sight southward sloping downwards to Stanley Blvd.

From where this line-of-sight intersects Stanley Blvd. approximately 20 feet west, there is a drain water culvert crossing underneath Stanley Blvd.

The culvert discharge water drains naturally south to the small creek which flows East to West, parallel to Stanley Blvd.

This creek discharges naturally into St. Joseph's ravine.

Advantages of this option.

- 1) There are hundreds less feet of drain pipe required.
- 2) There is much less excavation required.
- 3) There is no danger of eroding Fourcier Drain.
- 4) This takes advantage of the natural water flow in the area.
- 5) There is no need to change the existing water course.
- 6) There is no disruption crossing Gendron Street.
- 7) There is MUCH less cost to the taxpayers.

Please let me know if this option has merit.

Thank you ,

----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To

Date 2026-05-27 9:08:00 AM

Subject RE: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hello

Thanks for your question. The list of alternative designs is relatively short, as we are just looking at options related to the Bachand Road extension.

- One option always considered during the EA process is the 'Do Nothing' option. Under this option, the road would not be extended nor would any additional stormwater infrastructure be installed.
- We considered running the storm system directly to the west but in the absence of municipal property it was ruled out as an option.
- We considered alternative locations for the proposed storm sewer within the Georgianna Street road allowance and finalized the location based on the most efficient routing.
- We looked at having the storm outlet go directly north from the end of the unopened road allowance at Gendron Street to the Fourcier Drain, but given the steeper slope at that location, it was less preferred. We were also concerned about potential erosion.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks and cheers,

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: May 26, 2026 3:59 PM

To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Cc: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Subject: Re: Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Hello Lisa:

Could you please provide a summary list of the different options from which you selected this preliminary design to be the best fit ?

Thank you,

----- Original Message -----

From "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

To

Cc "Lisa Courtney" <lcourtney@bmross.net>

Date 2026-05-26 10:11:00 AM

Subject Bachand Street Extension EA Public Meeting 25045

Good morning,

BMROSS and the Municipality of Bluewater will be hosting a public meeting to review the preliminary design for the extension of Bachand Street to Gendron Street on Tuesday June 16, 2026 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. We will meet in the grassed area on the north side of Gendron Street, just west of 33928 Gendron Street. Please feel free to bring any questions or comments and we will do our best to answer them. Please see the attached notice for a map showing the proposed road extension, storm sewer and outlet, as well as the public meeting location.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out.

Thanks and have a nice day,

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From: [REDACTED]
To: lcourtney@bmross.net
Subject: Municipal Class Environmental Assessment , Extension of Bachand Street and Storm Outlet
Date: June 18, 2026 1:30:03 PM

Some of my concerns regarding this Assessment

1. I have owned homes on Gendron Street, Bluewater, for 35 years and am well acquainted with all issues concerning this assessment. Drainage with any properties along the road has never been an issue as the adjacent drain that runs along the south side of the road and drains into the lake has done its job very well. I was a member of Ontario Drainage Tribunal and there are many places that could use some input but Gendron or Bachand issue present none.
2. There has been no street for last thousand years where there is now a request to put one. I can think of no better way to disrupt the drainage along this green and grassy field than to dig it up for a road that has no purpose.
3. The lack of green space along south side of Hwy 21 subdivisions makes this area one place that the foxes, rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels can use without fear of becoming "roadkill".
4. The issue of snow removal was presented as a need for this road. For a Municipality that struggles to find resources and balance budget for snow removal it is a bogus and slightly devious suggestion that this extension would somehow fix any snow issues. It might just create more.

I would like for these reasons that BM Ross and Associates find this road extension could do more harm than good to this Municipal Environment.

Thankyou

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

From: [Lisa Courtney](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 24045 RE: Comments Re: Extension of Bachand Street and Storm Sewer Outlet
Date: June 25, 2026 3:00:00 PM

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments regarding the Bachand Street project and the drainage concerns for your property.

Following a review of the area in light of your feedback (and some of your other neighbours), we have updated the project drawings to enhance the management of runoff from the external drainage area. The revisions include:

1. A larger ditch inlet catch basin at the southwest corner of Bachand Street to handle higher volumes of water during frequent storm events. This is in addition to two other inlet structures included in the design that will intercept runoff from the lands upstream of Bachand Street.
2. An extended roadside ditch (to within 50 meters of the Highway corridor) to intercept and minimize external runoff onto the rear lots of Stanley Boulevard backing onto Bachand Street. These flows will be directed to the structures located in the south-west corner of Bachand.

We have also recorded your opposition to the Bachand Street extension.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or comments. Have a nice day,

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: June 18, 2026 4:48 PM
To: Lisa Courtney <lcourtney@bmross.net>
Subject: Comments Re: Extension of Bachand Street and Storm Sewer Outlet

Our comments and question concerning this project is:

Knowing the drainage issue of water all along Bachand St. and with the entire street being assumed by the township, why does the new drainage only start halfway along?

For all the water to enter the proposed drain system, all of the water will be diverted to the corner in one spot behind our property. If that ever was clogged or overburdened, it would be catastrophic for our house as we are directly downhill of this location.

As it stands in the plan, there are no drain catch basins where the water problem is; the full length of the south side of Bachand.

We would also like to point out we are opposed of the extension to Bachand St. It is unnecessary.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]