

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

...helping to conserve
our natural & cultural heritage



2011 Annual Report

We Gratefully Acknowledge Donors in 2011

Diamond \$1000+

Badder Funeral Homes Ltd.
- Thamesville, Bothwell &
Dresden

Hamilton, G. - London

**McKinlay Funeral Homes
Ltd.** - Chatham & Blenheim

RBC Foundation - Toronto

Platinum \$500 - \$1,000

Carey, R. - Mount Brydges

**Secord & Smith Funeral
Home Ltd.** - Merlin

Gold \$250 - \$500

O'Neill, D. & K. - Chatham

Silver \$100 - 250

Jones, T. & J. - Chatham



President's Message

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that the creation of a thousand forests was in the promise of a single acorn. Like the acorn, each act of volunteerism and support to sustain the struggling Carolinian ecosystem of the Lower Thames River Valley will not only touch lives, but generations of lives. It was with the dedication and generosity of our volunteers and donors that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation raised over \$18 thousand last year. Since incorporation in 1995, the total is over \$600,806 that has been contributed to natural and cultural heritage conservation programs in the Lower Thames Valley region. All contributions stay in this region to directly benefit families and communities within the jurisdiction of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA).



As always, our Memorial Forest Program partners deserve special recognition - **McKinlay Funeral Home** in Chatham and Blenheim, **John C. Badder Funeral Home** in Thamesville, **Badder & Robinson Funeral Home** in Bothwell and Dresden, and **Secord and Smith Funeral Home** in Merlin, along with dozens of private donors. In 2011, 501 trees were planted in five memorial forests across our watershed. The Memorial Forest program also maintains a partnership with the **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society** to reforest parkland.

Three years ago, our Foundation was honored to be chosen to facilitate a significant donation by the late Dr. Lewis Carey. Dr. Carey is recognized for his vision and generosity that led to the creation of the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail at the Longwoods Road Conservation Area. His eldest son **Richard Carey** of Mount Brydges and **Dr. Gavin Hamilton** of London each added their support to the project with substantial donations in 2011. The final phase of this project - the construction of an information kiosk, began with site clearing in 2011.

Throughout the year, Foundation funds were provided to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority for a variety of conservation area projects. The Foundation successfully applied for an **RBC Bluewater Project Community Action Grant** for the development and delivery of a Source Water Protection education program in the watershed. Trail and arboretum maintenance at Longwoods Road Conservation Area was also supported. Funding for a sign at Big 'O' Conservation Area and financial support to help hire summer students for environmental projects and for public conservation area events were provided through our Foundation. Of note is the annual Moonlight Family Winter Hike at Longwoods, which would not be possible without the assistance of my fellow Directors on the Foundation Board and numerous other community volunteers. Our Foundation also continues to manage a trust fund on behalf of the Friends of Sharon Creek.

As we stand on the eve of the War of 1812 bi-centennial, we can reflect on the rich historic heritage of the Lower Thames watershed. Moving forward to embrace the challenges and opportunities of 2012, I remain deeply in the debt of everyone who has chosen to support our vision with the generosity of their time, effort and contributions. On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors let me express our warmest gratitude to our volunteers, the employees of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and our many partners. Your commitment has been heartwarming and your effort outstanding. Thank you.

Peter Snow - President
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Volunteer Directors & Officers

2011

Peter Snow - President
Rick Gray and Grant Jones - Vice-president
Ken Brooks - Secretary/Treasurer
Ralph Brodie
Michael Bondy
Brian King
Glenn Stott
Sandy Wilson

Bonnie Carey - Administrative Assistant

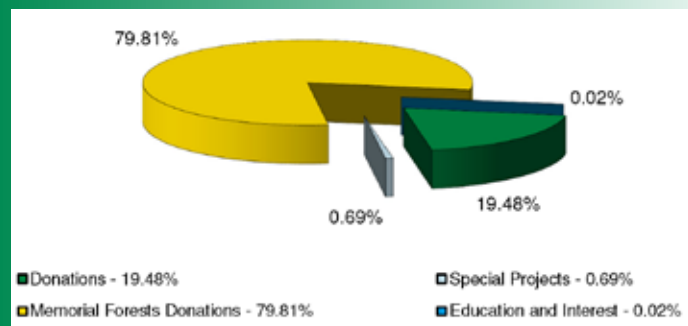
About the Foundation

The Conservation Foundation works with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority helping to raise funds for wise management of our renewable natural resources. Created in 1995, it cultivates and enhances all aspects of conservation, providing present and future generations with a safe and healthy environment, including natural and cultural heritage resources. The Conservation Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity - Number 898198171 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.

Revenues & Expenses

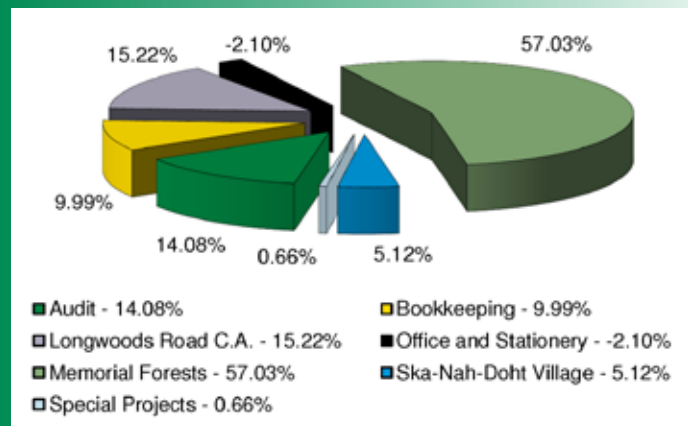
The Foundation facilitated the generation of \$18,843 in 2011. The deficiency of revenues over expenses for 2011 was \$ (862). Available upon request are the 2011 Financial Statements, which outline the revenues and expenditures in detail. The Secretary/Treasurer position was held by Ken Brooks in 2011. He is recognized for his financial expertise with the budget.

2011 Foundation Revenues \$18,843



Over the past year, nearly 80% the Foundation's revenue resulted from a valuable partnership with local Funeral Homes through the Memorial Forest Program.

2011 Foundation Expenses \$19,705



Over 57% of the Foundation's expenses went to purchase, plant and maintain the memorial trees planted by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority in 2011.

We Gratefully Acknowledge Donors in 2011

Bronze up to \$100

Autism Ontario - C.K. Chapter
 Bechard, P. - Dover Centre
 Burri, S. - Blenheim
 Campbell, J. - Chatham
 Caron, T. & J. & O. - Chatham
 Chapleau, D. - Tilbury
 Chevalier, A. & C. & G. - Chatham
 Day, C. - Chatham
 Deluca, M. & Quinton, B.
 - Parry Sound
 Donais, B. & D. - Chatham
 Dupuis, K. - Tilbury
 Dupuis, R. & A. - Tilbury
 Everitt, A. & Hopman, M.
 - Thamesville
 Everitt, B. & A. - Thamesville
 Fiegel, C. - Mount Brydges
 Fleury, P. & M. - Tilbury
 Jenner, M. - Chatham
 Jones, H. - Tilbury
 Kelly, S. - Chatham
 Knott, M. & H. - Blenheim
 Lower Thames Valley Conservation
 Authority - Chatham
 Lowes, C. & B. - Tilbury
 Marentette, B. - Comber
 Marshall, E. - Bothwell
 McAlorum, G. - Tilbury
 McGlashan, S. & Family - Chatham
 Melanson, M. & M. - Toronto
 Morris, M. & J. - Chatham
 Myers, F. - London
 Parker, J. - Chatham
 Pearson, H. & Baird, M. - Leamington
 Pierce, B. & K. - Chatham
 Pierce, K. & B. & staff of Reflections
 Hair Studio - Chatham
 Poissant, G. - Chatham
 Reaunce Family - Chatham
 Reflections Hair Studio - Chatham
 Schram, C. & D. - Chatham
 Shadd, T. & S. - Merlin
 Sharp, M. & L. - Florence
 Soulliere, S. - Tilbury
 Van Wagner, R. - Chatham
 Verstraete, C. - Blenheim
 Wilson, A. - Tilbury

Supporting the
Lower Thames Valley
Conservation Authority and
Community Conservation
Partners...

Projects and Services
“Assisted” Through Our
Foundation and Its Generous
Donors in 2011

- \$325 for a sign at Big ‘O’ Conservation Area
- \$7,144 for planting and maintenance of memorial trees
- \$3,000 from RBC grant for Source Water Protection Education Program
- \$1,094 for 13 native species ceremonial memorial forest trees
- \$1,009 towards summer students at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- Planting of 501 trees in five memorial forests in the lower Thames River watershed and region and assisting with memorial forest dedication services
- Management of environmental trusts and the William Erickson Bursary
- Volunteers for Moonlight Family Winter Hike at Longwoods
- Maintenance of Longwoods Road Conservation Area nature trails through the Interpretive Trail Signage Sponsorship Program

Supporting Reforestation



MEMORIAL FOREST PROGRAM

memories live on

A focus of the Foundation over the years has been its memorial forest program with 6,768 memorial trees planted. In 2011, \$15,039 in donations were received for trees, dedicated to loved ones, at seven Foundation memorial forests. The value of this memorial

forest program has been reinforced, with less than two percent tree cover coupled with the demise of ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer, in the lower Thames watershed. This program also helps support conservation lands and education programs of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. Recognized for their ongoing support of the memorial forest program are the **McKinlay Funeral Homes** of Chatham and Blenheim, **John C. Badder and Badder & Robinson Funeral Homes** of Thamesville, Bothwell and Dresden, the **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society** and **Secord & Smith Funeral Home Ltd.** of Merlin. Friends and families dedicated trees to loved ones who have passed away by contacting the Foundation, requesting a tree donation card and making a \$30 donation for each tree. Next of kin receive a certificate and an invitation to an annual memorial forest service.

“Friends” Helping Out

The Foundation recognizes the work done by local volunteer groups to help reforest our watershed and region. We won't forget the efforts of the **Friends of Sharon Creek** in Delaware (dissolved in 2009), and the active **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society**. The partnerships that have developed are valued and of benefit to local communities.



The Tilbury Northside Park Memorial Forest is managed in partnership with the help of the Tilbury and District Horticultural Society volunteers. Close to 60 memorial trees have been dedicated at this local park.

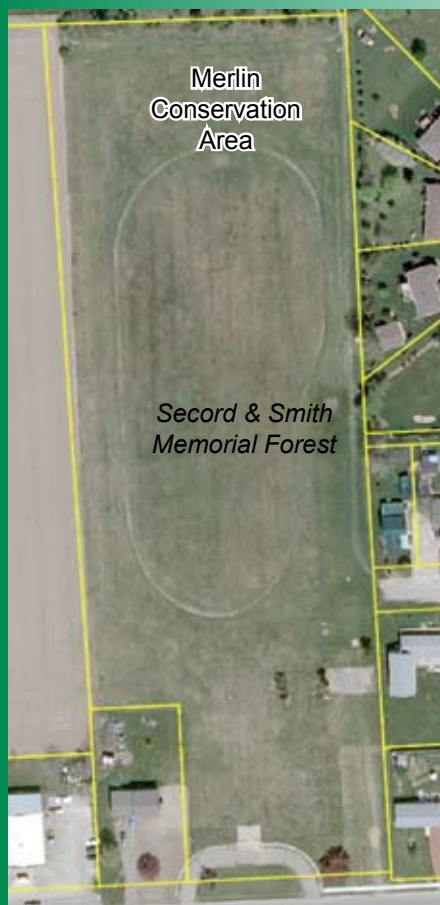
Memorial Tree Dedications



On September 11, 2011, the fourteenth annual dedication service was held at the **McKinlay Woodlands** in C.M. Wilson Conservation Area south of Chatham and 377 memorial trees were dedicated. Foundation Director **Ralph Brodie** offered greetings. The total of memorial trees now growing at McKinlay Woodlands is 4,658. Over 800 friends and family members attend these annual services.



On September 18, 2011, the eleventh annual dedication service was held at the **Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest** near Bothwell at the Mosa Forest. 87 trees were dedicated and Foundation Director **Glenn Stott** addressed the audience. The total memorial trees now growing in memory of loved ones at Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest is 1,392. Over 250 people attend these annual services.



On September 25, 2011, the eighth annual dedication service was held at the **Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest**, located at the Tilbury Northside Park. Ten trees were dedicated and Foundation Director **Brian King** brought greetings. The total memorial trees now growing in memory of loved ones at this memorial forest is 63. Approximately 50 people participate in these services each year.



In 2011, the newest memorial forest was established at the LTVCA's Merlin Conservation Area in partnership with the Secord & Smith Funeral Home Ltd. in Merlin. This 2.8 hectare property is the former site of the Merlin District High School and is being developed and restored to natural habitat. The restoration plan includes the establishment of the Secord & Smith Memorial Forest through the Foundation's memorial forest program. The first annual spring dedication service will be planned for June 2012.

Memorial Forest Sites

McKinlay Woodlands... A Living Memorial

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area
Chatham-Kent, On
(supported by
*McKinlay Funeral Homes in
Chatham and Blenheim*)

Big Bend Memorial Forest

Big Bend Conservation Area
Wardsville, On

Sharon Creek Memorial Forest

Sharon Creek Conservation Area
Delaware, On

Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest

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

Rowsom's Tilbury West Memorial Forest

Rowsom's Tilbury West
Conservation Area
Tilbury, On

Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest

Tilbury Northside Park
Tilbury, On
(supported by the *Tilbury and
District Horticultural Society*)

Secord & Smith Memorial Forest

Merlin Conservation Area
Merlin, On
(supported by
*Secord & Smith Funeral Home Ltd.
in Merlin*)



2011 RBC Bluewater Project Community Action Grant:

"The RBC Blue Water Project is a wide-ranging, multi-year program to help foster a culture of water stewardship, so that people have clean fresh water today and tomorrow."

A \$3,000 grant will be used by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority to develop education programs for 450 elementary school students located within municipal drinking water protection zones in the lower Thames valley watershed.



Foundation Directors make up the majority of volunteers running the annual Moonlight Winter Family Hike at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Of course, the live entertainment also helps to bring in the crowds!

Supporting Conservation

Over the past year, the Foundation invited service clubs, local businesses, charitable foundations and private citizens to become "partners in conservation" to support and improve conservation lands and facilities of the LTVCA. This is an opportunity for sponsors to have their name in publications and on signs, receive media attention, and to receive a tax receipt, all in recognition of their support. The Foundation can apply for Government grants and corporate sponsorship on behalf of the Conservation Authority. This special funding supports summer students and helps to purchase equipment not covered through the LTVCA's budget, but needed to operate programs in the conservation areas. A trail sponsorship program at Longwoods Road Conservation Area also raises money for the upkeep of the wheelchair accessible nature trails.

In 2011, the Foundation received \$3,000 from **Bluewater Project Community Action Grant through Royal Bank of Canada**. This funding will be used by the Conservation Authority to develop education programs for 450 elementary school students located within municipal drinking water protection zones in the lower Thames valley watershed. These programs will teach students how to protect their drinking water.

Summer Students and Events



The Foundation helped to support the hiring of two summer students for the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

Each year, the Foundation assists the Conservation Authority with funding to help support the employment of summer students and offset the costs of hosting public events. In 2011, over \$1,000 of funding was provided for the Canada Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works in Heritage grants, at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

Nature Trail Sponsorship



This marsh boardwalk spans a provincially significant wetland at Longwoods Road.

Families and groups sponsor the 6.5 km of nature trails at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Two trails are wheelchair accessible. Donations are used to provide stone chips, repair boardwalks and stairs, and clear and prune trails. Sponsors are recognized on trail signs and receive tax receipts.

Our appreciation is extended to the **Flegel Family - Mount Brydges** for their continued support in 2011.

Supporting Education

The Conservation and Ska-Nah-Doht education programs at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, are unique to our watershed and benefit from "partners in conservation" to be preserved for all to enjoy. Annually, over 7,000 students participate in these programs. Donations from service clubs, foundations, corporations, and individuals, help maintain trails, facilities, and programs at Longwoods.

Carey Carolinian Arboretum & Trail

Facilitated through the Foundation, a \$26,000 gift in 2008 from a private donor - Dr. Lewis Carey, was used by the LTVCA for an educational "Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail" project at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Dr. Carey had dedicated the arboretum and trail in memory of his wife - Dr. Beverly Carey. Dr. Carey passed away in November of 2009.

In the spring of 2010, more large stock Carolinian trees were purchased and planted with their signage including Kentucky Coffee, Cucumber Magnolia, Flowering Dogwood, PawPaw, and Slippery Elm as part of the Carolinian Arboretum.

The final phase of this project will be the construction of a Carolinian information kiosk. In 2011, the kiosk site was selected and prepared for future construction. More funding is being sought before the construction stage of the Arboretum project is completed.

Both the Conservation Foundation and Conservation Authority realize the importance of creating a Carolinian arboretum and trail system as an educational tool for this unique habitat. Dr. Carey's wish for messaging to reflect the connection between First Nations peoples and the natural surroundings of a Carolinian forest came to fruition, as Longwoods highlights both native and natural history.



All the large stock trees planted in 2010 survived their first year in the ground, with the help of regular watering and maintenance! The Canada Plum (left) and Red Bud (right) are in full bloom early May at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

2011

Carey Carolinian
Arboretum & Trail Donors:

Richard Carey - Mount Brydges
Dr. Gavin Hamilton - London



Education Programs of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Conservation Education

- **Conservation Area Field Trips**
Longwoods Road
C.M. Wilson
- **Classroom Outreach Programs**



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

- **Native Studies Programs**
Longwoods Road Conservation Area



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is located in Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Curriculum based native studies programs attract thousands of students, teachers and chaperones annually. In the summer months, tourists from around the world explore the longhouses inside the palisade.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

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Website: www.ltvca.ca



The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity - Number 898198171 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued for all donations. Donations for education and conservation projects are generously recognized and wisely used for activities in the local area.