

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

...helping to conserve
our natural & cultural heritage



2013
Annual Report

**We Gratefully Acknowledge
Donors in 2013**

Diamond \$1000+

Badder Funeral Homes Ltd.
-Thamesville, Bothwell & Dresden
Carey, R. - Mount Brydges
McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd.
- Chatham & Blenheim
Romsa, Dr. G.J. - London

Platinum \$500 - \$1,000

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

Gold \$250 - \$500

O'Neill, D. & K. - Chatham

Silver \$100 - 250

Chatham Goodfellows
Kavelaars, J. & A. - Appin
TekSavvy Solutions - Chatham

President's Message



"The earth will survive global warming. Humankind will not."
Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson

As these remarks were being prepared, the Third National Climate Assessment was published by the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Drawn from a team of 300 scientists with input from 13 U.S. government agencies and vetted by the National Academy of Sciences, the 850 page report leaves no room for debate about the existence of climate change. It is here and its effects are already being felt. It has come to a point where it really doesn't matter if you believe this is a man made problem or not. There is only one species on the planet that can mitigate it. And that won't be an easy task. Not only do we need to stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere,

we actually need to find ways to suck them back out. And that takes us back to growing CO2 scavengers like trees that do not create a large carbon footprint with cultivation. On the other hand, the process of adapting to the new reality of a changed climate has become a fact of life for everyone. And there is no question that the pace of these changes are about to accelerate dramatically.

Water will be harder to find in some places and will cause major flooding in others. There will be longer dry spells and longer duration rainfalls that will affect everything from agriculture to insurance rates. Energy demands from warmer summers and longer winters will increase and push demand for carbon-fuels, making emission reduction even more difficult. These are events that will dramatically affect planning at all levels throughout the Lower Thames Valley. And there will be an ever increasing need for new voices with creative ideas that will lead our march to mitigate, change and adapt.

Conservation has never been just about saving trees, it is about sustaining environmental necessities for human life--generation after generation. Climate change is forcing us to adapt, to make plans that will include a future quite different from the past. It will change how food is grown, how cities are fed and it will create new concerns about fresh water and flood plain management. The need for new ideas and new leadership has never been more urgent. Our timeline for dramatic action is now less than one lifetime.

Since incorporation in 1995, our volunteers and supporters have raised almost three-quarters of a million dollars for natural and cultural heritage conservation programs in the Lower Thames Valley region. Throughout we have received the heartfelt support of our Memorial Forest Program partners - 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.

As we move forward to engage new horizons, I remain deeply in the debt to everyone who has chosen to support our vision with their time and commitment. On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors let me express our gratitude for countless volunteer hours and financial support in 2013. Thank you.

Peter Snow - President
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Volunteer Directors & Officers

2013

Peter Snow - President
Grant Jones - Vice-president
Ken Brooks - Secretary/Treasurer
Stanley Caveney
Norm Miller
Glenn Stott
Sandy Wilson
Bonnie Carey - Administrative Assistant

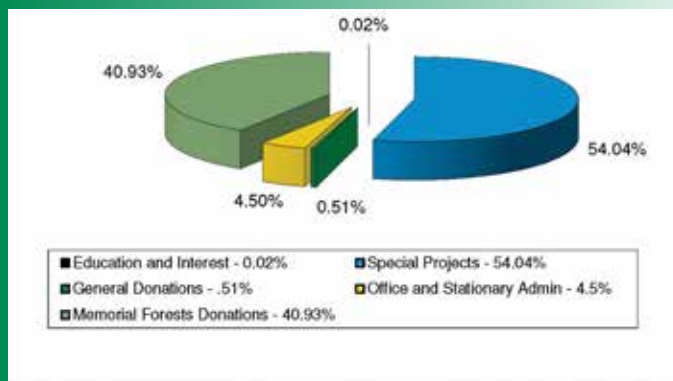
About the Foundation

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

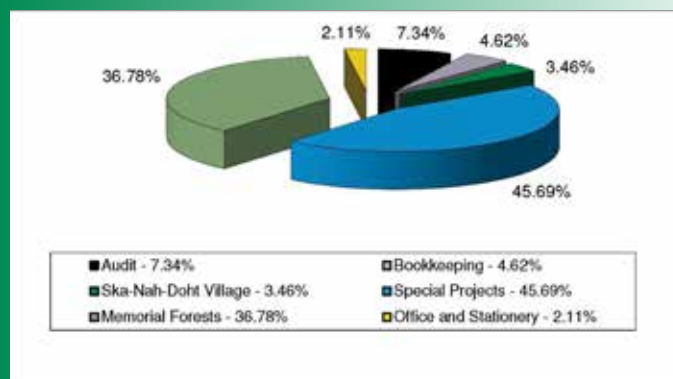
The Foundation facilitated the generation of \$33,328 in 2013. The excess of revenues over expenses for 2013 was \$ (7,186). Available upon request are the 2013 Financial Statements, which outline the revenues and expenditures in detail. The Secretary/Treasurer position was held by Ken Brooks in 2013. He is recognized for his financial expertise with the budget.

2013 Foundation Revenues \$33,328



Over the past year, 54% the Foundation's revenue resulted from donations towards special projects of the LTVCF.

2013 Foundation Expenses \$40,514



Over 45% of the Foundation's expenses went towards special projects of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority in 2013.

We Gratefully Acknowledge Donors in 2013

Bronze up to \$100

Bellamy, C. & P. - Chatham
 Boylan, D. & L. - Blenheim
 Brooks, K. - London
 Brown, B. - Chatham
 Cape, J. - Chatham
 Damphouse, R. & P. & Family
 - Stoney Point
 Davidson, K. - Chatham
 Dixon, B. - Cottam
 Dixon, R. & J. - Cottam
 Dunlop, D. & A. - Dover Centre
 Flegel, C. - Mount Brydges
 Fleury, P. & M. - Tilbury
 Helen & Family - Chatham
 Jenner, M. - Chatham
 Johnston, T. & R., Bunge, D, L, & D.
 - Sandusky, Ohio, USA
 Labadie, H. & C. - Chatham
 Ladouceur, M.M. & Family
 - Belle River
 Lansue, M. & S. - Tilbury
 Lower Thames Valley Conservation
 Authority - Chatham
 M & M Meat Shops, Staff - Chatham
 Marentette, K. & Quenneville, K.
 - Tilbury, ON
 McCaw, A. - Sarnia
 Northern Casket - Lindsay
 Peltier, J. - Calgary
 Pierce, B. & K. - Chatham
 Poissant, G. - Chatham
 Reaume, C. & Ytsma, M. - Chatham
 Reflections Hair Studio - Chatham
 Sawyer, D. & Marshall, L. - Bothwell
 Sewell Family - Chatham
 Shadd, T. & S. - Merlin
 Shaw, G. - Chatham
 Skinner, E. - Tilbury
 Smith, K. - Chatham
 Snary, C. & J. - Brigden
 Snow, L. & K. & Family - Comber
 Toth, C. K. & T. - Chatham
 Uhlik, D. & B. - Woodstock
 Wenzler, R. & S. - Leamington
 Windmill Cabinet Shop Ltd.,
 Management & Staff - Chatham



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

Projects and Services
“Assisted” Through Our
Foundation and Its Generous
Donors in 2013

- \$11,950 Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail Kiosk Building and Longwoods parking lot map
- \$800 Ska-Nah-Doht Village “Taste of Fall” event
- \$3,800 Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail Kiosk Stained Glass Windows and Displays
- \$1,950 Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail Project
- \$7,636 Memorial Trees for 2012
 - \$734 Ceremonial Memorial Trees
 - \$336 Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail Kiosk Sky Lights
- \$500 William Kingsley Erickson Bursary
- \$1,404 for Summer Students at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
 - \$3,390 Prescribed Burn of Sharon Creek Conservation Area Tallgrass Prairie
- \$1,190 Taxes for Sharon Creek Conservation Area
 - Planting of 447 trees in five memorial forests in the lower Thames River watershed and region and assisting with memorial forest dedication services
 - Management of Environmental Trusts
- Volunteers for Moonlight Family Winter Hike at Longwoods

Supporting Reforestation



MEMORIAL FOREST PROGRAM

memories live on

A focus of the Foundation over the years has been its memorial forest program with 7,716 memorial trees planted. In 2013 \$13,643 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 in the western lower Thames watershed, coupled with the extensive demise of ash trees from

the Emerald Ash Borer. 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 \$40 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 and restore natural habitat in our watershed and region. We partnered with the **Friends of Sharon Creek** in Delaware over the years

(dissolved in 2009), and the active **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society**. Our Foundation has also assisted the local volunteer efforts of **The Thames Talbot Land Trust**. These relationships that have developed are valued and of benefit to our environment and 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 88 memorial trees have been dedicated at this local park.

Memorial Tree Dedications



Secord and Smith Memorial Forest

On June 9, 2013, the second annual dedication service was held at the **Secord and Smith Memorial Forest**, located in the Merlin Conservation Area. Twenty-one trees were dedicated and the total memorial trees now growing in memory of loved ones at Secord & Smith Memorial Forest is 52. Foundation President **Peter Snow** brought greetings. Approximately 75 people attended. **Richard Smith** of Secord and Smith Funeral Home has agreed to promote this newest memorial forest.



Badder Memorial Forest

On September 15, 2013, the thirteenth annual dedication service was held at the **Badder Memorial Forest** near Bothwell at the Mosa Forest. 101 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 1,576. Over 250 people attended this annual service. **Jason Badder** of Badder Funeral Homes has continued his support through the years.



McKinlay Woodlands

On September 8, 2013, the sixteenth annual dedication service was held at the **McKinlay Woodlands** in C.M. Wilson Conservation Area south of Chatham and 303 memorial trees were dedicated. Foundation President **Peter Snow** offered greetings. The total of memorial trees now growing at McKinlay Woodlands is 5,274. Over 800 friends and family members attended this annual service. **Rob McKinlay** and **Colin Mardling** of the McKinlay Funeral Homes, are key partners with our Foundation.



Tilbury Northside Park

On September 22, 2013, the tenth annual dedication service was held at the **Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest**, located at the Tilbury Northside Park. Seventeen 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 88. Approximately 75 people participated in this service. Appreciation is extended to the **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society** for their continued support.

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 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*)

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 2013, the Foundation made contributions towards the memorial forest program as well as ceremonial dedication trees at the annual services held at the Memorial Forests.



In 2013, a new visitors' map was installed at Longwoods Road Conservation Area parking lot. The funding for the project was made possible through a Greenlane Community Fund Grant in 2012 accessed by our Foundation.

Summer Students and Events

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 2013, \$1,404 of funding was provided to the Conservation Authority towards summer student wages at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. As well, \$800 was given to support the annual event “Tastes of Fall”.



The Foundation provided financial support for the hiring of Ska-Nah-Doht Village's summer student Devon Hennesy at Longwoods Road Conservation Area in 2013.



An April prescribed tallgrass prairie burn at Sharon Creek Conservation Area was financed through our Foundation with funds from the Sharon Creek Trust. Prairie burns are conducted by certified burn specialists and help promote the health of the prairie by reducing competing and non-native plants. The cost of the burn was \$3,390 which included a burn plan and supervised burn.

William Kingsley Erickson Bursary



Holly Newitt was presented with the William Kingsley Erickson Bursary by Foundation President Peter Snow in December 2013.

Graduating secondary school students from schools located in Ontario, within the jurisdiction of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority are eligible for this \$500 bursary. Candidates must be a graduating student, who will be pursuing post-secondary education in the field of environmental/conservation studies at an accredited institution.

In 2013, the WKE Bursary was awarded to Holly Newitt from the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex.

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. Lewis Carey passed away in November of 2009.

Over the past five years, 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 the project began in 2013, with the construction of a Carolinian information kiosk, the ordering of native plant species, garden planning and the installation of a new park sign. This was enabled through a generous grant in 2012 of \$11,950 from Greenlane Community Trust as well as other private donations.

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.



The Carolinian Arboretum and Trail Information Kiosk construction began in the summer of 2013 (left). It will eventually house displays on the local Carolinian habitat at Longwoods as well as park brochures and other information. Stained glass windows were created by a local artist Jane Cornelis, and depict the 4 seasons experienced by a Tulip Tree (above). These windows will be one of the highlights of the kiosk, and add to its originality.

2013 Carey Carolinian Arboretum & Trail Donations \$2,350

Thank you to the following Supporters

Richard Carey - Mount Brydges

Dr. Gerhard Jonathon Romsa - 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

R.R.#1, Mount Brydges, Ontario Canada N0L 1W0

Tel: 519 - 264 - 2420 Fax: 519 - 264 - 1562 E-Mail: info@ltvca.ca

Website: www.ltvca.ca



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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.