

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 2002 Annual Report



**The Thames -
A Canadian
Heritage River**



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System



*Front cover picture of Lighthouse Cove
and the Thames River, courtesy of
Cove Marina.*



LTVCA
is a member of
Conservation Ontario

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⁻¹⁻ Partners in Conservation

In addition to our municipal and provincial partners, we gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the many organizations and individuals who were our partners in conservation during 2002. These volunteers were essential players in the stewardship of our local conservation lands and were instrumental in connecting with additional corporations, foundations, government agencies, youth groups and businesses for the benefit of the environment and ultimately the health of our communities.

Bothwell Forest / Skunk's Misery Interest Group

C.M. Wilson Seasonal Campers

Cove Marina

East Side Pride

Environmental Community Partnership

Forest City Checkers

Friends of Sharon Creek

Friends of Two Creeks

Lighthouse Cove Chamber of Commerce

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Advisory Committee

Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society

Our Member Municipalities of
Chatham-Kent, Leamington, Lakeshore, Middlesex Centre, London,
Southwold, Strathroy-Caradoc, West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich
and Southwest Middlesex.

Conservation Ontario

Province of Ontario and its Ministries

Federal Government, its Ministries and Departments

And all corporations, foundations, government agencies, Scouts and Guides,
other youth groups and businesses which have assisted the above!

Thank you!

Conservation Authority

Staff Directory 2002

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

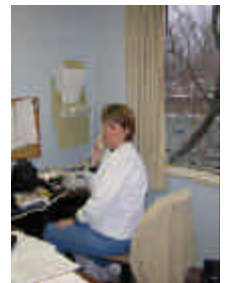


C. M. Wilson Conservation Area

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



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8



Website: www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

Board of Directors and Committees 2002



'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.'

There is one Director representing 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.

Board of Directors 2002

**Chair: Ken Brooks
City of London**

**Vice-chair : John Beharrell
Township of Southwold**

Brian King - Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Neil Seney - Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Will Parney - 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
Graham Warwick - Municipality of West Elgin

Committees

Personnel and Finance / Executive Committee:

Ken Brooks, John Beharrell, Neil Seney,
Joe Reily, Jack Morris

Ice Management Committee:

Ken Brooks, John Beharrell, Neil Seney, Brian King,
Jack Morris, Bill Knowles (Technical Advisor)

Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Committee

(Conservation Authority Representatives):

Ken Brooks, John Beharrell, John Yokom, Joe Reily,
Allan Mayhew, Jerry Campbell



From the Sharon Creek Conservation Area in the East...



to the northern shores of Lake Erie in the south...



to the Thames River mouth at Lake St. Clair in the West.

Chair's Remarks



Ken Brooks -Chair

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) provided critical environmental protection services to watershed residents in 2002. As you will notice from page 1 of this 2002 Annual Report, the Conservation Authority was very fortunate to have received financial and volunteer support from a multitude of individuals, organizations and agencies. I wish to thank these 'partners in conservation' for this support, which was key to the successful delivery of environmental products and services to our watershed residents.

The year 2002 was eventful, however I am pleased to say, without major flooding on the lower Thames River and along our lakeshores. In fact, the watershed suffered drought conditions over the spring and summer months.

Of special note was the announcement of funding through the Healthy Futures Program in Chatham-Kent, a grassroots driven and developed voluntary grant incentive program for farmers and rural landowners. This program encouraged the adoption of proven best management practices, which enhanced the protection and promoted the efficient use of surface and groundwater resources in the Municipality. The LTVCA was the delivery agent for this program in Chatham-Kent, in partnership with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. This program will continue to the end of 2003.

Emphasizing the major role that Conservation Authorities in Ontario have as delivery agents for the Province in the areas of environmental and natural resources protection, the LTVCA continued its work in Provincial Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Programs in the watershed. As well, our Conservation Authority played a role in the completion of the Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie Water Management Studies (LAMP - Lakewide Management Plan) and in the Bi-National Lake St. Clair Management Study.

Plan input and review is one of the ways the LTVCA monitors development. The input the LTVCA has on new development near or in the natural hazards such as flood plains and steep slopes, ensures identification of potential hazards before complications arise. Over 750 planning development issues were reviewed in 2002.

2002 also marked the fourth year of an agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), for the review of proposed works in water courses, and their effect on fish habitats in relation to the Federal Fisheries Act. During the year, the LTVCA began the process to enter a "Level Two" agreement with the DFO.

Over the past 14 years, the LTVCA has helped to plant nearly 1.5 million trees in our municipalities. In 2002, a total of 53,489 trees were planted into windbreaks, memorial forests and conservation area nurseries.

The \$122,000 of special employment funding aided the LTVCA in many areas of its operations, including the restoration of the historic Thames River Lighthouse, the operation and development of its conservation areas and technical assistance.

With respect to conservation lands, we are pleased to announce a new property has been added to our list of conservation areas - the Feasby Conservation Area, located on the north shore of Lake Erie in West Elgin, just south of West Lorne. The Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village, destined for the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, also held its official groundbreaking ceremony in the fall.

Numerous community events engaged the LTVCA throughout the year. The 2nd Annual Thames River Symposium was held in the spring in St. Mary's and Annual Thames River Clean-up followed. Then in the fall, the Conservation Authority took the lead when the Conservation Ontario tent went up at the 2002 Middlesex County Rural Expo near Gencoe. We couldn't have done it without the 4 other Middlesex County Conservation Authorities, Conservation Ontario and the Middlesex Stewardship Council.

We are very proud of the achievement of Ska-Nah-Doht Longwoods as this facility won the distinction of *Attractions Canada Provincial Award* winner for "Developed Outdoor Site" in 2002. In addition, the Education Programs drew over 8,000 students to Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht, Sharon Creek and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas. Classroom programs were also provided. As you will note, thousands of visitors enjoyed the annual events and the camping facilities at the conservation areas, which provided our watershed residents and visitors with unique recreational opportunities.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the members of the Conservation Authority, who have represented their municipalities well. They have worked together to balance the needs of the watershed with the needs of the individual municipalities. In particular, I want to thank the staff for their continued hard work and support in 2002.

Ken Brooks
Chair

Flood Control

A cold winter with an abundance of ice and snow will normally provide conditions which increase the probability of spring flooding. However, the winter months of 2002 proved similar to the ones experienced in 2000. The winter was mild with temperatures in this area of the province being recorded approximately 3.5 C° warmer than normal. The following table provides an illustration of the winter temperatures.

With these high temperatures, the lower Thames River did not receive any significant ice cover during the winter months. The mild weather also affected the Upper Thames watershed. By the first of February, only 22 mm of water equivalent had accumulated in the snow cover. This snow cover dissipated during the next several weeks, and disappeared after a rainfall amount of approximately 21 mm on February 20 and 21. The runoff event created the high flow on the Thames River for the year at the Byron gauge. This flow value of 320 Cubic Meters per Second (CMS) on February 21 was one which just affects the river flats upstream of Chatham. The only other significant flow event occurred on April 13th, when the Byron gauge hit a peak value of 302 CMS.

Drought Response

Of note during the year, was a period during the first 16 days of May. It seemed to rain almost every day at least somewhere in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA). During this time, rain was recorded on at least 9 different days in the LTVCA, with aggregate rain amounts ranging from 60 to 75 mm. This rainfall frequency would not be a harbinger for the remainder of the summer. In fact, 2002 was the second consecutive year that the agricultural community suffered drought conditions. A 'Level One' drought is defined as a situation where precipitation received over a three-month period is less than 80% of the same three-month average. A 'Level Two' drought is defined as a situation where precipitation is less than 60% of the three-month average. Official rainfall

Month	Mean Daily Temperature (C°)			
	Windsor		London	
	Normal	2002	Normal	2002
December	-1.9	2.2	-3.4	0.5
January	-5.0	0.4	-6.7	-1.3
February	-3.9	0.3	-6.2	-2.0
March	1.7	1.4	-0.5	-0.5
Average	-2.4	1.1	-4.5	-0.8

Table 1: Mean Daily Temperatures January - March 2002

records from Windsor indicated that the Windsor area was in a 'Level One' situation in July, August and September. Rainfall records also indicated that the London area was in a 'Level Two' condition in August and a 'Level One' condition in September. People taking water from surface sources are required to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE). In July, the LTVCA sent letters to water permit holders in some regions of the watershed. If conditions worsened, and were indeed confirmed by a longer drought definition, the LTVCA would call a meeting of interested parties and agencies to form a 'Water Response Team'. Although the dry conditions continued to the end of the year, the immediacy of the short-term drought ended after the agricultural crops matured in September.

The following table illustrates the weather experienced in the region over the summer period.

Month	Windsor				London			
	Mean Daily Temp. (C)		Precipitation (mm)		Mean Daily Temp. (C)		Precipitation (mm)	
	Normal	2002	Normal	2002	Normal	2002	Normal	2002
May	14.4	16.0	75.7	75.6	12.6	10.0	74.2	97.8
June	19.7	21.0	97.0	54.4	17.7	19.1	81.9	66.6
July	22.4	22.9	85.3	38.0	20.3	22.8	76.7	54.2
August	21.3	23.2	85.7	42.5	19.3	21.0	89.6	11.2
September	17.4	16.9	86.7	123.5	15.3	20.7	86.7	34.4
Average	19.0	20.0	86.1	66.8	17.0	18.7	81.8	52.8

Table 2: Mean Daily Temperature and Precipitation May - September 2002

Great Lakes Levels

Lake St. Clair was 10 cm below its long-term average depth for much of 2002. Lake Erie tracked its long-term average until mid year. Then depths started to recede to approximately 10 cm below the long-term average by year-end. These low levels, and the lack of any significant wind generated storms, resulted in no flood events on the lakes in 2002.



Chatham-Kent Healthy Futures Project

On March 6th in Blenheim, the Minister of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs, Brian Coburn, announced that the Province would fund Chatham-Kent's \$4,185,000 Healthy Futures project. However, shortly after being announced, the Ontario Public Servants Union went on strike and this delayed the actual start-up of the program for several months.

The program provides funding in several project areas, including rehabilitating septic tanks, improving fertilizer/chemical/fuel storage, and diverting rainwater and snowmelt away from manure handling areas. Other potential projects are the restriction of livestock from watercourses, nutrient management plans, capping unused wells, and retirement of agricultural land.

Randy Nauta, a graduate of the Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology, was hired in early June to deliver the program, and the Project Steering/Review Committee was set up shortly thereafter.

The Project Steering/Review Committee met 3 times during the year, and approved a total of 155 projects. Of this number, 106 were in the LTVCA and the remainder were in the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA). The total projected cost of these 155 proposed projects was estimated to be \$644,000. At a 50% grant rate, the applicants were eligible for a total grant of \$231,000 in the LTVCA and \$91,000 in the SCRCA.

More applications were anticipated in the program categories relating to the decommissioning and upgrading of wells. With this in mind, the Chatham-Kent Healthy Futures project undertook an extensive Open House program in conjunction with the Ontario Groundwater Association. Eight Open Houses were held throughout Chatham-Kent in the late summer and fall to promote this part of the program. Although we believe the promotion program increased awareness of this category, it also led to the referral of approximately 60 applicants to the Well Decommissioning program of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, as they provided a higher grant rate.

During the year, the LTVCA was pleased to hear that the Healthy Futures program was extended to the middle of December of 2003, with project reporting to be done by February of 2004. We are happy to report that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is committed to see as many projects undertaken as possible during the program's term, and has committed approximately \$43,000 toward the delivery of the program.

Work continued as well on the "Clean Water Project". This is the Healthy Futures project for the 3 county area of Perth, Middlesex and Oxford. The SCRCA is delivering this program in the area of the LTVCA in Middlesex County. Since the inception of this project in September of 2001, 7 projects have been approved in the LTVCA. The estimated cost of these projects is \$45,000, with an allocated grant amount of \$21,400.

McGregor Creek Diversion Channel Outlet Repairs

Heyninck Excavating completed a project to repair the outlet of the diversion channel early 2002. The project involved the realignment of a sheet pile wall, installation of a whaler and tie back anchors as well as the replacement of broken concrete on the spillway. The cost of the project was approximately \$13,000.



The Project Steering/Review Committee for Chatham-Kent Healthy Futures met 3 times during the year, and approved a total of 155 projects.



Grants for clean water diversion berms were available through the Healthy Futures Program.

Provincial Grant Funding for Capital Maintenance and Flood Forecasting

The LTVCA receives grant funding from the province each year for the operation, routine minor maintenance, and preventative maintenance of flood and erosion control projects, flood forecasting and warning, chronic ice management, legal costs for ongoing joint Conservation Authority / Provincial capital projects, watershed management and related administration. The following table outlines the total approved funding in each category in 2002, as well as comparable numbers in 2001 and 2000. The costs outlined are the grants received. Eligible project costs would be twice the number shown in the table.

Category	2002	2001	2000
Flood Control Operations	\$120,603	\$120,603	\$145,105
Hazard Prev. / Watershed Mgmt.	\$37,006	\$37,006	\$30,544
Total	\$157,609	\$157,609	\$175,649

Table 3: Provincial Grant Funding for Capital Maintenance and Flood Forecasting 2002

Other Water Related Initiatives

- The LTVCA undertook several initiatives with the Federal Government during the year. Conservation Authority staff from approximately 14 of the Southwestern Ontario Conservation Authorities met with Environment Canada staff and representatives in July of 2002. At the meeting, Environment Canada indicated that they were looking into possibly undertaking an education initiative on selected subwatersheds, in order to improve the compliance of the livestock industry with the Fisheries Act.
- The LTVCA was able to work with research personnel from the National Water Research Institute division of Environment Canada. Information was obtained on selected sewage treatment and water treatment facilities in the watershed, together with listings of appropriate personnel, and these were passed on to the researcher. The study involved the investigation of special pollutants that pass through the facilities without being treated.
- Staff also cooperated with Ducks Unlimited on a study they were doing to enhance and protect wetland areas in Southern Ontario.
- In concert with the other 5 Conservation Authorities in Middlesex County, we continued working on the Natural Heritage Study for the County. It is believed that the study will be completed in 2003. During the year, the LTVCA was questioned on whether a similar study could be produced for the Chatham-Kent area.
- Attending several Chatham-Kent Technical Advisory Committee

Middlesex and Elgin Mapping Project

The LTVCA has been working together with many parties (Lambton County, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and Middlesex County) to undertake a large aerial mapping project. During 2002, the LTVCA looked at the possibility of extending the project to include the areas of West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich. Chatham-Kent, Southwold and Middlesex Centre have already obtained this mapping. Unfortunately, the fall window for photography did not afford enough opportunity for the photography, and both the photography and orthorectification will be undertaken in 2003. The total cost for undertaking the project in this area of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is approximately \$71,000.

Provincial Surface Water Monitoring Program

LTVCA staff from the mid 1970's through 1996, undertook water sampling at about 18 locations throughout the Conservation Authority. These samples were delivered to the MOEE lab in London, and the LTVCA was then provided a copy of the water quality findings of the testing. This program terminated in 1996 with Provincial cutbacks, and the LTVCA's reevaluation of its program. During this period, the MOEE also closed all of its regional labs.

In 2002, the MOEE contacted the LTVCA and has offered to test water samples at their Toronto lab and provide us with results. This program, in our case, would involve the sampling of water at 9 locations. Reestablishing this initiative in 2002, again emphasizes the Conservation Authority's role as the primary delivery agent for provincial programs related to the environment and natural resources.

meetings during the year, the LTVCA discussed items and issues to be included in the upcoming Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw for Chatham-Kent.

- The LTVCA was also a representative of East Side Pride, which is an organization established to improve conditions in the area of Chatham between William and Princess Streets. Colborne Street Conservation Area is located here, as well as the McGregor Creek.
- Committing time to a Species at Risk (SAR) group for the Thames River, the LTVCA assisted in the establishment of strategies to preserve and enhance habitats for aquatic species that are endangered in this part of the province.
- The LTVCA participated in the Rondeau Watershed Coalition. This is a local group whose objects are to work in cooperation with local landowners and interest groups to integrate native, and natural habitats into the landscape of the Rondeau Bay watershed. Species recovery and a measurable improvement in water quality is promoted.
- Represented on the technical team that reviewed and guided the Essex / Chatham-Kent Groundwater Study, the LTVCA helped to review the science of groundwater in the Essex / Chatham-Kent area, and to present measures which could be used to address the relative vulnerability of the groundwater. The study is expected to be completed in 2003.

Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program

The LTVCA continued to work with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in implementing the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program. The intent of the program is to set up a provincial network for monitoring ambient ground water conditions. Such a network will assist in the monitoring of potential drought conditions, and in the implementation of provincial and local action plans and environmental decision making, by municipalities and the province.

The MOEE is paying 100% of the cost to install the monitoring network or an estimated 6 million dollars throughout the province, and the installation portion of the project is set to be completed in March of 2003. The cost to the LTVCA and its member municipalities will be the annual operating expenses. The operating expenses include staff time, maintenance of the equipment, sample collection, meetings, report preparation, lab time to analyze samples, and data bank maintenance.

During 2002, the LTVCA has been able to find and incorporate into the program 11 wells in the LTVCA. Balu Balakrishna, a hydrogeologist currently working out of the Essex Region Conservation Authority office for the MOEE, was very helpful in this endeavour. The following table outlines the locations and cooperators in this program.

Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie Water Management Studies

After approximately 6 years, we have completed the creation of the Lakewide Management Plan (LAMP) for Lake Erie. The entire plan, and more recently, indepth background documents, organizational information and general information, can be found at the following website www.cciw.ca/glimr/lakes/erie/. Conservation Authorities, which drain water into Lake Erie, have been active in creating the LAMP for Lake Erie under the banner of Focal Erie (Federation of Conservation Authorities of Lake Erie). With the plan in place, an application was made to the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation near the end of 2002. A response to this funding request is expected in 2003.

Work continued on the bi-national Lake St. Clair Water Management Study in 2002. The goals of the plan are to evaluate the causes of environmental stress to the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair; determine management goals and objectives; review ongoing management activities and develop recommendations for management priorities. The plan is intended to be an important "roadmap" for future management efforts for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River.

During the year, the work group revised project schedules, refined the approach to developing goals, objectives and recommendations; and continued to fill information gaps in the draft information. Environment Canada and the Province of Ontario, via the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, committed resources during the year to hire a researcher, Orrie Wigle, to compile Canadian data and information. This was a very important step, which will help ensure Canadian issues and concerns are fully reflected in the management plan. It also underscores the joint commitment of the U.S. and Canadian governments, to making this a truly bi-national effort.

By the end of the year, the draft document was nearing completion, and it is expected that agency and public review will take place in the first quarter of 2003. The U.S. Great Lakes Commission will be presenting the plan to U.S. Congress in the fall of 2003.

	Location	Area	Owner
1	Longwoods Road C.A.	Southern Caradoc	LTVCA
2	Van Brenk Farm	South East Dunwich	Rein and Helen Van Brenk
3	Mosa Central Public School	South Mosa	Thames Valley School Board
4	Bothwell Observation Well	Bothwell	Chatham-Kent
5	Thamesville Observation Well	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent
6	Ridgetown Observation Well	West of Ridgetown	Chatham-Kent
7	Sinclair's Bush C.A.	South Harwich	LTVCA
8	Former Chatham Twp. Office	North Chatham	Christopher James Prop. Mgmt.
9	Authier Farm	South Tilbury East	Steve and Joan Authier
10	Old Colony Christian Academy	Central Romney	Old Colony Christian Academy
11	Morris Farm	South of Comber	Jim and Shirley Morris

Table 4: Water Well Locations for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program 2002

Land Use Planning and Regulations

Municipal Plan Input and Review Under the Conservation Authorities Act

Plan input and review is one of the ways the LTVCA monitors development, and achieves its objectives. The input the LTVCA has on new development near or in the natural hazards such as flood plains and steep slopes, ensures identification of potential hazards before complications arise. This can be of great importance to municipalities, developers and private individuals, who may not be aware of potential hazards.

The LTVCA reviewed 21 applications under the LTVCA's Fill, Construction and Alteration of Waterways Regulations in 2002. All were approved by the Board of Directors. The following table lists the specific types and numbers of planning development issues reviewed in 2002. Figures from previous years are included:

	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Official Plans (OP)	2	2	2	2	0	0
Official Plan Amendments (OPA)	9	22	17	26	13	11
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws (ZB)	1	1	1	0	0	1
Zoning Bylaw Amendments (ZA)	115	125	145	134	117	148
Severances (SEV)	54	156	156	178	189	231
Minor Variances (MV)	160	50	71	69	77	76
Plans of Subdivision (SUB)	7	8	5	13	10	8
Drainage Reports (DR)	64	60	42	52	71	82
Property Clearances (PC)	48	74	59	61	66	88
General Property Inquiries (GPI)	292	189	256	262	188	146
Total	752	687	754	797	731	791

Table 5: Planning Development Issues Reviewed in 2002

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Drain Classification Project

2002 marked the fourth year of an agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), for the review of proposed works in watercourses, and their effect on fish habitat as it relates to the Federal Fisheries Act. During the year, the LTVCA began the process to enter a "Level Two" agreement with the DFO. Level One status, which is the status that the LTVCA had for the first three years of the program, means that the Conservation Authority conducts the initial assessment of the project, to identify any impacts on fish habitat. If an impact is foreseen as a result of the proposal, the matter is referred to DFO staff. Level Two status means, that in addition to the requirements of Level One, the LTVCA would determine how the proponent could mitigate any impacts. Staff attended several conferences and meetings to improve compliance with the Fisheries Act.

The LTVCA continued to partner with 10 neighbouring Conservation Authorities to undertake the Southwest Ontario Conservation Authority Municipal Drain Classification Pilot Project. The intent of the project is to work cooperatively with the DFO, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), and area municipalities to collect the required information, and classify and map all municipal drains. This project will effectively streamline and expedite authorization of maintenance activities, while protecting significant fish habitat. Katie Stammler, a co-op student from the University of Windsor, worked at finalizing the drain classification project, from January to the end of March. She applied classifications to the maps and sent them to municipalities for review. Comments were received from all municipalities except two, and the LTVCA felt that we were quite successful in incorporating most municipal input into the final maps. The maps and the methodology for applying them to the Fisheries Act, were presented to the Drainage Superintendents at a meeting held at the LTVCA office in September.

Official Plans					1	1				
Official Plan Amendments	5					1				3
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws					1					
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	89	6	2			1	1	5	1	10
Severances	83	13	11	16	1	5	5	6	2	18
Minor Variances	26	5	6	5		1	4	5		2
Plans of Subdivision	2	1	1			1			2	
Drainage Reports	50		1		1	1	3	2	1	5
Property Clearances	24	2	2			2	6	1	5	6
General Property Inquiries	156	15	37	4	1	18	21	5	12	23
TOTAL SERVICES PER MUNICIPALITY	435	42	60	25	5	31	40	24	23	67
SERVICES										
MUNICIPALITY	Chatham-Kent	Dutton/Dunwich	Lakeshore	Leamington	London	Middlesex Centre	Southwest Middlesex	Southwold	Strathroy-Caradoc	West Elgin

Table 6: Plan Input and Review Services by Municipality 2002

Soil Conservation and Water Quality

2002 marked the fourth year that the Two Creeks watershed has been eligible for grant funding from Environment Canada's Great Lakes 2000 Cleanup Fund. The LTVCA is working in partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority, in relation to the program as a similar program has been in place for several years in an adjacent watershed in the Essex Region Conservation Authority. Under the program, grants are available for approved projects that control soil erosion, upgrade faulty septic systems, or improve wildlife habitat. The grant program is aimed at improving water quality and wildlife habitat in the Wheatley Harbour and the watersheds that affect it. The Wheatley Harbour is one of 42 internationally recognized "Areas of Concern" for water quality in the Great Lakes. In 2002, 11 projects with a total estimated cost of \$16,500 were approved in the Two Creeks watershed under the program.

The LTVCA provided technical and financial support to the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association with their Conservation Farmer Award in 2002. Judging was conducted in November and the award was presented at the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association Annual Meeting in December. The award in 2002 went to Allan Ross, a farmer from the Thamesville area.

Forestry

From 1988 to 2002, the Conservation Authority has planted approximately 1,442,489 trees within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's jurisdiction.

In 2002, a total of 53,489 trees were planted into windbreaks, memorial forests and conservation area nurseries (see Table 7). The cost to landowners for the Conservation Authority to supply trees was varied depending on the species, ranging anywhere from \$0.42 for plugs and \$0.45 for bare root, up to \$2.15 per tree. A minimum tree order of \$50 was required. The Conservation Authority's machine tree planters were rented by individuals to plant their trees or trees were hand planted. Table 8 outlines the numbers of trees planted or purchased through the Conservation Authority by our municipalities.

The Conservation Authority purchased tree seedlings from several different suppliers in 2002. The primary sources of trees were private nurseries including Forest Care in St. William's near Long Point, Sloan Tree Farm in Bothwell, Ferguson Forestry Station in Kempville, Orford Ridge's in Highgate and hardwoods purchased from Baker's Nursery in Bayfield. Workers on a HRDC program assisted the Conservation Authority with their forestry program.

Forest Management

The logging firm of Hanson Lumber Ltd., was contracted to do the maintenance cut at the Walter Devereux Conservation Area, located in Chatham-Kent. Approximately 200 trees of various species were removed from the woodlot. These trees had been marked by forestry staff from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

This work was done following the guidelines of the 2000 approved Forest Management Plan for the conservation area. It will promote super canopy Tulip trees and mast producing trees like oak, hickory and cherry. Elms were spared in the hope that some are resistant to

the Dutch Elm Disease. The only butternut in the woodlot with symptoms of blight was left in case it exhibits resistance. Four to 6 cavity trees were left per acre to promote wildlife habitat. The remaining tops will discourage ATV use in the bush and promote wildlife habitat.

Information Sessions

Tree Planting Information Sessions were presented at the Chatham LTVCA Administration Building on March 6, West Elgin Municipal Office and the Glencoe Quest Centre on March 12, Longwoods Road Conservation Area Resource Centre on March 13, Dutton/Dunwich Municipal Office on March 14 and the Southwold Municipal Office on March 19.

TREES PLANTED BY THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2002

Twp. South West Middlesex	2,000
Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich	1,000
Total	3,000

TREES SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS FOR PRIVATE PLANTING

Twp. of Strathroy-Caradoc	2,333
Twp. of Southwest Middlesex	3,324
Twp. of Middlesex Centre	0
City of London	525
Municipality of West Elgin	5,564
Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich	3,340
Twp. of Southwold	1,563
Town of Leamington	0
Town of Lakeshore	400
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	17,965
Stewardship Kent	11,870
Total	46,884

TREES PLANTED IN CONSERVATION AREAS

C.M. Wilson	1,156
Longwoods Road	649
Eastern Memorial Forest	550
West Elgin Elementary Schools (donated by John Johnson)	1,250
Total	3,605

2002 TOTAL TREES PLANTED 53,489

Table 7: Total Trees Planted 2002

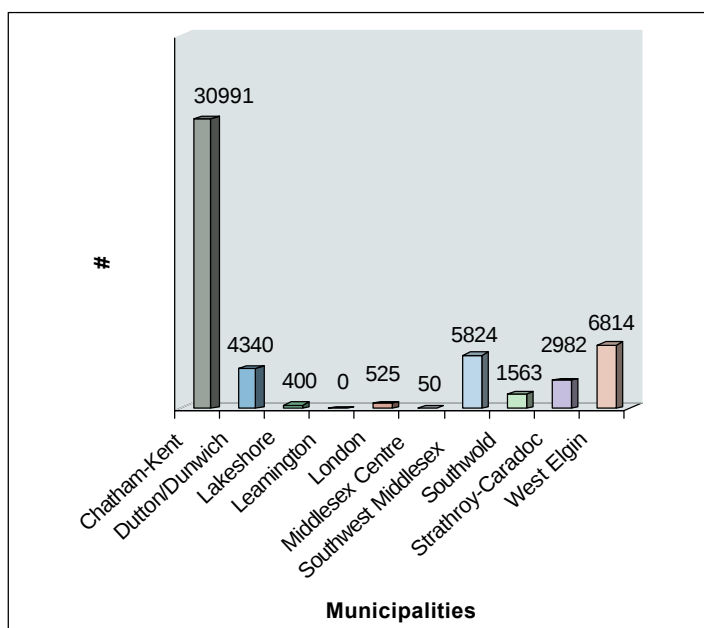


Table 8: Forestry Program By Municipality 2002

Special Employment Projects

The LTVCA was fortunate in 2002 to have received special funding to hire workers for conservation projects in the watershed. Nearly \$122,000 of special funding was accessed, enabling the Conservation Authority to augment its conservation services to watershed residents. These workers performed activities and completed projects over and above those of the full time staff. Through the Federal Government's Summer Career Placement Program, 4 summer students were hired on a \$10,296 grant submitted by the LTVCA Foundation. Two field technicians, a community relations technician and a visitor services technician were hired. As well, Human Resources Development Canada - Job Creation assisted the LTVCA by supplying a total of 5 workers through a \$54,000 grant to restore the Lighthouse. An additional \$21,476 hired an assistant coordinator to help with the Chatham-Kent Healthy Futures Program and \$32,214 hired 3 workers to prepare the site for the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village. Through the Provincial Government's Summer Employment Program for students, \$3,824 was received for 2 students to work as GIS Technicians.

Conservation Lands

Over the years, the Conservation Authority has acquired land in the watershed to protect environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands, culturally unique features and significant biological, ecological, historical and scenic qualities from development. Over 675 hectares of conservation land have been preserved at 23 sites for public use across the LTVCA watershed and region. It is estimated that well over 1,400,000 people have enjoyed the facilities and programs these areas have to offer. The following report highlights the major developments which occurred in some of the areas in 2002.

The LTVCA's 23 conservation areas or 'parks', received regular grounds maintenance over the past year, which included grass cutting, road grading, nature trail trimming and safety checks. Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas were regularly snow plowed and sanded for the safety and convenience of park visitors and staff. In preparation for the spring and summer season, equipment repair and maintenance also kept staff busy over the winter. During the Thames River runoff in mid-February, staff assisted with the operations of the dam and pumping station at the Indian/McGregor Creek flood control structure. Landowner contacts were made as spring tree orders were received and tree information sessions were held in March.

New Developments

The Feasby Conservation Area is new to the collection of conservation lands. Located in West Elgin, just south of West Lorne on the Lake Erie shoreline, this 19.47 acre property was donated to the LTVCA by the Feasby family in memory of Wilfred Feasby. A new sign designates this property.

A ground breaking ceremony in October marked the beginning of the construction of the Children's Safety Village at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. This unique safety village will feature a 'farm safety' aspect and is planned to be open in the fall of 2003. The Children's Safety Village will include scaled replicas of buildings that are normally found in a regular town. These building sites are offered to corporate sponsors and will be arranged along streets to reflect the land use patterns of a town. The cost of the Village is \$1.5 million dollars and this will be raised through the sale of building sites. A lease has been developed between the LTVCA and the Chatham-Kent Safety Village Committee. It is understood that this partnership will open up many opportunities for both organizations in areas of shared resources and promotion.



Chatham-Kent's Childrens Safety Village Ground Breaking Ceremony October, 2002

Special Thanks to Our Community Partners!

The LTVCA works hand-in-hand with community groups, volunteers and special employment project staff to provide safe, clean and enjoyable conservation areas for everyone. Of special mention are the *'Friends of Sharon Creek'*, and the *'Friends of Two Creeks'*, groups of Delaware and Wheatley area volunteers, committed to the stewardship of the Sharon Creek, and Two Creeks Conservation Areas. The *'Friends of Sharon Creek'* were also the proud recipients of the 2002 Caring Award, presented by the United Way of London and Middlesex, recognizing volunteer time and effort, philanthropy, leadership and financial support at Sharon Creek and in the community.

Chatham's *'East Side Pride'* volunteers and Lakeshore's *Lighthouse Chamber of Commerce and Cove Marina* (a business located in the community of Lighthouse Cove in Lakeshore), have stepped up to the plate and helped out with a clean-up of the Indian McGregor Creek and the Colborne Street Conservation Area, and the restoration of the Thames River Lighthouse. A June event hosted by *Cove Marina*, raised over \$20,500 for the Lighthouse restoration. An additional \$54,000 of funding from *Human Resources Development Canada* and support from the *Lighthouse Cove Chamber of Commerce* helped with the hiring of workers, equipment rental, and the purchase of materials such as mortar and paint. 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 *Middlesex, Elgin and Kent Stewardship Committees* have also partnered with the LTVCA on numerous conservation area projects. Many thanks go to the *Environmental Community Opportunities (ECO) Partnership*, a volunteer community group that gave 500 of hours of labour, enabling many facilities, including Ska-Nah-Doht and nature trails, to receive improvements. The *Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources 'Ontario Ranger Program'*, provided over 180 hours of labour helping out at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area.

In July, *World Youth* were recognized, as they volunteered their help towards field projects at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.



Family Fishing Day hosted by the Friends of Sharon Creek in July.



Ontario Rangers helped with boardwalk repairs at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area.

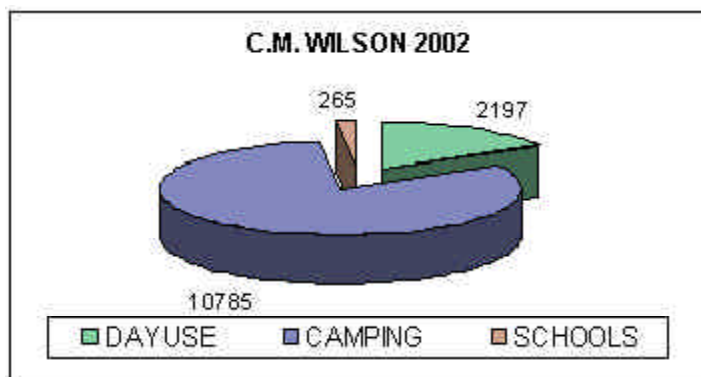


Table 9: C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Visitation 2002



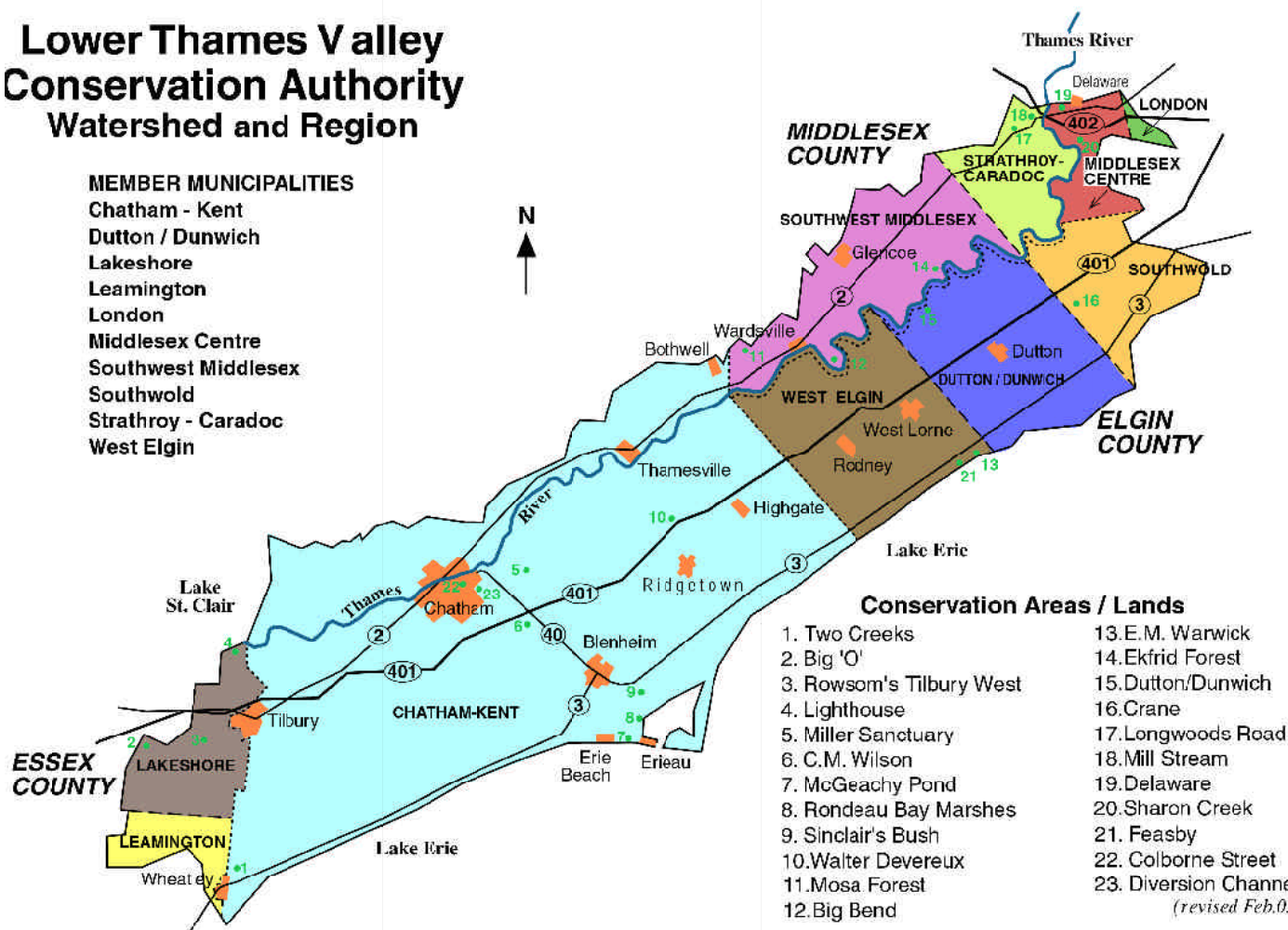
In 2002, camping and day use at C. M. Wilson Conservation totalled 13,247 people.



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed and Region

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

Chatham - Kent
Dutton / Dunwich
Lakeshore
Leamington
London
Middlesex Centre
Southwest Middlesex
Southwold
Strathroy - Caradoc
West Elgin



Conservation Areas / Lands

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Two Creeks | 13. E.M. Warwick |
| 2. Big 'O' | 14. Ekfrid Forest |
| 3. Rowsom's Tilbury West | 15. Dutton/Dunwich |
| 4. Lighthouse | 16. Crane |
| 5. Miller Sanctuary | 17. Longwoods Road |
| 6. C.M. Wilson | 18. Mill Stream |
| 7. McGeachy Pond | 19. Delaware |
| 8. Rondeau Bay Marshes | 20. Sharon Creek |
| 9. Sinclair's Bush | 21. Feasby |
| 10. Walter Devereux | 22. Colborne Street |
| 11. Mosa Forest | 23. Diversion Channel |
| 12. Big Bend | |
- (revised Feb.03)

Map 1: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed and Region



Over 21,000 people visited Longwoods Road Conservation Area in 2002.

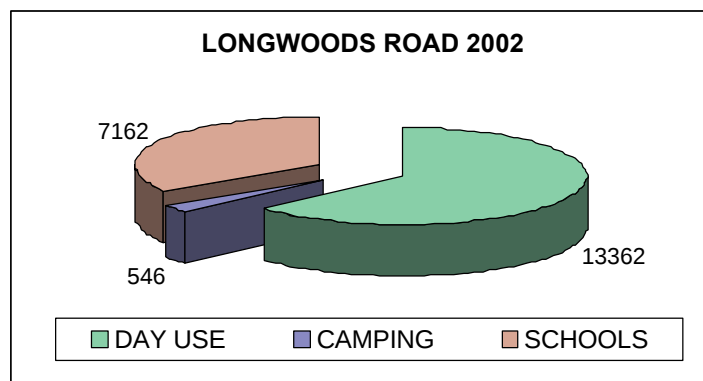


Table 10: Longwoods Road Conservation Area Visitation 2002

MUNICIPALITY	Chatham-Kent										Dutton/Dunwich	Lakeshore				Middlesex Centre		Southwest Middlesex			Southwold	Strathroy-Caradoc		West Elgin	
FACILITIES																									
Land Area (hectares)	35	2.2	30	1.6	20	15	33	39.5	.48	.92	.81	25.4	4.5	47.6	3	36	41	81	3	10	63	7.8	14		
Day Use	■	■	2197 ■	■	■	■	1000's ■	■	■	■	■	■	■	1000's ■	■	104 ■	■	■	■	■	■	13362 ■		■	
Historic / Museum											■										■				
School Program			265 ■				■							94 ■							7162 ■				
ANSI Site				■	■	■												■			■				
Family Camping			10785 ■													1333 ■									
Group Camping			■				■					■		45 ■		■					546 ■		1795 ■		
Memorial Forest			■				■					■		■		■		■							
Volunteer Groups			■	■	■		■				■			■				■			■				
Pavilion	■		■				■					■				■				■	■		■		
Trails / Boardwalks	■		■	■		■	■					■	■	■		■		■		■	■		■		
Fishing			■		■	■				■	■	■		■	■	■				■			■		
Boat Launch										■						■									
Unsupervised Beach			■											■									■		
Picnic Table	■		■			■	■				■	■				■				■	■		■		
Forest	■	■	■	■			■			■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Wetland			■		■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■		
CONSERVATION AREA LANDS	Walter Devereux	Miller Sanctuary	C.M. Wilson	Sinclair's Bush	Rondeau Bay Marshes	McGeachy Pond	Two Creeks	Diversion Channel	Colborne Street	Dutton/Dunwich	Lighthouse	Rowsons Tilbury West	Big 'O'	Sharon Creek	Delaware	Big Bend	Ekfrid Forest	Mosa Forest	Crane	Mill Stream/Janes Bush	Longwoods Road	Feasby	E.M. Warwick		

Table 11: LTVCA Conservation Area Facilities, Services and Recorded Attendance 2002

Community Relations

Community relations activities help to relay information on programs and services to our Directors, member municipalities, watershed and region residents, media and local politicians. Partnering with organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders to help with the conservation of our watershed resources, community relations staff participate in special events and tours, initiate and assist with local environmental projects, produce publications such as annual reports and brochures on conservation programs and services, design displays for fairs and conferences and write articles for inclusion in local newspapers and newsletters. The staff also help out with our Foundation's activities. The communication of information and education concerning all the LTVCA's programs and services encourages the wise management of our natural environment in the lower Thames River watershed and region. The following report highlights community relations activities in 2002.

Middlesex County Rural Expo 2002



The 5 Conservation Authorities of Middlesex County (Lower Thames Valley, Upper Thames River, St. Clair Region, Kettle Creek and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authorities) as well as the Middlesex Stewardship Committee and Conservation Ontario, participated in the 2002 Rural Expo held near Glencoe in September. We joined forces to put on a display on Education Row, a group of exhibitors which catered to school children visiting the match.

It is estimated that 20,000 students and adults passed through our exhibit, which had as its theme "healthy watersheds". The display was completed within the budget of \$7,000.

The Thames - A Canadian Heritage River!



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Thames celebrated its second year as a Canadian Heritage River in 2002. It joined an elite group of the most historic and beautiful rivers in Canada in late 2000. The designation brings recognition, status and an opportunity to leverage local and provincial support for the river's benefit.

The second annual Thames River Symposium was organized by the Thames Canadian Heritage River Committee on April 12, 2002. It was held in St. Mary's. The objectives of the one day Symposium, were to review the meaning of the Heritage River Designation in the context of Canada and the Thames. Ongoing initiatives in the three main values of natural heritage, cultural heritage and recreational opportunity were shared. Opportunities for local involvement in increasing the level of appreciation, enjoyment and stewardship of these Heritage Values were explored.

Walking Trails of Middlesex County



This booklet was spear-headed by the Middlesex-London Health Unit with input from Middlesex County and the 5 Conservation Authorities that have jurisdiction in Middlesex County (Lower Thames Valley, Upper Thames River, Kettle Creek, Ausable-Bayfield and the St. Clair Region). It was funded by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. 24,000 booklets were produced for \$17,500.

"The Walking Trails of Middlesex County" booklet includes The Trail User's Code, Warm-up and Stretching Exercises, Canada's Physical Activity Guide to Healthy Active Living, a detailed listing of Middlesex County's 19 conservation lands and accompanying maps showing their trail systems, a County Map highlighting locations of conservation lands, and a listing of Contacts. LTVCA was involved in the production of this booklet which highlights 4 of our Conservation Areas: Big Bend, Longwoods Road, Mill Stream and Sharon Creek.

Municipal representatives were invited to attend, as well as, all those groups and individuals supporting this project over the past several years.

Other highlights of 2002 included: applying for funding towards uniform 'heritage river' bridge signage throughout the watershed, plans to relocate the main CHRS plaque to the London Forks, and the production of 2 issues of a bi-annual newsletter 'Thames Happenings'. As well the 3rd annual Thames River Clean-up was held with approximately 1300 people participating, helping to clean up over 140 km of river and tributaries. Members from local groups including the Friends of Sharon Creek and students from Caradoc Central School lent a hand!



Many thanks to the Caradoc Central School students for their help in the clean-up of the Mill Stream at Longwoods! Green water bottles were handed out to all! The Mill Stream is a tributary of the Thames River.

Year-round Special Public Events

Learning about the natural environment is made fun at the special events organized in our many conservation areas. Whether the theme is endangered species, habitat restoration, enjoying a recreational pastime or reliving local history, the LTVCA joins with great partners, provides ideal locations and has the expertise to offer year-round activities for everyone! Effort is made to host or help partners organize events in as many of our conservation areas as possible.

The Conservation Authority is grateful to the many volunteers and groups who have organized derbies, festivals, concerts and other special days in the conservation areas for their communities across the watershed. Longwoods Road Conservation Area in the Township of Strathroy-Caradoc holds annual events during the spring, summer, fall and winter. Theatre presentations and nature exhibits in the Resource Centre enrich guided hikes and a variety of other conservation activities. Other conservation areas which held public events in 2002 included Two Creeks and C.M. Wilson, located in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Mosa Forest in Southwest Middlesex and Sharon Creek in the Township of Middlesex Centre. Pictures capture some of the events involving the LTVCA in 2002.



A successful entertainment event hosted by Cove Marina last June resulted in the raising of over \$20,500 for the restoration of the historic Lighthouse structure which marks the mouth of the Thames River. The live entertainment of Pat Dailey from Put-In-Bay, Ohio, coupled with a live and silent auction and barbeque drew thousands to the annual fund-raiser! (right photo courtesy of Cove Marina)



Over 100 visitors were thrilled with the owl presentation given by the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation at the Moonlight Winter Family Hike held in March at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.



As part of the Ontario Fishing Weekend, the 4th annual "Family Fishing Day" was held in July at the Sharon Creek Conservation Area. This year, over 70 people fished for prizes, practised with "Tackle Share" rods and reels and enjoyed the shores of Springer Lake. The event was organized by the "Friends of Sharon Creek". Many thanks to the Thames River Anglers for their expertise and assistance once again in 2002.



The Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society once again sponsored the Longwoods Heritage Weekend at the beginning of May. 1,000's of people enjoyed the sites, sounds and smells of the early 1800's.



Eagle Flight Drum and Dance performed at "A Taste of Fall at Ska-Nah-Doht" in October.

Other Communications

Three issues of The 'Lower Thames Beacon' newsletter were published with conservation news of the lower Thames valley watershed and region. As well, the LTVCA's Annual Report was produced. Conservation Area brochures were updated as necessary. New display panels were designed for the Conservation Authority and the Healthy Futures Program. All publications may be viewed on the LTVCA's website at www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca under the heading 'publications'. Media releases are also posted on our website.



Visitors dug "Archaeology Day" in July! The Curator of Ska-Nah-Doht and members of the Ontario Archaeology Society London Chapter helped to teach about site excavation and identified private artifact collections.

Conservation Education



Through the LTVCF Foundation, the LTVCA was able to offer the new river and creek safety program to grade 2 students in 2002. We are seeking program sponsors in order to offer this valuable program free of charge.

NEW Programs

Approximately 400 teachers and students were able to take part in the NEW "River and Creek Safety" program due to support from the *Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation*. This program was designed to help grade 2's increase their understanding of waterways and the hazards associated with them, specifically in relation to the Thames River.

Like LTVCA's other 19 field trips, the NEW "Forest Communities" program is designed to complement in-class studies. Secondary students have an opportunity to study forest habitat, succession, and the effect that humans have on the environment by looking at abundance and diversity of various floral and faunal species.

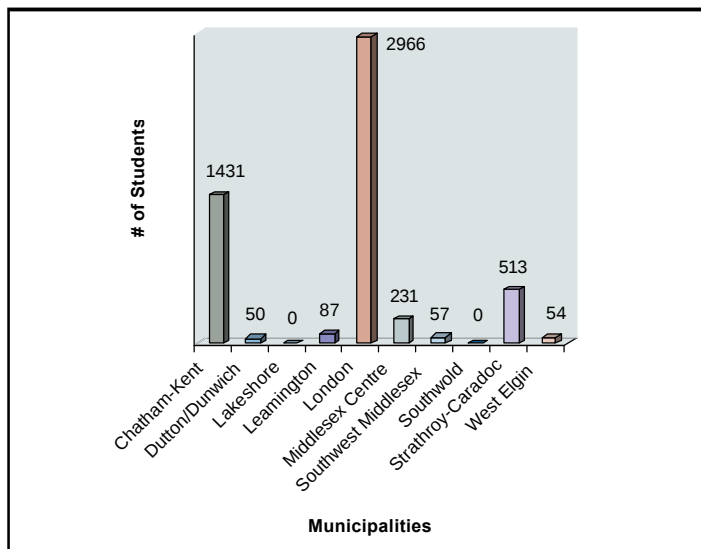


Table 12: Education Programs by Municipality 2002

School Field Trips to Conservation Areas

This year, 2,780 elementary and secondary school students from across the watershed participated in conservation education programs. Field trips offered students the opportunity to explore a variety of habitats and participate in hands-on activities in a natural outdoor environment. *Longwoods Road Conservation Area* is well used by schools, especially, during the months of May and June. The number of students that came to Longwoods during May and June (1,414) represented about 50% of all students involved in programs throughout the year. *Sharon Creek Conservation Area* is a unique stop for a "Tallgrass Prairies" school field trip because of the 7-acre tallgrass prairie planted there in 1999. This fall, 94 students from 3 different schools participated in the program. At *C. M. Wilson Conservation Area*, 265 students plus parents and teachers participated in conservation education programs. C.M. Wilson is commonly used by teachers of Grades 1-6 choosing to study everything from bugs to wetlands.

Conservation Project

The LTVCA appreciates the help of the Montessori House of Children and the 93rd Scout Troop of London in building 23 Southern Flying Squirrel Nesting Boxes. Materials for this project were purchased with a grant from the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Improvement Project through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Weekend Workshops

In 2002, 400 youth visited Longwoods Road Conservation Area on weekends to participate in conservation workshops. Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts found workshops useful in fulfilling requirements for a variety of badges. A cub group also took advantage of the Owl Prowl workshop offered on February 23.

Foundation Thanks Funding Partners Supporting Longwoods Education Programs

The LTVCA recognizes the generous support of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation and the many other partners who have made contributions towards the success of conservation education and Native studies programs.

In particular, we acknowledge the financial support from the *Walter J. Blackburn Foundation*, *McKinlay Funeral Home*, *John C. Badder and Badder & Robinson Funeral Homes*, the *Elliott-Madill Funeral Home* and *Wittland Investment*.

As well, one student was hired this summer to plan special events at the Resource Centre through the *Summer Career Placement Program* of the *Human Resources Development Canada*. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation applied for this funding.

The Foundation commissioned the architectural design work of Matthew Hessey who drew up preliminary plans for the Resource Centre renovation and improvement project. This project was supported by the Foundation.

Other services made possible by the Foundation and its partners included email and internet access at the Resource Centre and the LTVCA's website.

Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village & Museum

at Longwoods Road Conservation Area



We Won in 2002!

Ska-Nah-Doht/Longwoods won the distinction of **Attractions Canada Provincial Award winner for "Developed Outdoor Site" 2002**. The curator submitted an application in February which outlined our contributions to the community, local history, conservation and the local economy. In April we found out that we had won in our category. So, in May it was off to Edmonton to pick up the award and a chance to be National winners. The competition was tough! It included Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish Home in PEI and Whitehorse Rapids Fishway in the Yukon. The winner was Jardin de Metis in Quebec. Although we did not win the big one, it has brought us national attention. Locally, many in the community have re-discovered a jewel right in their own backyard, which is the best award of all!



Iroquoian Village Committee 2002

Chairman: Don Fairbairn
Vice-Chair: Ron Watts

LTVCA Appointed:

•John Beharrell •Ken Brooks
•Jerry Campbell •Allan Mayhew •Joe Reilly •John Yokom

Community Members:

Andy Chisholm • Glenn Stott

Education Programs

During this school year, 4,988 students passed through the maze. Full Day programs were presented to 3,703 children and 1,285 enjoyed Half Day programs. Teachers and parents could not be counted out, as 999 were in attendance. Another 501 people experienced Ska-Nah-Doht through organized group tours and workshops.

New DVD Presentations

With financial support from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation, we were able to create 2 new audio presentations for visitors. Local students starred in "Sarah meets Oh-kwali". "A Pathway through the Past" was produced for a general audience. Special thanks to Al McGregor of the Foundation for lending his professional voice to the narration of both productions.

The Budget

The Ska-Nah-Doht budget for 2002 was \$145,209 which includes \$8,550 from the Community Museum Operation Grant Program of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

Special Events

The Native Studies Department took a week off from school programs in September to attend the Rural Expo in Glencoe. Our display, "From the Field to the Longhouse" had visitors grinding corn, viewing a model of a longhouse and children could become the 3 sisters (as pictured). This last activity was so popular that staff will be making it a permanent display at the village next year.

2002 saw the return of "A Taste of Fall" in October. Nearly 300 people braved the cold winds to eat, dance, shop and learn about First Nations culture. Other popular village events included: "Walk on the Wild Side of Spring" (April), "Archaeology Day" (July) and "Nightwalk with the Spirits" (August).

The Village

Ska-Nah-Doht survived the winds of 2002 with the help of staff and participants of the Environmental Community Opportunities program. The palisade was pushed to its limits and repairs were ongoing.

For over 20 years the Forest City Checkers (FCC) volunteers have kept the village looking seasonally fresh. We extend a special thanks to them!



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Executive Summary

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 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.

Since it was incorporated 7 years ago, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation has been successful in raising significant support for natural and cultural heritage conservation. The Foundation is pleased to have helped fund reforestation, conservation area development and outdoor education. These are programs and services of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority that have undergone severe grant reductions and require 'partners in conservation' to continue.

By supporting the Conservation Authority's programs, communities of the lower Thames River watershed and region were able to enjoy a healthier quality of life. It is our goal to encourage existing and new 'partners' to join with us to ensure the continuation of these services. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation is an independent non-profit, registered charity. Tax receipts are issued for all donations over \$10.00. A Board of 10 volunteer Directors meets six times annually. Our Registered Charitable Number is 89819 8171 RR0001.

Foundation Highlights of 2002 include:

- The generation of nearly \$33,000 for conservation projects.
- A growing Memorial Forest Program at the McKinlay Woodlands in the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, the Elliott-Madill Memorial Forest in Sharon Creek Conservation Area, the Two Creeks Memorial Groves at Two Creeks Conservation Area, Rowsom's Tilbury West Memorial Forest in Rowsom's Tilbury West Conservation Area, the Arn Memorial Forest in Big Bend Conservation Area, the Comber District Historical Society Memorial Forest at Comber District Historical Society Agricultural Museum and the Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest at the Mosa Forest.
- An Interpretive Trail Sponsorship Program at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.
- The submission of funding applications to corporations, government agencies, service clubs and other philanthropic organizations to undertake projects and programs which assisted the Conservation Authority. In 2002 - Human Resources Development Canada's Summer Career Placement Program and the Walter J. Blackburn Foundation, provided grants to the Foundation.
- The 'adoption' of projects, including improvements to the Sharon Creek Conservation Area through the 'Friends of Sharon Creek' volunteers, the Sharon Creek Trust Fund and the planning phase for the Resource Centre renovations and improvements. The Foundation assists volunteer organizations with their fund-raising efforts.
- The sponsorship of special fund-raising events and activities such as the 'Loon Raffle', Eco-Treasure Hunt, Moonlight Winter Family Hike.
- The financial support of a photographic book about the Thames River authored by Richard Bain.
- The William Kingsley Erickson Bursary available to watershed students in fields of environmental studies - awarded to Melanie Lum in 2002.
- Directors volunteered professional services including narration and graphic design work.



Memorial Forest Program



Interpretive Trail Sponsorship Program



Fund-raisers: Loon Raffle and the Eco-Treasure Hunt



Summer Student Employment Through the Summer Career Placement Program

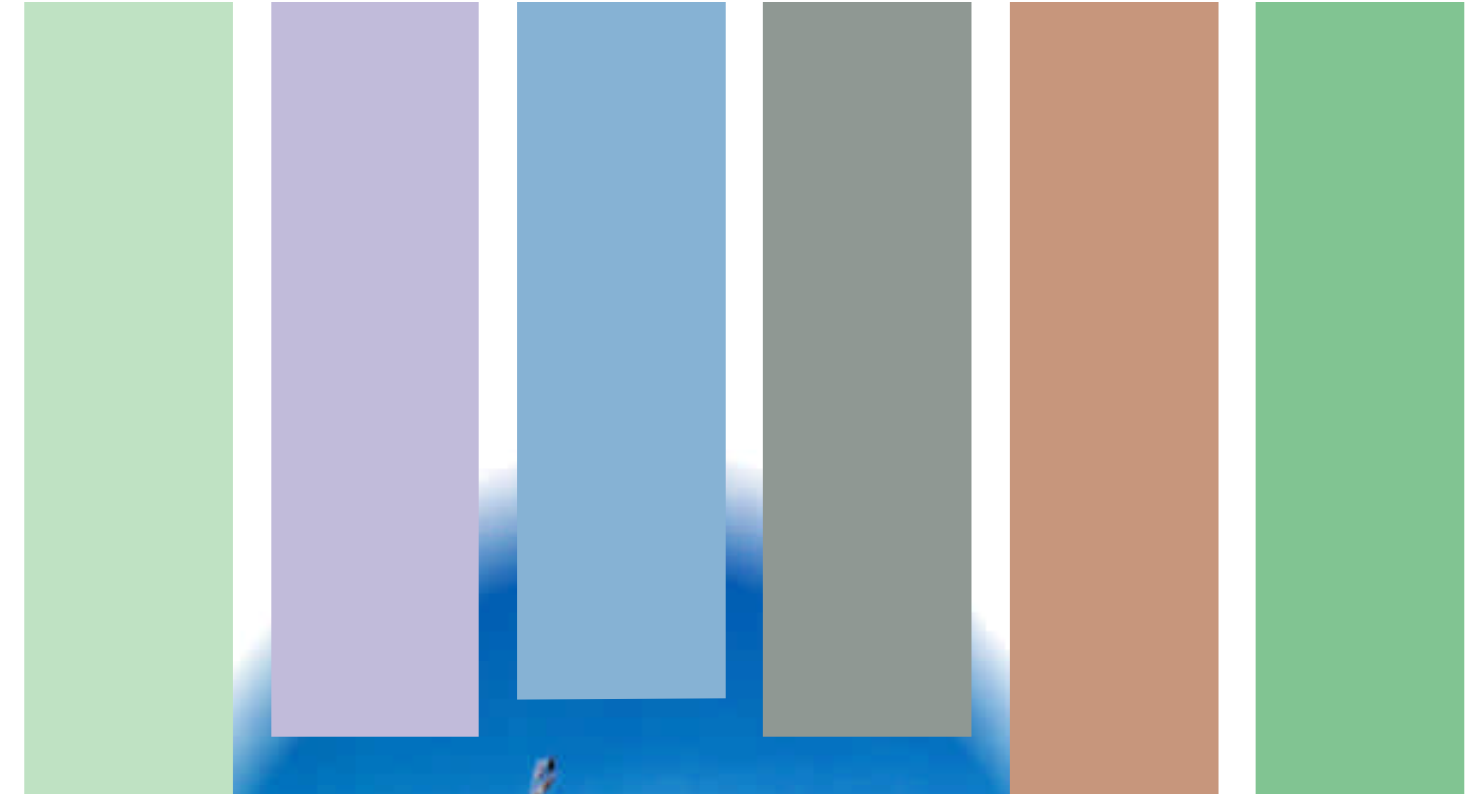


The William Kingsley Erickson Student Bursary



Notes





Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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

Visit our website at: www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

The Thames -
A Canadian
Heritage River

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in the Province of Ontario. Our area of jurisdiction lies over the watersheds of all streams which drain into the Thames River from the Village of Delaware, to Lake St. Clair. Our 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. Our total area of jurisdiction covers over 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) in southwestern Ontario and is home to 106,971 people.



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System