

## **Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**

### **Community Development**

#### **Planning Services**

#### **Information Report**

**To:** Chair and Members of the Natural Heritage Committee of the Whole

**From:** Gabriel Clarke, MES, BA  
Manager, Growth & Sustainability, Planning Services

**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Subject:** Existing Woodlot Incentive Programs

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This report is for the information of Council.

#### **Background**

At the December 13, 2021 Natural Heritage Committee of the Whole meeting, a request was made to provide the Committee and the public with a brief and easy to reference overview of existing woodlot preservation incentive programs currently available to owners of woodlots across Chatham-Kent.

This report was prepared to fulfill this request.

#### **Comments**

As has been previously communicated, a number of existing incentive programs focused on woodlot preservation and/or enhancement are currently available to woodlot owners throughout Chatham-Kent. These incentive programs are offered by the Government of Ontario, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. The table below provides a brief comparison of these programs. Additional information on each program can be found in the [Rural and Urban Tree Cover in Chatham-Kent](#) Report presented to Council at the September 21, 2020 Meeting.

Table 1: Existing Woodlot Incentive Programs Available in Chatham-Kent

Program Name	Program Administrator	Incentive Type	Incentive Amount	Applies to	Conditions	Enrollment
Managed Forestry Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)	Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry	Tax Break	Applies 25% of the residential tax rate to qualifying forest lands	Existing Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Own at least 4 hectares (9.88 acres) of forest</li> <li>• Prepare an approved Managed Forest Plan</li> <li>• Adhere to "Good Forestry Practices"</li> </ul>	Application Required
Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)	Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry	Tax Break	Provides a 100% property tax exemption for qualifying lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincially Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs)</li> <li>• Habitats of endangered species</li> <li>• Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs)</li> <li>• Community Conservation Lands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feature must be 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) or larger</li> </ul>	Application Required
Farm Forestry Exemption (FFE)	Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)	Tax Break	100% property tax exemption for each acre of forest lands for every 10 acres of farmland to a maximum of 20 acres <sup>1</sup> .	Existing Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property must be valued as farmland</li> <li>• Cannot be enrolled in MFTIP or CLTIP</li> <li>• Cannot enroll more than 20 acres of forest</li> </ul>	Automatic Enrollment
Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program	Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA)	Cash Payment	Percentage of project establishment costs (varies) + annual per acre payment (varies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree planting and forest enhancement, restoration and expansion activities</li> <li>• ALUS also includes other stewardship activities (i.e. wetland, tall grass prairies)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-year landowner agreement</li> </ul>	Application Required

<sup>1</sup> In the 2021 Fall Economic Statement, the Government of Ontario proposed to change the maximum farm woodlot acres exempt of taxation to 30 acres from 20 acres in recognition that family farms are growing larger. However, as of February 7, 2022, the MPAC website continues to state that the maximum farm woodlot acres exempt from taxation remains at 20 acres.

## **Consultation**

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority was consulted with regards to the Alternative Land Use Services program.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications resulting from this Report.

Prepared by:



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Reviewed by:



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Director, Planning Services

Attachments: None

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