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Lower Thames Beacon

LTVCA
45 Years
of Conservation
Established
Feb. 2, 1961

July - December 2006 Vol. 6 No. 3

Conservation news of the lower Thames valley watershed
and region. Produced by the
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

2007 Conservation Authority Budget Process

The 2007 Proposed Budget for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation

Authority is \$1,638,195. Budget dollars are derived from municipal levies, special project grants from various levels of government and other funding bodies, as well as cost recovery based revenues from user fees charged for Conservation Authority programs and services. At the November 30 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Board meeting, the proposed budget for 2007 was presented to the Directors. The proposed budget was then distributed to our ten member municipalities for comment. The Conservation Authority will be seeking final budget approval at the February 22, 2007 LTVCA Annual General Meeting,

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Board of Directors 2006 & Municipal Partners

Chair: Brian King

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Vice-chair: Bill Scott

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Jim Brown - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

John Yokom - Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich

Vic Vogler - Town of Lakeshore

Bill Derbyshire - Town of Leamington

Jack Lorimer - City of London

Bob Hosford - Township of Middlesex Centre

John Kavelaars - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

Stan Lidster - Township of Southwold

Ron Doane - Township of Strathroy-Caradoc

Bernie Wiehle - 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.



LTVCA Board of Directors met August 24 and November 30. Directors reviewed committee meetings, correspondence, and staff updates regarding regulations, water related issues, source water protection, applications, conservation services, community relations activities and Authority Education programs.



Newsletter published several times annually. Available on-line at www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/Publications.htm.

See back page for ways to contact us.

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The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is a watershed-based partner, working with the local community, providing services and information to efficiently protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations. The LTVCA's objectives include protecting life and property, protecting and restoring habitat, researching and monitoring, providing opportunities to enjoy, learn and respect nature and partnering with the local community to achieve its goals.

A member of
Conservation Ontario

www.conservation-ontario.on.ca





Clean Water Act Passed

Following a series of public hearings, the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), has passed the Clean Water Act (Bill 43) to provide for a mechanism to ensure a safe and dependable supply of drinking water through municipal drinking water systems throughout the Province. The act delivers on 12 of Justice O'Connor's recommendations resulting from the judicial inquiry into the Walkerton tainted water tragedy. It ensures communities are able to protect their municipal drinking water supplies through developing collaborative, locally driven, science-based protection plans.

The Clean Water Act requires communities to identify potential risks to local water sources and take action to reduce or eliminate these risks. The act will better protect the quantity and quality of water in aquifers, rivers and lakes, including the Great Lakes. The legislation is rooted in the Walkerton Inquiry's recommendations that Ontario needs multiple barriers to protect drinking water starting with protecting the sources. For the first time, communities will be required to create and carry out a plan to protect the sources of their municipal drinking water supplies. This legislation is designed to promote voluntary initiatives but does require mandatory action where needed.

The legislation sets out a basic framework for communities to follow in developing an approach to protecting their water supplies that works for them.

Selection of Chair and Committee: Subject to regulations and consultation with our stakeholders, we are proposing that a selection committee be formed. In compliance with the legislation, names will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment for consideration for the position of Chair. The Chair will be an appointment by the Minister. Following the selection of the Chair, names will be sought to fill positions on the Source Protection Committee. Candidates can be nominated by the various stakeholder groups within the region or individuals may put their name forward. An evaluation of submitted names would be followed by an interview process to select the committee members. We look forward to discussing the process for committee formation with stakeholders at upcoming forums. Opportunities for involvement go beyond the committee and can include participation with working groups and sector forums. Individual questions and/or comments are also welcome. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, be sure to contact Debra Kirk, Administrative Assistant (519) 451-2800 Ext. 223 - Email: kirkd@thamesriver.on.ca. We are

preparing for sector forums over the next 6 months. At these forums and other stakeholder meetings we will be discussing the formation process and potential representation options with the stakeholder groups. We will also be presenting the water budget work underway.

MOE announced a request for grant proposals from municipalities and conservation authorities. The request was for proposals to undertake technical studies related to Source Water protection of municipal drinking water sources. This work will be summarized across the watersheds in the Watershed Assessment Report which the Clean Water Act requires to be completed in the Source Protection Region. Proposals were due December 15. More information on the request is available from the MOE website. Revised guidance documents are also available on the MOE website.

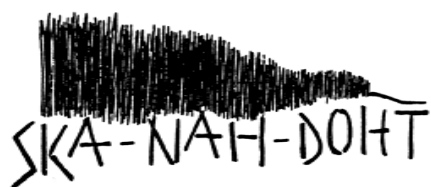
2007 Source Protection Map Gallery Calendars will be available in January. There are also 2 Children's Water Festivals being planned with a focus on Source Water Protection, one in London in June and the other in Chatham-Kent in October. As well, watch for a Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection tabloid in March. Municipal and agricultural sector forums are being planned for January and March.

What's Happening on the Thames- A Canadian Heritage River

- April 14, 2007, Thames River Symposium in Chatham
- April 21, 2007 Annual Thames River Cleanup - Chatham coordinator: Jennifer Cole - (519) 380-9245. earthdaychatham@cogeco.ca
- June 10, 2007 Canadian Heritage Rivers Day Celebrations - "Paul Peel: The Thames Revisited" 2007 event leaves London to go to Lighthouse Cove and on to Windsor.
- The Thames River bridge signage project is underway for "Heritage River" signs in watershed municipalities
- Thames River Happenings Winter 2006-07 Volume 7 Newsletter now available



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System



IROQUOIAN VILLAGE & MUSEUM

www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

Check Out Upcoming Events at

Ska-Nah-Doht & Longwoods

<http://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/SpecialEvents.htm>

Eventful Events!!

The Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS), London Chapter and Ska-Nah-Doht celebrated our 10th year of "Archaeology Day" this July. The volunteer organization, of professional and avocational archaeologists, has assisted the local community in identifying their treasures. Over the years, we have made some friends who return annually to share their information to help put together the pieces of Ontario's past.

Another successful and awesome show was presented at the annual "A Nightwalk with the Spirits" in August. 20 volunteers and staff guided visitors on an informative nighttime tour. A heavy layer of evening mist filled the air adding to the atmosphere.



"Spirits" share a legend at "Nightwalk".

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

Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee 2006

Chair Don Fairbairn Vice-Chair Ron Watts

LTVCA Appointed

- Brian King • Bill Scott • John Yokom • Stan Lidster
- Jack Lorimer • Jerry Campbell
- Community Members
- Glenn Stott • Andy Chisholm

Just the Stats! July 1 - December 31, 2006

3,021 students and adult supervisors on school field trips
and 36 participants in Native Studies Workshops!



OAS members, Dr. Chris Ellis and Dr. Jim Keron receive "Thank you" mugs at the 10th annual "Archaeology Day".

There were lots of treats as "Tastes of Fall-a feast for the senses" took place in October. The sights, sounds and smells of the harvest season were celebrated with local crafters, artists and "tastes" of corn soup and fry bread. The hayride was a popular favourite. An excellent presentation from "Gonrah Desgohwah" or White Pine Dancers of Brantford shared the stories and dances of the Haudenosaunee or Longhouse people. It was the first fully Iroquoian presentation at Longwoods. Thanks again to this year's sponsors; Greenlane Community Trust, Fingal, Lower Thames Valley Foundation and Shedden Lodge 310, Order of Oddfellows. Our good neighbours, Berkmore Family Farms, supplied the pumpkins. Despite

the cooler temperatures, all had a good time.

There was a bountiful harvest in the 3 sisters garden thanks to the volunteer efforts of the Forest City Checkers (FCC). There was enough to fill the longhouse and add to the crafts during "Tastes of Fall"!



Garden in full bloom!!



William Lamore and Family, Silent Auction Winners...they love Longwoods so much they got engaged here on a romantic picnic. Congratulations all around!!

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

Wetland Improvement Projects

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

The LTVCA received approval for the enhancement of wetland facilities through the Healthy Wetlands...Healthy Communities Initiative made possible through a partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Part 1 of the project included the removal of an old boardwalk with the help of students from the London Montessori House of Children in September. The LTVCA is pleased with the accomplishments of these Grade 7/8's and congratulates them on all their hard work. Part 2 (site preparation) and Part 3 (building of the boardwalk) have been completed. Come to Longwoods Road Conservation Area and check it out!

C. M. Wilson Conservation Area

In 2005, the LTVCA received approval for funding of a wetland enhancement project at Wilson through the Community Fisheries Wildlife Involvement Program from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Early in 2006, the 1st Mount Brydges Scout Troop built the boardwalk which was installed over the summer at the wildlife pond by LTVCA staff. TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation generously approved funding for rehabilitating the area around the boardwalk with wetland plants. By October, the boardwalk was ready to be used for school programming.



One teacher whose class used this boardwalk for programming recently said, "The new boardwalk at the pond was a great advance at the area."

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

Just the Stats! July 1 - December 31, 2006

808 students and adult supervisors on school field trips and 39 participants in Conservation Workshops!

Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village Opens

Over the past three years, the LTVCA delivered a River and Creek Safety Program in Chatham-Kent Grade 2 classrooms. We are currently involved in a new initiative with River Safety at the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village (CKCSV) at C. M. Wilson Conservation Area near Chatham. Its mission is "to promote the health and safety of children in conjunction with Chatham-Kent Emergency Services and our community partners." During the 2006-07 school year, approximately 6,000 students from Grades 1, 4 and 6 will visit the CKCSV free of charge. Between Oct. 16 and Nov. 21, around 800 grade 1 students received instruction in three different areas: River, Fire and Community Safety.



The Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village opened its doors this fall.

Project Webfoot:

A Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) Wetland Education Experience

Project Webfoot is a program developed to teach students about the importance of wetlands through studies in the classroom and outdoors. Thanks to generous sponsors and partnerships, the program is now available to students in the London area. DUC collaborated with the London school boards and the Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities to deliver Project Webfoot. London area sponsors include the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Sifton Family Foundation, the London Community Foundation, Green Street and DUC members. The program is FREE except for the cost of a bus to get to the guided field trip. The LTVCA is pleased to be able to deliver Project Webfoot at Longwoods Road Conservation Area (LRCA) at the Provincially Significant wetland. At least nine classes will visit LRCA to receive a hands-on wetland field trip.

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

Web site: <http://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/Foundation.htm>

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation is
an independent non-profit, registered charity.

Registered Charitable Number 89819 8171 RR0001

Tax receipts are available for donations over \$10.



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Board of Directors 2006

- Peter Snow - President
- Al McGregor - Vice President
- Keri Wilson/Ken Brooks - Secretary
- James Abrams •Ralph Brodie
- Bill Derbyshire •Brian King
- John Lawrence •Bill Parks •Anne Smith
- Glenn Stott •Bernie Wiehle •Rick Gray

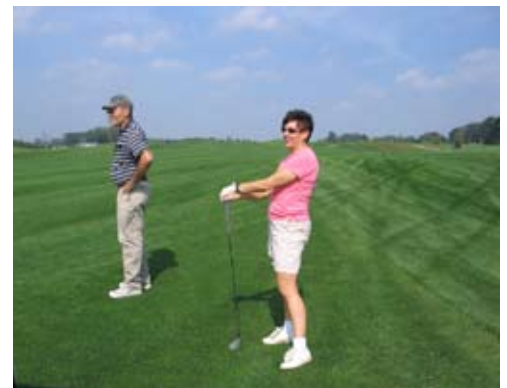
About the Foundation

The Foundation works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, to raise funds for the wise management of our renewable natural resources. Created in 1995, it cultivates and enhances all aspects of conservation, to provide a safe and healthy environment, including natural and cultural heritage resources. The Foundation has raised nearly \$500,000. One of our primary concerns is ensuring the Longwoods Education Programs, including the Ska-Nah-Doht Native Studies and Conservation Education Programs, continue to provide unique outdoor learning opportunities for children and residents of the lower Thames river watershed and surrounding region.

Charity Golf Scramble Raises Over \$6,000 for Conservation

The Foundation's Golf Committee is congratulated on organizing the 4th annual charity golf scramble, held at Caradoc Sands Golf and Country Club in Strathroy, on September 17. Thank you to Ontario West Insurance Brokers Hole-In-One and the following One-Hole sponsors:

- AGO Industries Inc. - London
- Benoit, Van Raay, Spisani, Fuerth and Quaglia - Chatham
- Cove Marina - Tilbury
- Digital Catering Ltd. - London
- Dr. Kevin Morrison - Total Health Chiropractic Centre - London
- Erick's Horticultural Service - Komoka
- Flagstone Financial Group - Strathroy
- Ford Keast LLP Chartered Accountants - London
- Garry Hess - London
- Gerry Adlington's Hubby for Hire - Strathroy
- Joe Reilly Family - Mount Brydges
- J. Nakagawa Photography - London
- John Horn Law Office - London
- Kent & Essex Mutual Insurance Company - Chatham
- Margo Christodoulou - Mortgage Intelligence - London
- Mark Dickerson Dentistry - Wallaceburg
- Masterstage Manufacturing Inc. - London
- Pat Batticuore Triland Realty - London
- Payne's Grey Creative - Jennifer Payne - London
- Rapid Binding and Laminating Inc. - London
- Scotiabank Professional Business Banking Centre - London
- Shillington and Associates - London
- Stan's Total Tire Service - Fingal
- Stan Lidster - Shedden
- Sydenham Community Credit Union - Mount Brydges
- Sydenham Community Credit Union - Strathroy
- Tony Liokossis BMO Nesbitt Burns - London
- Vanboxmeer and Stranges Engineering Ltd. - London
- Westmount / Glencoe Optometrists - London



Fifty-one golfers, 29 one-hole sponsors and more than 75 prize and silent auction donors resulted in over \$6,000 raised for local conservation projects. The 2007 Scramble will be held at Caradoc Sands on September 15.



Thanking Recent Donors

- A. Cobban
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- McKinlay Funeral Home-Chatham
- J. C. Badder Funeral Homes - Thamesville

Our Foundation and Its Donors Supported the following projects of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority in 2006

- Longwoods Road Conservation Area Resource Centre for education and community relations programs
- Conservation Authority web site
- fund-raising resource data base license
- 465 trees planted in six memorial forests and assisted with three memorial forest dedication services
- audiovisual and computer equipment for education programs
- birdfeeder supplies at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- summer student employment grant for Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas
- Sharon Creek Trust Fund
- Reconstruction Projects of Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village
- Owl Hike and Taste of Fall events at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- maintenance of Longwoods Road Conservation Area nature trails through the Interpretive Trail Signage Sponsorship Program
- Conservation Authority's Education Programs - River and Creek Safety
- organizing and hosting the Annual Charity Golf Scramble

Ways You Can Help Conservation!

MEMORIAL FOREST PROGRAM

memories live on



There are six Foundation memorial forests located in the Lower Thames watershed. By planting a tree, we preserve precious memories and encourage the preservation of nature for future generations. We are grateful to the McKinlay Funeral Home of Chatham, the John C. Badder Funeral Home in Thamesville and the Badder & Robinson Funeral Home in Bothwell for their continued support of our memorial forest program. With the assistance of the Tilbury & District Horticultural Society, a memorial forest grows at the Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest. Friends and family dedicate trees by contacting the Conservation Foundation, requesting a memorial forest donation card (<http://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/Publications/TreeDonorCard2004.pdf>) or call (519) 354-7310 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.

'Partners in Conservation'

Education programs offered by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority out of Longwoods Road Conservation Area, require ongoing 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. Donations received help to maintain trails, supply educational equipment and materials, and support the hiring of summer staff for the Conservation Authority.

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 provide stone chips for wheelchair accessible trails, maintenance of boardwalks and stairs, trail pruning, signs and information.

Trillium Grant Approved!

Thanks to Foundation Directors who worked so hard on this application. The "Save the Cabins" project received \$75,000 over six months to preserve three cabins with significant heritage value at the Longwoods site by placing them on concrete foundations and replacing rotted timbers.



Work began on Nov. 20 and by year-end the 3 cabins had been lifted, and full basements had been poured. Effective drainage had also been laid in place.

Memorial Tree Services Held



Three services were held this fall. Directors assisted with the McKinlay service Sept. 10, the Badder and Robinson service Sept. 24 and the Tilbury Northside service Oct. 1. Nearly 2,000 people attended all 3 memorial forest services.

Memorial Forests of the Lower Thames Valley

McKinlay Woodlands...

A Living Memorial

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

Sharon Creek Memorial Forest

Sharon Creek Conservation
Area,
Delaware, On

Rowson's Tilbury West

Conservation Area

Tilbury, On

Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest

Tilbury & District
Horticultural Society
Tilbury, On

Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest

Bothwell, On

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

Comber District Historical Museum Memorial Forest

Comber, On

Donations to Our Foundation

Consider a donation to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation in support of conservation!

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 available.



Forestry Programs

Plans are in the works for the 2007 spring tree planting season. Twenty-three native species will be available, five non-native and six native shrubs. The cost per tree/shrub will range from \$0.56 - \$1.50. The tree species list is available online at www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/Publications.htm. There were four tree planting information workshops held this fall for groups and private landowners, with more workshops planned again for the spring.

Over 105,000 trees will be ordered for 2007, which is an increase of 62,000 from this year. This is due to the success of the Emerald Ash Borer Restoration Program (12,000 trees) and a project in Elgin County through the Elgin Stewardship (40,000 trees). The Diversion Channel in Chatham will be planted with 1,500 trees through Union Gas, along with tallgrass prairie plant species. Fifty thousand trees are anticipated to be ordered by the general public.

Chatham-Kent Greening Initiative Projects

Randal Van Wagner - Environmental and Forestry Partnership Coordinator and Bob Pennington - Environmental Technical Assistant continued to form tree planting partnerships with local landowners, schools, community groups and corporations with a goal to "green-up" Chatham-Kent. They were even able to start a local native seed collection of black walnut, shagbark and bitternut hickory, tulip tree, sugar maple and ironwood.

If you would like further information on tree planting, please contact Randal and Bob for their new tree planting brochure (519)354-7310 ext. 229. They will also be able to provide you with information on upcoming tree planting workshops for the public, scheduled for the spring of 2007.



(Above) A grand Tulip Tree stand flowers at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Tulip Trees are a unique Carolinian species.

(Below) 200 tulip trees between 1 and 2 metres in height, were planted at the LTVCA's Diversion Channel property on Creek Road in Chatham. These saplings were from the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area tree nursery.



Emerald Ash Borer Update

By early November 2006, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) had reached London. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) had confirmed that two ash trees in a residential neighbourhood in London, Ontario were infested. This find was discovered during routine CFIA surveillance for EAB and was the first confirmation of the pest in Middlesex County.

Movement restrictions were implemented on the properties where EAB was found and all properties in a five-kilometre radius. These restrictions were necessary to stop the movement of firewood or other potentially-infested materials which may harbour the insect.

The EAB has been confirmed in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as well as Essex, Elgin and Lambton counties. Ministerial Orders have been implemented in those areas to establish regulated areas to control the EAB movement. Additional information on EAB and updates are available on the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca or by calling 1-866-463-6017.

Contacting Us

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
 100 Thames Street, Chatham, On N7L 2Y8
 Tel: (519) 354-7310 Fax: (519) 352-3435
 E-Mail: ltvca@MNSi.net
 Visit our web site at:
www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca



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), includes 10 member municipalities and is home to 106,971 people.

Conservation Authority 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
 GIS Technician - Ryan Stevenson
 Environmental Engineering Technician - Cara Zhang
 Water Quality Specialist - Source Protection
 - Chitra Gowda
 Environmental & Forestry Partnership Coordinator
 - Randall VanWagner
 Environmental Technical Assistant - Bob Pennington

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

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed and Region

