

From: Tamara Stomp

Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 10:23 PM

To: Ken Antaya <kantaya@lasalle.ca>; Marc Bondy <mbondy@lasalle.ca>; Sue Desjarlais <sdesjarlais@lasalle.ca>; Crystal Meloche <cmeloche@lasalle.ca>; Jeff Renaud <jrenaud@lasalle.ca>; Terry Burns <tburns@lasalle.ca>; Michael Akpata <makpata@lasalle.ca>

Cc: Andrea Shaughnessy; Jacquie Lang

Subject: Fw: Western Lake Erie National Marine Conservation Area Proposal

Greetings to All Honourable Members of Lasalle Town Council,

On June 21, 2018, Councillors Terry Burns and Jeff Renaud were present when a presentation was made to the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) to request the Federal Government **undertake a Feasibility Study to designate the Western Basin of Lake Erie as a National Marine Conservation Area**. The proposed Marine Park would include Point Pelee National Park, the eight islands of the Township of Pelee, and the waters of Pigeon Bay, which extends offshore of Essex (Colchester), Kingsville, Leamington and to Amherstburg. As you may be aware, there are already two designated marine parks in Ontario, being Lake Huron's Fathom Five off Tobermory, and Lake Superior's National Marine Conservation Area off Nipigon. A study completed in 1997 identified the Western Basin of Lake Erie as an area of particular significance that would qualify for such designation, for many reasons but also to ensure attention to water quality. As you are aware, local **water quality** off the shores of Windsor-Essex County remains of **great concern**. I have been assisting a group of locals residents who have been working to prepare a formal request to the Federal Government to fund Parks Canada in the **first step towards designation** by preparing the **required feasibility study**. I have studied the requirements and consequences of designation and cannot identify any negatives, but only see **significant positives for Our Region**. I was present along with Andrea Shaughnessy and Jacqui Lang to make the formal ERCA presentation, which is attached for your further information, as well as the letters of support that had already been received at that time. It includes:

1. Western Lake Erie National Marine Conversation Area Proposal
2. Letters of support from:
 - Tracey Ramsey, MP, Essex
 - Dave Van Kesteren, MP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington
 - Rick Nicholls, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington

Taras Natyshak, MPP, Essex

John Patterson, Mayor, Leamington

Nelson Santos, Mayor, Kingsville

Richard J.H. Wyma, General Manager, Essex Regional Conservation Authority

Dr. David Suzuki

The Water Brothers

3. National Marine Conservation Area references
4. Slideshow Presentation in PDF format

Further letters are now being received and I would like to add Lasalle Town Council's letter to this the package. A motion passed by your Council to provide a letter of support, and/or a letter of support from you individually, would be appreciated. The letters of support already received may assist you in composing your letter of support, as some of your concerns may be the same as expressed therein. Or the letter may simply state:

"support for the undertaking of a Feasibility Study by Parks Canada, to designate the Western Basin of Lake Erie as a National Marine Conservation Area."

This letter should be addressed to:

*The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Building Fontaine, Room MIN-CAB
200 Sacre Coeur: 2nd Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3*

You may forward your letter to me to include in the package **we will be sending to Ottawa in the next few weeks** to Minister McKenna, and also to Daniel Watson, CEO of Parks Canada. The Honourable Tracey Ramsey, MP, Essex, has undertaken to present the request to Parliament in this coming fall session. Please send the original by mail to me, coupled with an email or fax so that I can look for it in the coming mail. If there is a postal strike I can arrange for pick up of the original or you can medex/courier to my office.

However your **early attention** to this request would be **greatly appreciated** to get on the fall sessions list.

If you so desire, I would be **pleased to attend before your Council** to present this request.

Thank you for your anticipated support,

Yours sincerely,

Tamara Stomp
*office 721 Walker Road
Windsor, Ontario N8Y 2N2
home 439 Road 4 East
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2E5*



NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

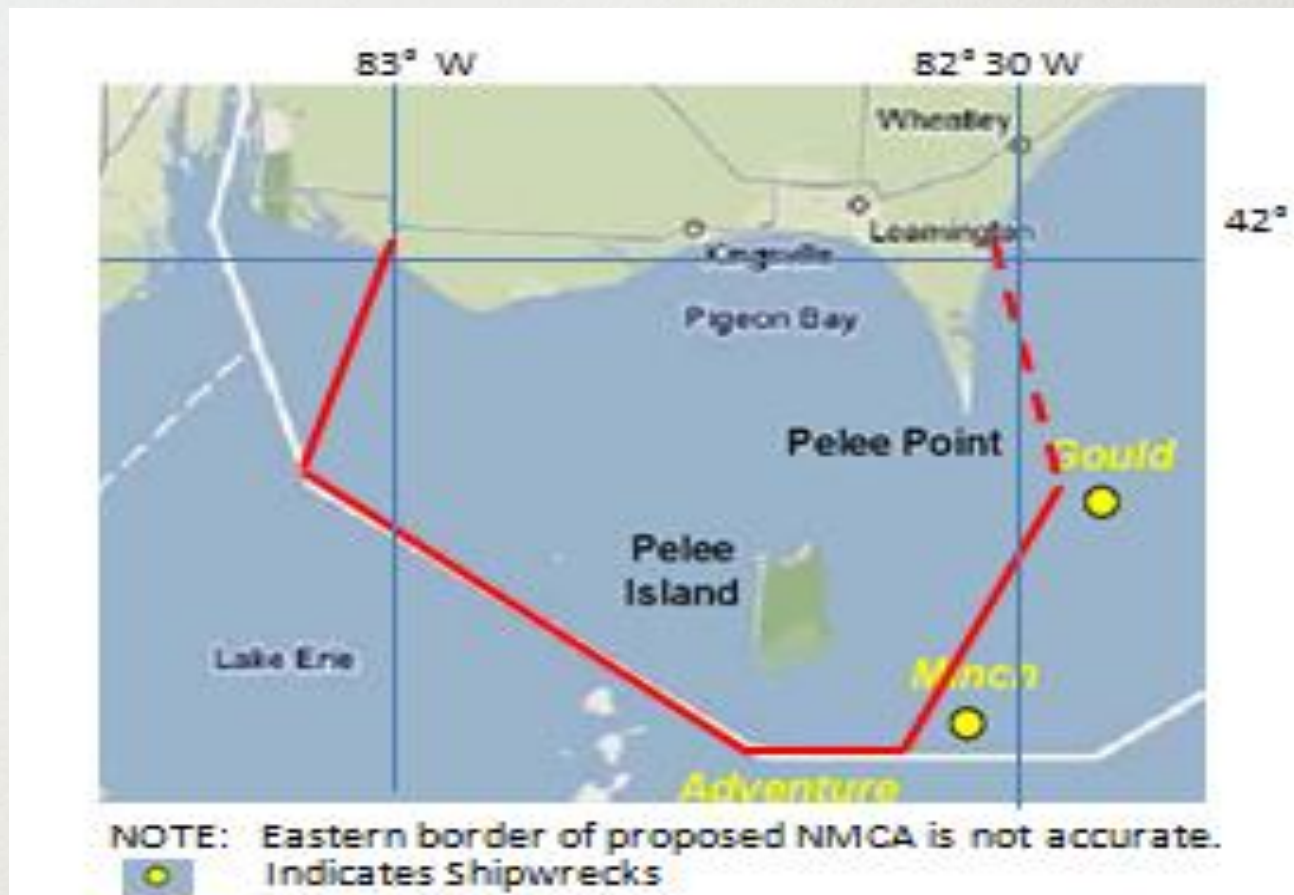
WESTERN BASIN of LAKE ERIE



THE PURPOSE OF OUR VISIT.....

...to ask for your support to require
Parks Canada complete a 'Feasibility Study'
Of the Canadian waters of the
Western Basin of Lake Erie
confirming the bay suitable for a NMCA.

Proposed NMCA



SOURCE: Identification of Preliminary Representative Marine Areas for the Lake Erie Marine Region; University of Waterloo Report; June 1997.

Legislation

Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act

S.C. 2002, c. 18

In 1986, the national marine conservation areas program was established to protect and conserve for all time national marine areas of Canadian significance that are representative of the country's ocean environments and the Great Lakes.

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-7.3/page-1.html>

History of Our Interest

- Concern about Harmful & Nuisance Algal Blooms
- University of Waterloo 1997 Report (not online)
- We have received support from...

**Francine Mercier, Parks Canada Manager NMA Establishment
Caldwell First Nations**

Tracey Ramsey MP

Dave Vankestran MP

Taras Natyshak MPP

Rick Nicholls MPP

Jane Graham, Exec. Dr., Ontario Commercial Fishermen's Association

Nelson Santos, Mayor Kingsville

Leamington Council

Cindy Giardetti, Lake Superior NMCA Manager

Management Team Parks Canada Point Pelee

“Friends of Cedar, Mill & Wigle Creek”

The benefits of a NMCA ...

- Tourism – Sport Fishing, Shipwrecks & Marine Archeology, Beach Activities, Birders...
- Commercial Fishing Industry
- Agricultural Industry, Green Houses, Wineries
- Property Values **↑ increase**
- Health Issues – EPA designated Lake Erie **‘Impaired’**
- Water Treatment costs **↓ reduced**

Frequently asked questions...

SOURCE: Parks Canada: More Frequently Asked Questions; 2009.

Will commercial fishing be allowed?

Commercial fishing continues in the NMCAs and will continue to be allowed.

Will the use of docks, lifts and ramps in front of private lands be restricted?

Requirements are expected to remain the same as they are now. Proposed NMCA does not include land, includes water to the mean high water mark adjacent to private lands.

Permits will continue to be issued by appropriate agencies.

Will I be able to continue traditional activities? Boating? Fishing? Camping? Diving?

Yes, NMCAs promote sustainable use of resources.

Frequently asked questions...

Won't a NMCA increase tourism and visitation? Overuse has been a concern.

Yes – there may be an increase in tourism. Careful planning can reduce the impact of use on the area. Management practices can be adjusted accordingly.

What will happen to boating and tour businesses currently operating in the proposed area?

No change is expected to boating and touring businesses. Parks Canada encourages businesses that play an important roll in tourism.

NMCAs are protected from [dumping](#), [undersea mining](#) and [oil](#) and [gas](#) exploration and development, which may damage the aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems in the conservation area.

This PETITION proposes that the Parks Canada division of the Government of Canada in partnership with the Ontario Government designate a **National Marine Conservation Area in the western basin of Lake Erie**; from the eastern shoreline of Point Pelee to Colchester, including 8 Pelee Islands and extending to the International Border.

A preliminary study was completed in 1997 by University of Waterloo for Parks Canada identifying this region as an 'outstanding natural area'.

We support this designation:

	NAME	FULL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
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Our purpose today is to ask for
your support to have
Parks Canada complete the
'Feasibility Study'
of
Lake Erie Western Basin

Thank you for your time...

Questions???

Andrea Shaughnessy Jacquie Lang
Tamara Stomp Louise Hillier

Bibliography

Identification of Preliminary Representative Marine Areas for the Lake Erie Marine Region; Prepared for Parks Canada by Heritage Resource Centre, University of Waterloo; June 1997.

Economic Benefits of Reducing Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie;
Submitted to the International Joint Commission by Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.; October 2015.
<http://ijc.org/files/tinymce/uploaded/Publications/Economic-Benefits-Due-to-Reduction-in-HABs-October-2015.pdf>

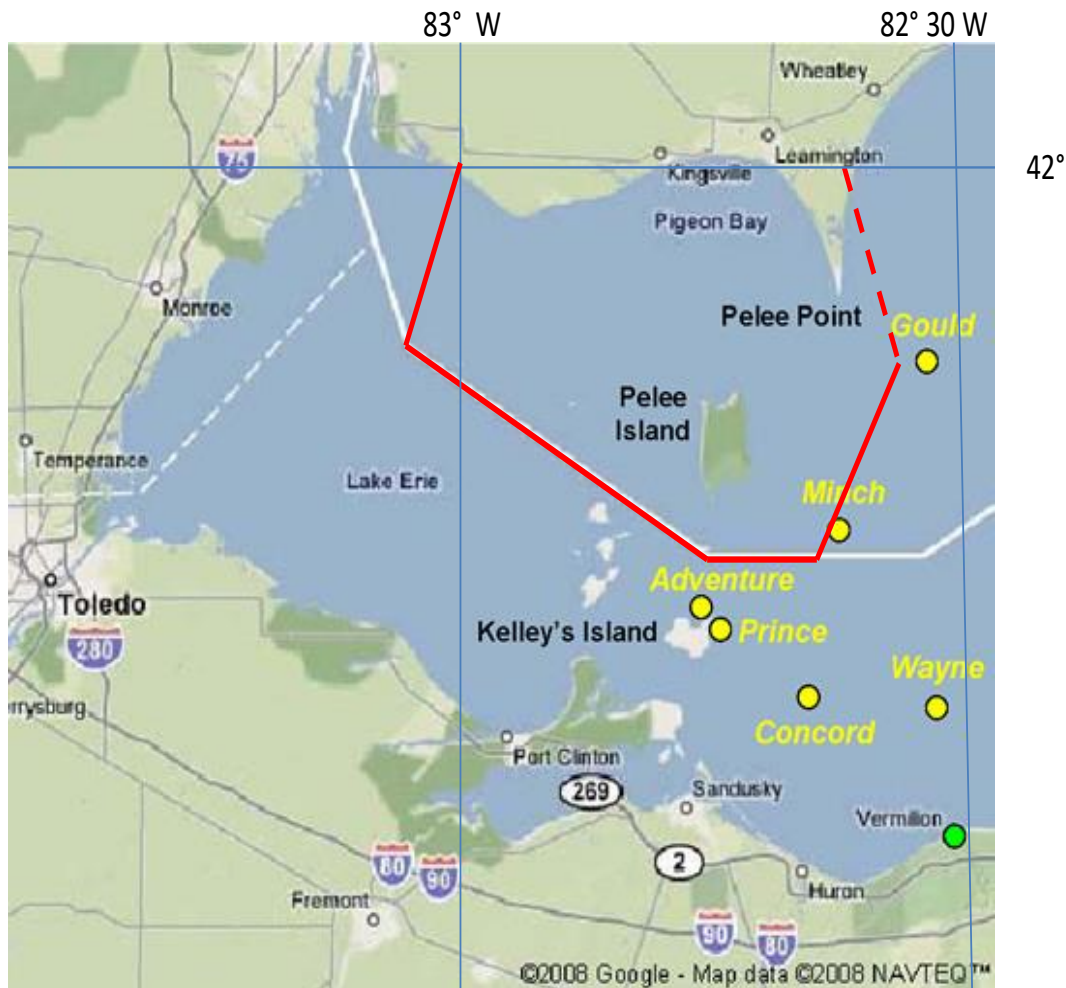
Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan; February 2018.
https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/great-lakes-protection/dap/action_plan.pdf

Algal Blooms: Estimating Costs to the Lake Erie Basin Economy; Submitted to Environment Canada by Midsummer Analytics; March 2015.

Great Lakes Water Quality; International Joint Commission; November 2017.
<http://ijc.org/files/tinymce/uploaded/GLWQA/TAP.pdf>

A Balanced Diet for Lake Erie- Reducing Phosphorus Loadings and Harmful Algal Blooms; A Report of the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority; February 2014.
<http://www.ijc.org/files/publications/2014%20IJC%20LEEP%20REPORT.pdf>

Ad Hoc Committee Proposal
for
Western Lake Erie
National Marine Conservation Area



NOTE: Eastern border of proposed NMCA is not accurate.

PELEE NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSAL

This is a proposal to designate the marine and shoreline environs of the Western Basin of Lake Erie, as a 'National Marine Conservation Area' by the federal government.

Scope: Including that area of Lake Erie of the Great Lakes from the east shore of Point Pelee, to the eight Pelee Islands, the Pelee Passage, to the international boundary, and over to and including the Leamington, Kingsville and Colchester shorelines.

Designating this area as a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) would allow this part of Lake Erie to be managed for sustainable use while protecting the area for future generations, including the protection of all fish habitat and spawning grounds, the over 200 shipwreck 'museum', Carolinian flora and fauna, migration paths for birds and butterflies, and marine ecosystems. Conservation and protection practices will be harmonized with existing resource use, such as fresh water commercial and recreational fishing, boating and commercial shipping. In general the designation will help with the preservation and protection, in perpetuity, of a unique and important marine ecosystem.

A preliminary study, in accordance with the Parks Canada's guidelines, was carried out in 1997 for the National Parks Directorate, Parks Canada, by the Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo. It identified this region as a candidate for a NMCA as an 'outstanding natural area with historic Canadian significance, and encouraged public appreciation, awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the area'. The areas explored by the study are:

MARINE THEME INVENTORY:

a. Geological:

Point Pelee is a major coastal feature of our shoreline, being 14 kms long. Dunes, bluffs, submerged moraines and wetland complexes also feature in the western basin.

b. Biological:

141 species of fish. Significant are the spawning and habitat areas of Walleye and Yellow Perch.

c. Vegetation:

Aquatic, rare species and Carolinian Canada sites and provincially significant wetlands.

d. Aquatic mammals:

46 wild animals species occur in the LEMR (ie: within 10km of the shoreline).

e. Birds:

Area is a migration concentration point for songbirds, particularly warblers in the spring and fall, swallows in July, fall shorebirds, hawks in September and waterfowl, including Tundra swans in October and November. These areas are important for hosting a large number of rare species, eight in total, three of which are endangered in Canada.

f. Significant Archaeological Sites:

The Iroquois Indians are known to have inhabited these areas since as early as the year 900 AD. Then from the 1600's, European settlers started coming to this area utilizing and developing the natural resources, and this area today is remembered for its significant historical sites.

g. Shipwrecks:

Since 1779 it is estimated that over 500 vessels sank, of which over 200 ships were greater than 50 tons – 275 shipwrecks including 51 ships for which the location of the wreck is actually known in the Pelee Passage area of the Western Basin.

h. Commercial Fishery:

The Western Basin represents approximately two thirds of the total Canadian Great Lakes catch.

i. Sports fishery:

Lake Erie has the largest sports fishery on the Great Lakes. Lake Erie shore has most of the remaining wetlands along the Canadian Great Lakes shore, including large marsh systems at Point Pelee.

j. High-use Recreational Beaches:

Pelee PRMA (Preliminary Representative Marine Area) has the most high use recreational beaches with six beaches located on Point Pelee, three on Pelee Island, one at Leamington and another eight, west of Kingsville. The Pelee PRMA has a total of eight marinas with two located at Point Pelee, three on Pelee Island and three in the Kingsville/Colchester area.

k. Resource Extraction Activities:

The production of oil in the Canadian and US in this part of Lake Erie is not permitted under an International Joint Commission agreement.

l. Water Quality:

There are three municipal water intakes in the Pelee PRMA. Problem pollution sources include: agricultural and urban storm water runoff, malfunctioning septic systems and discharges from food and fish processing plants.

Report Conclusion:

The Pelee LEMR is an ideal candidate as a National Marine Conservation Area as it already has an adjoining National Park (Point Pelee), with a qualified park management team. The Park is significant worldwide in terms of birding and Carolinian growth. The Pelee Island chain is noted for its bird colonies and fish spawning habitat, created by shoals, water depth and temperatures.

In addition, the *Essex Regional Conservation Authority* provides governance for the vital shoreline, along with active participation of *Save Ontario Shipwrecks* and *Local Divers Associations*. *The Fisheries Association* and *The Ontario Ministry of the Environment (Fisheries)* contribute significant administration and oversight. The *International Joint Commission* agreement protects the region from resource mining.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Tracey Ramsey
Member of Parliament
Essex

April 12, 2018

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Building Fontaine, Room MIN-CAB
200 Sacre-Coeur, 2nd Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister McKenna,

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents, Andrea Shaughnessy, Jacqueline Lang and Louise Hillier who are requesting that the Government of Canada undertake a updated feasibility study in order to designate the western basin of Lake Erie (which includes Point Pelee, all eight of the Pelee Islands, the Pelee Passage and the shorelines of Leamington, Kingsville, Colchester and Amherstburg) a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) and allow for it to be protected as such.

As you are aware, the western basin of Lake Erie is adjacent to Point Pelee National Park, which is already protected under the Canada National Parks Act. This entire area is home to Carolinian flora and fauna, it is an important migratory channel for many birds, butterflies and varieties of marine life. These ecosystems need to be managed for sustainable use while protecting the area for future generations.

In addition, conservation and protection practices need to be managed due to the high use of this area for fresh water commercial and recreational fishing, boating and commercial shipping.

Interestingly, on June 30, 1997, the National Parks Directorate of Parks Canada (run through the Heritage Resources Centre of the University of Waterloo) previously identified this region as a candidate for a National Marine Conservation Area. They classified it as an "outstanding natural area with historic Canadian significance and encouraged public appreciation, awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the area".

Parliamentary Office

Room 910, Justice Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-992-1812

Tracey.Ramsey@parl.gc.ca

Constituency Office

316 Talbot Street North, Unit 6
Essex, ON N8M 2E1
Tel: 519-776-4700
Fax: 519-776-1383
Tollfree: 1-866-776-5333
www.traceyramsey.ca

I ask that you review the details of this request, and advise Ms. Shaughnessy, Ms. Lang and Ms. Hillier how the government will move forward to undertake an updated feasibility study in order to designate the western basin of Lake Erie as a National Marine Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Ramsey".

Tracey Ramsey, MP
Essex

cc. Andrea Shaughnessy
279 Heritage Road
Kingsville, ON N9Y 3A6

Jacqueline Lang
1319 Graham Sideroad
Kingsville, ON N9Y 2S6

Louise Hillier
275 Jewel Street
Windsor, ON N9J 3X3



May 7, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Support of Feasibility Study for a Marine Conservation Area (Pigeon Bay)

I am writing today to add my support to the request for Parks Canada to complete a feasibility study into establishing a national marine conservation area in the western basin of Lake Erie, which would include Point Pelee, the Pelee Islands, the Pelee Passage and the shorelines of Leamington, Kingsville, Colchester and Amherstburg.

The area known as "Pigeon Bay" is very important to these communities in many aspects: economically, environmental and natural resources to name a few. Hence it is important for all levels of government to ensure that we do all we can to protect this area

This area was identified in 1997 by the National Parks Directorate of Parks Canada to be a candidate for a National Marine Conservation Area. Now, 21 years later, the initial step has yet to take place, thus I strongly support Parks Canada be given the necessary resources to complete a feasibility study as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick B. Nicholls".

Rick Nicholls, MPP

Chatham-Kent-Essex

111 Heritage Road, Suite 100, Chatham, Ontario N7M 5W7

519-351-0510



225 Commissioners St. – Suite 303
Toronto, ON, M4M 0A1

Monday, June 18, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing this letter in support of the Ad Hoc Committee's request that Parks Canada complete a feasibility study to designate "Pigeon Bay" of the Western Basin of Lake Erie, as a National Marine Conservation Area.

As documentary filmmakers who have explored this region extensively to highlight its natural beauty and the many threats these waters face from pollution, invasive species and algae blooms, we feel that this designation will be extremely beneficial to the efforts to protect and restore this incredible part of the Great Lakes with such significant ecological and historical importance.

This designation would allow Lake Erie to be managed for sustainable use while protecting the area for future generations. The proposal also ensures that conservation and protection practices will be harmonized with freshwater commercial and recreational fishing, for which Lake Erie is truly unique compared to the other Great Lakes.

We trust that every consideration will be given to the Ad Hoc Committee's Proposal to Parks Canada.

Regards,

Alex Mifflin
The Water Brothers

Tyler Mifflin
The Water Brothers

Dr. David Suzuki
PO Box 19011, West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 4R8

July 16, 2018

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Hill Office – Centre Block, Suite 433C
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

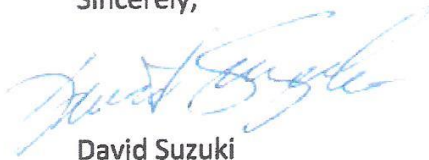
Dear Minister McKenna,

I spent four years, as a boy, in Leamington, Ontario before Point Pelee was a national park. Lake Erie, the shallowest of the Great Lakes, was rich in fish beyond anything that can be experienced today. Every Spring a most amazing biological spectacle occurred – a massive hatch of mayflies that were so abundant, they coated entire houses and made the roads slick with their bodies. Their carcasses piled up on the beaches a metre deep. I as a kid, caught fish as they fed on those flies. In a decade, that hatch was gone, a victim of pesticides.

After I had moved away, we learned that eutrophication from agricultural runoff was 'killing' the lake. We often learn of our destructive activities when Nature pays the price.

People are recognizing the 'value' of Nature and in the move to establish a Marine Conservation Area, propose to learn how to restore a vital body of water. I am sure you will support this initiative.

Sincerely,



David Suzuki



2021 Division Road North
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9
(519) 733-2305
www.kingsville.ca
kingsvilleworks@kingsville.ca

April 30, 2018

To Whom it may concern,

Re: Proposal to designate Western Basin Lake Erie as a National Marine Conservation Park

On behalf of our municipality, the Town of Kingsville please accept this letter in support of the active request for a feasibility study to be undertaken by Parks Canada to establish the Western Basin, which includes the collective Lake Erie shoreline communities Amherstburg, Colchester, Kingsville and Leamington) as a national marine conservation area (NMAC) Point Pelee to the eight Pelee Islands.

As a shoreline community on the north shore of Lake Erie, our municipality is interested in the potential that this designation could bring to our region in Canada's most southern habitat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Santos", written in a cursive style.

Mayor Nelson Santos



Taras Natyshak

MPP | député Essex



July 19, 2018

Re: Proposed Designation of the Western Basin of Lake Erie as a National Marine Conservation Park

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to add my support for the proposal to have Parks Canada complete a feasibility study to designate the western basin of Lake Erie as national marine conservation area.

This area of Lake Erie is extremely important to the residents and municipalities in my riding of Essex. It provides recreational and economic opportunities to our region. The area's proximity to Point Pelee National Park makes this part of Lake Erie an obvious extension of the protection of remaining natural areas in Essex County.

This designation would hopefully lay out a path for the sustainable and responsible use of the western basin of Lake Erie while protecting the unique opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing which are vital to our region.

I respectfully request that careful consideration be given to this proposal and I am pleased to offer any assistance I can provide with this project.

Sincerely,

Taras Natyshak MPP Essex

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Dave Van Kesteren M.P.

Chatham-Kent—Leamington



May 22, 2018
Ottawa

Re: Pelee National Marine Conservation Area Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to lend my support to the Ad Hoc Committee's request that Parks Canada complete a feasibility study to designate "Pigeon Bay" of the Western Basin of Lake Erie, as a National Marine Conservation Area.

A preliminary study that was conducted in 1997 by The National Parks Directorate of Parks Canada identified the region as an "outstanding natural area with historic Canadian significance, and encourage public appreciation, awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the area" and an ideal candidate to be designated as a National Marine Conservation Area.

This designation would allow Lake Erie to be managed for sustainable use while protecting the area for future generations. The proposal also ensures that conservation and protection practices will be harmonized with fresh water commercial and recreation fishing, and boating while protecting the unique and important marine ecosystem.

I trust every consideration will be given to the Ad Hoc Committee's proposal to Parks Canada.

Sincerely,

Dave Van Kesteren, MP
Chatham-Kent—Leamington

House of Commons
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Municipality of
Leamington
live | play | work

Office of the Mayor

John Paterson

111 Erie Street North
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jpaterson@leamington.ca

519.326.5761

July 30, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Support of feasibility study to designate the Western Basin of Lake Erie a national Marine Conservation Area

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Municipality of Leamington in support of the Ad Hoc Committee's proposal to Parks Canada to conduct a feasibility study to designate the Western Basin of Lake Erie as a National Marine Conservation Area.

The municipality shares the opinion with the preliminary study conducted by Parks Canada in 1997 that the area is an "outstanding natural area with historic Canadian significance". The area, adjacent to Point Pelee National Park, is home to unique Carolinian flora and fauna, is an important migratory channel and birds, butterflies and a multitude of marine life in addition to being home to provincially significant wetlands. Protection and preservation of the area for future generations is a priority not to be overlooked.

I do hope that this letter assists you in your decision to move forward with an updated study as proposed by the Committee.

Sincerely,

John Paterson
Mayor



July 20, 2018

Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Building Fontaine, Room MIN-CAB
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

admin@erca.org

P.519.776.5209

F.519.776.8688

360 Fairview Avenue West
Suite 311, Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Re: Western Lake Erie Basin National Marine Conservation Area Feasibility Study

Dear Minister McKenna,

I am writing on behalf of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors who, in June, passed a motion in support of completing a feasibility study to designate the Western Basin of Lake Erie as a National Marine Conservation Area.

In 2012, the Federal Departments of Environment, and Fisheries and Oceans, along with the Ontario Department of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Essex Region Conservation Authority finalized a new and unique approach to managing conservation issues in the Detroit River and Western Basin of Lake Erie watersheds. Known as the Western Lake Erie Watersheds Priority Natural Area, the partnership agreement was designed as a Canadian complement to the US Fish and Wildlife Designation of the Detroit River as an [International] Wildlife Refuge.

In its preamble, the Agreement recognized that the Detroit River and Lake Erie watersheds in the Essex region lie fully within the Carolinian Zone, which supports a higher diversity of plant and animal species than any other region in Canada; the highest concentrations of globally rare species and communities in Ontario; one third of Canada's rare plant and animal species; and is internationally significant and continentally important for waterfowl. Yet, despite this significance, only approximately two and a half percent of the western Lake Erie watersheds are protected as conservation lands (including national and provincial parks, Conservation Authority lands, and municipally owned conservation lands). This is the lowest proportion of protected areas and conservation lands of any region in Ontario. It is not a surprise, then, that of all the Great Lakes, the Detroit River and western basin of Lake Erie is also exposed to the greatest stress due to urbanization, industrialization, and rural land use and is exhibiting signs of degradation including nutrient enrichment.

... 2

Through the Agreement, the Parties recognized this challenge, and committed to improving their collaboration to advance the overall objective of protecting and restoring natural heritage features, and recognizing those protected areas that are being managed to meet the objectives of the PNA. To date, ERCA's Conservation Areas and the City of Windsor natural parks have been added to the Land Registry associated with the PNA. We continue to work with Parks Canada to recognize Point Pelee National Park and the islands under Parks Canada's management, as well as Nature Conservancy of Canada protected areas and provincially managed lands. Together with efforts from the US Fish and Wildlife, there is a potential to recognize over 25,000 acres of lands managed to meet the shared goals of conservation and management of our important natural heritage.

These interests also reflect the 1997 report that identified this region as a candidate for a National Marine Conservation Area because of its outstanding natural heritage features, its historic Canadian significance and opportunities to encourage greater appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the area – which is essential in advancing and inspiring further action in addressing issues in Lake Erie and the Detroit River.

Additionally, with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada and other partners, tremendous effort has gone into the Detroit River Area of Concern as well as addressing phosphorous related issues in the western basin, and we appreciate the commitment and leadership Canada, and especially your department, has shown in advancing the Lake Erie Action Plan. We are certainly pleased to work with your department, including the recently announced \$1.4 million towards these efforts.

We believe that the creation of a National Marine Conservation Area in the western basin of Lake Erie will further enhance collaboration and coordination of our resource management programs and projects and complement existing programs such as the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan, the Lake Erie Action Plan, the management of the Detroit River Canadian Heritage River and our international partnership related to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and other resource management related initiatives that would benefit the Area of Interest.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority would be very pleased to work with your Department, Parks Canada and local efforts to further explore the feasibility of establishing an NMCA in the western basin. If you have any questions, or require any additional supporting information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Richard J.H. Wyma CSLA
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

cc. Essex Region Conservation Authority Member Municipalities
Pelee National Marine Conservation Area Ad Hoc Committee (c/o Ms.
Andrea Shaughnessy/Ms. Tamara Stomp/Ms. Jacqueline Lang)



Amherstburg / Essex / Kingsville / Lakeshore / LaSalle / Leamington / Pelee Island / Tecumseh / Windsor

National Marine Conservation Area - REFERENCES

PARKS CANADA PUBLICATIONS:

- 2011 - CANADA NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS ACT. (Current) June 27, **2011**.
- 1985 – MARINE PARKS AND CONSERVATION: CHALLENGE AND PROMISE; Vol.1.
The National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada. Lien, Jon & Robert Graham Editors. Pages 253.
- 1985 – MARINE PARKS AND CONSERVATION: CHALLENGE AND PROMISE; Vol.2.
The National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada. Lien, Jon & Robert Graham Editors. Pages 211.
- 1995 - SEA TO SEA TO SEA – CANADA’S NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS SYSTEM PLAN.
Parks Canada, Department of Heritage. Pages 106. (2 copies)

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