



Report to Council

Department: Infrastructure Services
Division: Drainage
Date: June 1, 2026
Prepared by: Lindsay Dean, Drainage Superintendent
Report Number: Drainage-2026-12
Subject: Municipal Drainage Activity Report
Number of Pages: 5

Recommendation(s)

That Drainage-2026-12 entitled Annual Drainage Report prepared by Lindsay Dean, Drainage Superintendent dated June 1, 2026 be received.

Purpose

To update Council on the activities of the Drainage Division.

Background and Discussion

The Town of Essex has 276 municipal drains at a length of just over 1,800 km.

All Municipal Drainage activities are legislated by the Drainage Act and overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (O.M.A.F.A.).

Drainage Board

Council has delegated their authority to the Drainage Board to exercise their powers and duties under the Drainage Act with some exceptions. The term of the Drainage Board is until November 14, 2026.

The Drainage Board met 9 times in 2023 and 9 times in 2024, and 10 times in 2025. In 2026 Drainage Board met on April 9 and May 28 with an upcoming meeting on June 11.

Maintenance and Construction Activities

The Municipal Drainage works can be split into 2 main activities: Construction and Maintenance.

Construction projects are either the creation of a new drainage works by petition (Section 4) or the improvement/alteration (Section 78) of an existing drainage works.

Maintenance (Section 74) is the repair or maintenance of an existing drainage works to original design in accordance with the by-law on record.

Construction projects are billed throughout the year as projects are completed.

Drain maintenance is typically billed the year following the completion of work. This coincides with the application to the O.M.A.F.A, annually in April, for funding for farm tax class eligible properties for drain maintenance works.

The following table outlines the construction projects completed over the last 2 years and estimates the projects for 2026.

Construction Projects	2024	2025	2026
Number of Projects Completed	8	6	0
Number of Active Projects	N/A	N/A	37
Total Project Costs Incurred	\$487,384.95	\$948,298.10	\$890,109.42
Total Cost Billed	\$840,418.19	\$201,229.51	\$0
Total Cost Assessed to the Town	\$29,893.04	\$24,489.64	\$0
Grant Funding Applied	\$123,667.04	\$30,880.60**	\$0
Grant Funding Received	\$93,731.12*	\$0*	\$0

* Grant funding outstanding is anticipated to be received.

**As billings occur, this amount will be increased.

All projects that have been completed to date, have been billed. There are 8 projects that are still ongoing with expenses that were incurred prior to 2024. The total costs of those expenses incurred in previous calendar years is \$1,032,709.65. The cumulative total expenses to date for construction projects is \$3,061,387.74.

One major improvement project that finished in 2025 is the Richmond Drain Bank Stabilization capital project along the 5th Concession Road.

The following table outlines the maintenance projects completed over the last 2 years.

Maintenance Projects	2024	2025	2026
Number of Projects Completed	50	45	Work in Progress
Total Project Costs	\$261,692.13	\$323,268.77	\$112,133.06 As of April 23, 2026
Total Cost Billed	\$261,692.13	\$12,762.08 To be billed June 2026	\$0.00 To be billed in 2027
Total Cost Assessed to the Town	\$39,567.92	\$8,224.96	TBD
Grant Funding Applied	\$42,167.42 April 2025 submission	\$41,596.34 April 2026 submission	\$0.00 April 2027 submission
Grant Funding Received	\$42,167.42	\$0.00*	\$0.00

* Grant funding outstanding is anticipated to be received.

Most 2026 maintenance works are either scheduled or in the planning phase.

Financial Impact

Costs to complete drainage works are recovered from the owners of the lands and roads that use the drains in accordance with the assessment schedule for that drain, prepared by a Drainage Engineer as part of a Drainage Report. Any costs assessed to the Town of Essex for their share of these works are funded through the approved Municipal Drain Roads or Storm Sewer operating budgets. The Town incurred costs of \$69,460.96 in 2024 and \$24,240.14 in 2025 which were both within the approved budget. Per the reserve management policy, any

unspent funds for drainage works are moved to the Municipal Drainage reserve to help fund anticipated expenses related to drains as identified in the budget.

Consultations

Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services

Ann Marie Unis, Manager of Finance & Business Services

Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services

Norm Nussio, Manager, Operations & Drainage

Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☒ Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- ☐ Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- ☐ Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- ☐ Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- ☐ Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

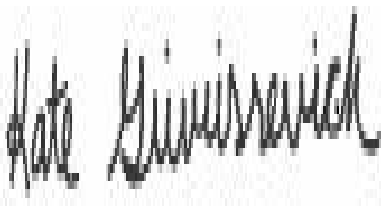
Document Title:	Annual Drainage Report 2026.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 27, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Norm Nussio, Manager, Operations and Drainage - May 27, 2026 - 9:46 AM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norm Nussio', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kevin Girard, Director, Infrastructure Services - May 27, 2026 - 1:58 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Giurissevich', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - May 27, 2026 - 3:08 PM