



**LAKE SIMCOE REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2004 ANNUAL REPORT**



Water is essential to life

a message from the Chair and the CAO

The quality of our water affects our health and our recreational activities – our quality of life. Whether we drink it, swim in it, eat the fish caught in it, use it in manufacturing goods or just listening to a loon at sunset, our water comes from lakes, rivers, streams or underground sources located across the Lake Simcoe watershed. All these water sources are linked in a watershed through the water cycle. Our lives and all other life we see around us is linked to, even dependant, on our watershed's health.

Contamination (pollution) follows the flow of water through the watershed. So it makes sense to protect water sources on a watershed basis, rather than on the traditional boundaries of towns and cities. That's why the roles and responsibilities of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority are a natural solution for protecting our vital water resources from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the south to the Oro Ridges Moraine and Lake Couchiching in the north.

As there are many influences on our water resources, the Walkerton Inquiry recommended that a 'multi-barrier' solution – adequate treatment and distribution systems, testing and training of managers, be adopted to prevent contamination. For more than 50 years in the Lake Simcoe Region we have been building a "natural multi-barrier system" to protect our water sources and resources. Our 'barriers' of regulation of development and construction along waterways, public education, water quality improvement projects, reforestation and retention of pristine wetlands and forests are critical to life and its quality in our watershed.

We believe in *A Watershed for Life*.



*Roy Bridge
LSRCA Chair*



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



2004 LSRCA Board Members

Town of Innisfil
Councillor Roy Bridge
(Chair)

**York Region (East
Gwillimbury)**
Councillor Virginia
Hackson (Vice-Chair)

City of Barrie
Councillor Patrick Brown

City of Barrie
Mr. Eric Bull

**Town of Bradford West
Gwillimbury**
Councillor Mikki
Nanowski

Durham Region (Brock)
Mayor Keith Shier

Durham Region (Scugog)
Councillor Bobbie Drew

**Durham Region
(Uxbridge)**
Regional Councillor Susan
Self

**Honourary Lifetime
Member**
Mr. Joseph O. Dales

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Mr. George R. Richardson

City of Kawartha Lakes
Councillor George
Davidson

Town of New Tecumseth
Councillor Barbara Huson

Township of Oro-Medonte
Councillor Paul Marshall

City of Orillia (Ex-Officio)
Mayor Ron Stevens

Township of Ramara
Councillor Neal Snutch

York Region (at Large)
Mayor James Young

York Region (Aurora)
Councillor John G. West

York Region (Georgina)
Mayor Robert Grossi

York Region (King)
Councillor Jack Rupke

York Region (Newmarket)
Mayor Tom Taylor

**York Region
(Whitchurch-
Stouffville)**
Councillor Ken
Ferdinands



Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS)

The Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy partners - Federal and Provincial Departments and Ministries, Regions, Municipalities, citizens and the Chippewas of the Georgina First Nations, are developing a basin-wide Lake Simcoe Watershed Plan to provide direction for action through 2007. Public consultation sessions in the summer of 2004 used the "State of the Lake Simcoe Watershed Report - 2003" to inform the public of the Lake's struggle with phosphorus pollution and provided opportunities for input in the development of the Watershed Plan. The Lake receives an estimated 102 tonnes of phosphorus annually. The target of the LSEMS Watershed Plan is to reduce the total annual phosphorus load entering the Lake by 25% and maintaining an annual input of 75 tonnes.

The LSEMS partners, working together with the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, established a pilot program aimed at changing public behaviours negatively impacting water quality along the Maskinonge River in Keswick. "The Wave ~ Healthy Yards-Healthy Waters" garnered the support of two-thirds of the neighbourhood's households in making a difference in their own yards. The success of this pilot program and the lessons learned are shaping the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's plans for a roll-out of the WAVE around Lake Simcoe in 2005.

Lake Simcoe Water Quality Improvement Program

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Environmental Plan Review and Regulations

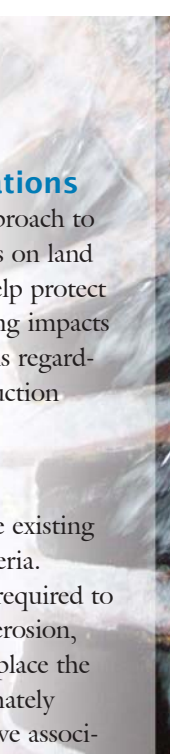
LSRCA staff members promote a watershed-based approach to managing natural resources when providing comments on land use planning and development proposals. They also help protect the public and their lands from the potential devastating impacts of floods and erosion hazards by reviewing applications regarding the placement of fill, altering waterways or construction within flood-prone areas.

Flood Line/Natural Hazard Mapping

LSRCA is developing new mapping that delineates the existing hazards in our watershed based on new Provincial criteria. Under the new criteria the Conservation Authority is required to specifically identify natural hazards, such as flooding, erosion, unstable slopes, etc. The new Hazard Mapping will replace the existing Registered Fill Line maps. There are approximately 3,950 km of stream channels in our watershed that have associated natural hazards. Existing flood plain mapping has been digitized and studies are underway to estimate the flood plain where existing mapping is not available. The latest orthophoto base maps will be used to help identify the other natural hazards. The draft Hazard Maps will undergo municipal and public consultation in 2005. Once consultations are complete, the Hazard Maps will be finalized and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for approval in 2006.

Natural Heritage Mapping

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Watershed Management and Health Monitoring

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Surface and Groundwater Monitoring

In addition to the Conservation Authority's more than 30 water quality monitoring sites detecting nutrient levels, metals, and general water quality, three water quantity stations and three groundwater monitoring wells were added to the monitoring network. Surface water flow stations, used in water budget estimations as well as flood and drought condition reporting, now total 10 in the watershed with the new stations constructed in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York. The Conservation Authority's groundwater monitoring network, part of a larger provincial initiative, has expanded to a total of 16 stations as a result of a partnership with the Ontario Geological Survey. Also to aid in the estimation of water budgets, more than 100 spot measurements of base flow, a direct measure of groundwater discharge, were made in 2004 and a water use survey was conducted to estimate the actual volume of water consumed in the watershed.

Reforestation

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- 2,866 students attended Scanlon Educational Centre's Weekday Residential program
- 664 visitors attended the Educational Centre's Weekend Residential program
- 78 children were involved in Scanlon's five-day Summer Programs

Foundation Funding

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Revenue:	\$ 6,034,449
Municipal Levies	3,533,604
Provincial & Federal Grants	508,616
Authority Generated	1,992,229

Expenditures:	\$ 5,924,143
Administration	747,935
Watershed Management & Health Monitoring	1,769,130
Environmental Plan	1,069,375
Review & Regulations	
Environmental Services	1,245,850
Land Management & Other	1,091,853

Public Sector Salary Disclosure 2004 Declaration

In 2004, 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.




News Highlights

January 6 D. Gayle Wood, LSRCA's Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, was asked to serve as a Co-Chair of the Provincial Technical Experts Committee developing the framework for the province's drinking water Source Protection Plan.

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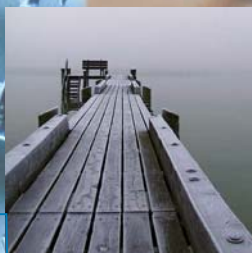
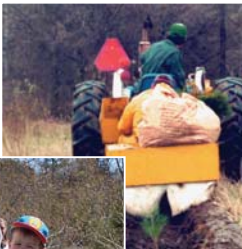
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November 19 Source Protection Planning – the Province of Ontario announced \$13 million in funding to assist Conservation Authorities and their partners to initiate the planning process to protect sources of drinking water in Ontario.

November 29 two Conservation Authority technicians recovered five 5-gallon oil containers from the Uxbridge Creek stream bed.

December 15 two committees tasked with developing the framework for Ontario's Source Protection Planning, the Source Protection Implementation Committee and the Technical Experts Committee, released final reports laying the groundwork and enabling Conservation Authorities to begin work on planning for drinking water source protection.



Community Relations

Whether as a source of drinking water, a place of work or just a place to call home, the Lake Simcoe watershed supports a population of more than 380,000 people. In turn, these residents impact their environment by their use of the land, the water and the air. Through public presentations, displays and publications, the Conservation Authority reminds, educates and involves watershed residents in caring for the resources that sustain them.

A new vision for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area began with community input from the people in and around the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury via Open House sessions and a community survey. By investing their time and energy with the LSRCA, these watershed residents provided an excellent spring board for action in 2005.

"Environmental Giants" from across the watershed received recognition at the annual Conservation Awards Gala in November. Ken Shaw, Master of Ceremonies, steered the event and kept the approximately 130 stakeholders entertained while honouring those who improved our environment.

2004 Conservation Award Winners

- Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor-*George R. Richardson Conservation Award of Honour*
- Town of Aurora-*Conservation Award of Merit*
- John Slykhuis of the Georgina Advocate-*Media Recognition Award*
- Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition-*Conservation Education Award*
- Mr. and Mrs. James Mortson, East Gwillimbury-*Soil Conservation Award*
- Hewitt Creek Farms, Innisfil-*Water Conservation Award*

Conservation Education

The education programming delivered by Educational Services to children of the watershed develops an awareness, appreciation and broader understanding of the importance of nature. Our message is delivered in three main programs: weekday and weekend residential programs at the Professor E. A. Smith Natural Resources Educational Centre, day programs at the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre and the "Conservation Kids" summer program at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area. Staff at both the Education and Nature centres worked to update and develop new program modules.

Upgrades to the Educational Centre's building continue, including washroom and dormitory renovations. In addition, an ongoing energy audit will recommend means to reduce the Centre's environmental footprint and create opportunities to teach students and the public about energy alternatives such as wind and solar energy generation.

Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation

As the sister organization of the Conservation Authority, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation is responsible for raising private funding in support of conservation efforts in and around Lake Simcoe. In January, the Foundation's Board conducted a significant planning process to allow the hiring of the Foundation's first Executive Director. Lisa Eveleigh joined the Foundation in September as Executive Director to help increase and guide the fundraising efforts to create a more focused and aggressive revenue generation effort. The 16th Annual Conservation Dinner in April raised over \$22,000 for the education efforts at the Scanlon Creek Education Centre. Two direct mail campaigns in the late summer and early fall raised a total of \$73,000.

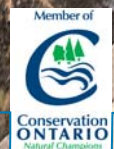


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120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X1
Tel: 905.895.1281 Fax: 905.853.5881
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