

I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death.  
They continue to participate in every act, thought, and decision we make.  
Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories.  
We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched  
by having shared their love.  
-Leo Buscaglia

Ms Pulleyblank & Family, we were saddened to learn about your loss of Mr. Pulleyblank.  
As the first Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA),  
Bob was instrumental in the establishment of our Conservation Authority.  
We remember that throughout his life he was a strong supporter of our organization  
and wish to honour his memory by planting a tree in his name  
as well as naming a Conservation Award after him: The Pulleyblank Award.  
In this way we can honour his contribution to our Authority  
and our region for years to come.

- our thoughts are with you as you move through this difficult time.

Sincerely and on behalf of ERCA Board and Staff,

## Tribute to Robert Pulleyblank

Robert Earl Pulleyblank was born on March 12, 1935, but was Bob to all who knew him.

At a time when environmental issues were seldom given attention, Bob was both a knowledgeable and active conservationist.

Bob dedicated his life's work to creating beautiful gardens and green spaces as owner and operator of Suburban Landscaping from 1957 until he retired in 1996. He was a member of Landscape Ontario and was President of the Windsor- Essex Heavy Construction Association. Over the years, he planted thousands of trees, plants, flowers, and millions of yards of grass.

Not only was Bob Pulleyblank an environmentalist before his time, he had a heart for his community and a concern for the well-being of others. He was a founding member of the Essex Region Goodfellows and The Sandwich South Historical Society. Bob was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion in Essex, and sponsored Oldcastle hockey and baseball teams.

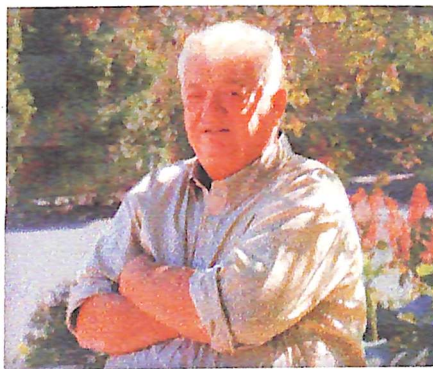
As Reeve of Sandwich South Township from 1965 to 1979, Robert worked on local improvement projects and as Essex County Warden in 1971, he assisted in community improvements throughout the entire region.

When the Essex Region Conservation Authority was established in 1973, Robert Pulleyblank was the first

Chairperson to oversee the establishment of ERCA's priorities and programs for the conservation of the region's soil, water, forests and wildlife. The first tasks were to raise funding to purchase natural areas, produce flood-plain mapping for the region, inventory the biologically significant natural areas, map and calculate the region's forested areas, and conduct a study of the shoreline and unopened road allowances and their recreation potential.

Bob and his wife Donna were married for 53 years and have 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great-grand child.

ERCA was honoured to have Robert Pulleyblank as its first Chair and, it is our honour to name the environmental achievement award for municipalities, the Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award for his dedication to conservation and his community and the Essex region.



## **2010 Conservation Award Speaking Points:**

**Conservation Awards have been awarded annually since 1992 to recognize organizations and individuals who have made tangible contributions in creating a healthy and sustainable environment for the Essex Region. On behalf of the Conservation Authority, it gives me great pleasure to recognize this year's winners.**

**Tonight we start by honouring the memory of Robert Pulleyblank, who undertook the task of overseeing the establishment of the Essex Region Conservation Authority in 1973, and to celebrate his life's work as one of the region's early environmental stewards.**

Bob Pulleyblank was born in 1935 and was an environmentalist before his time with a heart for his community and a concern for the well-being of others. He was a founding member of the Essex Region Goodfellows and The Sandwich South Historical Society. Bob was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion in Essex, and sponsored Oldcastle hockey and baseball teams.

He led an active political career, serving as Reeve of Sandwich South Township from 1965 to 1979 and Essex County Warden in 1971. Bob was the first Chair of the Essex Region Conservation Authority in 1973 and played a leadership role in establishing ERCA's priorities and programs for the conservation of our region's soil, water, forests and wildlife.

Bob and his wife Donna were married for 53 years and have 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great-grand child. Tonight it is our honour to name the environmental achievement award for municipalities the Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award for his dedication to conservation and his community.

**We ask Robert Pulleyblank's wife Donna, and his daughter Wendy, come to the front and accept a token of our gratitude to the Pulleyblank family for Bob's dedication to conservation.**



January 21, 2010  
**Media Release**  
*For Immediate Release*



**Essex Region  
Conservation  
Authority**

## **ERCA Honours Conservation Award Winners**

Essex - The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) named the winners of the 2010 Conservation Awards at its Annual General Meeting of January 20. The awards, presented since 1992, recognize individuals and organizations that have made tangible contributions to the environment in the categories of education, volunteerism, youth, and environmental achievement.

"It's a pleasure to honour those who have given so much of their time and talent to create a more sustainable region," said Richard Wyma, ERCA General Manager.

This year the Conservation Award for municipalities has been renamed the Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award, in memory of Robert Pulleyblank, ERCA's first Chair of the Board, who passed away earlier this year. This newly named award was given to the County of Essex. The County of Essex has continually pursued environmental objectives throughout its business areas, including its transportation infrastructure and land use planning functions. In 2007 the County replaced the North Branch bridge over Cedar Creek with an environmentally pro-active solution with a geothermal energy prototype to reduce the amount of salt need tot melt the ice and lessen salt runoff into Cedar Creek. In 2010, in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and ERCA, the County undertook improvements to County road 22 to compensate for drainage alterations along the road and incorporated fish habitat enhancement into their infrastructure project. Currently, the County is working with partners on an Active Transportation Plan to improve connections between regional and local systems to promote active transportation.

The Individual Environmental Achievement Award was presented to Francis Balsam. In the lat 1980's Francis made a decision to reforest his agricultural land by planting trees, constructing a pond for wetland wildlife, and set up an irrigation system to increase the vitality of his native trres.

The Conservation Farm Award was presented to the Thibert Farm of Comber. The Thiberts believe that cooperating with Mother Nature is the key to maintaining a sustainable farm business. Since 2004, they have planted over 4700 trees on 75 acres of their property, removing over 10% of land from agricultural production and restoring it to a natural state.

The John R. Park Homestead Award was presented to the Lions Club of Kingsville. The Lions were the lead applicant in the project to restore the Homestead's two largest barns, which now have new cedar roofs and improved facilities for visitors and volunteers. The Lions also worked on the Kingsville Train Station and arboretum project, so the many users of the Kingsville section of the Chrysler Canada Greenway can learn about the many different native tree and plant species planted in the Arboretum.

This Conservation Award for Education was awarded to Mr. Ron Tiessen, who has spent more than twenty years helping to educate people about the human and natural heritage of Pelee Island. In 1987, he began the Pelee Island Heritage Centre, which has evolved into a key destination for the many tourists to Pelee. Ron was key to assisting the Nature Conservancy of Canada with the successful acquisition and protection of Florian Diamante Nature Reserve property. He initiated and managed trail improvements at Fish Point and Lighthouse Point and the restoration of the Pelee Island Lighthouse, and helped to create and install educational signage surrounding each of these key features.

## **The County of Essex is the recipient of the Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award**

The County of Essex continues to pursue environmental objectives throughout its business areas, including its transportation infrastructure and land use planning functions. These activities are often achieved through private and public partnerships.

In 2011, the County will be completing a Natural Heritage Strategy which will be used to develop the Official Plans and natural heritage policies. This Strategy being undertaken in partnership with ERCA and lower tier municipalities, will document the location and extent of existing natural heritage features and prioritize areas for habitat restoration, enhancement and management.

The Active Transportation Plan will outline a comprehensive network of on-road corridors and off-road trails to link County and selected local roads and improve connections and promote active transportation. The study is being guided by a steering committee that includes representatives from the seven municipalities, the City of Windsor, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and ERCA.

When the bridge on the North Branch of Cedar Creek was replaced in 2007, the County used an environmentally pro-active solution to replace the structure, which is located over a provincially significant wetland. The bridge deck was constructed with a geothermal energy prototype reducing the amount of salt needed to melt ice, lessening the impact of salt run-off into the environmentally sensitive Cedar Creek.

In 2010, the County partnered with the Ministry of Transportation and ERCA to install a bridge on Essex County Road 22 at the Pike Creek crossing. In this infrastructure project, they incorporated a fish habitat by creating a large wetland adjacent to the bridge. The wetland was planted with aquatic plants and the side slopes were stabilized with native plant species which also provides habitat for fish and wildlife.

The County of Essex has worked collaboratively with ERCA on many other projects to incorporate habitat enhancement features into the County's infrastructure, they also have an ongoing partnership with ERCA for sharing and support for the GIS mapping applications. For these reasons and many others, we are honoured to present the County of Essex with the Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award.

# Founding member of ERCA honoured

BY DAN SCHWAB

Essex-born Robert Pulleyblank was honoured last week by the Essex Region Conservation Authority, which named an award after the late environmentalist.

Pulleyblank, who lost his fight with cancer on July 22, 2010, undertook the task of overseeing the establishment of ERCA in 1973, becoming its first chairperson.

"He was an environmentalist before his time with a heart for his community and a concern for the well-being of others," said Susanne Tomkins, acting director of communications for ERCA, during the organization's annual general meeting and awards ceremony on Jan. 20 in Windsor.

"He played a leadership role in establishing ERCA's priorities and programs for the conservation of our region's soil, water, forest and wildlife," Tomkins said. "Tonight, it is our honour to name the Environmental Achievement Award for municipalities, the Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award, for his dedication and conservation for his community."

After the announcement, Pulleyblank's wife Donna and daughter Wendy were invited up to the stage to receive congratulations from ERCA's new chair Percy Hatfield.

"It was a nice way to honour my dad," said Wendy after the event. "It was very fitting."

Pulleyblank owned and operated Suburban Landscaping from 1957 until his retirement in 1996. He also served as reeve of Sandwich South Township from 1965 until 1979 and became Essex County warden in 1971.

His experience in both landscaping and politics made him the perfect candidate to become ERCA's first chair back in 1973, Wendy said.

She says environmentalism was always close her father's heart and is some-

thing he instilled in his children's lives too.

The 2010 recipient of the new Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award is The County of Essex.

Donna Pulleyblank and her daughter Wendy accept a bouquet of flowers as a token of gratitude during an awards ceremony hosted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority last week.

The late Robert Pulleyblank was honoured with a new conservation award being named after him.



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# Essex Legion welcomes fourth generation family members



Justin, Wendy, and Earl R. joined the Essex Legion on Wednesday, bringing four generations of Pulleyblanks to the branch. Pictured inset: Howard Pulleyblank.

by Sylene Argent

Last Wednesday evening, during the Essex Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 201) meeting, three Pulleyblanks were welcomed into the Essex Legion family. The installation of Wendy, Earl

R., and Justin Pulleyblank brought four generations of the Pulleyblank family into the Essex Legion.

Wendy said she has resided in Essex for six years and was eager to join the Essex Legion. Her Grandfather Earl M. Pulleyblank was a World

War I Veteran and past President of the Essex Legion branch in the mid '40s.

Her grandfather lied about his age to get enlisted in the Great War. He began his military career as a drummer. After around a year of service, he was

gassed at Vimy Ridge in 1917 and was medically discharged. Wendy said her grandfather was stationed behind the Canadian troops and the wind blew the gas back towards them after it had been deployed.

Earl M. grew up in St. Mary's, Ontario. He made a life in Essex starting in around the 1930s. Earl

fathered six children. Earl's oldest son Howard was in the Navy during WW2.

Wendy said her grandfather didn't talk much about his involvement in the Great War. She found out about his involvement after Earl M. passed away in 1983 at 82-years of age.

Wendy's father, Robert, constantly took his father to London every couple of months for medical care because of lung problems due to the gassing. Though the incident affected his health, his medical discharge likely saved his life as many were killed later in the war.

Robert was also an Essex Legion member. He passed away this spring. In



Robert's and Earl M.'s memory, two of Robert's children, Wendy and Earl R., and his grandson Justin decided to become Essex Legion members. Justin's twin brother Jeffrey, Wendy said, is in the military and transferred from the Riverside Legion to join the Essex branch with his family.

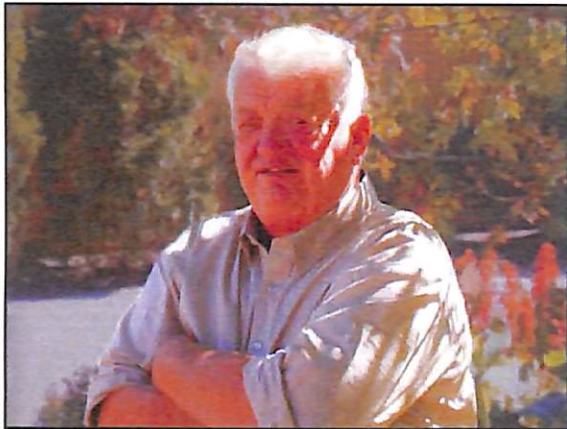
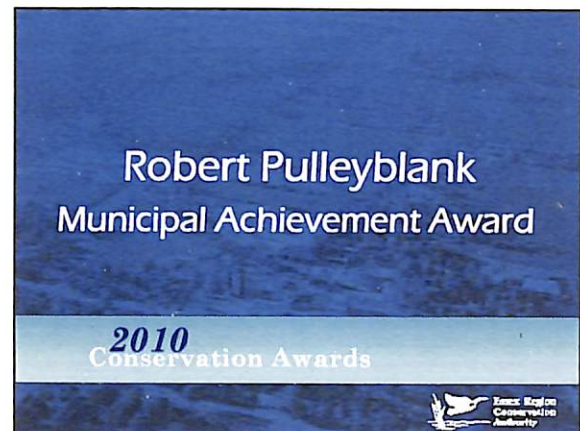
## INDIAN RIVER DIRECT

### CITRUS TRUCKLOAD SALE

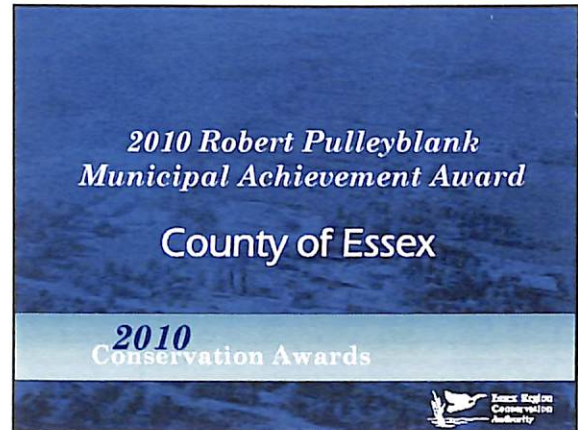
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# — ESSEX REGION CONSERVATION AWARDS NIGHT - JAN 27, 2011

















## Robert Pulleyblank Municipal Achievement Award

### Town of Tecumseh



The Town of Tecumseh is going green!, proclaims their website, and ERCA agrees. In 2010, Tecumseh invested in one of the largest roof top solar systems in Canada at their municipal arena. The project provides 35 per cent of the arena's energy needs and, combined with retro-fitting sparked by the project, has turned the arena from an energy hog into a green machine.

Also in 2010, the municipality partnered with ERCA to improve the trails at McAuliffe Woods. They have been widened, improving footing for walkers and providing accessibility for trail users with special needs.

In 2011, the Town of Tecumseh and ERCA completed a Natural Heritage Inventory of 38 woodland sites located throughout the municipality. Through this study, private landowner permission was granted for ERCA crews to measure the vegetation, wildlife and species at risk characteristics of natural areas. This information

will be used by the Town for their Official Plan Review, and will also inform the planning and management of parks and trails.

This year, in partnership with ERCA and the Provincial MOE, a program was initiated to assist homeowners with the cost of disconnecting downspouts and foundation drains. Reducing the amount of water in sanitary sewers helps alleviate basement flooding, and also reduce sewage bypasses which can threaten drinking water sources.

2012 also saw the grand opening of the Town's signature Waterfront Park North. Some of the park's highlights include a waterfront boardwalk and observation pier, sandy beach, display gardens featuring heritage species and native plants, and access to a community wide cycling trail.

The Town also initiated a park planning process for Lakewood Park South, the former golf course that was acquired in 2010. The planning process is still underway, and based on community input a final park design is expected to provide a large community green space that incorporates naturalized areas including groves of native Carolinian trees, and a section of Pike Creek.



## **I Am**

I am the future protector of our earth.

I love this earth!

I love listening to the sounds of birds chirping in my backyard.

I want to keep the earth clean.

I feel great when I see people picking up litter and recycling.

But, I worry that the earth will not always get clean.

I try my best by planting trees and flowers.

I go to the greenest school in Canada, Dr. David Suzuki Public school.

I learn first-hand all about our environment.

I want to keep our earth clean and healthy.

I don't understand why everyone won't make a difference.

But I know I can make a difference!

My grandfather, Bob Pulleyblank, taught me about our environment.

I wonder what the earth was like 40 years ago when ERCA began.

I wonder if our earth will be even better in the next 40 years.

I am sure it will with ERCA there to make it safe for us to enjoy!

I am the future protector of our earth.

Submitted by Monica Pulleyblank

Age 10 years old

519-974-3472

1004 Belleperche Place, Windsor, Ontario





## Legacy Garden dedicated at St. Clair



submitted to EFP

St. Clair College and Landscape Ontario dedicated a Legacy Garden on June 3rd at St. Clair College for local landscapers who made an impact in the field of landscape technology. One of the local landscapers honoured was Bob Pulleyblank, who owned and operated Suburban Landscaping in Oldcastle for over 50 years.

Pulleyblank hired hundreds of area students, especially ones from the horticulture department of St. Clair College.

throughout Essex County and Windsor, in particular the Kings Navy Yard Park in Amherstburg, the Leamington Marina, the Odette Business building at the University of Windsor, the Windsor Riverfront Park, and E.C.

Row Parkway, to name a few. His family is proud of his accomplishments that are still visible today.

Pictured are members of the Pulleyblank family: Melissa, Monica, Earl holding grandson, Kallen, Wendy, Shannon & Jeffrey.



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- Bacon
- Oven Roasted Chicken with Potatoes

- Sausage
- Penne
- Tea

- Coffee/





manufacturing facilities. He founded the Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario, advocated tirelessly for the Detroit River, and has inspired generations of environmental advocates. (presented posthumously)

**City of Windsor** – Robert Pulleyblank Award for Municipal Environmental Achievement for its significant work in climate adaptation and mitigation, leadership in adopting a Climate Emergency declaration, the completion of the Sewer Master Plan to reduce flooding risks, and the significant engineering studies to protect the Riverside area from flooding. The City has also made tree canopy one of its top priorities, and committed \$2.5 million to protected Pêche Island from erosion while undertaking the largest habitat restoration program on the Canadian side of the Detroit River to date.

**Ray Renaud** – Special Recognition for Environmental Leadership for his tenure as ERCA Chair, and his longstanding commitment to environmental sustainability. Accomplishments included his advocacy to create Petite Cote as a publicly accessible Conservation Area in LaSalle, and his leadership in supporting the development of the Clean Water ~ Green Spaces initiative.

**Danielle Breault Stuebing** – Dennis Chase Staff Award for being a dedicated ambassador of the Place For Life, and leading ERCA's Community Outreach Team in executing countless events, and reaching thousands of citizens of all ages on many important environmental and educational topics. Recognized for 20 years of service, this award honours kindness, spirit, and appreciation for others.

A full copy of [ERCA's Annual Report](#) and corresponding [video](#), as well as the Conservation Award Winners, can be found at [www.essexregionconservation.ca/erca-resources](http://www.essexregionconservation.ca/erca-resources)

Since 1973, Essex Region Conservation has been sustaining and enriching the environment of the Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island region to ensure it is the Place for Life.

-30-

#### **Media Contacts:**

##### **Danielle Breault Stuebing**

Director, Communications & Outreach Services

519-776-5209 ext.352

[dstuebing@erca.org](mailto:dstuebing@erca.org)



Tuesday, January 21, 2020

### **ERCA Seeking Youth Environment Ambassador Nominations**

Essex – The Essex Region Conservation Authority is seeking nominations from youth aged 16 to 29 across Windsor-Essex interested in making a positive impact on the local environment as Youth...

[Read More](#)

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

### **Essex Region Conservation to host Annual General Meeting**



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On July 18, ERCA is founded as the 37th Conservation Authority in Ontario by Order in Council 1900/73, which stated "the Authority has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams within the County of Essex flowing into Lake St. Clair, Detroit River and Lake Erie".

An office is established in what is now MacKenzie Hall in Windsor. Bob Pulleyblank is elected as our first Chairman.





# Conservation officers elected Pulleyblank heads authority

LEAMINGTON — Robert Pulleyblank, reeve of Sandwich South, defeated St. Clair Beach Reeve Fred Cada in elections Tuesday night to the post of chairman to the new Essex Region Conservation Authority.

The choice of officers to the new authority was the main item of business as 27 of the 28 municipal delegates to the body gathered in the Leamington District High School for the authority's inaugural meeting.

Seated like rows of students in the classroom, the delegates hunched over the turquoise school desks to write their picks for chairman, vice-

to the executive board, on slips of paper.

They chose Malden Reeve Hilton Brush over Windsor Alderman Maurice Armstrong for the job of vice-chairman but later elected Mr. Armstrong to the executive board.

Also on the board are: Mr. Cada, Tecumseh Mayor Donald Lappan, Windsor Mayor Fred D. Maidstone, County of Middlesex Council Mullins.

The term of office until the annual meeting, likely in January or February.

Mr. Pulleyblank admitted he had "nothing" for

chairman, promised he will visit other authorities this winter to bone up on them.

He suggested the authority owes a vote of thanks to Windsor Mayor Frank Wansbrough who campaigned actively last year among the county municipalities for the co-operation to form the authority.

The Sand...

Article covering ERCA's inception, September 12, 1973



## Lake rips out bank

Big waves which came during heavy rain last night ripped out a large section of the bank at Lake Erie, leaving a deep hole in the shore.



Robert Pulleyblank, 1973

## Beaches vanishing as lakes chew at shore

Some beaches along Lake Ontario and Erie could vanish because of continuing erosion along their shorelines.

Gravelly and St. Catharines, on Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie, have already lost substantial amounts of beach this year and other stretches are eroding.

Although lake levels for the year are now at their peak, reflecting an artificial high position, authorities admit that the erosion of the coastline is now at a critical stage.

A federal provincial study,

expected to be released later this year, is looking at shoreline property damage and the increasing rate of erosion.

In some areas that rate is alarming. The water cutting away at the coastline at about two feet a year.

A spokesman for the ministry of natural resources in Toronto said yesterday that the study is expected to suggest measures to help slow down erosion along the lake shorelines.

Meanwhile, reports are coming in from various points along the shore that the erosion is now at a critical stage.

But there are problems, as Nicholas Perreault, engineer in charge of the water planning and management branch for the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters, Ontario region, points out.

"When you take action to stop erosion, it could cause serious aggravation of another problem," he said yesterday.

"For instance, we are often reluctant to put up with Lake Ontario erosion. But if we did let more out we would cause serious damage to hundreds of properties."

"Where you're working with such a large body of water, and only have small means to release water,

then you have to be very careful."

Mr. Perreault also talks at the construction of breakwaters offshore with trepidation. "People must say the most acceptable, and only way of cutting down erosion would be to build one massive wall around the lake."

They're right, in a way. That, obviously, would be impractical, costly, and rather short sighted when you consider other areas of the lake have very low levels.

But even the construction of breakwaters in one location can cause problems on either side of that point. You can safeguard one

place effectively, but you place too much aggravation on the other.

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Only a thin strip of sand is left at Burlington beach on the Burlington side.



Erie".

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They chose Malden Reeve  
Hilton Brush over Windsor  
Alderman Maurice Armstrong  
for the job of vice-chairman  
but later elected Mr.  
Armstrong to the executive  
board.

Also on the board are: Mr.  
Cade, "Tecumseh" Mayor  
Donald Lappan,  
Mayor Fred D.  
Masonville Coun.  
Mullins.

The term of offi  
until the annual m  
year, likely in a  
February.

Mr. Pulleyblank  
admitted he h  
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chairman, promised he will  
visit other authorities this  
winter to bone up on them.

He suggested the authority  
over a vote of thanks to  
Windsor Mayor Frank  
Wansbrough who campaigned  
actively last year among the  
county municipalities for the  
co-operation to form the  
authority.

CAN Incapacities, September 12, 1973

