



Duchene '76



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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Lower Thames Beacon

Conservation news of
the lower Thames valley
watershed and region.

Produced by the
Lower Thames Valley
Conservation Authority.

January - June
2003
Vol. 4 No. 1

LTVCA
42 Years
of Conservation
Established
Feb. 2, 1961

Groundwater and Source Protection Planning

The LTVCA participated in the review of Groundwater Planning Studies in Middlesex, Elgin, Chatham-Kent and Essex over the past year. The studies provide valuable information that will help the communities develop local source protection measures, and will support the development of a province-wide source water protection framework. The studies will also map sensitive groundwater areas, survey how groundwater is used, and identify wellhead protection areas around municipal wells and potential contaminant sources.

Justice O'Connor's report on the Walkerton tragedy contained 22 recommendations on source water protection. In response to the recommendations, the Minister of Environment, on November 15, 2002, formed an Advisory Council on a provincial framework for Watershed-based Source Protection Planning. This Advisory Council has completed their report. The

Ontario government has posted the final report of the Advisory Council — **Protecting Ontario's Drinking Water: Toward a Watershed-based Source Protection Planning Framework** — to the Environmental Bill of Rights registry for public comment. The 55 recommendations in the report set out a comprehensive framework that addresses roles and responsibilities, the planning process, resources, timing and legislation. The location of the document on the internet is <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/spp.htm>

The implementation of this report will create new responsibilities for Conservation Authorities. The Advisory Council recommends that wherever possible, Conservation Authorities be the organization given responsibility for coordinating the development of watershed-based source protection plans.

Generic Regulation

Students will digitize and produce maps, helping to bring our existing Flood, Fill and Alteration to Waterway Regulation into compliance with the new Generic Regulation. **Laura Kearns**, a Chatham native and recent graduate of Sir Stanford Fleming in GIS, started the project this May on a **Provincial Experience grant** and obtained a full time GIS position in Illinois in June. A second GIS student will be hired with the balance of this funding. The **Federal Summer Career Placement Program** provided the LTVCA with a \$2,397 grant to also hire a GIS Technician for 10 weeks. **Matt Deline** of Dresden, will undertake the project until the end of August. The Summer Career Placement funding was applied for through the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.

Healthy Futures in Chatham-Kent

The onset of warmer months has prompted the completion of many projects in the fragile land retirement and septic system upgrades categories. The white cedar tree has been very popular this spring for windbreak planting and some nurseries even sold out of the seedlings. The grant incentive enticed many farmers to purchase the more expensive large stock tree.

To date, the program has held 8 Steering Committee meetings, approving 284 projects, covering all geographic areas of Chatham-Kent. The committee has 2 new members, including **Mr. Cecil Stover** from Stewardship Kent who is replacing Mr. Earle Johnson for the summer months, and **Mr. Edward Cikatricis**, representing the National Farmers Union.

Healthy Futures in Chatham-Kent has proved to be an excellent public relations opportunity for all parties involved. The rural community within the municipality is acquiring a positive environmental spin by taking on numerous water improvement projects which enhance many diverse sectors. The economy has truly benefited by the trickle down effect of these environmental ventures.

The LTVCA recognizes the continuing financial support from **Human Resources Development Canada**, which enabled the hiring of 1 project assistant for the Healthy Futures Program.

Contact Randy Nauta (519)354-7310 for information on grants for eligible projects in Chatham-Kent. All Projects are funded at 50% up to the maximum assistance levels.

Lower Thames Beacon

This newsletter is published several times a year. If you have comments and suggestions for upcoming issues, please send them along! See the back page for ways to contact us.

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Spring Tree Planting

The LTVCA was very busy in April and May with their forestry program. In the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and Essex County, an estimated **37,881** trees were planted. Approximately **10,254** trees were planted in Middlesex and Elgin Counties.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors 2003 and Municipal Partners

Chair: Ken Brooks - City of London

Vice-chair : John Beharrell - Twp. of Southwold

Brian King - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Will Parney - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Neil Seney - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

John Yokom - Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich

Jack Morris - Town of Lakeshore

Bill Derbyshire - Town of Leamington

Nicholas Isyumov - Township of Middlesex Centre

Allan Mayhew - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

Joe Reily - Township of Strathroy-Caradoc

Duncan McPhail - Municipality of West Elgin

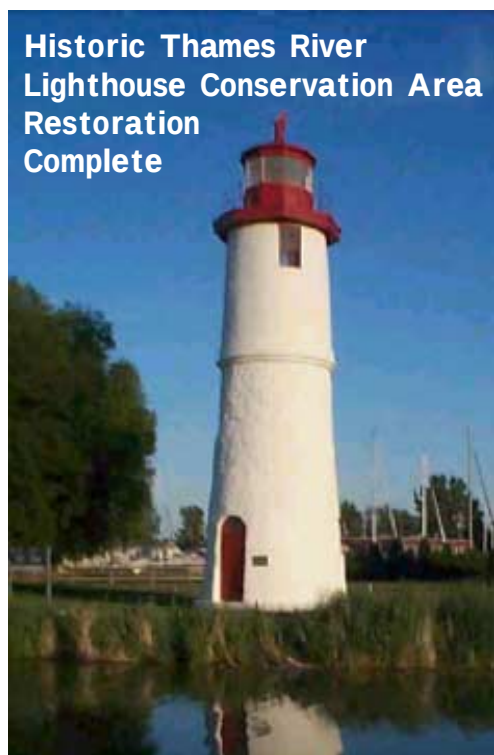
The LTVCA has 10 member municipalities and 12 Directors. One Director represents each municipality except for Chatham - Kent (3). Directors are appointed for a maximum 3 year term and can be reappointed. Meetings of the Board of Directors are generally held on the last Thursday of every other month commencing in February. As appointed representatives, Directors are charged with the responsibility of establishing policies and making policy decisions which will govern the operation of the Conservation Authority. LTVCA staff are responsible for implementing those policies.

Spring Flood Events

Our primary runoff event this spring occurred between March 18th and March 25th. As of the 4th of March, we measured approximately 16 inches of ice at the river mouth and 13 inches of ice in Chatham. The **Upper Thames** measured approximately 75 millimetres of water in the snowpack on March 14th, which was approximately 2.5 times normal for that time of year. The warm weather started on March 15th, and fortunately was not accompanied by any significant rainfall.

Ice jam flooding is the LTVCA's most critical concern due to its unpredictable aspect. Our Ice Management plan indicates that one of the most important factors in predicting an ice jam flood, is the number of degree days of thawing that occur prior to the flood peak reaching the Byron stream gauge. A snow melt event usually develops slowly because nocturnal cooling slows melting. This type of event provides the opportunity for many warm days before flood peaks develop. In 2003, we had 28 Celsius degree days of melting prior to a flood peak of 470 cubic metres per second (CMS) reaching Byron. This amount of melting days was adequate to flush all river ice out into Lake St. Clair without consequence on March 21. The river subsequently peaked in Thamesville at a flow of 360 CMS, and at Chatham at an elevation of 177.19 metres. This elevation is where the river flats upstream of Chatham are affected, but no other flood damages occur. We were very fortunate that the critical melt period was not accompanied by any rainfall this year. Rainfall not only speeds the melt process, but will increase runoff while melting is taking place.

Historic Thames River Lighthouse Conservation Area Restoration Complete



Designated as a heritage structure by the Town of Lakeshore, the Thames River Lighthouse is the second oldest in Ontario, with the original wooden structure dating back to approximately 1790. The restoration of the river's lighthouse is now complete. In addition, the Canadian Coast Guard made great improvements to the Lighthouse residence and the LTVCA planted trees to enhance the aesthetics of the property.

Picture from *Thames River Yacht Club* website
www.thamesriveryachtclub.org.

Lambton-Elgin-Middlesex Mapping Project

This mapping project was literally able to get off the ground in spring! It was hoped the aerial photos would have been taken last fall, but cloudy and hazy conditions delayed the project. This \$75,000 project will produce orthorectified colour aerial photos of the municipalities of **Southwest Middlesex, Strathroy-Caradoc, West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich**. It is being jointly funded from the LTVCA's available funding and the municipalities involved. The mapping will be very useful to the Conservation Authority and the respective municipality for plan and project review. It is anticipated this mapping project will be completed in the fall.



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Thames - A Canadian Heritage River



Over 80 people attended the 3rd Annual Thames River Symposium at the **Chatham Cultural Centre**, March 28.



The grade 7 and 8 students from **Caradoc Central School** in Mt. Brydges helped clean up the Mill Stream at Longwoods Road Conservation Area again this year!

The 4th Annual Thames River Clean-up was held May 3, 2003. **The Natural Outdoor Activity Heritage Conservation Club (NOAH)** and the **Upper Thames River Conservation Authority** and LTVCA invited concerned citizens, landowners and municipalities to participate. This year, over 1,300 volunteers cleaned up 145 km of waterway. In the lower Thames River watershed, volunteers cleaned sections of the river in Lighthouse Cove, Chatham, and Sharon Creek and Mill Stream tributaries.

Waterway, Drain, Stream Alterations

In the past, the LTVCA reviewed with a Level 1 status, the drain and stream alterations for the **Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)**. This meant that we conducted the initial assessment of the project to identify impacts on fish habitat. Then, if an impact could occur, the proponent (landowner) was referred to the DFO. A July 2002 meeting with the Senior Habitat Biologist and the Habitat Biologist from the DFO, elevated the LTVCA to a Level II Agreement position. We now have more responsibilities, and the ability to comment regarding mitigation methods submitted by landowners, if any project is deemed a HADD (Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction) of fish habitat. Any projects requiring compensation with respect to the loss of habitat, must still be reviewed by the DFO.

Aquatic Species at Risk

The Thames River Aquatic Species at Risk Recovery Strategy is being completed in cooperation with the LTVCA, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and several key agency, academic and First Nation representatives. Early in the year, staff completed a synthesis report for the 22 aquatic species identified as 'at risk' within the Thames River watershed, including fish, mussels and reptiles. This report summarizes all pertinent information affecting species at risk in the Thames River watershed to identify key patterns and trends in limiting factors, habitat quality, and distributions of aquatic species at risk in the watershed. It was the framework for developing the recovery strategy for the Thames River aquatic ecosystem.

The draft Recovery Strategy completed in May, has been released to the Thames River Recovery Strategy Steering Committee for review. Information in the Strategy includes proposed recovery goals, objectives, strategies and actions for addressing the issues and threats facing the Thames River ecosystem. Thirteen strategies have been identified. Recovery action plans will be finalized once public meetings have been held (September and October 2003) and recovery implementation teams formed. The date for action plans to be completed is winter 2004. It is hoped that the draft Recovery Strategy will be placed on the Interdepartmental Recovery Fund eligible list of recovery strategies, providing opportunity for federal funding supporting Recovery Programs.

Provincial Ground Water Monitoring Program

The **Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE)** has indicated that they will pay for the first year of water sampling for wells under this program. We have undertaken sampling at one well and will begin again in late August. We hope to have all sampling done before winter.

Lake St. Clair Water Management Study

The second draft of the bi-national Lake St. Clair Management Study has been released to the public and the Project Management Team. It is available for review at the following website www.glc.org/stclair/manageplan.html. Comments will be collected by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and refinements will be made up until the presentation of the plan by the U.S. Great Lakes Commission to the U.S. Congress in the fall of 2003. This Canadian portion of the report will undergo further public review later in the year.



IROQUOIAN VILLAGE & MUSEUM

www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

Advisory Committee 2003

•Chair Don Fairbairn •Vice-Chair Ron Watts
LTVCA Appointed

•Ken Brooks •John Beharrell •Joe Reilly •Allan Mayhew
•John Yokom •Jerry Campbell
Community Members
•Glenn Stott •Andy Chisholm

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Information (519)264-2420 (6.5 km west of Delaware on Middlesex County Rd. 2 at 8348 Longwoods Road)



January - February

The snow inspired school groups to come out even with record cold temperatures! Groups enjoyed wintery tours of the village, as well as workshops in snowshoeing and our hunting simulation game. The DVD productions are in full use, especially now that we have a player thanks to **Peter Snow** - LTVCF Director. Peter also donated a computer and a printer for village use.



March

And the children kept coming as Ska-Nah-Doht Native Studies had our best numbers in 5 years! On March 22, Ska-Nah-Doht took part in "A Day for the Arts", which was held in Strathroy. This day focused attention on local arts and cultural groups.

April

"Walk on the Wildside of Spring" brought some new friends to Longwoods. This event attracts visitors from all over the area - Chatham, Wardsville, Ridgetown, Oil Springs and London, and covers a lot of ground, literally! In addition to guided tours of the village looking for medicinal plants along the way, it includes guided wildflower hikes too.



May

The village is still very busy with school programs, and the tourist season has begun! Local residents are one of our best advertisements, as they bring family from all parts of the globe, including Holland, Germany, Denmark, the U.K. and even Australia!

June

Classes enjoyed learning about life 1,000 years ago right up to the last day of school, June 25th. Staff still managed to get the Community Museum Operating Grant to the Ministry of Culture on time. Visitors continued to come out with the nice weather and included our American cousins from Ohio, Wisconsin, Oregon, South Carolina and even Choccolocco, Alabama. This leaves us wondering what wandering travellers will we meet this summer...?



Young Canada Works in Heritage

One student, will be hired to coordinate the Ska-Nah-Doht Language Project. We will see more French and Oneida added to the exhibits.

Check Out Upcoming Events at Ska-Nah-Doht

<http://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/SpecialEvents.htm>
Nightwalk with the Spirits August 16
Taste of Fall October 19

Just the Stats!

January 1 - June 30, 2003
2,994 students visited Ska-Nah-Doht on school field trips
113 youth took part in 5 weekend Iroquoian workshops or tours for badge work

Wow!

Happy 30th Birthday Ska-Nah-Doht!

Wow!

•1970 first pole raised at Ska-Nah-Doht Nov. 17 •1973 village opening ceremony Sept.15 •1972-1976 3 cabins and Burwell House moved to Longwoods •1974 Resource Centre completed •1977-1981 displays created at Resource Centre. Archaeology programs began at Kelly and Yaworsky Sites. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing programs began! •1983 fund-raising campaign for village maintenance known as 'Ska-Nah-Doht 40', with goal of \$40,000! •1990 Ska-Nah-Doht reached its goal of raising \$40,000. Fund-raising continued. Annual attendance 32,000. •1992 brochure translated into 5 languages. •1995 all provincial funding for conservation areas was eliminated. The movie "Young Hawk" was filmed at village and National Film Board's documentary "Project Grizzly".

Gift shop expanded. •1998 Ska-Nah-Doht celebrates its Silver Anniversary! •1999 Michigan school visits on the increase. •2000 Ska-Nah-Doht continues to access funds raised by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for special projects and employment programs. Longhouses received major renovations. •2002 Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum wins the Attractions Canada Provincial Award for "Developed Outdoor Site". New DVD presentations created. Ska-Nah-Doht goes to the 2002 Rural Expo (International Plowing Match) in Glencoe. Forest City Checkers have volunteered their help at the village for over 20 years! •2003 Ska-Nah-Doht celebrates its 30th birthday!

CONSERVATION EDUCATION



www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca
Longwoods Road Conservation Area

(6.5 km west of Delaware on Middlesex County Rd. 2 at 8348 Longwoods Road)

Tel: (519) 264-2420 Email: lowerthames@odyssey.on.ca

A Provincial Winner!
Attractions Canada Award
2002

Creek and River Safety Classroom Program

We are very grateful to the **Chatham-Kent Community Foundation** and to the **McGeachy Charitable Foundation** for their contributions of \$2,000 and \$1,650 respectfully, towards the 2003 Creek and River Safety Program. In November and December, 50 grade 2 classrooms in Chatham-Kent will be visited by LTVCA Education staff as students learn how to stay safe around Creeks and Rivers. **Jerry Campbell**, the General Manager/Secretary Treasurer of the LTVCA, also made a donation, enabling the program to be conducted for a Chatham Montessori School grade two class.

Youth Groups Go Wild!

Owl Prowls

Searching for owls at Longwoods Road Conservation Area continued in March with 2 nights of owl prowls. On one night, the **Pathfinders of London** came to prowl for owls. After checking out a few potential locations for owls, the group scared an unidentified bird out of a pine tree. Caught by surprise and in the darkness of the night, perhaps it was an owl. On another night, the **Guides of London** came out with some of their family members to go prowling for the mysterious owl. The Guides did not see an owl on this evening, however heard some strange calling at the end of the night. "Whoow cooks for yooou?" Thanks to the Guides for the box of Girl Guides Cookies!

Flying Squirrel Boxes

In March, the 54th Scouts helped put the finishing touches on the Southern Flying Squirrel Nesting boxes. They helped seal the nesting box lids, drill holes on the bottom and on the sides for ventilation and drainage, and screwed on the metal occluders and identification plates. In the meantime, 14 trees were marked with flagging tape at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, in suitable habitat locations. Tall trees with few overlapping branches in the canopy offer the best protection to Southern Flying Squirrels while nesting. The **102nd Scouts** of London helped place 10 out of 14 boxes in Longwoods. If your group would like to help with this part of the conservation project call Denise, Conservation Education Technician at 519 264-2420.



The 54th Scout Troop finished off the flying squirrel nesting boxes in March.



"Belle" the screech owl from the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation, kept everyone in awe as she took the stage once again at the Resource Centre in February.

Past...Present...Future Special Weekend Events are a Real Hoot!

Owl Hike

February 15 was the date of the Moonlight Winter Family Hike at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. The event was once again a huge success, with over 113 people turning out to enjoy moonlight hikes on a chili winter's night. Speaking of chili, many visitors enjoyed a hearty serving of Bonnie's home-made chili. During the first hike, an owl was spotted last minute up high in the treetops. No other owls were spotted on the other 3 hikes. A special thanks goes out to our volunteers **Joe Reily, Al McGregor, Cleve Lowthian** and **Ashley Little** for helping the event run smoothly and thanks to the special guests **Lynn Eves (Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation)** and **George Wickham (Master Wildlife Carver)** for taking time out to show us what they like to do and sharing their knowledge with us on this night.

Spring Hike

On Sunday April 27, 40 people participated in the special spring hikes at Longwoods. The weather was a welcomed sunny and warm! Many people were visiting us for the first time. Two hike themes were offered, one with information about Iroquoian culture and the other about natural history. Many thanks to our volunteers **Sarah McIntyre, Don Fairbairn, and Irmgard Post**, and to our guests **Karen Caughlin** and **Hilary Nicpon** for showing us their artistic skills and works of art. The Middlesex County Walking Trails booklet was given away free to all participants. Booklets are still available at Longwoods and throughout the County.

Donations are "for the birds"



Winter can be a hard time for birds as they struggle to find the basic needs for survival. One way we can help the winter birds is to set up a feeding station. At Longwoods Road Conservation Area, a year-round feeding station is visible from inside the Resource Centre windows. Our feeding station has different feeders, at different times of the year, to attract a wide variety of birds. Niger seed, mixed seed, black oil sunflower seed, suet, peanuts and a sugar syrup seasonally fill the different types of feeders.

Thank you to **Wittland Investments (Mount Brydges)** for their continuing donations which allow us to buy food for the birds all year. Also thank you to **B.J.'s Country Market (Delaware)** and **Mount Brydges Abattoir** for their donations of suet. We used a lot of suet throughout the winter.

The birds, squirrels and chipmunks which visit the feeders, provide excellent teaching opportunities for the students and tourists visiting Longwoods Road!

Rivers' Day

Canada's First River's Day was celebrated on Sunday, June 8, and Longwoods took advantage of this special day by providing streamside guided hikes and a special presentation on the Thames River. About 30 people joined in on a hike along the Mill Stream - a tributary of the Thames. Visitors took back lots of information about the Thames River, and the endangered plant and animal species which make the river their home.

See You At These Events!

- Family Nature Hike - July 13
- Archaeology Day - July 20
- Summer Nature Day Camp - July 21-25
- Nightwalk with the Spirits - August 16
- Taste of Fall at Ska-Nah-Doht - October 19

Envirothon Workshop

In April, education staff went to Ridgeway College to participate in an Envirothon Workshop. This is a competition between high school students with a desire to learn more about the environment. Students took part in 4 different seminars, wetlands, soil, wildlife and forestry. For further information check out www.ontarioenvirothon.on.ca.

EEON - Environmental Education Ontario

'Greening the way Ontario learns' is the motto. In April, Denise Biega spent her day at the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre in North York, helping to review a Strategic Plan for improving the quality of environmental and sustainability learning in Ontario. Check out www.eeon.org.



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation Board of Directors 2003

•Peter Snow- President

•Al McGregor - Vice President

•Dawn Sullivan - Secretary/Treasurer

•Ken Brooks •John Beharrell •Joe Reily

•Ralph Brodie •Glenn Stott •Gail Giles

•Keri Wilson •Chris Matthews

Bonnie Carey - Administrative Assistant

We invite new members to the Foundation.
If you are interested in joining us, our next
meeting will September 16 in Chatham at the
LTVCA's Administration Building.

Check us out at
www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca
Click on Foundation then 'Publications' to
view our 2002 Annual Report.

About the Conservation Foundation

The Conservation Foundation works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, helping to raise funds to encourage wise management of our renewable natural resources. The Conservation Foundation was created in 1995 to cultivate and enhance all aspects of conservation, helping to provide present and future generations with a safe and healthy environment which includes our natural and cultural heritage resources. Over \$250,000 has been raised the Foundation was established in support of conservation programs.

One of our primary concerns is ensuring that the Longwoods Education Programs, including the Ska-Nah-Doht Native Studies and Community Conservation Education Programs, continue to provide unique outdoor learning opportunities for the children and residents of the lower Thames river watershed and surrounding region.

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Contacting the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

100 Thames St., Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8

Tel: (519) 354-7310 Fax: (519) 352-3435

E-Mail: lowerthames@odyssey.on.ca

Website: www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation is an independent non-profit, registered charity.
Tax receipts are available for donations over \$10.00. Registered Charitable Number 89819 8171 RR0001

Foundation Assists Watershed Conservation Projects

Foundation Directors raise thousands of dollars annually to help support conservation and resource management projects of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and its volunteer groups. Over \$33,000 was raised in 2002 for these causes. The following activities have received funding from the Foundation so far in 2003:

Student Employment

The Foundation successfully applied for \$6,198 of funding for 3 summer student positions through the **Federal Government's Student Employment Program - 'Summer Career Placement'**. One student is working for 12 weeks at Longwoods Road Conservation Area as an Area Technician on a \$3,288 grant, another student is working as a Field Resource Technician at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area for 6 weeks on a \$1,233 grant and a GIS Technician has been hired for 10 weeks at the LTVCA Administration Building in Chatham on a \$2,397 grant. Also the Foundation provided \$777 to the LTVCA in support of a **Federal Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations** grant which allowed 1 student to work on the Ska-Nah-Doht Language Project at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. The remaining \$2,335.74 for this project was administered through the **Canadian Museum Association by the Department of Canadian Heritage**.

Reforestation

The Foundation provided the LTVCA with over \$4,000 towards reforestation in 6 memorial forest sites across the lower Thames watershed.

Website and Internet Support

Nearly \$300 was provided to the LTVCA for its website domain and Longwoods Road Conservation Area internet/email service.

Fund-raising Data Base

\$1,400 was provided for the subscription to a fund-raising support data base. LTVCA staff and Foundation Directors access this resource in search of funding opportunities.

Conservation Education

The **Chatham-Kent Community Foundation** donated \$2,000 and the **McGeachy Charitable Foundation** donated \$1,625 to the Foundation in support of the Creek and River Safety Program for grade 2 students in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. This program is offered by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Conservation Education department and will run during the latter part of November and early December 2003. As well, \$200 from **Wittland Investment** was transferred to the LTVCA for the purchase of seed for the ever popular birdfeeding station at the Resource Centre at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

Friends of Sharon Creek (FOSC)

The Foundation assisted the FOSC when they provided the means for over \$2,300 of private donations, made in memory of the late **Renie Long** - past Councillor for Middlesex Centre, to be put into the Sharon Creek Trust Fund. As well, the Foundation also provided over \$350 to this Trust Fund from its memorial forest program. In addition, up to \$1,000 has been promised to the FOSC for regulation signage at the Sharon Creek Conservation Area this summer.

Directors' Corner

Two new Directors have joined the Foundation Board. **Keri Wilson**, is a lawyer with Shillington & Associates of London and **Chris Matthews** is the marketing specialist with The Syndicon Group Inc. in London. Welcome aboard! Elections were held at the April 15 Annual Meeting of the Foundation and for 2003, the Foundation's President is **Peter Snow**, the Vice-president is **Al McGregor** and the Secretary-Treasurer is **Dawn Sullivan**. Congratulations to all! Many thanks for the 8 years of dedicated service that past-president **Ken Brooks** provided the Foundation.

'Lower Thames Heritage Charity Golf Tournament'

The Foundation hosts a charity golf tournament on Sept. 27, at the Wardsville Golf Club. To sponsor or register a '4-some', pick up forms from Longwoods Road Conservation Area at 8348 Longwoods Road, the LTVCA Administration at 100 Thames St. in Chatham, local golf and country clubs or online at <http://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/FoundationGolf.htm>. Contact Glenn Stott at gstott@enoreo.on.ca or (519) 828-3843.

These are the Projects and Services of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and Community Conservation Partners that were 'Helped' Through Our Foundation and Its Generous Donors in 2002

• Internet Access and E-mail at Longwoods Road Conservation Area for Education and Community Relations Programs • Supporting the William Kingsley Erickson Bursary • Fund-raising Resource Data Base Subscription • Over 400 Trees Planted in 7 Memorial Forest Sites in the Lower Thames River Watershed • Bird Feeder Station Supplies and Equipment for Longwoods Road Conservation Area • Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum Education Program Resources • Sponsorship of Special Public Events - Owl Hike and Eco-Treasure Hunt at Longwoods Road Conservation Area • Maintenance of Longwoods Road Conservation Area Nature Trails Through Interpretive Trail Signage Sponsorship Program • Sponsorship of a Thames River Book • Summer Student Employment at Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas • Funding Towards Longwoods Long-term Plans • Support Towards the Friends of Sharon Creek Trust Fund • Sponsorship of Conservation Authority's Website • Funding for New Audio Visual Equipment for Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum • Funding Towards Conservation Education Equipment and Materials • Promotion of Environmental Stewardship Across the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Ways You Can Help Conservation!

✓ MEMORIAL FOREST PROGRAM *memories live on*

In 2002, \$12,000 was donated towards the planting of over 400 memorial trees. By planting a tree, we preserve precious memories and encourage the preservation of nature for future generations. We are very grateful to **Elliott-Madill Funeral Homes Ltd.** of Mt. Brydges, and the **McKinlay Funeral Homes** of Chatham for their continued support of our memorial forest program. The **John C. Badder Funeral Home** in Thamesville and the **Badder & Robinson Funeral** in Bothwell have recently partnered with our Foundation to create the Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest.

Memorial Forests require care and maintenance just like your own garden. Several volunteer groups help in this management as well as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and our Foundation - the '**friends of sharon creek**', and the **Comber District Historical Society**. The Foundation is grateful for the services these community groups provide.

Friends and family may dedicate trees by contacting the Conservation Foundation, requesting a memorial forest donation card and making a \$30.00 donation for each tree. Next of kin receive a memorial certificate, and an invitation to an annual memorial forest service. Individual trees are not identified, however records are kept of all donations.

✓ Trail Sponsorship Program

Our Foundation invites groups such as churches, youth organizations, schools, local businesses and corporations to support the nature trails at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. There are 6.5 km of trails, two of which are wheelchair accessible. The park is visited by 30,000 visitors annually and is also home to Ska-Nah-Doht, a recreated Iroquoian village of one thousand years ago.

Donations help provide stone chips for wheelchair accessible trails, repairs and maintenance of boardwalks and stairs, trail clearing and pruning, trail signs and information and conservation education programs. Tax receipts are issued for every year of sponsorship.

✓ Become a 'Partner in Conservation'

Education programs offered by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority out of Longwoods Road Conservation Area, require ongoing financial support from private funding sources. The Foundation invites service clubs, local businesses, other charitable foundations and private citizens to become '**Partners in Conservation**' by donating towards the education programs. This is an opportunity for sponsors to: have their name on publications and signs; receive media attention; enjoy special considerations for their employees and families; and to receive a tax receipt, all in recognition of their support. Donations received help to maintain trails, supply educational equipment and materials, and support the hiring of staff for the Conservation Authority.

January - June 2003 Thank You for Your Support!

- **Federal Student Employment Program 'Summer Career Placement'** (Chatham-Kent and London)
- **McKinlay Funeral Home** (Chatham-Kent)
- **Elliott-Madill Funeral Home** (Mt. Brydges)
- **Chatham-Kent Community Foundation** (Chatham-Kent)
- **McGeachy Charitable Foundation** (Chatham-Kent)
- **John C. Badder Funeral Home** (Thamesville)
- **Badder & Robinson Funeral Home** (Bothwell)
- **Thornewood Printing** (London)
- **Wittland Investment** (Mt. Brydges)
- **Chimo Farms** (Mt. Brydges)
- **Royal Canadian Legion** (Mt. Brydges)
- **McKenzie Lake Law Firm** (London)
- **Jerry Campbell** (Chatham-Kent)
- **Private Donations for Memorial Trees**

'William Kingsley Erickson' Student Bursary

Following the passing of the Mayor of Chatham-Kent - **William Erickson**, our Foundation established the '**William Kingsley Erickson Endowment Fund**'. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation sponsors this \$500 student bursary through the generous donations of various community groups.

Eligible candidates must be a graduating secondary school student, selected by our committee, who will be pursuing post-secondary education in the field of environmental/conservation studies at an accredited institution. The bursary will be awarded at the July meeting of the Foundation.

Looking to Volunteer?

Volunteer as a Foundation Director & Help Conservation!

**Tel: (519) 354-7310 or
Email: lowerthames@odyssey.on.ca**

What are the benefits?

An opportunity to: • make a difference locally & see results • improve the quality of the natural environment • improve the health of the lower Thames River watershed & region & ultimately, the health of our local communities • work with a team towards a common goal • assist a conservation organization in reaching their goals • meet new conservation 'friends'!

With whom will the volunteer work?

• other Directors of the Foundation • corporations, government agencies, service clubs, local 'friends of volunteer groups & other philanthropic organizations • the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority staff & its Directors

What are the goals & objectives of the job?

Measurable outcomes: • the Foundation helps to raise funds to encourage wise management of our renewable natural resources in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority • the Conservation Foundation was created to cultivate & enhance all aspects of conservation, helping to provide present & future generations with a safe & healthy environment which includes our natural & cultural heritage resources

When will the volunteering be performed?

• meetings are held in the evenings, usually 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Monday - Thursday, with dates set in advance • any volunteering over & above the meetings will be weekends, evenings, or at times convenient to the volunteer, depending on the activity

Hours required?

Set hours are: • meetings are generally held every other month (4-6 annually) & are usually 2 hours in length (*does not include drive to & from meeting*) • any hours over & above the meetings are entirely up to the individual depending on one's interest & participation in Foundation activities!

What are the skills required?

• keen interest &/or experience in fund-raising! • have the time! (*willing to commit to a minimum 12 hours of volunteer time annually and attend meetings- the maximum time is unlimited depending on interest in & commitment to specific project!*) • passionate about the conservation of our natural resources! • professional, excellent communications skills, community leadership & community involvement! • computer skills an asset

What are the tasks for the volunteer?

• help to source out new funding partners to undertake projects & programs which assist with Conservation Education & Conservation Area development • initiate new fund-raising activities & projects • support 'fellow' Directors with special projects • the 'adoption' of projects which assist volunteer organizations with their fund-raising efforts • represent the Foundation at speaking engagements • assist at Foundation special events such as 'Memorial Forest Dedication Services' & 'Eco-Treasure Hunt' event • actively promote the 'Interpretive Trail Sponsorship Program' at Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Memorial Forests of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

McKinlay Woodlands...

A Living Memorial

C. M. Wilson Conservation Area,
Chatham-Kent, On
(supported by McKinlay Funeral Home)

Elliott-Madill Memorial Forest

Sharon Creek Conservation Area,
Delaware, On
(supported by Elliott-Madill Funeral Home)

Arn Memorial Forest

Big Bend Conservation Area,
Wardsville, On
(supported by Arn Funeral Home)

Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest

Bothwell, On
(supported by John C. Badder and
Badder & Robinson Funeral Homes)

Two Creeks Memorial Groves

Two Creeks Conservation Area,
Wheatley, On

Comber District Historical Museum Memorial Forest

Comber, On

Rowson's Tilbury West Conservation Area

Tilbury, On



DONATIONS TO OUR FOUNDATION

If you would like to make a donation to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation in support of the conservation programs, please contact us! Ways to reach us are listed on the reverse of this page. Your donation will be greatly appreciated, generously recognized and wisely used for environmental projects in the local area. Tax receipts are available.

Thank You!

Conservation Areas Across Our Watershed (see more at www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/ConservationAreas)

Longwoods Road - Strathroy-Caradoc



The grade 6 class from Adelaide W.G. MacDonald School near Strathroy, enjoyed a snowshoeing outing at Longwoods in January. The teacher, **Mr. John Davidson**, retired in June, after 20 years of bringing his classes to Longwoods on field trips. Mr. Davidson was also organized the School Board cross-country running meets at Longwoods for many years. Best wishes in your retirement Mr. 'D'!



The **Eco-partnership Crew** was invaluable during the massive parks cleanup following the April 5th ice storm.



The '**Royal Scots**' of the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society hosted the Longwoods Education Day and the Longwoods Heritage Weekend featuring reenactments of 'The Ambush of Westbrook - Reservoir Hill' and the 'Battle of Longwoods' in early May.

E.M. Warwick - West Elgin



At E.M. Warwick Conservation Area, over 1,173 people have enjoyed group camping to the end of June 2003. A mess hall and 4 cabins, observation tower, nature trails, day use pavilion and a sandy beach along Lake Erie are the features of this beautiful conservation area.

C.M. Wilson - Chatham-Kent

The CHATHAM-KENT (CK) CHILDREN'S SAFETY VILLAGE Program Committee has met several times this spring. Represented on the Committee are the LTVCA, the CK Children's Services, the CK Hydro/PUC, the CK Police Service, the Conseil Scolaire de District des Ecoles Catholiques du Sud-Ouest, Lambton-Kent District School Board, Farm Safety Association, Brain Injury Association, CK Paramedic Association, the CK Fire Department and the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. The Safety Village is anticipated to be in operation the fall of 2004 at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area.

Attendance at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area - from January to the end of June was 6,069, comprised of 378 students, 593 people renting the barn pavilion, 438 day use visitors, and 4,686 campers. Don't miss the Foundation's Barn Dance and Jamboree on October 4!



On a hot day, the man-made lake at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area is a refreshing feature!

Crane - Southwold



Crane Conservation Area is a 3 hectare property that has seen some upgrades this year. To give pedestrian access to the Memorial Cairn, a new sign and culvert have been installed. The fencing has also been removed.

Special Employment Programs

With the special funding made available through employment programs, the LTVCA enhances its work in conservation lands and on technical projects. We recognize the support for the following number of positions from:

- Federal - Summer Career Placement for Students (3)
- Human Resources Development Canada (1)
- Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations (1)
- Provincial - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (1)

Mill Stream - Strathroy-Caradoc



Within easy walking distance, neighborhood children enjoy a toboggan ride down the hill at Mill Stream Conservation Area on a snowy Sunday afternoon in January. This picturesque day use park sees lots of visitors year round.

Two Creeks - Chatham-Kent



The **Friends of Two Creeks** held a dedication ceremony on June 14th for the installation of The Harvest Bridge over Two Creeks.

This bridge was donated by **Wheatley Elevators** founded in 1949 by John and Agatha Dick. This structure was originally a platform that tilted hydraulically to dump grain wagons. It was donated in appreciation of the support of the area's agricultural community.

There are lots of outdoor concerts at Two Creeks this summer! Here is a run down of upcoming events:
 Saturday, August 9, 7:30 p.m. JODY RAFFOUL
 Sunday, August 17, 1 p.m. MEXICAN PARADISO
 Sunday, August 24, 7 p.m.
 THE CHATHAM CONCERT BAND
 Sunday, September 21, 9 a.m. HARVESTFEST

Sharon Creek - Middlesex Centre

The **Friends of Sharon Creek (FOSC)** volunteers have been very busy this spring. On May 24, FOSC held their annual garage sale fund-raiser. On June 1, they held a special service at the Sharon Creek in memory of the late Renie Long, Councillor for Middlesex Centre who passed away a year ago. She was a strong supporter of the Sharon Creek Conservation Area and of the work being done by the FOSC volunteers. On July 6, FOSC will be hosting their annual Family Fishing Day at Sharon Creek and on September 21st, they will be holding a new event 'Dog Days at Sharon Creek'!

As a result of continuing vandalism, these volunteers have also been monitoring activities at Sharon Creek in the evenings after dusk. They plan to install new regulations signs at the beach and main parking areas which will emphasize the conservation area's hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.



What is Conservation?

By definition, conservation is "the wise management and use of natural resources", primarily renewable natural resources including water, soil, vegetation and wildlife.



What is a Conservation Authority?

A Conservation Authority (CA) is an autonomous corporate body established under the CA Act of Ontario. CA's manage renewable natural resources on watershed basis. Projects are initiated locally by the CA's member municipalities to meet regional (jurisdictional) conservation needs.

CA's work in partnership with their local member municipalities, the Provincial and Federal Government Ministries and Departments, special

interest groups, businesses, corporations and individuals.

The objectives of a CA are to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources.

There are 36 Conservation Authorities established throughout Ontario.



What are the Powers of a Conservation Authority?

Conservation Authorities study and investigate the watershed and determine a program whereby the natural resources of the watershed may be conserved, restored, developed and managed. A watershed refers to an area drained by a particular watercourse and its tributaries.



What is the Area of Jurisdiction of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority?

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams which drain into the Thames River from the village of Delaware to Lake St. Clair. Its southern boundary has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams which drain into Lake Erie, from the Talbot Creek watershed in the east to the Two Creeks watershed in the west. The total area of jurisdiction covers over 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) and includes 10 member municipalities.

Conservation Authority Staff Directory

LTVCA Administration Building

Tel: (519) 354-7310 Fax: (519) 352-3435 E-mail: ltvca@MNSi.net

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer - Jerry Campbell

Water Management Supervisor - Jack Robertson

Resource Technician - Valerie Towsley

Accounting Clerks - Sharlet Piggott, Sandy Maynard

C. M. Wilson Conservation Area

Workshop

Tel: (519) 354-8184

Western District Supervisor - Russ Dysarz

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Workshop

Tel: (519) 264-1500

Eastern District Supervisor - David Little

Construction and Maintenance Technician - Bruce Clark

Resource Centre / Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum

Tel: (519) 264-2420 Fax: (519) 264-1562 E-Mail: lowerthames@odyssey.on.ca

Community Relations Coordinator - Bonnie Carey

Clerk/Secretary - Agnes Vriends

Iroquoian Village Curator - Karen Mattila

Iroquoian Village Education Technician - Rose Nicholas

Conservation Education Technician - Denise Biega

Contacting Us



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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E-Mail: ltvca@MNSi.net

Visit our website at:

www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed and Region



Ridgetown College Award

For the past 20 years, the LTVCA has made a contribution to the Scholarships and Awards Committee of Ridgetown College. Ridgetown College offers an excellent program, and for years has been a promoter of the conservation ethic in agriculture. The 2003 award this year was for the sponsorship of "Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award". At the Graduation ceremony this May the Awards Committee chose **Tony Noorloos** of Wyoming to receive the award. The winner also received a cash award of \$150. For next year, the Conservation Authority has increased the value of the Award to \$200.



Tony Noorloos of Wyoming (left) received the 'Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award for 2003' from Jack Robertson (right) - LTVCA's Water Management supervisor.