

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Annual Report 2001:

50 Years of Conservation

1951 - 2001

This retrospective of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's first "50 Years In Conservation" is dedicated to Mr. George R. Richardson. A provincially recognized "Conservation Pioneer" and Lifetime Honourary Member of the LSRCA, Mr. Richardson recently retired from the Conservation Authority's board - after 33 years of consecutive service.



Mr. George R. Richardson and his wife, Doris, took part in the Conservation Authority's 50th Anniversary celebrations, in Barrie, on September 6th, 2001

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*On behalf of all those who work, live and play in the Lake Simcoe watershed, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority extends its deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us in our role as "Leaders In Watershed Health".*

*We thank and salute all of our Member Municipalities, Provincial Partners and Federal Supporters, as well as our past and present Board Members, Staff, Volunteers, Summer Students, Evesors, Project Partners, Donors and Members of the Community for sharing in our success and vision for a clean and healthy Lake Simcoe watershed.*

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## Our Mission:

To Provide Leadership in the Restoration and Protection of the Environmental Health and Quality of Lake Simcoe and its Watershed with Our Community, Municipal and Other Government Partners.

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## Chair's Message

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) has a lot to be proud about as it celebrates **"50 Years In Conservation"**. The number of environmental projects the Conservation Authority has completed in the past 50 years have tremendously improved the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed. The LSRCA has been successful in carrying out its mission, **"to provide leadership in the restoration and protection of the environmental health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed with our community, municipal and other government partners."**

**It all started back on July 26, 1951**, when the municipalities of Newmarket, Aurora, King, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch called for the formation of the **Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority (UHVCA)**. It consisted of 156 square kilometres and encompassed the east branch of the Holland Valley Watershed. Reforestation, water management, and public relations were its main concerns.



The events of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 greatly expanded the organization's responsibilities. The UHVCA helped repair and build dams, ditches and dikes

**The Conservation Authority expanded into Bradford, West Gwillimbury, and Tecumseth in 1960.** The organization's jurisdiction was enlarged to 381 square kilometres and consisted of both the Holland and Schomberg River watersheds. It was renamed the Holland Valley Conservation Authority.

The organization engaged in a number of major environmental projects in the 1960s, including the establishment of a Flood Warning System, a Forest Management Program, and the construction of many dams throughout the area.

**In 1970 the Townships of Scott and Georgina joined the Conservation Authority**, expanding its boundaries to 861 square kilometres. The organization changed its name to the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (SLSCA). **In 1974 the Township of Innisfil joined the SLSCA** and its area expanded to 1,101 square kilometres. **The CA expanded yet again in 1978 to include the municipalities of Scugog, Brock, Uxbridge, Eldon, Mariposa, and Woodville.** The SLSCA was now 1,624 square kilometres in size and had jurisdiction over all of the rivers flowing into the southern part of Lake Simcoe.

Other important projects the Conservation Authority carried out in the 1970s included the creation of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation in 1973, the construction of the Professor E.A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre in 1978, and the development of floodplain regulations and mapping.

It was during the 1980s and 1990s that the SLSCA really began to shine as watershed managers. **In 1981 the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) was initiated** to restore Lake Simcoe's coldwater fishery, which had been compromised by the devastating effects of

phosphorus pollution.

**In 1982 the City of Barrie became a member as it annexed a portion of the Hewitt and Lovers Creek watershed.** Then, four years later, the SLSCA changed its name to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to symbolize its dedication to cleaning up the entire Lake.

From 1990 to 1994 Phase I of the LSEMS Implementation Program helped reduce phosphorus inputs by 14 tonnes a year. By 1999, Phase II of LSEMS was able to reduce phosphorus inputs by another 2.5 tonnes, to a total of 16.5 tonnes per year.

**In the last two years the LSRCA has expanded its area of jurisdiction three times. The northern portion of the Township of Brock signed on in 2000, and the Townships of Oro-Medonte and Ramara joined our fight to help save Lake Simcoe in 2001.** Today, the LSRCA has jurisdiction over 95 per cent of the Lake's shoreline and is 3,248 square kilometres in size, including the Lake.

We look towards the future and a number of promising initiatives including our new groundwater monitoring program, and the launch of LSEMS: Phase III. We also look forward to building partnerships with Barrie and Orillia, and welcome the Mayor of Orillia to our Board in 2002. I believe the LSRCA's next 50 years will bring about even bigger and better accomplishments as we all work together for Lake Simcoe as watershed managers.

Yours truly,

Roy Bridge, LSRCA Chair



## ***Celebrating "50 Years In Conservation"***

In preparation of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's "Golden Anniversary," the organization's mission statement, slogan and logo were updated to more accurately reflect the Conservation Authority's vision of the future.

**OUR NEW MISSION:** "To Provide Leadership in the Restoration and Protection of the Environmental Health and Quality of Lake Simcoe and its Watershed with Our Community, Municipal and Other Government Partners.

**OUR NEW SLOGAN:**  
"Leaders In Watershed Health"

**OUR NEW LOGO:** The green hills, blue water and growing trees reflect the LSRCA's watershed approach to achieving its goals. The design embraces our mission statement, and welcomes everyone in the watershed to share our vision as we stand together, next to headwaters emerging from

### ***Anniversary Highlights And Events***

**April: Produced and distributed 5,000 "Fish of Lake Simcoe" posters,** courtesy of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

**June: Highlighted LSRCA programs, services, and partners by holding a special Anniversary Bus Tour.**

**June: Hosted the "State of the Lake" Symposium.** Keynote Speaker Bill Howland, from the Lake Champlain Basin Program in

**September: Celebrated "50 Years In Conservation" aboard the Serendipity Princess** with past and present Board Members, Staff, Project Partners, Donors, Volunteers, Municipal Representatives and Elected officials from across the watershed.

**November: Saluted "Environmental Giants" at the LSRCA's Conservation Awards Gala.** Congratulations to our Award Winners: Dandyland Farm, Gordon Lak, the Dufferin Marsh Committee, Myra Futa, the Town of Newmarket, and Ken Nicholls.



**Above: Mr. Nicholls is presented with the LSRCA's 2001 George R. Richardson Award of Honour by Vice-**

the Oak Ridges Moraine, and gaze across the vast expanse of Lake Simcoe to imagine the distant curves of the Oro Moraine. From dynamic flowing waters to trees reaching skyward, this is a logo we can grow with.



Vermont provided insights on the many challenges faced when implementing an international watershed management strategy.

Chair Margaret Jordan and Chair Roy Bridge.



The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority was pleased to acknowledge the many contributions of its Past Chairs at the LSRCA's Anniversary Celebrations in Barrie on September the 6th, 2001. From left to right: Angus Morton (1986-1992), David Marquis (1992-1995), Marilyn Pearce (1995-1997), Susan Para (1997-1998), Margaret Jordan (1998 - 2001), George R. Richardson (1975-1986), Mrs. Richardson, and current LSRCA Chair Roy Bridge (2001-Present)

**November: Solidified partnerships to protect Lake Simcoe -a \$200 million resource.** A "Memorandum Of Understanding" is currently in the works for Phase III of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy Implementation Program.

**Fall/Winter of 2001: Welcomed the Townships of Oro-Medonte and Ramara to our Membership.** These expansions have increased the LSRCA's area of jurisdiction so that it now includes over 95 percent of the Lake's shoreline, and is 3,248 square kilometres in size, including the Lake. Pictured Above: the Bus Tour took a stop at Oro-Medonte's Simcoe Side Park where Roger's Cable TV interviewed staff on the Conservation Authority's role as "Leaders In Watershed Health."



## IN THE BEGINNING...

### *The Upper Holland Valley C.A. And Hurricane Hazel*

On July 26, 1951, the Municipalities of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, King, Newmarket, and Whitchurch founded the Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority to regulate the use of natural resources in the Holland Valley watershed in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly manner. The Conservation Authority was 156 square kilometres in size and its jurisdiction encompassed the southern portion of the Holland Valley River Watershed. It was the 16th Conservation Authority to have been created in Ontario since 1946.

On November 2, 1951, Newmarket representative Arthur D. Evans was elected the Conservation Authority's first chairman. Elton Armstrong from the Township of King was elected Vice-Chairman. Wesley Brooks, Harold Pringle, Kenneth Ross, and Lambert Willson were later elected to the Board on November 30, 1951.

The Conservation Authority's most important project in this time period was reforestation. The percentage of land covered with woodlands had declined drastically from 40% in 1850 to 10% in 1940.

**On June 17, 1954, the Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority (UHVCA) responded to reduced forest cover by creating a subsidy program that would help pay individual landowners to reforest their lands.** The UHVCA subsidized a maximum of five acres or \$50 per project and set aside \$1,000 per year for the program.

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From 1951 to 1954, the Conservation Authority helped plant more than 50,000 trees in the watershed. Reforestation would continue to play an important role in the revitalization of the Holland Valley.

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**Another major initiative in the 1950s was the construction of ponds** to help control stormwater runoff from residential land, improve water quality, and enhance fish/wildlife habitat. On February 19, 1953 the Board voted to set aside \$1,000 each year for a pond construction program. The Conservation Authority would subsidize each project up to a maximum of \$50 or 50%.

A Public Relations Committee was created to inform local residents about the problems affecting the watershed.

**In 1953 the Public Relations Committee helped publish the organization's first comprehensive review of the health and quality of the watershed entitled, "Upper Holland Conservation Report, 1953".** This 260-page survey outlined the environmental history of the watershed, commented on the environmental implications of commercial and agricultural land use practices, and identified problems affecting the local forests, water quality, and wildlife.

The Public Relations Committee was also responsible for printing 1,000 copies of a booklet called "Farm Ponds". This booklet informed the public about the Conservation Authority's willingness to subsidize pond construction and the associated environmental benefits.

Limited funds and a lack of public involvement in local environmental issues prevented the Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority from tackling more ambitious projects. However, this would change after the torrential rains of Hurricane Hazel in October of 1954.



## Hurricane Hazel October -1954

**The devastation brought about by Hurricane Hazel in October, 1954, was massive.** Strong winds and flooding destroyed many trees, houses and businesses. Entire houses were uplifted and carried away by flood water. Many dams, ditches and dikes were damaged during the storm.

Member Municipalities wanted the Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority to repair the dams, ditches and dikes damaged by the Hurricane. **Over the course of the next decade, a number of different projects were completed including repairs to the dams at Fairy Lake and Whitchurch Community Centre.**

Shortly after Hurricane Hazel, the Conservation Authority helped implement a plan designed by the Ontario Government called the Regional Storm Plan. **The Regional Storm Plan required all residential and commercial development in flood-prone areas to obtain a permit from the Conservation Authority.** The only kind of development that would now be permitted in floodplain areas were soccer fields, driving ranges, golf courses, and other projects that wouldn't be seriously damaged by flooding.



The Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority's efforts to repair the damage left behind by the storm were greatly appreciated . Member

Municipalities began to listen to the Conservation Authority's recommendations regarding development proposals and non-members were seriously thinking about joining the organization.

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*"Whenever we tried to get regulations through, everybody was opposed to it,"  
said George Richardson, former Chair and Honourary Lifetime Member of the Conservation Authority.  
"Hurricane Hazel helped make people aware of flood problems."*



## A WATERSHED MOMENT

### ***Bradford, West Gwillimbury And Tecumseth Become Members With The West Holland/Schomberg River Watershed Expansion (1960)***

The extensive damage left behind by Hurricane Hazel convinced the Municipalities of West Gwillimbury and Tecumseth to join the Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority so that they could benefit from its provincially subsidized services targeting dam and dike repairs, ditch and pond construction, and the drafting of flood plain regulations. They also wanted to make sure that they could count on the Conservation Authority to assist them when, and if, another regional storm struck the area.

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*The Municipalities of Bradford, West Gwillimbury and Tecumseth,  
voted unanimously to join the Upper Holland Valley Conservation Authority  
on February 13, 1960 in order to access its flood control,  
tree planting, and pond construction programs and services.*

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The Conservation Authority increased in size from 156 to 381 square kilometres and, **on April 13 1960, the organization changed its name to the Holland Valley Conservation Authority** to better reflect its jurisdiction over the Holland and Schomberg River watersheds.



## How Two Conservation Reports Shaped Our Future

**The Holland Valley Conservation Authority (HVCA) issued two environmental reports in the 1960s which identified local environmental issues. These reports made a number of recommendations which were implemented over the course of the next ten years.**

**In 1961 the "Holland Valley Conservation Report: Land And Forest," tackled land and soil management issues including forestry concerns.** Soil erosion was identified as a leading concern. The report recommended the Conservation Authority extend its Holland River Soil Conservation Program to the Schomberg River watershed so that private landowners could build/retrofit farm ponds, grass waterways and use up-to-date soil management practices to reduce soil erosion.

As for forestry, the report concluded that both watersheds were suffering from the negative impacts of clear-cutting. It recommended extending the HVCA's forestry program to landowners in the Schomberg River watershed. Promoting reforestation of private lands in the Oak Ridges Moraine draining

into the Schomberg River was identified as a priority. It also recommended the Conservation Authority make every effort to promote proper care and maintenance of forests outside of its boundaries, and subsidize the fencing of natural woodlots to prevent regeneration loss by grazing livestock.

**The second Conservation Report, which was published in 1966, was called the "Holland Valley Conservation Report: Water". It made several recommendations dealing with flooding and water quality concerns.**

To implement an effective flood control program the report suggested that the Conservation Authority build dams in several rivers, construct the Schomberg River Channel, establish a Flood Warning System, and purchase a number of properties including the Armitage, Ballantrae and Vandorf reservoir sites.

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*The "Holland Valley Conservation Report: Water"  
stated high levels of pollution caused by municipal and industrial effluents  
and the dumping of waste onto the banks of the rivers were seriously affecting water quality.  
It recommended that the Conservation Authority  
work with the Ontario Water Resources Commission to regulate and/or prohibit the placing  
or dumping of fill into the rivers.*



## FORESTS AND FLOODS

### 1967 - 1974

**The Holland Valley Conservation Authority kicked off Canada's 100th birthday by creating two important programs.** The Flood Warning System helped protect people's lives, homes, and businesses from the damaging effects of floods. The Centennial Tree Planting Program helped promote environmental stewardship among thousands of local school children who helped plant trees on Conservation Authority lands. Both programs helped the HVCA raise its public profile.

**The Flood Warning System was created to issue flood warnings to people living in flood-prone areas.** The HVCA's staff were knowledgeable about hazards of floods, were familiar with local flood-prone areas, and understood what emergency measures to take under threat of a regional storm. These individuals kept a close watch on high rain levels and would contact the emergency authorities to take the necessary measures to reduce flood damage. Flood warnings were issued via local news-papers, radio, and television stations. This program has helped reduce costs associated with flood damage since its inception.

**The Centennial Tree Planting Program was created in 1967, with assistance from the Department of Lands and Forests.** This program recruited local school children to plant trees on Conservation Authority lands, including the HVCA's newly acquired Scanlon Creek property.

Both of these programs enhanced the Conservation Authority's image across the watershed and both attracted a large amount of media attention. People were now more likely to listen to the organization's opinion on local environmental issues. They were also more likely to pitch in, and volunteer their time and energy in order to help the Holland Valley Conservation Authority complete its vital conservation works and environmental projects.



**From Centennial Tree-Planting efforts (above), to today's Community Tree Planting Days (below) thousands of volunteers - including many Scouts - have helped the Conservation**



## Quality Programs Attract New Members

### in 1970 & 1974

**The Townships of Georgina and Scott joined the Holland Valley Conservation Authority (HVCA) in 1970 and the Township of Innisfil joined in 1974 to gain access to the Authority's flood control, water pollution and soil erosion programs.** The 1970 expansion increased the Conservation Authority's area of jurisdiction from 381 square kilometres to 861 square kilometres. The 1974 expansion increased its size to 1,101 square kilometres. These expansions gave the organization the footing it needed to embark upon more ambitious environmental projects in the future.

**On November 2, 1970, seven representatives from the Townships of Scott and Georgina met with Conservation Authority officials at Sutton District High School to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of joining the Holland Valley Conservation Authority. At the end of the meeting, six of the seven representatives voted to join the HVCA.**

While the Township of Georgina wanted the Conservation Authority to help clean up the pollution in Lake Simcoe, which was threatening the local tourism industry, the Township of Scott was more interested in the HVCA's flood control and soil erosion programs. This expansion gave the Conservation Authority jurisdiction over most of the rivers and streams flowing into the southern portion of Lake Simcoe. **As a result, the organization decided to change its name to the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (SLSCA) to symbolize its new geographic territory.**

**On November 14, 1974, three representatives from the Township of Innisfil met with members of the Conservation Authority to discuss the benefits of joining the SLSCA. At the end of the meeting, Innisfil's three representatives voted unanimously in favour of becoming a Member.** They wanted the SLSCA to help them control pollution levels in Lake Simcoe. **When the City of Barrie annexed a portion of Hewitt and Lovers Creek in 1982, it also became a member of the Conservation Authority.**

Expanding into these municipalities gave the Conservation Authority a stronger mandate to embark upon larger and more important projects in the future. There was growing evidence that the levels of phosphorus pollution in the lake were increasing. Addressing this trend would become an important issue for the Conservation Authority in the future.



## FUNDRAISERS WANTED

**In October of 1973 a Conservation Foundation was established with the purpose of aiding the Conservation Authority in the cultivation and advancement of conservation of renewable natural resources.** Since that time the Conservation Foundation has successfully raised funds and served as a custodian of donations and gifts for conservation education, environmental projects and conservation land securement.

**In 1977 the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation began its first major fundraising campaign for the construction of the Professor E. A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre.** Funding for the Centre was provided by both the public and private sector. The Nature Conservancy of Canada co-ordinated contributions from the private sector which in turn was matched dollar for dollar by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Together the Ministry of Natural Resources and area municipalities provided the balance. The first school groups began to use the Educational Centre in September 1978.

Use of the Educational Centre surpassed the most optimistic predictions and **in the mid 1980s the Conservation Foundation began raising funds for an expansion.**

**By 1991** the Conservation Foundation had secured funds as well as products and services from a variety of sources including individuals, local companies, granting Foundations, and the Province of Ontario. **The Conservation Foundation also began to host an Annual Conservation Dinner and Art Auction, in which more than \$30,000 was raised in three years for the Educational Centre expansion.** As a result, construction was completed by the end of 1991.

Throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s the Foundation has continued to successfully raise funds for a number of environmental projects and conservation education initiatives. The Annual Conservation Dinner has raised more than \$200,000 since it began in 1989 and individual campaigns have raised thousands of dollars for projects aimed at protecting the environment within the Lake Simcoe watershed.

**In 2001 the Conservation Foundation received its largest donation to date - \$500,000 from the R. Samuel McLaughlin Foundation for the Lake Simcoe Fund.** This fund has been established to support the on-going efforts of the Conservation Authority to restore the health and quality of Lake Simcoe.

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### *Many Thanks To The Foundation's Dedicated Volunteers And Supporters*

*The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority extends its deepest appreciation and best wishes to everyone who has volunteered with and supported the Conservation Foundation and its fundraising efforts. Your dedication and hard work play a key role in our success by financing dynamic environmental education programs and vital conservation works which reduce phosphorus pollution, enhance wildlife habitat and improve local water quality.*



## Fundraising Successes Our Volunteers Are Proud Of...

**2001 - Successfully raised over \$510,000 towards the Lake Simcoe Fund, a new fundraising campaign that supports environmental projects throughout the Lake Simcoe watershed.** The Lake Simcoe Fund focuses on projects that directly affect the water quality of Lake Simcoe.

**2000 - Launched "Greening Our Greenspace" Campaign which proudly supports tree planting and reforestation of urban and rural areas.** Raised over \$5000 in the inaugural year of this campaign.



*Foundation President Ernie Crossland recently saluted the Conservation Authority on its "50 Years In Conservation".*

*"The Foundation has stood side by side with the Conservation Authority for nearly 30 years, and will continue to do so by raising funds to support the LSRCA's important environmental initiatives."*

**1999 - Launched "Opening A Door to the Environment" Campaign which enables children from less fortunate backgrounds to attend the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's summer conservation day camps** at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area in Aurora. Nearly two dozen children have benefitted from this program to date.

**1998 - Launched "Keeping Kids in Conservation" Campaign.** A program that enables local school children to benefit from the educational experience at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. This campaign focuses on keeping equipment and materials upgraded and has raised over \$20,000 to purchase everything from snowshoes and canoes to bird books and binoculars

**1997- Through local partnerships the LSRCF raised \$13,000 for the Haskett Park Naturalization Project in Newmarket.**

**1997 - Raised over \$13,000 for the Beaverton River Erosion Project** through partnerships with local business and community groups. Efforts like these help to reduce phosphorus pollution entering Lake Simcoe via its tributaries.

**1996 - \$13,000 was raised through raffles to support conservation projects in the Lake Simcoe watershed.**

**1992 - 1995 - Successfully raised \$35,000 towards the development of the Ecological Park** in the Town of Newmarket.

**1990 - Raised over \$10,000 for fish stocking and wildlife habitat enhancement** at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in Bradford.

**1989 & 1990 - Raised \$60,000 towards renovations at the Professor E.A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre** at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in Bradford.

**1988 - Initiated the Annual Conservation Dinner and Art Auction** which raises over \$20,000 annually that goes towards local conservation projects. Over \$200,000 has been raised to date.



[Prof. Smith's Legacy](#)

### ***Connecting Kids With Nature Through Dynamic, Innovative, Hands-on Environmental Education Programs***

**The Conservation Authority has been educating young people about environmental issues since 1951.** In the 1950s it sponsored several essay writing contests for children in grades 5-8. In 1967 the organization recruited local school children to participate in the Centennial Tree Planting Program. In the 1970s some members of the Conservation Authority were beginning to feel it was time for the organization to build a permanent residential Educational Centre.

**Professor E. A. Smith, a Conservation Authority Board Member and former Professor of Engineering at the University of Toronto, was the Educational Centre's biggest advocate. He believed education was the key to fostering environmental awareness in young people.**



In 1974 Board Member Professor E. A. Smith proposed that the Conservation Authority build a residential school that taught children the basics of

environmental land management, resource management, recreation skills and safety, and ecological history. He faced strong opposition from several of his peers. Some members of the Board believed the Centre wouldn't make any money. Others felt the SLSCA's limited funds would be better spent on conservation works and programs. After three years of debate, the Board finally approved the construction of the Educational Centre in 1977.

The Professor E.A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre, located at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, was completed on August 23, 1978 and could accommodate up to 40 students and staff. The first school groups arrived only days after the Centre was built - and they had such a great time that it wasn't long before that the place was booked solid. **Records show that 2,284 students from both the Catholic and Public School Boards visited the Centre in its first full year of operation!**

Today, the Conservation Authority's Outdoor Education Team offers a variety of programs to meet the needs of teachers and youth group leaders alike. In addition to the three-day residential experience, the Conservation Authority also provides a series half-day programs which can be mixed and matched to meet participant needs and interests. These programs operate on a full cost recovery basis and, in 2001, they attracted 2,412 day-trippers to the Nature Centre.

Sadly, Professor E. A. Smith died several months before the Educational Centre he envisioned opened. As a result Chairman George Richardson recommended the facility be named after the Professor so that the man who spearheaded the Conservation Authority's environmental education program would not be forgotten.

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The Professor E. A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre was built in 1978 to give young people a chance to learn about the environment, and the importance of conservation efforts. Today, more than 3,200 youth participate in the LSRCA's three-day Environmental Education Programs annually.



## A LAKE IN CRISIS

**In 1978 representatives from the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (SLSCA) met with those from the Municipalities of Scugog, Uxbridge, Eldon, Mariposa and Woodville to address their concerns and discuss their interest in joining the SLSCA. At the end of the meeting, 11 of 14 delegates voted in favour of the Municipalities becoming Members of the organization.** They did so to benefit from the Conservation Authority's flood control programs as well as its subsidized dam/ditch/dike construction programs, and its erosion control and reforestation services. However, the Township of Brock was also very keen on having the Conservation Authority help clean up Lake Simcoe and restore its coldwater fishery.

This expansion increased the size of the Conservation Authority from 1,101 square kilometres to 1,624 square kilometres, giving the SLSCA jurisdiction over all of the main tributaries flowing through the southern and eastern portions of the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Lake Simcoe has served as a valuable natural and recreational resource for centuries. In the early 1970s the general public, anglers, and local municipalities raised concerns over noticeable changes to Lake Simcoe's water quality and coldwater fishery. As Joe Dales, the Conservation Authority's first Honourary Lifetime Member and former Mayor of Georgina states, "I saw the fishing stocks were going down, down, down. Fish like whitefish and cisco were getting harder and harder to catch".

Concerns over the declining coldwater fishery prompted the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to investigate the situation and in 1979 the "Lake Simcoe - Couchiching Environmental Strategy" was released. Excessive amounts of phosphorus were identified as the leading source of pollution compromising the water quality of Lake Simcoe and its coldwater fishery.



## LSEMS:

### *The Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy*

In 1981, the Province of Ontario and the Conservation Authority initiated the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) to identify pollution sources and calculate the annual amount of phosphorus being discharged into rivers flowing into Lake Simcoe as well as the Lake itself. LSEMS is the largest and most important program the Conservation Authority had ever undertaken and it symbolized a growing focus on Lake Simcoe's water quality.

From 1981 to 1985 resource technicians conducted an exhaustive study measuring phosphorus discharges from septic treatment plants, urban stormwater runoff, soil erosion from crops, streambanks and shorelines, agricultural practices, drainage from the Holland Marsh polders, faulty septic systems, and natural inputs. These studies were concluded in 1985 with the release of "Final Report and Recommendations of the Steering Committee" - a watershed plan that included 18 recommendations for reducing the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe. Total phosphorus inputs to the Lake from all sources ranged between 68 and 103 tonnes and averaged approximately 82 tonnes per year between 1982 and 1984.

In 1986 the Conservation Authority, in partnership with the Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs submitted a proposal to the Provincial Cabinet for funding. On July 27, 1990, the LSEMS Implementation Program was launched on the shores of Lake Simcoe and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority was named lead agency.

The LSEMS Implementation Program (Phase I) was a cooperative program between the Conservation Authority and the Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs. The five-year program managed to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe by 14 tonnes a year.

The success of LSEMS: Phase I was largely due to the initiative's "Landowners Environmental Assistance Program" (LEAP) which provided private landowners with the technical and financial support they needed to complete projects aimed at reducing phosphorus pollution. Eligible projects included: restricting livestock access and providing alternative out-of-stream watering facilities; constructing stream crossings; planting vegetative buffer strips and grassed waterways; reforesting lands; stabilizing streambanks and lake front properties; removing instream barriers; and converting pond outflows. As a result, 285 projects were completed from 1990 to 1994.

Results were also seen in the urbanized areas of the watershed. For example laws were passed by the provincial government requiring municipalities, private landowners and developers to create ponds controlling urban stormwater runoff. (Urban stormwater runoff accounts for nearly 25 percent of the total phosphorus load entering Lake Simcoe every year.) Municipalities were also required to upgrade their septic treatment plants (STPs). In 1988 STPs contributed 12.5 tonnes of phosphorus to the total load. By 1995 every STP in the watershed was using the best available technology for phosphorus reduction and by 1997 their combined loads were reduced to 6.2 tonnes.

LSEMS: Phase II saw the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham, and the County of Simcoe join the LSEMS team. The Municipalities of York, Newmarket, Aurora and Uxbridge also invested in the program which saw 55 LEAP projects completed from 1995 to 1999 - and phosphorus inputs were reduced by another 2.5 tonnes per year.



## Becoming "Leaders In Watershed Health"

### *The LSRCA Shares Watershed Management Strategies With Colleagues From Russia, China And Central America*

At the turn of the Century and the dawn of a new Millennium, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority was developing a reputation for being "Leaders In Watershed Health."

**The LSRCA's dedicated staff found themselves attracting international attention in 1999. First they shared watershed management concepts with scientists from Russia, and then two of our experts were invited to China so that they could consult with the State Council of China and the City of Tianjin on the Yuqiao Reservoir Pollution Control Project.**

For decades the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has been working with municipalities and community-based groups to deliver programs and services designed to maintain, improve and promote the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. The Conservation Authority's approach to environmental planning, ability to work with grass roots organizations, and history of delivering financially responsible conservation projects has put the Conservation Authority in the international spotlight.

Our team visited China in September, 1999, and later that year a Chinese delegation visited the Lake Simcoe watershed. The Conservation Authority's Environmental Services Manager, Mike Walters, and Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer D. Gayle Wood then took their last trip to the City of Tianjin in 2000 to complete their work on the watershed management project.

**"The end of the Millennium was an exciting time for the Conservation Authority," said Ms. Wood. "We had expanded our role in protecting fish and wildlife habitat in the Lake Simcoe watershed by entering into an agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans... and formed "A Natural Partnership" with the Regional Municipality of York to protect water quality and restore natural areas in York Region. We also had the opportunity to exchange watershed-based environmental solutions with our peers who live halfway around the globe."**

Ms. Wood and Mr. Walters wrote two papers on their experience in China. One award winning piece called, "A Public Participatory Approach to Pollution Management in Tianjin," was printed as a stand-alone "Model Project Bulletin" by the International Centre for Municipal Development.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority thanks the Canadian International Development Agency and Federation of Canadian Municipalities for lending financial support to the Tianjin Project, and promoting watershed management strategies world wide.



## Expanding Our Horizons, And Services

With expanding services, international attention and a solid business plan, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has been able to build solid partnerships that will have a profound lasting impact on the health and quality of the entire Lake Simcoe watershed.

**A wave of excitement swept through the room as a historical vote was passed on May 18, 2000. That is when 37 Municipal representatives from across the watershed unanimously voted to expand the Conservation Authority's area of jurisdiction to include the northern tip of the Township of Brock and Regional Municipality of Durham- which includes part of the Talbot River system.**

With this latest expansion, the LSRCA had the footing it needed to deliver pilot programs and services to the Lake's north-shore communities. This was met with great success and on **September 27, 2001, the Township of Oro-Medonte joined the Conservation Authority's membership to help save Lake Simcoe. The Township of Ramara later joined on December 6 of that same year.** By unanimously supporting three jurisdictional expansions in a row, the Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities demonstrated their faith in the Conservation Authority's ability to restore Lake Simcoe.

By the end of the organization's 50th Anniversary year, the LSRCA's area of jurisdiction was 3,248 square kilometres in size, including the Lake.

With Municipal representation for more than 95 per cent of the shoreline, and representatives from nearly all of the Lake's subwatersheds, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is well on its way to tackling watershed issues in the new Millennium.

**As "Leaders In Watershed Health", the organization became a founding member of the "Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition" in 2002. It also contributed to comments made by Conservation Ontario to the Walkerton Inquiry and, at the end of its 50th year of operation, was solidifying a Memorandum of Understanding and partnerships in order to prepare for the LSEMS: Phase III.**

With the Lake's \$200 million impact on the local tourism and recreational industries, the Conservation Authority and its Members were determined to enlist the aid of all those with a stake in the Lake's Future to achieve its goals.



## 2001 Highlights

### *A Message From D. Gayle Wood The LSRCA's Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer*

"2001 has been a year of great news and major accomplishments for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA).

Many thanks to our Federal, Provincial and Municipal partners, as well as members of our local communities for helping us to achieve our mission of "providing leadership in the restoration and protection of the environmental health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.



*D. Gayle Wood, LSRCA CAO/Sec-Treasurer and Tom Prout, Ausable-Bayfield GM/Sec-Treasurer enjoy 50th Anniversary Celebrations aboard the Serendipity Princess*

As the lead agency of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) Implementation Program the Conservation Authority continued its efforts to restore the health of Lake Simcoe. **New municipal partnerships** that include the Cities of Barrie, Orillia and Kawartha Lakes, the Towns of Bradford West Gwillimbury and Innisfil, and the Townships of Oro-Medonte and Ramara have been formed as we gear up for the launch of Phase III in 2002.

The Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources, Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs are also part of the LSEMS Team, as are York and Durham Regions and Simcoe County.

**Together, we are committed to launching Phase III: a six-year plan that will address all sources of phosphorus pollution entering Lake Simcoe and its surrounding watershed.** The ultimate goal is to reduce current phosphorus loads by 25 tonnes in order to improve water quality and restore a self-sustaining cold-water fishery in Lake Simcoe.

**The LSRCA is one of nine Conservation Authorities involved in the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC).** This coalition has worked with local special interest groups and the Province of Ontario to ensure the Oak Ridges Moraine is protected for future generations to enjoy. This is important given that 60 % of the water flowing into Lake Simcoe originates from the Oak Ridges Moraine.

With the assistance of the Regions of York, Durham and Peel, and the other Moraine Conservation Authorities, we have also **helped develop a "Land Securement Strategy" to identify key areas of the Oak Ridges Moraine which should be held in public trust.**

**LSRCA helped contribute environmental expertise to a number of Conservation Ontario's reports to the Walkerton Inquiry.** Some of the topics included watershed management, groundwater monitoring strategies, maintaining the quality of drinking water, and working with local stakeholders on environmental issues.

During the past fifty years in the business of conservation we have witnessed a lot of changes -- the incredible growth the Lake Simcoe watershed has experienced, the way we do business, the growth of our organization, and the public's concern for their local environment and issues that effect their quality of life. Change is one constant that you can be assured will continue and the LSRCA is prepared for these changes. We have too much at stake when it comes to the health of our environment and what we are leaving future generations. We will continue to provide the leadership that is required to restore and protect Lake Simcoe and its watershed. We will continue to work with all levels of government and our local communities to ensure that we will leave a lasting legacy, of which we can all be proud.

Yours truly,

D. Gayle Wood  
LSRCA Chief Administrative Officer/



## 2001 LSRCA Members

**Mr. Roy Bridge**, LSRCA Chair, Town of Innisfil,

**Councillor Margaret Jordan**, Vice-Chair, York Region, Town of Georgina

**Councillor Larry Corrigan**  
Durham Region, Township of Scugog

**Mr. J.O. Dales**, Honourary Lifetime Member

**Alderman Alison Eadie**, City of Barrie

**Councillor Virginia Hackson**, York Region, Town of East Gwillimbury

**Mayor Jeffrey Holec**, York Region, Member At Large

**Councillor Gary Lamb**  
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury & Town of New Tecumseth

**Councillor Harold Lodwick**, Durham Region, Township of Brock

**Councillor Paul Marshall**, Township of Oro-Medonte

**Deputy Mayor 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 Wayne Teel**, City of Kawartha Lakes

**Deputy Mayor Harry Vander Kooij**, York Region, Township of King

**Deputy Mayor John G. West**, York Region, Town of Aurora

*The Conservation Authority has expanded its area of jurisdiction seven time, since its inception in 1951.*





## Environment First

**The Team: Reinie Vos, Director, Watershed Management**

**Brian Burr, Craig Cooper, Greg Wells, Tom Hogenbirk, Kevin Kennedy, Brook Piotrowski, Andrew Wilton, David Whyte**

From Oro-Medonte to Ramara to Uxbridge to Schomberg and all places in between, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Technical Services Team regulates watershed development for two reasons: to protect people, property and buildings from flooding and to prevent human development from threatening environmentally sensitive areas.

The Technical Services Team also monitors and maintains its flood forecasting system so that flood alerts and warnings may be issued via e-mail, internet, print, radio and television media.

~~~~~  
*A total of 15
Flood Bulletins
were issued in 2001*
~~~~~

Floods are not a seasonal phenomenon. Washed-out roads can be experienced at any time of the year. For this reason, the Conservation Authority'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.

Technical Services helps the Conservation Authority regulate development or other kinds of activities on environmentally sensitive and flood plain areas. This includes land located near a waterway, in a flood plain or other "fill regulated areas" such as watercourses, steep slopes, wetlands, and other environmentally sensitive areas. Anyone considering the removal or placement of fill, construction of any building or structure or altering a watercourse in these areas must obtain a permit from the Authority. The Technical Services Team reviews permit applications to determine if the proposed works would hinder flood control, increase flood damage costs or cause pollution.

In addition to making sure applications fall within guidelines set in the Conservation Authorities Act, the LSRCA's Technical Services Team also review proposals that may effect fish and wildlife habitat as part of a level-two agreement signed with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.



The LSRCA reviews planning and fill applications to protect you, the environment and your community from the damaging effects of unsound building practices.

### ***This Year's Highlights***



**Formed a new planning agreement with the City of Kawartha Lakes, and continued to work with York and Durham Regions and Simcoe County** to provide comments regarding natural heritage and natural hazard issues in these municipalities.

**Worked with five other local CA's, to draft flood forecasting and warning service delivery standards** in the Greater Toronto Area. A new flood prediction model will be implemented throughout the watershed in 2002.

**Convened the first meeting of the York Region Water Response Team.** Very dry conditions were experienced throughout the watershed as a result of extremely low rain fall amounts in the late spring and summer.

~~~~~

*Of the 515 permits processed this year,
97 were reviewed by DFO,
and 6 of these were identified
as potentially negatively impacting fish habitat.*

~~~~~

The Technical Services Team also offers an environmental review service for our member municipalities. This provides the Conservation Authority with the opportunity to promote its holistic, 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 2001:*

**292 Official plan amendments  
177 Requests for Land severance  
162 Site plans for schools,  
commercial zones etc  
105 Subdivision applications**

***LSRCA Staff also responded to:***

**261 Property information requests  
48 Complaints/Permit violations**

**Signed a Level 2 agreement with the DFO** in July of 2001. This allows LSRCA staff to review projects to ensure that they will not negatively impact fish habitat in the lake. The LSRCA has processed approximately 50 files since the agreement was signed.

**Held a Fish Habitat Referral Workshop** in East Gwillimbury. Over 40 people attended the event, including individuals from our member municipalities, consulting firms, the Peterborough District of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and the Aurora and Midhurst Districts of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR). Presentations were made by the DFO, OMNR and the LSRCA outlining what each agency needs to see when people are interested in working in and around water. Also, with the LSRCA moving to a Level 2 agreement with the DFO, the workshop was geared to show the new role that the LSRCA is providing with this new agreement.

**Completed a comprehensive data base for Municipal and Conservation Authority flood control dams within the watershed.**



## Water, Water, Everywhere

### ***Environmental Services***

**The Team: Mike Walters, Manager, Environmental Services**

**Brent Attwell, Rob Baldwin, Paul Cottenden, Graeme Davis, Kim Elliot, Don Goodyear, Andrea Gynan, David Lembcke, Stefan Romberg**

As the lead agency for the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS), the Conservation Authority has worked with the Ministries of the Environment, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Natural Resources, as well as the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Cities of Barrie, Orillia and Kawartha Lakes, the Towns of Bradford West Gwillimbury and Innisfil, the Townships of Oro-Medonte and Ramara, the County of Simcoe, and the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham to improve water quality and 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.

**Over the course of the last 10 years, the LSEMS Team has reduced the amount of phosphorus entering Lake**

Simcoe by an estimated 16.5 tonnes per year.

### **2001 LSEMS Highlights**

**Planted 82,025 seedlings, 2,250 trees and 5,550 wildlife shrubs** to reforest approximately 45 hectares of public and private lands across the watershed.

**Secured \$31,500 from the City of Barrie** to fund a local Storm Water Management Project in 2002.

**Completed twelve environmental projects, at a total cost of \$208,636, through "A Natural Partnership"** formed with the Regional Municipality of York, local member municipalities and landowners. Conservation works were designed to reduce phosphorus pollution by an estimated 200 kilograms per year. The Towns of Aurora and Newmarket, and Federal Government also provided funds for these projects.

**Reduced livestock access to a water course in the Township of Oro-Medonte, to reduce erosion and phosphorus pollution, as a result of a \$3,000 investment by the Township.**

Installed a manure storage facility in the West Holland River with \$26,437 from Bradford West Gwillimbury. This project will reduce phosphorous pollution by about 76.8 kg/year.

**Expanded water monitoring activities to include 14 groundwater sites, with the support of our member municipalities and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.** The groundwater results, which are part of a provincial initiative, will supplement information gathered through our existing open lake and tributary monitoring programs.

**Invested \$52,875 from the Regional Municipality of Durham to complete two rural projects and one cottage shoreline restoration effort.** This contribution helped fund close to \$122,000 in conservation projects including: the construction of a manure storage facility designed to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the Black River by more than 200 kg/year; limiting livestock access to a local water course; and stabilizing 50 metres of eroding bluffs along Lake Simcoe's southern shore.

**Secured \$39,000 from the Town of Innisfil** to fund future LSEMS projects.



### **Other Team Highlights**

**Launched a pilot project, in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York, Town of Newmarket, and Ministry of Natural Resources to develop a "Natural Heritage Strategy" for the Town of Newmarket.** The document will help to protect and restore terrestrial natural heritage features in parts of the East and West Holland River Subwatersheds in addition to providing a framework for planners to properly evaluate the impact of future development activities on the environment. Similar work is to be done in parts of Simcoe County, with the support of the City of Barrie and Town of Innisfil. The Black River subwatershed plan will also have a Natural Heritage Strategy component.

**Began implementing recommendations made in the LSRCA's Watershed Management Strategy for the East Holland River, through "A Natural Partnership".** By working with the Regional Municipality of York, in co-operation with the Towns of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury, the LSRCA was able to help private landowners complete two manure storage facilities which will reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the Schomberg and Black Rivers by more than 150 kilograms/year.

**Continued water monitoring activities in the Maskinonge River, Uxbridge Brook, East Holland and Black River subwatersheds.** This will help measure the success of projects completed to date and track changes in aquatic health.

**Finished the River Glen Stormwater Pond,** which is expected to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe by about 27 kilograms per year.

**Embarked on a new endeavour with our municipal partners and the Ministry of the Environment to identify and address groundwater issues across the Lake Simcoe watershed.** The results of the study will help us understand the affects various activities are having on groundwater quality and quantity. The data will also be used to establish a strategy to protect our groundwater, and other related resources. A Hydrogeologist has been hired to accomplish this task.

**Worked with the Town of Newmarket to complete the Cane Parkway Stormwater Quality Pond.** This project is one of the largest in the LSRCA jurisdiction. Identified as a priority project in the "East Holland River Subwatershed Management Plan," the half-million dollar stormwater control facility services 94 hectares of land - and will reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the East Holland River by an estimated 107 kg/year.

**Collected data for the Black River Watershed Study.** The State of the Watershed Report and a strategic plan outlining steps to protect this natural resource is to be published in 2002.

**Worked with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to draft the Black River Aquatic Management Plan.**

**Received a generous donation from Lou Wise.** The aviation enthusiast, who was featured in Canadian Geographic, donated a series of oblique aerial photographs, which will provide

**Completed seven Nokiidaa Trail erosion control projects** and naturalized more than 500 metres along the East Holland River in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York.

Various bioengineering techniques using live, woody vegetation and other natural materials were used to stabilize the streambank and encourage new growth on eroding surfaces. As the shrubs become established they will stabilize the area and shade the stream, thus protecting and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat.

valuable information to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's "GIS" (Geographic Information Systems) data base. This project was funded by the Richard Ivey Foundation.

**Began drafting a comprehensive Forest Management Plan for the 6000 hectare Durham Regional Forest and Trail system.**

**Began data collection for the State of the West Holland River Report, due in 2002.**



## Naturally Yours

### *Conservation Areas And Environmental Education Programs To Enjoy*

Al Leach, Director, Conservation Land Management:  
John Brown, Doug Fennell, Christine MacKay,

Peter Seibert, Manager, Educational Services:  
Lillian Nash, Marjorie Pineau, Judi McCutcheon, Margaret Russell, Karen Van Bakel, Donna Walker, Dan Williams, Lynda Woods, Shane Kramer, Wendy Nielson, Veronica Evers-Doyle, Susan Robertson, Gary Page, James Garratt, Kerry Green

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

The Conservation Land Management Team cares for more than 1,000 hectares of environmentally significant lands, in addition to operating and managing the Professor E. A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre.

It also supports the Environmental Services Team and its efforts to protect the health and quality of Lake Simcoe by providing the labour to plant thousands of trees, and complete numerous conservation projects each year.

### *This Year's Highlights*

**Worked with York, Durham and Peel Regions to develop a "Land Securement Strategy"** aimed at identifying key areas in the Oak Ridges Moraine which should be held in public trust. A list of recommendations was developed to protect and manage the unique landscape. Subsequently, in mid-November the province enacted legislation to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine.

**Celebrated 25 years of sweet success at "Maplefest 2001"**. Every spring, since 1976, thousands of people make an annual visit to Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area in order to take a guided tour of the bush and enjoy a plate full of hot pancakes. Maplefest offers participants the perfect chance to learn about Canada's natural heritage with their family and friends. Many thanks to everyone who has made this event a great success.

**Enlisted the aid of the Town of Georgina. The Municipality has taken on the responsibility of maintaining and improving Willow Beach Conservation Area** - the LSRCA's jewel on the south shore of Lake Simcoe. While the Conservation Authority continues to own the 500 metre long stretch of beach, the Town is investing thousands of dollars to improve the site's aesthetics and

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Over 3,200 youths made the trek to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, in 2001, to participate in the LSRCA's three-day Environmental Education Program.

Another 2,412 day-trippers also made their way to the popular site, in order to take part in Day Programs held at the LSRCA's Nature Centre.

~~~~~



*Hands-on activities make learning a "natural experience" at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.*

facilities. New washrooms have already been installed, with a new playground and picnic tables slated for 2002.

**Experienced an increase in organized youth group** camping outings to Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Over 400 members of Scouts Canada and the Girl Guides of Canada pitched their tents at Scanlon Creek this year.

**Upgraded the Professor E.A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre, as well as the Nature Centre, to improve learning opportunities at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.**

**Welcomed the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's Recreation Department for another season.** Their team ran parts of its summer day camps at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

**Forged a new partnership with the Simcoe County District School Board** which saw more than 1,200 elementary school students take part in environmental education programs at the Nature Centre.

**Introduced close to 100 children to the mysteries of nature** at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area, in Aurora, as part of LSRCA's Summer Nature Programme.

**Benefited from the York Region Board of Education's "Summer Institute Program".** More than 1,800 children from seven different schools spent a portion of their summer at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

**Continued to enjoy good relations with the Town of East Gwillimbury's Recreational Department.** The Town's recreational team held parts of its summer day camps at the LSRCA's Whitchurch Conservation Area.



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## Corporate Services

D. Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer  
Georgina Casey

Sandra Hanson, Director, Corporate Services  
Pat Harnett, Geoff Peat, Susan Redgate, Dianne Thompson, Lucy Winnicki, Michelle Zynwala

Brian Kemp, Manager, Fundraising and Community Relations  
Greg Dwulit, Heather McKinnon, Kathryn Wilson

The LSRCA's Corporate Services Team provides both internal and external client support. 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 stimulate public interest and answer their questions.

Every effort is made, by the entire organization, to live up to the following four goals:

**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 to promote our mission;

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

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

## 2001 Highlights

**Expanded our area of jurisdiction to include two north-shore Municipalities, the Townships of Oro-Medonte and Ramara.**

**Hosted "Lake Simcoe: The Other Great Lake" Symposium.** More than 100 people attended in order to gain insights on Lake Simcoe - a \$200 million resource.

**Treked across the watershed with our municipal and program partners** to highlight the Conservation Authority's works and partners.

**Issued 5,000 "Fish of Lake Simcoe" posters**, courtesy of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and wildlife artist Joseph R. Tomelleri.

**Celebrated "50 Years In Conservation"** aboard the Serendipity Princess on September 6th, 2001.

**Distributed more than 5,000 summer guides**, as well as annual reports and other items to watershed residents, special interest groups and municipalities.

**Produced more than 50 news releases, media advisories and public service announcements** to keep watershed residents up to date on LSRCA programs, services and special events.



## 2001 Financial Summary

The following information is condensed from the audited 2001 financial statement. Copies of the complete report will be available in April, 2002, at the Conservation Authority's head office located at 120 Bayview Parkway, in Newmarket.

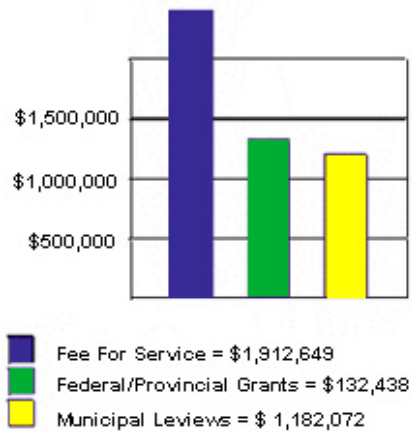
| ASSETS              | 2001             | 2000             |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cash                | \$ 1,167,712     | \$ 808,871       |
| Short-Term Deposits | 541,399          | 36,111           |
| Accounts Receivable | 275,279          | 248,304          |
|                     | <b>1,984,390</b> | <b>1,093,286</b> |
| Liabilities         |                  |                  |

|                                        |                  |                |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Accounts payable & Accrued Liabilities | 197,725          | 10,017         |
| Sick Leave Benefit Plan                | 45,312           | 45,312         |
| Amount due to the LSRCA                | 504,374          | 0              |
| Deferred Revenue                       | 328,543          | 181,608        |
| Security Deposits                      | 100,500          | 105,500        |
| Vacation Pay                           | 117,040          | 113,071        |
|                                        | <b>1,293,494</b> | <b>455,508</b> |

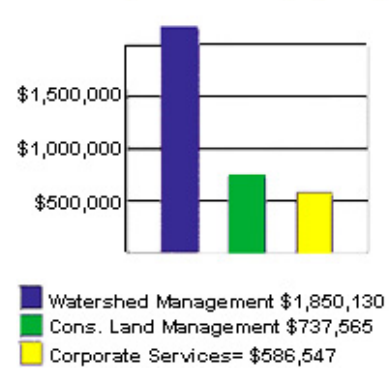
#### Fund Balances

|                                       |                  |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Reserves                              | 807,936          | 750,849          |
| AMount to be Funded in Future Periods | (117,040)        | (113,071)        |
|                                       | <b>690,896</b>   | <b>637,778</b>   |
|                                       | <b>1,984,390</b> | <b>1,093,286</b> |

#### Total Revenue: \$ 3,227,159



#### Total Expenditures: \$3,174,242



#### Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, 2001 Declaration:

In 2001, 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  
February, 2002



## ~ Leaders In Watershed Health ~

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