



2000

Annual Report

Board Members:



LSRCA Chair: Councillor Margaret Jordan
York Region, Town of Georgina

LSRCA Vice-Chair: Councillor Roy Bridge
Town of Innisfil

Councillor Keith Bacon/Jim McMillen
Durham Region, Township of Scugog

Mr. J.O. Dales
York Region, Member At Large

Alderman Alison Eadie
City of Barrie

Councillor Harold Lodwick
Durham Region, Township of Brock

Councillor Ruth Lyons
Townships of Mariposa,
Eldon & Village of Woodville

Mayor Jim Morton
York Region, Town of East Gwillimbury

Regional Councillor Susan Para
Durham Region, Township of Uxbridge

Councillor Steve Pliakes
York Region, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Mr. George R. Richardson
York Region, Town of Newmarket

Councillor Harry Vander Kooij
York Region, Township of King

Councillor Sharon Villani

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Lake Simcoe Trivia

With a **surface area of 725 square kilometres**, Lake Simcoe is



Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
and Town of New Tecumseth

Councillor John G. West
York Region, Town of Aurora

southern Ontario's largest body of water, exclusive of the Great Lakes.

Lake Simcoe is a source of **drinking water for five municipalities, and supports a TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR Tourism/Recreation Industry.**

Lake Simcoe is the "Ice Fishing Capital" of Ontario.

The **2,848 square kilometre watershed** sweeps north from the Oak Ridges Moraine through parts of York and Durham Regions, the City of Kawartha Lakes and Simcoe County... crossing **23 municipal boundaries** in all.

The most sought after fish species include lake trout, yellow perch, and lake whitefish.

Thirty five rivers flow into Lake Simcoe. The Holland River, Black River, Beaver River, Pefferlaw Brook and Uxbridge Brook drain 60 percent of the watershed, and **four of these start in the Oak Ridges Moraine.**

Needs A Minimum Of \$1 Million Per Year - For The Next Two Decades To Protect Lake Simcoe, \$200 Million Resource.



OUR MISSION:

to maintain, improve and promote the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed in partnership with our municipalities and our communities.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) delivers environmental programs and services to parts of York and Durham Regions, Simcoe County and the City of Kawartha Lakes.



YOUR LAND---- YOUR WATER----YOUR FUTURE

"Water Quality: Headline News And Our Top Priority"

Chair's Message

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) will remember the year 2000 as a time when water made headline news. From the Oak Ridges Moraine groundwater issue to the unfolding tragedy in Walkerton, the vulnerability of our natural water resources has never been so blatantly obvious. In their search for leadership and vision, **communities across the province are turning to Ontario's Conservation Authorities** to find a tradition of commitment and success in watershed management.

Since its inception in 1951 the Conservation Authority has expanded six times, in order to address the Lake Simcoe watershed. **Our work** with grass roots organizations, municipalities, and government agencies to deliver effective environmental programs and services **has created a broad base of support and respect. On May 18th, 2000, 37 municipal representatives** from across the watershed demonstrated their faith in the organization's leadership and vision, and **unanimously voted to expand the LSRCA's area of jurisdiction to include 6,700 acres of land in the Township of Brock, north to the Talbot River.**

We have also received word that the Township of Oro-Medonte has pledged to join the Conservation Authority in the coming year.

With a surface area of 725 square kilometres, **Lake Simcoe** is southern Ontario's largest body of water exclusive of the Great Lakes. In addition to being **a source of drinking water** for five municipalities the Lake also supports **a \$200 million tourism and recreation industry**. Its 2,848 square kilometre watershed (drainage basin) sweeps north from the Oak Ridges Moraine around the Lake to cross 23 municipal boundaries. **Strong community support, creative partnerships, and an additional one million dollars in annual funds are needed to protect Lake Simcoe's water quality.**

Our mission is to maintain, improve and promote the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed in partnership with our municipalities and our community. Thanks to the generosity of our member municipalities, provincial and federal partners, the LSRCA has completed five **Subwatershed Plans**. These plans are designed to **"protect what is natural and restore what has degraded"** in the Lake Simcoe watershed. With continued support, Watershed Management Strategies are to be generated for each of the Lake's outstanding tributaries in the next few years.

As lead agency of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy, the LSRCA entered into negotiations with the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham, the County of Simcoe, the Ministries of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Food And Rural Affairs, the Environment, and Municipal Affairs and Housing **to see the program enter Phase III, to Participate in and ultimately restore the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its coldwater fishery.** The Phase III LSEMS Team will be expanded to include partnerships with local municipalities.

As the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, I have every confidence that our dedicated Board Members and talented staff will meet targets set out in our Strategic Plan and vision. They are a pleasure to work with, and I thank each one for a wonderful term.

Margaret Jordan, LSRCA Chair

"Partnerships Work"

Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer's Message:

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority kept true to its mandate in the year 2000 by forging new alliances, and developing existing partnerships, destined to have long-lasting benefits for all those who work, live and play in the Lake Simcoe Watershed.

In addition to signing a **Groundwater Monitoring Agreement** with the Ministry of the Environment, forming the **Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition** with eight other Conservation Authorities and working in co-operation with the federal **Department of Fisheries and Oceans** to protect and enhance Lake Simcoe's fish habitats - **we also managed to expand our area of jurisdiction this year** and now deliver programs and services to the southern region of the Talbot River Subwatershed.

As the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority approaches its 50th Anniversary in 2001, our staff and Board Members continue a tradition of success by playing key leadership roles in water quality and watershed health issues each day.

This year the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority launched a **"Clean Water Incentive Program,"** in partnership with the Township of Uxbridge and Uxbridge Brook Watershed Committee, to reduce surface water contamination in the Uxbridge Brook Watershed. A Watershed Management Strategy was completed for the **East Holland River**, as part of "A Natural Partnership" with the Regional Municipality of York, and the LSRCA worked with the Towns of Georgina, East Gwillimbury and the Regional Municipality of York to implement the **Maskinonge River Watershed Strategy**.

The Conservation Authority's unique watershed-based approach to managing natural resources drew international attention last year. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Canadian International Development Agency invited LSRCA staff to share its expertise with the State Council of China and City of Tianjin on the Yuqiao Reservoir Pollution Control Project. After two years of globe-trotting, we successfully wrapped-up the project in the fall of 2000.

The LSRCA's Member Municipalities, Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament and local government agencies have all been tremendously supportive of the Conservation Authority and its works in 2000, for which I extend by my deepest gratitude. The Conservation Authority's Staff and Board Members have also invested a lot of time and energy into transforming challenges into business opportunities and improving client services, for which I am also very grateful.

With a 10-year Business Plan and vision in hand, and the excellent relations we have with our partners, there are many reasons to hope for great things in the future. I hope you will join us in 2001 as we celebrate our "Golden Anniversary", and will help us build a solid foundation for the next fifty years of efforts to enhance the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

Yours truly,

D. Gayle Wood

Conservation Authorities And The Ministry Of The Environment Are Protecting Your

Groundwater

The Lake Simcoe Region conservation Authority has entered into a groundwater monitoring agreement with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The LSRCA is one of seven Conservation Authorities invited to participate in a province-wide monitoring network, which is part of a quarter-million dollar groundwater protection initiative.

Protecting the health and quality of Lake Simcoe - a \$200 million dollar resource - and its headwaters has been the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's top priority for decades. Thanks to a recent agreement with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), the LSRCA now has funding to assess the watershed's groundwater resources.

The groundwater monitoring agreement is an excellent opportunity for the LSRCA to collect baseline data, identify recharge areas, and assess the availability and overall quality of our groundwater resources in the watershed. It will also help the Conservation Authority provide its member municipalities with an understanding of local groundwater sources so that they can make the best land-use decisions possible, as well as protect public interest and natural water sources.

Lake Simcoe's drainage basin spans 2,848 square kilometres and sweeps north from the Oak Ridges Moraine through parts of York and Durham Regions, the City of Kawartha Lakes, and Simcoe County. As the LSRCA works with groundwater network partners to pick ten sites across the watershed, it is also working with the two Regions and Simcoe County to determine which water quality parameters these monitoring stations are to be tested for.

The Network is considering testing sites in Oro-Medonte, Innisfil, East Gwillimbury, Bradford West Gwillimbury, King, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, Brock, and Ramara.

Once the sampling sites have been selected, the Ministry of the Environment has agreed to invest close to \$100,000 to purchase and install the groundwater monitoring equipment and set up the database. The LSRCA expects to spend about \$100,000 over the next five years to deliver the program and monitor groundwater quality.

Groundwater levels will be monitored on a continuous basis, and data analysis will be conducted at each of the ten sites at least twice a year. This will provide valuable information which will assist in the Conservation Authority's abilities to make land-use planning decisions.

Historical Vote

A wave of excitement swept through the audience on May 18th, as 37 municipal representatives from across the watershed unanimously voted to expand the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's area of jurisdiction to include 6,700 acres in the Township of Brock. Since its inception in 1951, the Conservation Authority's name and geographical area of responsibility has changed six times as its partnerships with local municipalities grew. With this most recent expansion, the Conservation Authority can now offer its environmental programs and services to those living in the southern part of the Talbot River subwatershed.

This is a very exciting and important event in the organization's 49th year. In order to achieve our mission, we need to partner with all municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed - this is a key step in that direction.

With this latest expansion, the LSRCA has the footing to deliver pilot programs and services to Lake Simcoe's north-shore communities, to encourage them to join efforts to protect this fragile ecosystem.

The Regional Municipality of Durham applauded the 37 municipal representatives for supporting the expansion as the Conservation Authority has played a vital role in the Region's continued environmental health.

Conservation Authorities Form The Oak Ridges "Moraine Coalition"

As a source of headwaters for Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe, Lake Scugog, Haliburton Lakes, Kawartha Lakes, and Lake Ontario, the Oak Ridges Moraine plays a key role in Ontario's water cycle. We can not fail to protect this incredible resource.

On December 9th, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority joined the Credit Valley, Nottawasaga, Toronto and Region, Central Lake Ontario, Kawartha, Ganaraska, Otonabee and Lower Trent Conservation Authorities to form the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition.

Collectively, the nine Conservation Authorities own close to 10,000 hectares (5%) of the 160 km long geological formation, making them responsible for the largest and most strategically located tracts of land along the Oak Ridges Moraine. **The Coalition plans to bring the full force of its collective holdings and scientific expertise to bear on Provincial Policy, and help shape municipal planning.**

The Coalition's key goals include, but are not limited to:

Developing a long term Oak Ridges Moraine Land Conservation Strategy to protect the natural features and functions of the Moraine, and ensure that the health and quality of 35 headwaters are not compromised by human activities;

Acquiring and conserving strategic lands linking significant wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, forests, valleys and woodlands, and important natural landscape features across the Moraine.

Advocate the formation of an Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

Future generations will thank the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition for the steps it is taking as they will profoundly impact on their recreational and conservation areas, wildlife reserves, and natural water resources.

Ducks Unlimited has stated that Conservation Authorities are the single most effective voice for watersheds in the province. Conservation Authorities have also been recognized internationally for their success in conserving natural watershed systems in urban and rural areas.

Technical Services - Watershed Management Protecting Lives & Land

The Technical Services Team is part of the Watershed Management Division. Team members review development proposals, provide environmental feedback, and contribute to watershed plans which ensure that the public's safety, your property, and the integrity of our natural water resources are not compromised by human activities, regional storms, and/or soil erosion.

From Barrie to the Oak Ridges Moraine, Uxbridge to Beaverton, and all spaces in between the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Technical Services Team monitors and maintains its flood forecasting system so that we can issue warnings whenever human lives, property and structures may be at risk from the damaging effects of floods.

**A total of 15
Flood Bulletins
were issued in 2000.**

While most of us think of floods as a seasonal phenomenon, wet basements and washed-out roads can be experienced any time of the year. Luckily, the LSRCA's planning and regulation process is in place to protect you, the environment, and your community from the damaging effects of unsound building practices and other human activities.

Provincial law states that anyone considering conducting certain activities along a waterway, in a floodplain or other "fill regulated areas" (i.e. water courses, steep slopes, wetlands, and other environmentally sensitive areas), are required to obtain a permit before they proceed. As a result, the Technical Services Team review permit applications pertaining to the placement of fill; construction of any building or structure in a flood susceptible area; and/or alterations to a watercourse.

In addition to making sure applications fall within guidelines set in the Conservation Authorities Act, the LSRCA's Technical Services Team also reviews proposals which may impact on fish and wildlife habitat as part of a recent agreement signed with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

**Of the 541 permits
processed in 2000,
99 were reviewed by DFO, and
11 were identified as potentially putting fish habitat at risk.**

In addition to maintaining the LSRCA's flood monitoring system, erosion control structures, and issuing flood alerts the Technical Services Team also offers an environmental review service to our member municipalities, private businesses, and watershed residents. This provides the Conservation Authority with the opportunity to promote its wholistic, watershed-based approach to managing natural resources while providing technical analysis of, and comments on, various land use planning and development applications.

The Technical Services Team provided comments on the following in 2000:

314 Official Plan Amendments and Zoning Bylaw Applications
156 Requests for Land Severances
139 Subdivision Applications (a 308% increase over 1999 figures)
92 Site Plans for Schools, Commercial Zones, etc.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Staff also responded to:

350 Property Information Requests
86 Complaints/Permit Violations Reported By The Public

This Year's Highlights:

Entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources, to assist them in dealing with times of drought, as outlined in the "Ontario Water Response 2000" Plan. The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has agreed to convene a "Water Response Team", in times of pending drought, which will identify appropriate courses of action for the community to take as a whole.

Pooled expertise and resources with five other Conservation Authorities to streamline the flood warning process and further our ability to accurately predict flood events.

Distributed more than 90 copies of the LSRCA's Flood Contingency Plan to LSRCA employees, Board Members, Municipalities, and Ministry of Natural Resources staff.

Enlisted the aid of URS Cole Sherman and Associates Limited to review the Holland Marsh Drainage Commission's proposal for cleaning-out the Holland Marsh canals and rebuilding the dyke system.

Assisted municipalities and residents in addressing flood/fill infractions. Participated in legal actions to enforce provincial regulations, and secure a number of convictions.

The LSRCA's 2000 Technical Services Team Included:

Reinie Vos:
Director, Watershed Management

Tom Hogenbirk, Alissa Horbal,
Kevin Kennedy, Murray Kinniburgh, Susan Moore, June Murphy,
Brook Piotrowski, and David Whyte

Environmental Services - Watershed Management Science At Work

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Environmental Services Team has the technical and scientific expertise needed to develop and deliver core services and programs that will maintain, improve and promote the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

As part of the Conservation Authority's Watershed Management Division, the Environmental Services Team works with private landowners, municipalities, and government agencies to complete conservation works which will enhance Your Land - Your Water - Your Future.

Watershed Biologists, Forestry Staff, Geographic Information Systems Experts and the Environmental Services Manager help municipalities identify local water quality issues, assess overall subwatershed health, and then determine what environmental actions need to take place in order to "protect what is natural and restore what has degraded" in a drainage basin. By facilitating Subwatershed Plans, the Environmental Services Team can promote the LSRCA's unique approach to managing natural resources, while providing environmental planners with the framework they need to oversee sustainable growth in the Lake Simcoe Watershed.

Thanks to the generous support of our federal, provincial, and municipal partners the LSRCA has completed Subwatershed Plans for the Uxbridge Brook, Maskinonge River, East Holland River, Hewitt and Lovers Creek.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is confident that its talented staff and committed supporters will be able to generate Subwatershed Plans for each of the remaining Lake Simcoe tributaries, in the next few years. The highlights listed below were achieved as a direct result of the excellent working relations we enjoy with our partners.

Watershed Plan Updates

Launched a "Clean Water Incentive Program" in co-operation with the Township of Uxbridge and the Uxbridge Brook Watershed Committee to reduce surface water contamination of the Uxbridge Brook and its tributaries.

Established water quality sampling stations in the Maskinonge River and Uxbridge Brook Subwatersheds which will help measure the success of projects completed to date, and track changes in aquatic system health.

Continued Implementing the Maskinonge River Remedial Strategy, in co-operation with the Town of Georgina. Construction on the River Glen Stormwater Pond began this year and will be completed in the spring of 2001. This Stormwater Pond will help reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe by 27 kg per year.

Developed a comprehensive Watershed Management Strategy for the East Holland River and began implementing recommendations through "A Natural Partnership" with Regional Municipality of York, in co-operation with the Towns of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Aurora, Newmarket, and East Gwillimbury.

Partnered with the Town of Newmarket, and contributed \$65,000 towards the construction on the Cane Parkway Stormwater Management Facility in order to improve water quality in the East Holland River. The project will be completed in 2001 at a total cost of about \$500,000. The Town has invested the majority of the funds, with additional monies coming from the North Newmarket Lions Club, Nokiidaa Committee, and Eco-Action 2000.

Completed the Julia Court Erosion Control Project, and naturalized 25 metres of shoreline along the "Western Creek" in Newmarket, thanks to \$2,500 invested by the Town.

Naturalized 500 metres of shoreline along Fairy Lake, with financial support from the Town of Newmarket,

Nokiidaa Committee and Eco-Action 2000. The three partners invested a total of \$45,000 in the project, which was designed to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality in the East Holland River Subwatershed.

Completed a "Total Water Quality Study" in partnership with the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham. Recommendations are to be implemented in 2001.

Began the Black River Watershed Study in partnership with the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham, the Township of Uxbridge, and the Towns of Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville. An inventory of streambank erosion along the Black River was completed in 2000, with the support of the Wilderness Preservation Foundation. The state of the environment report is to be issued, along with a strategic plan outlining steps to protect this natural resource, in 2001.

Supported the Township of Brock, Beaverton Conservation Club, and Ministry of Natural Resources in the stabilization and revegetation of parts of the Beaver River.

"LSEMS" And "LEAP"

Scientists in the 1970's attributed the decline of Lake Simcoe's health and coldwater fishery to excessive amounts of phosphorus entering our waterways. By implementing recommendations made in the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy we can restore the Lake's water quality, and naturally reproducing coldwater fishery.

Phosphorous is an incredible fertilizer - one gram of the nutrient can generate up to 500 grams of aquatic plant life! While most gardeners would love to see that kind of growth in their vegetable patch, watershed residents around Lake Simcoe know only too well the damaging effects phosphorus has on our waterways.

From the aromatic winds of summers, to the heaps of green algae rotting on Lake Simcoe's shores, excessive phosphorus is more than a public nuisance - it is upsetting the Lake's delicate ecosystem.

When anglers reported a decline in Lake Simcoe's Lake Trout population, scientists investigated the situation and determined that extraordinary amounts of phosphorus from urban and rural sources were fueling algae blooms - much to the detriment of coldwater fish species. It was discovered that decaying algae blooms were depleting the water of oxygen, and raising water temperatures... ruining limited fish habitat.

As the lead agency for the **Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS)**, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has worked with the Ministries of Natural Resources, the Environment, and Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs as well as Simcoe County and the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham to restore Lake Simcoe's coldwater fishery. The LSEMS Landowner Environmental Assistance Program (LEAP) provides individuals with the technical and financial support they need to complete conservation works which reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our waterways. For example, projects which reduce soil erosion, stabilize streambanks, reforest priority lands, and improve manure/milkhouse waste storage facilities.

In the last 10 years, the LSEMS Team has reduced the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe by an estimated 16.5 tonnes per year.

This year, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority entered negotiations with its partners to ensure that the implementation of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy continues into its third phase with an expanded partnership.

Forestry

As there are many benefits to planting trees, such as reducing soil erosion, slowing down the amount of phosphorus entering our waterways and enhancing fish habitat, the LSRCA's Forestry Team has played an important role in the LSEMS success story. **In addition to planting 53,527 native trees and shrubs for landowners in the spring and fall of 2000, staff co-ordinated a number of community tree-planting efforts which saw volunteers plant an additional 13,750 saplings and seedlings across the watershed.**

With the assistance of students from Sir Sandford Flemming College School of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Natural Resources, a Durham Region forests and trails data-base was completed this year. This will help LSRCA foresters identify priority planting sites in the future. **Negotiations are also underway to see the Conservation Authority expand its role in managing more than 600 hectares of forests for the Region.**

This Year's Highlights

Secured \$83,000 from Eco-Action 2000 and the Nokiidaa Committee to combat soil erosion and naturalize shorelines in the East Holland River subwatershed. So far the LSRCA has completed three out of ten erosion control projects and naturalized 25 % of the targeted riverbank, with plans to finish the remainder in 2001.

Continued to work in co-operation with the Aurora and Simcoe BassMasters Clubs to address soil erosion and provide fish habitat at the mouth of Cook's Bay.

Delivered a Biomapping Course in co-operation with the Wilderness Preservation Foundation and Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Participated in a Stormwater Management Course which was co-hosted by Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and the Ontario Ministry of Environment.

Designed the "Watershed Ontario" website, an inventory of watershed projects completed in Ontario from 1990-2000. The site, a valuable tool for all those involved in watershed management issues, is to be managed by Conservation Ontario, the Ministries of the Environment (MOE) and Natural Resources (MNR), in co-operation with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. It is sponsored by the MNR, MOE, and Ducks Unlimited. Visit www.conservation-ontario.on.ca for more information.

Received \$40,000 worth of aerial photographs from the Regional Municipality of York. The collection of colourful pictures will be used to create a series of up-to-date land-use maps for scientists and planners to use in York Region. Many thanks to the Region for its on-going support and generosity.

Finished the Yuqiao Reservoir (China) Pollution Control Project. With financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority consulted with the State Council of China and City of Tianjin to develop a watershed action plan for the Yuqiao Reservoir and its drainage basin. The Conservation Authority's watershed approach to environmental planning, ability to work with grassroots organizations and its history of delivering financially responsible services attracted this prestigious contract.

Special thanks go to the 600 dedicated South Simcoe District Scouts and their families for planting close to 10,000 seedlings in the Town of Aurora - for the sixth year in a row!

The LSRCA's 2000 Environmental Services Team Included:

Mike Walters: Manager, Environmental Services

Paul Cottenden
Graeme Davis
Andrea Gynan
David Lembcke
Geoff Peat
Stefan Romberg

Conservation Lands Management Enhancing Your Future

***Conservation Lands Management is enhancing Your Land - Your Water - Your Future
by acquiring and protecting environmentally sensitive lands;
raising awareness through Conservation Areas recreational opportunities; and
delivering dynamic, innovative, hands-on educational programs
at Sheppard's Bush and Scanlon Creek Conservation Areas.***

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority owns more than 1,000 hectares of land around Lake Simcoe. While some properties were purchased, and others were donated, they all help form a watershed-wide natural heritage network. The Conservation Lands Management Division cares for these lands, providing present-day and future visitors with an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a healthy environment first hand.

In addition to maintaining Conservation Areas, upgrading on-site facilities and developing trails, the LSRCA's Field Staff also takes part in many Environmental Services projects. From streambank stabilization to reforestation efforts, the Conservation Lands Management crew often provides the labour needed to complete remedial action projects and other conservation works.

While the Field Staff plants trees across the watershed each year, the Education Team is planting the seeds of knowledge in thousands of school-aged children.

**4,300 youths trek to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area
and participate in a three-day
residential programs
throughout the school year.**

The Education Team's innovative, dynamic, hands-on approach to environmental education makes learning at Scanlon Creek, "a natural experience".

**Approximately 2,500 day-trippers
take part in Nature Centre
programs annually.**

While the Professor E.A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre can accommodate up to 66 overnight visitors at a time, the LSRCA's Nature Centre provides youth groups with the opportunity to explore life sciences, human history, and various recreational activities.

This Year's Highlights

Developed Scanlon Creek Conservation Area as the local fundraiser's "site of choice". More than \$7,000 was raised for breast cancer research by the Women Alive Fitness Centre's "Walk to Wellness", and close to \$1,400 was raised for the Trans Canada Trail as part of a Memorial Walk for Jackie Anderson. Another \$1,800 went to Bradford's "Helping Hands Food Bank" as the Back Alley Cruisers and LSRCA donated proceeds from the third annual Family Fall Colour Hike Day.

Solidified a partnership with the York Region Separate and York Region District School Boards, and signed a new 10-year agreement which will see 4,000 school children participate in Scanlon Creek environmental educational programs annually.

Celebrated Canada's natural heritage and walked the sugar bush trails at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area with thousands of school children, local residents, and visitors during "Maplefest 2000." Many thanks to the Aurora Lions Club and McAlpine Ford for contributing to the event's success.

Partnered with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Back Alley Cruisers, and Simcoe County "Good for Life" to deliver the Third Annual Family Fall Colour Hike Day at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Benefitted from the hard work of elementary students from Fred C. Cook School. For the fifth year in a row, teachers worked with students to clean-up, and wood-chip trails at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Explored the mysteries of nature with 94 children, at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, as part of the Summer Nature Programme. Many thanks to the North Newmarket Lions Club for generously sponsoring six participants in 2000.

Expanded a successful partnership with the York Region Board of Education, which saw four schools participate in the board's "Summer Institute" educational program at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Supported the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's Recreation Department's efforts to expand their summer day camp program at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

Provided the Town of East Gwillimbury's Recreation Department with the opportunity to develop their summer day camp program by extending the use of facilities at Whitchurch-Stouffville Conservation Area.

Experienced an overall increase in organized youth group camping excursions to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in 2000.

The LSRCA's 2000 Conservation Land Management Team

Al Leach: Director,
Conservation Lands Management

John Brown
Doug Fennell
Christine MacKay
Lillian Nash
Marjorie Pineau
Judi McCutcheon
Margaret Russell

Corporate Services At Your Service

The LSRCA's Corporate Service Division provides both internal and external client service. Internally, staff rely on the Administrative Team to take care of the details so that they can take care of the watershed. Externally, the Conservation Authority relies on the Community Relations/Fundraising Team to pique your interests and answer your questions.

In addition to being responsible for the overall direction, co-ordination and implementation of all approved Conservation Authority programs and policies, member services, financial management, and reporting practices the LSRCA's Corporate Services Division is also responsible for generating budgets, keeping corporate records, maintaining information technologies, overseeing human resources, and providing clerical/administrative support .

The LSRCA maintained its debt -free status in 2000, and enjoyed a year-end surplus which will be reinvested in the Conservation Authority's key business areas.

The Division's Community Relations and Fundraising Team provides marketing and communication support for various programs and services. It is also responsible for maintaining the Corporate website www.lsrca.on.ca "Where Water And Web Meet".

Guiding our efforts to support the Watershed Management and Conservation Lands Management Teams are four core goals developed by staff, as facilitated by the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary Treasurer. As a result, on-going efforts are made to:

Develop and deliver high quality, cost effective programs, services and projects needed to improve the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed;

Build watershed partnerships with municipalities, communities and other levels of government across the entire watershed in order to promote our mission;

Develop a Sustainable Financial Plan which promotes new services and the diversification of revenue sources.

Communicate our vision, strategy, and our value to the public, by linking the benefits of a healthy watershed with Lake Simcoe's local economy.

This Year's Highlights

Secured unanimous support from 37 stakeholders, and expanded the LSRCA's area of jurisdiction to include the remaining portion of the Township of Brock in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Participated in "Conservation Journeys," a joint marketing and membership program which involves four other Conservation Authorities. The program's Nature Experience Passport provides participants year-round access to more than 56,000 acres (22,600 hectares) of conservation lands in South Central Ontario.

Celebrated the corporate website's second anniversary - www.lsrca.on.ca was visited by more than 10,000 visitors this year.

Distributed more than 5,000 summer guides, as well as special events brochures and other promotional materials to watershed residents, special interest groups, and municipalities.

Celebrated environmental success stories from around Lake Simcoe at the LSRCA's Annual Conservation Awards Gala. Congratulations to this year's nominees and winners, and thank you for your efforts.

Produced more than 60 news releases, media advisories, and public service announcements to keep watershed residents up to date on LSRCA programs, services and special events.

Many thanks to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation and its generous supporters for raising in excess of \$ 35,000 for conservation education, environmental projects, and conservation areas.

Enjoyed on-going support from many organizations including Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment Foundation, North Newmarket Lions Club, Morse/Austin Team of Merrill Lynch, TS Tech Canada Inc., the Newmarket and Aurora Pathfinders, Back Alley Cruisers, South Simcoe District Scouts, Reagens Canada Limited, Aurora Lions Club, McAlpine Ford, Beaverton and District Conservation Club, Fred C. Cook School, Uxbridge Brook Watershed Committee, Earth Day Canada, Sunoco, the Suncor Energy Foundation, Shell Canada Ltd., Shell Environmental Fund, Home Depot, Trees Canada, Communities in Bloom (Barrie), and Simcoe County's "Good For Life".

The LSRCA's 2000 Corporate Services Team

D. Gayle Wood:
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Dennis Holmes: Director, Corporate Services
September, 1997 - April, 2000

Sandra Hanson: Director, Corporate Services
July, 2000 - Present

Pat Harnett, Brian Kemp, Heather McKinnon,
Susan Redgate, Dianne Thompson, Lorraine Wauchope,
and Michelle Zynwala

Conservation Awards

The LSRCA's Annual Conservation Awards Gala was held at the Cardinal Golf Club in November. More than 130 people attended the event to salute "Environmental Giants" from around the watershed. Many thanks to television personality Mag Ruffman, our Mistress of Ceremonies, and all those nominated for an award.

Congratulations To Our Conservation Award Winners:

Beaverton And District Conservation Club: Water Conservation Award for reducing soil erosion, increasing fish habitat, and improving the health and quality of the Beaver River by completing a stream rehabilitation project downstream of the old dam in Beaverton.

Mr. John Lowndes: Soil Conservation Award for planting 10,000 seedlings long the shores of the Black River, and establishing a significant link in York Region's Wildlife corridor.

Environmental Action Barrie: Conservation Education Award for raising environmental awareness in the community, and empowering hundreds of youth participating in summer day camps in Simcoe County.

The New VR: Media Recognition Award for its top-notch coverage of environmental issues.

Ducks Unlimited: Award of Merit for investing one million dollars to rehabilitate and enhance 1,138 hectares of wetlands, and associated upland habitats, in and around the Towns of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Aurora and Newmarket, and the Townships of Uxbridge, Brock, Ramara and Oro-Medonte.

Mr. J.O. Dales: The George R. Richardson Conservation Award Of Honour. During his 23 years as a Conservation Authority Board Member, Mr. Dales has helped form creative partnerships with provincial agencies, municipal governments, and special interest groups for the betterment of our waterways. He has also been a strong supporter of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy, and restoring Lake Simcoe's coldwater fishery.

Special thanks and best wishes go to our volunteers for contributing to the Conservation Authority's success last year:

Claire Bradley, Student Intern of the Year

Special Little Uxbridge Gardeners, Special Event Team of the Year

Rick Wilson, Administrative Support Volunteer of the Year

Chris Gynan, Seasonal Team Player of the Year

The Conservation Authority made special presentations to the following Watershed Plan Partners for demonstrating their commitment to the environment: The Towns of East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Newmarket, Aurora, and Whitchurch-Stouffville, and the Regional Municipality of York; The Townships of Uxbridge, Brock and Scugog, and Regional Municipality of Durham; The City of Barrie and Town of Innisfil; The Department of Fisheries And Oceans, and the Ministries of Natural Resources, the Environment, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Financial Summary

The following information is condensed from the unaudited 2000 financial statement. Copies of the complete auditor's report will be available in March, 2001, at the Conservation Authority's head office at 120 Bayview Parkway, in Newmarket.

2000

1999

Assets	Cash	\$ 808,871	\$ 637,722
	Short-Term Deposits	\$ 36,111	\$ 34,765
	Accounts Receivable - User Fees	\$ 248,304	\$ 339,825
		\$ 1,093,286	\$ 1,012,312
Liabilities:	Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 10,017	\$ 91,263
	Sick Leave Benefit Plan	\$ 45,312	\$ 45,312
	Deferred Revenue	\$ 181,608	\$ 220,631
	Security Deposits	\$ 105,500	\$ 85,500
	Vaction Pay	\$ 113,071	\$ 92,651
		\$ 455,508	\$ 535,357
Fund Balances:	Reserves	\$ 750,849	\$ 569,606
	Amount to be Funded in Future Periods	(\$ 113,071)	(\$ 92,651)
		\$ 476,955	\$ 476,955
		\$ 1,093,286	\$ 1,012,312

PUBLIC SECTOR SALARY DISCLOSURE ACT 2000 DECLARATION:

In 2000, no employees were paid a salary, as defined in the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, 1996, of \$100,000 or more by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Signed: D. Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

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