

Norfolk council votes to repair Hastings Drive

News Sep 13, 2017 by [Jeff Tribe](/norfolkcounty-author/jeff-tribe/097c5208-c43e-46af-b75e-ee826dcc7ed3/) [✉ \(mailto:jtribe@norfolknews.ca\)](mailto:jtribe@norfolknews.ca) Norfolk News

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At their conclusion, council elected to urge the province to review the Shoreline Property Assistance Act and provide further options for landowners to undertake shoreline protection improvements; not hire a coastal engineer to develop a shoreline protection plan for Long Point including county-owned lots along Hastings; and finally, to apply to the Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) for restorative work on county-owned property on Hastings Drive.

Haydt first brought the issue forward first during a meeting this May, amid rising levels of lake water and resultant community concerns. It came back to the table, driven by his fears the waters of Lake Erie, along with those of "gitchee gumee" are subject to the gales of November.

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Story continues below▼

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Haydt's efforts were forwarded against the backdrop of an active Ontario Municipal Board hearing involving Hastings Drive, and the potential ramifications of its outcome, coupled with the nature of the "51 lots" owned by the county along the roadway, purchased, suggested Coun. Peter Black, to effectively take them out of production, in what he characterized as a "hazard" zone, "a thin spit of land bordered by Lake Erie and the Big Creek Delta."

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There was also the complication pointed out Coun. Doug Brunton and Deputy Mayor Jim Oliver that the shoreline falls under LPRCA jurisdiction, not Norfolk county's, and in the words of the latter, asking them to act on the county's behalf would be a better option.

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"And get on with the work."

A vote on the first portion of the motion, urging the province to review the Shoreline Property Assistance Act and provide further options for landowners to undertake shoreline protection improvements passed easily, one on the second initiative, hiring an engineer to develop a shoreline protection plan — which would include Turkey Point, Port Dover and all Norfolk shorelines interjected Coun. Mike Columbus — was defeated 6-3 in a recorded vote, councillors Haydt, Roger Geysens and John Wells in the minority.

Prior to third motion's recorded vote, Oliver confirmed through public works general manager Lee Robinson that an LPRCA permit would be required to fix up Hastings Drive itself, and secondly, indicated his opinion his support of the motion would be in the context of repairing "a roadway." It would be money well spent, he suggested, to drag the big rubble back level, even if the repairs were effectively only for three or four years.

"To protect our roadway," he re-emphasized. "Those sections of road would merit a little bit of maintenance."

That motion passed by a 6-3 margin, councillors Black and Harold Sonnenberg and Mayor Charlie Luke opposed.

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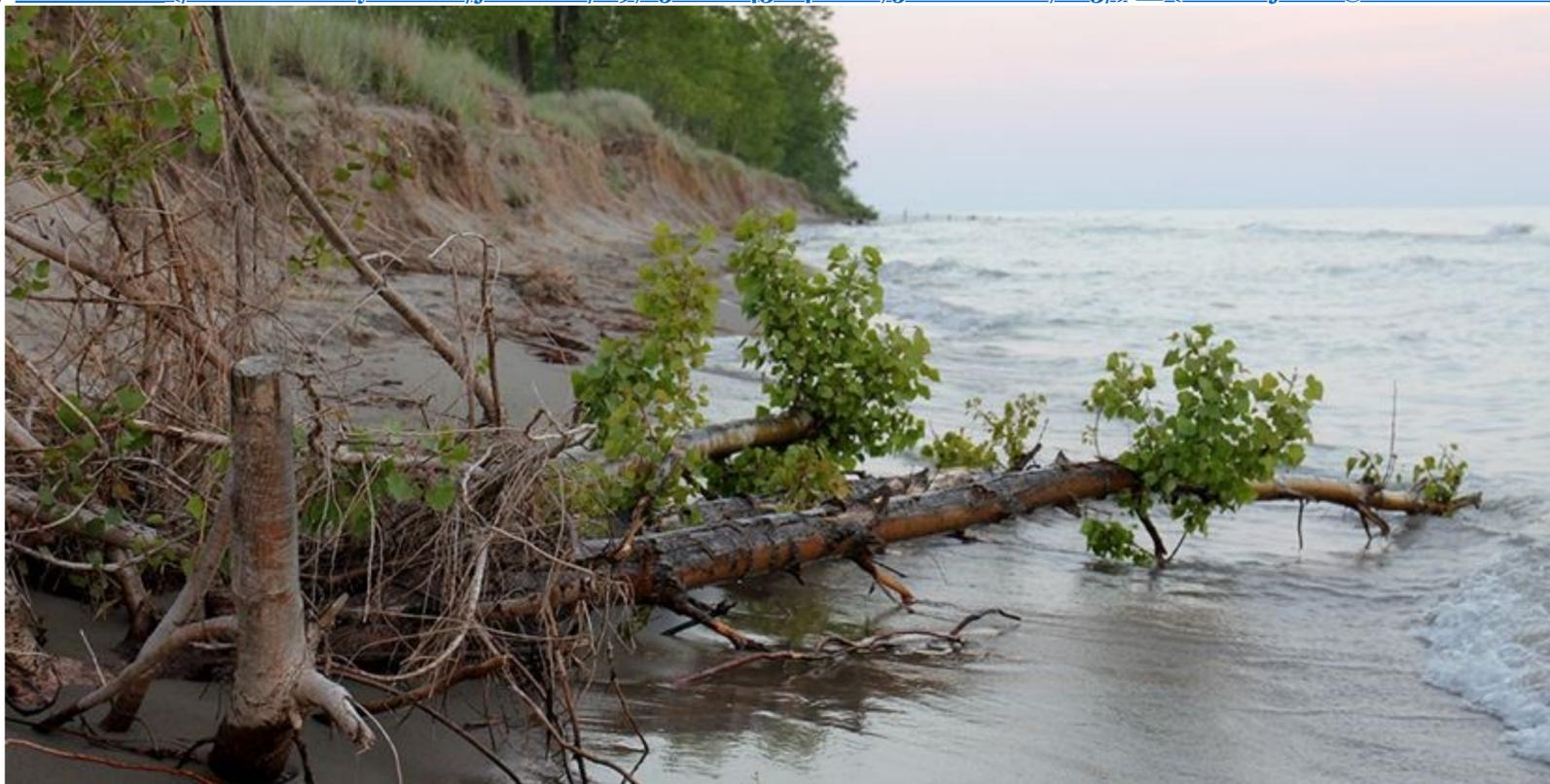
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High Lake Erie levels continue to generate concern, with anticipated November storm surges looming on the long-term historical weather horizon. - Jeff Tribe

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