



2002 Annual Report

2002 Board Members:



Chair Roy Bridge, Town of Innisfil

ViceChair Deputy Mayor Susan Para,
Regional Municipality of Durham: Township of Uxbridge



Regional Municipality of Durham
Councillor Larry Corrigan, Township of Scugog
Councillor Harold Lodwick, Township of Brock



Regional Municipality of York
Mayor Margaret Black, Township of King (Oct.Dec.)
Councillor Virginia Hackson, Town of East Gwillimbury
Mayor Jeffrey Holec, Member At Large
Councillor Margaret Jordan, Town of Georgina
Councillor Steve Pliakes, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
Mayor Tom Taylor, Town of Newmarket
Councillor Harry Vander Kooij, Township of King (Jan.Sept.)
Deputy Mayor John G. West, Town of Aurora



County of Simcoe
Councillor Gary Lamb,
Towns of Bradford West Gwillimbury and New Tecumseth
Councillor Paul Marshall, Township of Oro-Medonte
Councillor Neal Snutch, Township of Ramara



Cities
Alderman Alison Eadie, City of Barrie
Mayor Ron Stevens, City of Orillia (Ex Officio)
Councillor Wayne Teel, City of Kawartha Lakes

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Chair's Message

Guided by our mission, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) has had a stellar year providing 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."

Thanks to the generous support of our member municipalities, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Conservation Authority launched its "Lake Simcoe Water Quality Improvement Program" in the spring. By working in partnership with private landowners, this program will help reduce the phosphorus pollution currently threatening Lake Simcoe's ecosystem.

Mobilizing shoreline residents in the fight to save Lake Simcoe has also been a priority this year. The LSRCA's "Paddling Around Lake Simcoe" Team spent the summer helping people make the connection between every day actions and state of Lake Simcoe. They made more than 40 presentations in 20 communities and reached close to 1,700 people with their message. Many thanks to the "PALS" for their tremendous work, and to Human Resources Development Canada and the other project sponsors for believing in this ambitious education program.



Honourary Lifetime Members

Mr. J.O. Dales and
Mr. George R. Richardson

Building on a tradition of success the LSRCA's Federal, Provincial and Municipal partners along with members of its Foundation welcomed the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation to the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) Team. Over the past decade we have managed to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe by approximately 17.8 tonnes annually. With the launch of LSEMS Phase III and the renewed energy and determination of our partners, the LSRCA's Board Members and staff are confident that we will be successful in restoring Lake Simcoe water quality and coldwater fishery. Your support in this task can help us make it happen.

Roy Bridge, Chair.

"Leaders In Watershed Health"

As "Leaders In Watershed Health" the Conservation Authority applauds all those who share its vision of a healthy Lake Simcoe watershed. A number of "Environmental Giants" were saluted at the LSRCA's Annual Conservation Awards Gala in November.

Chair Roy Bridge presented the George R. Richardson Conservation Award of Honour to Mrs. Ted Bagley, in memory of her husband Ted. Mr. Bagley's dedication to the preservation and enhancement of waterfowl and fish habitat is well known around the City of Orillia. He was a founding member of the City's AdHoc Committee on Wetlands as well as its Environmental Advisory Committee. As an active member of the Orillia Fish and Game Conservation Club from 1947 to 2001 he helped create the George Langman Wildlife Sanctuary. The following Award Winners were also celebrated at our Gala:

Ontario Marine Operators Association: Conservation Award of Merit for its "Clean Marine Program";
John and Rosemary Dunsmore: Water Conservation Award for taking action to reduce water pollution;

Kettleby Village Association: Soil Conservation Award for implementing its "Tree Care Program";

North Simcoe News: Media Recognition Award for its coverage of key environmental/Lake Simcoe issues;

Jennifer Baron: Conservation Award of Education, for raising environmental awareness in York & Durham Regions; and

The 26th Newmarket Pathfinders were declared the Conservation Authority's "Special Events Team of the Year" for bringing history to life at "Maplefest". Lilia Genkin, Kelly Walker, and the 94 Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron of Newmarket were also recognized for contributing to the organization's success.

Special presentations were also made to our Federal, Provincial and municipal partners for committing to the implementation of Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS): Phase III.

Watershed Management

From Barrie to the Oak Ridges Moraine, Uxbridge to the north shore of Lake Simcoe, the LSRCA's Watershed Management Team is working hard to protect your life, land and community from the damaging effects of regional floods. A recent report by Environment Canada has reinforced the importance of flood monitoring and alert systems as parts of Ontario have experienced recent rainfall equal to levels delivered by Hurricane Hazel (1954) as little as two years ago with little or no damage due to Conservation Authority flood plain management programs

A total of 11 Flood Bulletins were issued in 2002.

The LSRCA's planning and regulation process also plays an important role in safeguarding your property and water resources against the damaging effects of unsound building practices and other human activities. Provincial regulations require that anyone considering conducting certain activities along a waterway, in a floodplain or any other "fill regulated areas" (i.e. watercourses, steep slopes, wetlands, and other environmentally sensitive areas), are required to obtain a permit before they proceed. As a result, the LSRCA's Environmental Planners 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 comply with provincial regulations, staff also review proposals which may impact on fish and wildlife habitat as part of an agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). **The LSRCA processed 457 permits in 2002. Staff commented on 111 permits in accordance with the DFO agreement.**

The Watershed Management Team also offers environmental review services to our member municipalities, private businesses and watershed residents. Staff promote a holistic, watershedbased approach to managing natural resources when analyzing and commenting on various applications.

LSRCA Staff reviewed and commented on the following in 2002:
294 Official Plan Amendments and Zoning Bylaw Applications
227 Requests for Land Severances
75 Subdivision Applications
192 Site Plans.

The LSRCA also responded to 333 Property Information Requests and 129 Complaints/Permit Violations reported by members of the public.

Environmental Services

Lake Simcoe is in trouble. Phosphorus pollution from both urban and rural sources has contributed to the excessive growth of aquatic plants and algae, upsetting the Lake's dynamic ecosystem.

As lead agency of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS), the Conservation Authority works with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Ministries of Natural Resources, Environment, Agriculture and Food, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as the County of Simcoe, the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham, the Chippewas of Georgina First Nations and watershed member municipalities in order to reduce phosphorus pollution and restore the Lake's coldwater fishery. The LSEMS partners have continued to focus their efforts on reducing phosphorus inputs from urban and rural sources, undertaking water quality monitoring programs, raising awareness and mobilizing watershed communities. With the launch of LSEMS III an additional objective to protect natural heritage features and functions was adopted. Initiatives such as a State of the Watershed Report, an Integrated Water Resource Strategy and a Strategic Resource Management Plan for Lake Simcoe will help achieve this objective.

Watershed landowners have also been invited to take part in LSEMS III. Through the "Lake Simcoe Water Quality Improvement Program" urban and rural landowners receive technical and financial support for completing a wide range of projects which reduce soil erosion, enhance wildlife habitat and improve local water quality.

Check us out at: www.lsems.info

Thanks to the generous support of our member municipalities, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, close to \$3.2 million in environmental projects are to be completed by the end of 2003. **This year 104 projects were approved at a cost of \$1.4 million. These projects reduced an estimated 1.3 tonnes of phosphorus from entering Lake Simcoe annually.**

In 2002, the LSRCA planted 62,345 native trees and shrubs, in cooperation with landowners, to stabilize stream banks and protect water quality.

Since surface and groundwater systems are vulnerable to human activities, and long term problems can be costly and difficult to solve, taking a watershed approach to managing resources makes sense. A number of watershed studies and monitoring

programs have been undertaken to further understand the impacts on the quality and quantity of our water resources. **In 2002, the Conservation Authority completed the Black River State of the Watershed Report, and initiated work on the West Holland River. These studies have included:**

**ground and surface water monitoring (water quantity/quality);
natural heritage mapping (ecological land use classification); and
biological monitoring (benthic invertebrate and fisheries inventories).**

This information is being used to develop Management Strategies to protect remaining natural features and restore those features that have been degraded as a result of human activities.

Conservation Lands Management

Conservation Land Management is enhancing your quality of life 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.

Volunteers continue to contribute to the Conservation Authority's success. The 94th Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron of Newmarket helped revitalize part of a Scanlon Creek trail this year and Pickering College Students managed to collect about 77 bags of garbage from three separate sites in just one day. Lotek Wireless Fish & Wildlife Monitoring has conducted monthly clean ups of Thornton Bales Conservation Area and is planning to use the hightech animal tags they make for wildlife researchers to our benefit. While a "tagged" Lotek volunteer walks through the bush at Thornton Bales a satellite will report on their exact location... and the LSRCA's GIS team will be able to make an accurate map of the trails. Many thanks to these volunteers for actively caring for our green spaces and to the Newmarket Pathfinders for continuing to bring history to life at Maplefest.

Our deepest gratitude also goes to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation's Conservation Dinner Committee. For 14 years they have worked tirelessly to raise more than \$200,000 for environmental education programs and conservation works. Thanks to their ongoing support we can continue to connect kids with nature at the Professor E.A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre.

The need to protect natural heritage features as identified in the Oak Ridges Moraine strategy, as well as other environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands across the watershed, continued to gain prominence in 2002. As a result various opportunities and partnerships are being pursued with environmental agencies, individual landowners and our watershed municipalities.

**This year 3,690 daytrippers from 75 groups visited Scanlon Creek's Nature Centre,
and another 3,326 from 72 groups took part in the LSRCA's threeday residential program.**

Conservation Foundation's Lake Simcoe Fund Supports Local Environmental Projects

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation was established in 1973 to support the efforts of the Conservation Authority through fundraising initiatives. The Conservation Foundation is a registered charitable organization that is run by a dedicated group of volunteers whose common goal and concern is the future of Lake Simcoe.

For 30 years the Conservation Foundation has been raising funds for conservation and has celebrated successes in the areas of conservation education, environmental projects and conservation areas. In 2001 the "Lake Simcoe Fund" was established to support the commitment of the Conservation Authority in its efforts to restore the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its surrounding watershed.

Through the Lake Simcoe Fund, the Conservation Foundation raised more than \$40,000 in 2002. These funds will support important environmental projects being completed by the Conservation Authority to address phosphorus pollution. The Conservation Foundation has also put its support behind the Holland Marsh Water Quality Improvement Project and to date has raised more than \$510,000 for this important environmental initiative.

Over the coming years the Conservation Foundation's fundraising activities will become increasingly more critical to the restoration and protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed – an environment in which we live, work and play.

If you would like to support the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation please contact Brian Kemp at 9058951281 ext. 289.

Message From The Chief Administrative Officer/SecretaryTreasurer

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's member municipalities, provincial and federal partners have all been tremendously supportive this year. The 21% increase to our budget accurately reflects their confidence in our abilities to be "Leaders In Watershed Health".

When the Sustainable Water and septic Systems Act (Bill 175) was passed and a recent amendment was made, the Province recognized that watershedbased source protection is the first step in preventing drinking water contamination. Ontario's municipalities can now cover the cost of source protection through sewer and water rates. With its Lake Simcoe Water Quality Improvement Program, Groundwater and Tributary Monitoring Network, Watershed Management Plans and Mapping, the LSRCA has the foundation to assist our member municipalities in reaching their new goals.

Our membership in the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition is another reason to be proud. By pooling our resources we can assist our member municipalities with the implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, as well as contribute to provincial groundwater studies and natural heritage guidelines that will further protect the 160 kilometrelong geological formation.

As a result of the ongoing support of our partners, and our committed Board Members and staff I am confident that our future is filled with opportunities to enhance our natural environment and quality of life.

Yours truly,

D. Gayle Wood

Financial Summary

The following information is condensed from the unaudited 2000 financial statment. 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.

		2002
Revenue:	48% Municipal Levies	\$ 2,013,188
	12% Government Grants	\$ 507,935
	40% Accounts Receivable User Fees	\$ 1,607,639
		\$ 4,128,762
Expenditures:	20% Watershed Mangement & Health Monitoring	\$ 810,277
	15% Environmental Plan Review & Regulations	\$ 633,046
	23% Environmental Services	\$ 942,711
	23% Conservation Land Managment	\$ 954,711
	19% Corporate Services	\$ 788,229
		\$ 4,128,762

PUBLIC SECTOR SALARY DISCLOSURE ACT 2000 DECLARATION:

In 2002, 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/SecretaryTreasurer

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