

*Lower Thames Valley
Conservation Authority
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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.

*Lower Thames Valley
Conservation Authority
2005 Annual Report*



The Thames
A Canadian
Heritage River



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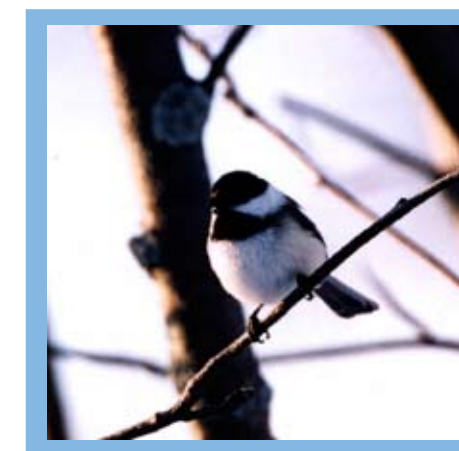
LTVCA is a Member of Conservation Ontario

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Partners in Conservation

In addition to our municipal and provincial partners, we gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the many organizations and individuals from our watershed communities that were our partners in conservation during 2005. These 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.

Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation
Canadian Museum Association
Carolinian Canada
Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village Committee
Chippewa of the Thames Band / Economic Development
C.M. Wilson Seasonal Campers
Environmental Community Opportunities (ECO) Partnership
Friends of Sharon Creek
Guardians of Longwoods
London Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Ridgetown College/University of Guelph
Rondeau Watershed Coalition
Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Advisory Committee
TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation
Thames Canadian Heritage River Committee
Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society
Wheatley Two Creeks Association



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

Local Conservation Authorities

Conservation Ontario

Province of Ontario and its Ministries, Stewardships

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 2005

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Administration Building

100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8
Tel: (519) 354-7310 Fax: (519) 352-3435
E-mail: ltvca@MNSi.net
Website: www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer - Jerry Campbell
Water Management Supervisor - Jack Robertson
Resource Technician - Valerie Towsley
Accounting Clerks - Sharlet Piggott, Sandy Maynard
GIS Specialist / Resource Technician - Ryan Stevenson
Environmental Engineering Technician - Cara Zhang



Cara Zhang was hired as an Environmental Engineering Technician in 2005 to work on Source Water Protection.



Ryan Stevenson is the GIS Specialist / Resource Technician and was hired in 2005 to work on Generic Regulations and Source Water Protection.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area Workshop

Tel: (519) 264-1500
Eastern District Supervisor - David Little
Construction & 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

C. M. Wilson Conservation Area Workshop

Tel: (519) 354-8184
Western District Supervisor - Russ Dysarz

Proposed Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Water Protection Area **Source Protection Manager** - Lower Thames Valley, St. Clair Region and Upper Thames River **Conservation Authorities** - Chris Tasker

Board of Directors and Committees 2005



*"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."*

One Director represents each municipality except for Chatham - Kent (three). Directors are appointed for a maximum three 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.

Committees

Personnel and Finance / Executive Committee:

Brian King, Bill Scott,
Bob Hosford, Stan Lidster, John Yokom

Ice Management Committee:

Brian King, Bill Scott, Vic Vogler, Jim Brown

Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Committee (Conservation Authority Representatives):

Brian King, Bill Scott, Stan Lidster, Jack Lorimer,
John Yokom, Jerry Campbell



In Memoriam

Director Joseph C. Reily passed away on Monday, September 5, 2005 in his 87th year. Joe was a Director and Past-Chair of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, representing the Township of Caradoc and later the amalgamated Township of Strathroy-Caradoc for approximately 40 years. He was a member of the Friends of Sharon Creek and the Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Advisory Committee for many years. He was also a Director of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation. Joe sat on the historical committee that was instrumental in the designation of the Thames River as a Canadian Heritage River. He will be sadly missed by the Directors, members and staff associated with the Lower Thames.



L-R Front Row: B. Derbyshire, B. King, B. Scott
L-R Back Row: J. Brown, J. Yokom, J. Galipeau, J. Kavelaars,
S. Lidster, J. Lorimer, V. Vogler, B. Hosford
Absent: B. Wiehle

Board of Directors 2005

Chair: Brian King - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Vice-chair: Bill Scott - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Jim Brown - Municipality of Chatham-Kent
John Yokom - Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich
Vic Vogler - Town of Lakeshore
Bill Derbyshire - Town of Leamington
Jack Lorimer - City of London
Bob Hosford - Township of Middlesex Centre
John Kavelaars - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Stan Lidster - Township of Southwold
Joe Reily/Jack Galipeau - Township of Strathroy-Caradoc
Bernie Wiehle - Municipality of West Elgin

Chair's Remarks & Executive Summary



It is my pleasure as Chair, to bring greetings and also an outline of the accomplishments of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) in 2005. Our vision as a watershed-based partner, is to work with the local community, providing services and information to efficiently protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations. I am proud to say, that even with the challenge of limited resources, our Conservation Authority has continued to serve our member municipalities and residents of the lower Thames region very well.

We've worked hard to develop partnerships with municipalities, provincial and federal governments, landowners, agricultural and rural organizations, environmental groups, businesses and residents. Together we strive to improve and meet our objectives to protect, restore and manage our watershed's natural resources for now and in the future.

In 2005, the LTVCA continued to protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion by predicting flows and water levels, operating flood control structures and releasing flood warnings to local municipalities and agencies. Stream gauges were improved with financial assistance from Environment Canada and the McGregor Creek Dam was repaired with financial assistance from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Through our municipal plan input and review function under the Conservation Authorities Act, the LTVCA monitored new development near or in natural hazard areas in order to identify potential threats before

complications arose. A new Provincial Generic Regulation called the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation replaces the Fill, Construction and Alteration of Waterways Regulation in the Province. We will continue to work with our landowners on behalf of the Province to facilitate this new regulation in relation to building in proximity to water courses, valleys, wetlands and shorelines.

Our river, lakeshores and streams saw studies and actions to protect and restore critical habitat, with our involvement in the bi-national lake St. Clair Water Management Study, Species at Risk Recovery Strategies for the Thames River and Essex-Erie region and the review of drain improvements. By being good stewards of the lands that drain into these bodies of water, the health of our watershed for all will improve.

The introduction of The Clean Water Act in December of 2005, will set legislation for Conservation Authorities to facilitate the creation of Source Water Protection Plans. The LTVCA has partnered with the St. Clair Region and Upper Thames River Conservation Authorities to form the proposed Thames, Sydenham and Region for Source Water Protection. We will be working very closely with our municipalities to help develop a plan for our watershed that ensures the protection of our drinking water. Our Conservation Authority will continue to seek programs and funding on behalf of our landowners and watershed residents that will help improve and safeguard our surface and groundwater resources in this regard.

The lower Thames River watershed and region is in dire need of reforestation, especially in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The Emerald Ash Borer has devastated what little forest cover we had in this area. The link between tree cover and a healthy environment cannot be over emphasized. The LTVCA has worked hard to provide programs and opportunities for landowners to plant more trees. Seventy-five thousand trees were planted through the LTVCA last year through our own forestry program, the Forest 2020 program, the Natural Areas Restoration Grant Program and Greencover Canada within the LTVCA's jurisdiction.

Conservation lands provide opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn and respect the natural environment. They provide important habitat for our wildlife. The participation in the Conservation Authority's education programs and public events at these areas demonstrates the importance of reaching out with our conservation messages. Programs explain why it is critical that we all take responsibility for the protection of our precious natural resources for the continued good health of our watershed and region. Over 9,000 students participated in the LTVCA's programs in 2005. Last year, the LTVCA accessed over \$62,000 of special funding to augment programs and services with an additional 14 part-time workers for our conservation areas. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation has raised nearly \$360,000 over the past 11 years for the LTVCA and I would like to thank its volunteer Directors for their ongoing support of the Conservation Authority's programs.

In closing, I wish to thank the members of the Conservation Authority, who have represented their municipalities well over the past year as they balance the needs of the watershed with the needs of the individual municipalities. As well, I thank the staff for another year of hard work and support.

Brian W. King

Brian King

Water Management

Flood Control

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, in cooperation with its local municipalities and the province, played a significant role in the protection of life and property from natural hazards such as flooding. The Conservation Authority, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada are responsible for forecasting where and when flooding is likely to occur and issuing flood alerts and warnings.

The winter of 2005 was interrupted on numerous occasions with mild temperatures and rainfall. Between the 30th of December in 2004 and the 13th of January in 2005, the average daily high temperature was approximately four degrees Celsius and 65 mm of rain fell. Another warm spell with approximately 40 mm of precipitation occurred in mid February. Between mid February and mid March,

a shortened winter set in and the lower river was able to gain an ice cover of about 25 cm. A snow pack with 50 mm of water equivalent accumulated in the upper Thames watershed. This ran off with little effect, as a result of a warm period without rainfall at the end of March.

On four separate occasions during the winter, the flow in the lower Thames River exceeded 300 cubic metres per second (cms). For the record, flows reached 450 cms on January 3rd, 320 cms on January 14th, 400 cms on February 16 and 350 cms on March 31. Each of these events was enough to cause flooding to the Thames River's extensive river flats, but none were able to flood the upper table land areas. There were no other runoff events of significance for the remainder of the year.



Thames River ice flow in spring 2005.



Run off from spring flooding spilled into the Thames River at the diversion channel outlet.

Drought Response

The summer period in the lower Thames watershed and region was generally warmer and drier than normal. In fact, it was dry enough to put the region into a three month Level One low water condition. This condition means that over a three month period the area received less than 80% of the average precipitation of those same three months. This situation persisted

into October and was then followed with a very damp November. Below is an example of how environmental conditions change. Wetlands such as marshes, swamps, bogs and fens act as giant sponges by storing water and releasing it slowly into streams and rivers as well as into the ground during times of drought.



The Provincially Significant wetland at Longwoods Road Conservation Area in the Township of Strathroy-Caradoc, is shown here in a summer without a low water condition.



This same Provincially Significant wetland at Longwoods Road Conservation Area is shown here in a Level One low water condition in the summer of 2005.

Provincial Grant Funding for Capital Maintenance and Flood Forecasting

The Conservation Authority 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 2005 as well as comparable numbers in 2004 and 2003. The costs outlined are the grants received. Eligible project costs would be twice the number shown in the table.

Category	2005	2004	2003
Flood Control Operations	120,603	120,603	120,603
Hazard Prev. / Watershed Mgmt.	37,006	37,006	37,006
Total	157,609	157,609	157,609

Table 1: Provincial Grant Funding for Capital Maintenance and Flood Forecasting 2005.

Indian-McGregor Creek Flood Control Project Repairs

Late in 2004 the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, funded a program for Conservation Authorities to undertake capital repairs to capital infrastructure. Through this program the LTVCA was able to obtain funding to tender and contract repairs to the McGregor Creek Dam. The project included replacing the hinges with much stronger continuous strip hinges, modifying the hoist mechanism to reduce the lifting forces on the hinges and modifying the limit switches to better detect when the gates are closed. The project was contracted with Facca Construction of Woodslee in late December of 2004, and continued into the early months of 2005. Chatham-Kent and the Province of Ontario each funded 50% of the cost of this \$268,000 project.

In 2005, the Conservation Authority commissioned Todgham and Case Associates for engineering to the point of calling tenders to repair the outlet weir of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. Erosion has been a constant problem at the outlet weir since construction in 1990. In 2002, the Conservation Authority bolstered the steel pile wall and installed broken concrete in eroded areas but erosion continued to cause problems. The cost of undertaking the engineering for this project was \$10,000 and the estimated cost of construction is \$180,000. If approved for funding under the Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program, the project will receive 50% funding from the Province of Ontario. Chatham-Kent is the only benefiting municipality for the project and will therefore fund the remaining 50%. In keeping with the Department of Fisheries construction timing restrictions, it is hoped that the project can be done in the summer months of 2006.

Also, in the spring of 2006, the LTVCA intends to install a drainage barrier on the eastern side of the Diversion Channel just north of the Canadian National Railway tracks. The drainage barrier is intended to halt a shallow block failure in the eastern side-slope of the Diversion Channel that was first observed in the summer of 2004. The cost of this project is \$10,000 and again, if funded, will be cost shared by the Province of Ontario and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Water Advisory Meetings

The LTVCA is also a long-standing associate member of the Chatham-Kent-Essex Chapter of the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario. This organization holds approximately four to six meetings per year.



In 2005, the LTVCA received 100% funding from Environment Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources to undertake upgrades at two of our existing stream gauge locations. The installations of a new roof on the McGregor Creek stream gauging station, a weir at the McGregor Creek stream gauging station and a new housing for the Chatham water level monitoring station, cost a total of \$20,000.



Repairs to McGregor Creek Dam included replacing hinges with stronger continuous strip hinges, modifying the hoist mechanism to reduce the lifting forces on the hinges and modifying the limit switches to detect when the gates are closed.

Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie Water Management Studies

Work continued on the bi-national Lake St. Clair Water Management Study in 2005. 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 “road map” for future management efforts for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. Environment Canada and the Province of Ontario, via the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, had committed resources to prepare a comprehensive technical document. Completed in early 2004, the report identifies five key management areas: land use; nutrients; chemical contamination; habitat loss; and invasive non-indigenous species.

Local coordination of the Lake St. Clair Water Management Study in Canada is being led by the Canadian Lake St. Clair Watershed Coordination Council. The Council is made up of a multi-agency and government group of individuals interested in the environment of Lake St. Clair and its watershed. The LTVCA was a member on the Council. In 2005 the Council completed the “Lake St. Clair Draft Technical Report: An examination of current conditions”. The Report reviewed the watershed characteristics, stressors on the environment and effects of stressors on the environment of Lake St. Clair and its watershed. The LTVCA hosted an open house on June 28th. It is anticipated that the St. Clair Management Plan will be published in 2006.

The United States was committed to a time table and much work was done 2003. In 2004, the management plan underwent final review by the Corps and a local Watershed Management Advisory Group sought funding for five projects: a drinking water protection program; septage disposal facility; local watershed plans; illicit discharge elimination and contaminated site assessment program.

A requirement of the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) is a work plan for each Area of Concern and Lake Area Management Plan (LaMP). Lake St. Clair was included in this process. For Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Lake St. Clair is a sub-set of the Lake Erie LaMP. Each agency within COA must submit work plans; this includes Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of the Environment, MNR and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The work plans submitted will reflect a coordinated approach among the agencies for work over the duration of this COA. The Lake St. Clair Management Plan has the opportunity to influence actions these agencies could include in their work plan.



Jennifer Vincent, from the Restoration Programs Division, Ontario Region, of Environment Canada spoke at the June 28th Public Consultation for the Lake St. Clair Management Plan.

Great Lakes Levels

The entire region was relatively dry over the summer period and this regional condition did have an affect on the lake levels of both Erie and St. Clair.

Lake St. Clair began the year 20 cm higher than that lake’s long term average level and ended the year about 25 cm less than the long term average.

Lake Erie had a similar relationship in 2005. It began the year about 25 cm higher than the long term average and by the end of the year it was about 25 cm lower than this same average.

These low levels, and the lack of any significant wind generated storms, resulted in no flood events on the lakes in 2005.



The north shore of Lake Erie at the McGeachy Pond Conservation Area highlights the low lake level.



Species at Risk

Thames River Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery Strategy

The Thames River Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery Strategy for Species at Risk, developed for the Thames watershed, will sustain a healthy aquatic ecosystem and encourage long-term survival of aquatic species at risk. The Recovery Strategy guides activities within the Thames watershed, involves communities in projects that will help species recover, monitors for

changes in species populations, and raises awareness about the river's rich aquatic life. The Federal Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP), is one of the key funding partners contributing towards the Recovery Strategy.

In 2005, the LTVCA continued to develop a species at risk education program for secondary schools in the lower Thames watershed. This program provides support for teachers in the lower Thames watershed for

student involvement in a species at risk monitoring program. LTVCA staff also provided further in-kind support as they attended committee meetings and reviewed Recovery Strategy documents. Research and monitoring of the species and funding proposal writing for the Recovery Strategy were conducted by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Essex-Erie Aquatic Species at Risk Recovery Strategy

The recovery team has completed a synthesis report of background information that will form the basis of a recovery strategy. Essex Region Conservation Authority continues to act as a co-chair and coordinator. Conservation Authorities within the Essex-Erie recovery strategy area include the Essex Region, Lower Thames Valley, Kettle Creek, Catfish Creek and Longpoint Region. In 2005, the LTVCA continued to act as a key member of the recovery team providing technical expertise and support towards successful receipt of \$30,000 of habitat improvement project funding from the Habitat Stewardship Program grant from Environment Canada. Projects that benefit aquatic conditions for fish species at risk in core areas will be implemented in 2006. One of the core areas within the entire study area is Rondeau Bay and if an applicable project(s) is accepted by the Habitat Working Group, funding may be available for habitat improvement in 2006.

The seven fish species at risk found in LTVCA (all at Rondeau Bay) include eastern sand darter, channel darter (last found from a 1951 record from the nearshore at Erieau), spotted gar, pugnose shiner, lake chubsucker, bigmouth buffalo and warmouth.



Pugnose Shiner



Lake Chubsucker

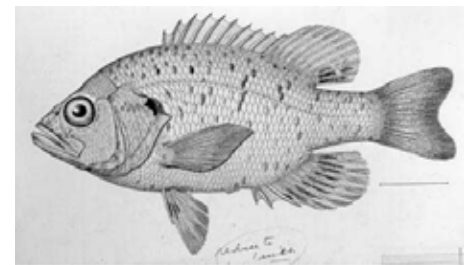


Photomontage. Smithsonian Institution NMNH Division of Fishes

Eastern Sand Darter



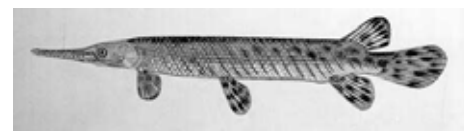
Channel Darter



Warmouth



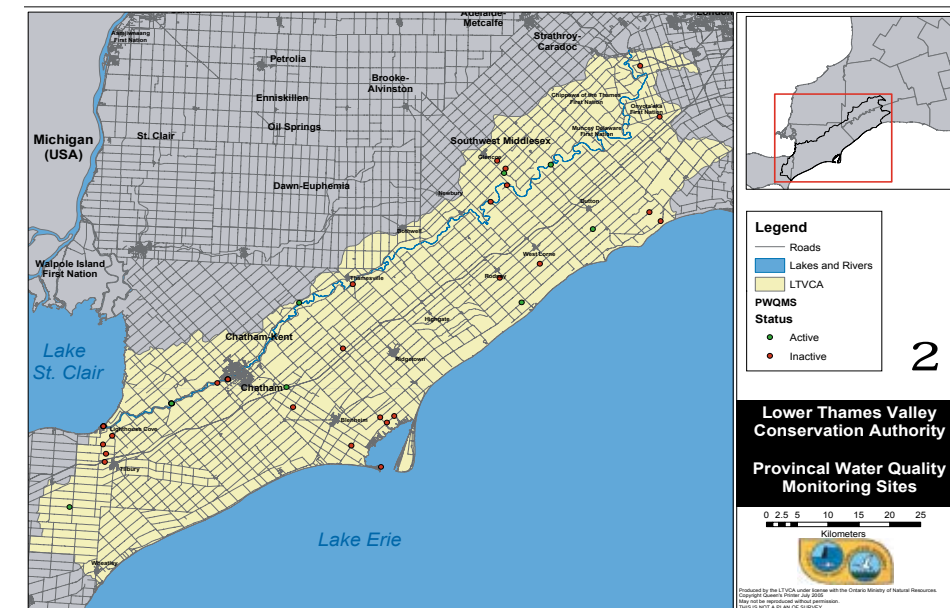
Bigmouth Buffalo



Spotted Gar

Photographs from Environment Canada Species at Risk website <http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca>.

Provincial Water Monitoring Program



Map 1: The LTVCA collects surface water samples from nine representative locations within its jurisdiction. The sampling program provides the Conservation Authority and the Ministry of the Environment with information regarding the ambient or background water quality of the stream.

Rondeau Watershed Coalition

In mid 2005, the Conservation Authority began a cooperative program with the Rondeau Watershed Coalition. They undertake water sampling in Rondeau Bay and have worked with Ridgeway College in the past to undertake sampling. The Coalition sought the LTVCA's assistance in lending them a water testing metre, hip waders and a small boat and if feasible, sending their water samples to the MOE lab in Toronto.



The Shrewsbury Marshes of Rondeau Bay.

The Conservation Authority continued to work with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program. The intent of the program is to have 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.

In 2005, the LTVCA found an alternate location for the Thamesville well, as the municipality wished to decommission the original one that we had been using. We also were able to bring the existing water well at the E.M. Warwick Conservation Area into the program. We were not able to collect water samples from any of the wells during the year, as staff are not licensed to install pumps into water wells. In 2005, the MOE worked toward

installing dedicated pumps into wells across the province in order to allow Conservation Authority staff to undertake this sampling.

The Conservation Authority continued working with the MOE with the sampling of surface or stream waters at nine locations in the watershed. In this program, water is collected on a monthly basis in the spring, summer and fall and sent to the MOE laboratory in Toronto for testing. The results are then returned to the Conservation Authority. Both of these programs emphasize the Conservation Authority's role as the primary delivery agent for provincial programs related to the environment and natural resources.

Environmental Awards

The LTVCA provided technical and financial support to the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association with their Conservation Farmer Award in 2005. 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 2005 went to the Mike and Brian Skipper family farm in the Fletcher area.

For at least 20 years this Conservation Authority has made a contribution to the Scholarships and Awards Committee of Ridgeway College. The award in 2005 was the sponsorship of "Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award". The award has a monetary value of \$200 and was awarded to Matthew Hooyer of Dresden at the convocation in May of 2005. The Ridgeway College offers an excellent program and for years has been a promoter of the conservation ethic in agriculture.



Justice O'Connor's report on the Walkerton tragedy contained 22 recommendations on source water protection. In response to the recommendations the Minister of Environment, in late 2002, formed an Advisory Council on a provincial framework for Watershed-based Source Protection Planning. The report of the Advisory Council was completed and the 55 recommendations in the report set out a comprehensive framework that addresses roles and responsibilities, the planning process, resources, timing and legislation.

The implementation of this report creates new responsibilities for Conservation Authorities. The Advisory Committee recommended that wherever possible Conservation Authorities shall be the organization given responsibility for coordinating the development of

Watershed-based Source Protection Plans.

Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment, introduced the Clean Water Act in the Provincial Legislature on December 5, 2005. In introducing the legislation, Broten said "to protect, we must prevent. Justice O'Connor called [source protection] the first barrier in a multi-barrier system of drinking water protection. Our government is implementing all of Justice O'Connor's recommendations."

The Act is now posted for comment on the Province's Environmental Registry. Soon, draft regulations will also be available for review and comments. Local stakeholders are encouraged to review and provide input into the process. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has also released fact sheets and

other resources that explain the Act and the work it will require (see www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/links.htm for links to these and other resources on the MOE's web site).

In early 2005, the LTVCA, together with the Province, UTRCA, SCRC and Conservation Ontario, signed an agreement to collaborate in the undertaking the planning, research and analysis needed to implement the Crown's obligations under the proposed source water protection planning legislation. The Conservation Authority had earlier signed an agreement with the UTRCA and SCRC to work together in the preparation of the Source Water Protection Plan.

The Management Committee of the proposed Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Water Protection Area, made up of the Upper Thames River, Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities, hired Chris Tasker in early 2005 as Coordinator for the Source Water Protection Plan. During 2005, the Coordinator's main tasks involved preparation of terms of reference for the Source Water Protection Plan, organizing the preparation of the Watershed Characterization Report and beginning consultation with municipalities within the region.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority felt that the Management Committee be asked to work toward the preparation of one Source Water Protection Plan for the Thames River Region, but that the Plan recognize the inherent hydraulic differences of the Thames River between the Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities, as well as the regions of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority that drain directly to Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair.

In 2005, the LTVCA worked within our regional group to produce the Watershed Description Report. This report is a precursor to the more detailed Watershed Characterization Report, which will include the Water Budget for the region. The Conservation Authority hired Ryan Stevenson to aid in undertaking the mapping component of Source Water Protection Plan and also mapping related to the Generic Regulation. Cara Zhang was hired as the Conservation Authority's Environmental Engineering Technician and she will be working on many aspects of the Source Water Protection Plan.

Six Conservation Authorities in Southwestern Ontario (ERCA, LTVCA, UTRCA, ABCA, SCRC and MVCA) requested funding from the Ontario Geological Survey division of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to undertake a study that would provide a Regional Groundwater Model. This \$290,000 study or model development was awarded to Waterloo Hydrologic of Waterloo and will tie together the numerous local groundwater studies that have been done over the last few years. It will also provide very good background information in regard to any source water protection studies in the region. The Chatham-Kent-Essex and the Middlesex-Elgin Groundwater Studies were completed in 2005 to the satisfaction of MOE. Both of these studies should be very beneficial in undertaking the Source Water Protection Plan.

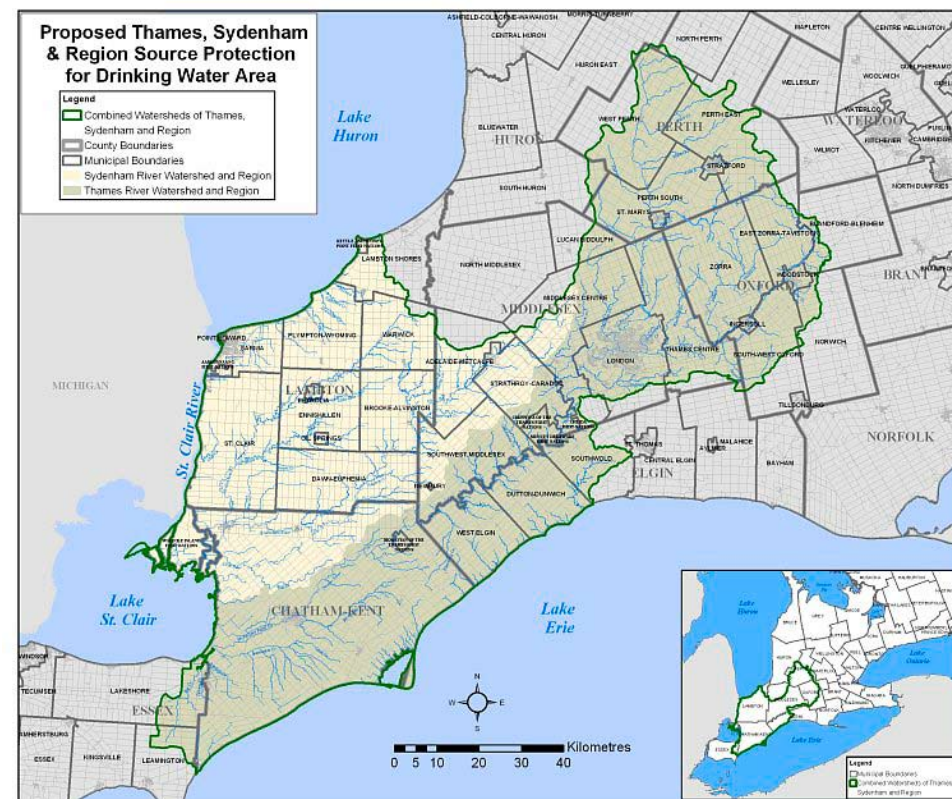
The Source Water Protection website – www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca - includes general information as well as links to many other sources of information. Recent website updates include links to information on the Clean Water Act and announcements related to the funding being made available for source protection work.

As part of the watershed characterization report, information has been collected and summarized on a watershed basis. Much of this information is map-based. The watershed characterization report will include many maps illustrating the physical characteristics of the watershed as well as characterizing drinking water sources and the vulnerability of the sources. A source protection calendar was produced at year-end featuring 12 general physical characteristic maps for the region. The calendar includes information on the data sources used to produce the maps, and a description of the relevance of the map to source water protection. The calendars have been distributed to municipalities and health units within the region. The maps and information published in the calendar are also available on our web site.



Three information workshops for our source water protection region's municipalities were held in 2005 in Wyoming, Ridgetown and London. The workshops provided an overview of the anticipated Source Water Protection process, presented highlights of the watershed description report and water budget and began development of a municipal involvement plan for Source Water Protection.

Specific outcomes of the meetings included lists of municipal concerns related to water, municipal information needs, ideas for selecting Source Water Protection committee members and potential communications methods for municipalities.



Map 2: Proposed Area of Source Protection for Drinking Water for Thames, Sydenham Region.



Map 3: The above elevation map was created for the Source Water Protection document. It was made by taking several existing Digital Elevation Model tiles provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and merging them into one.

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 Conservation Authority monitors development and achieves its objectives. The input the LTVCA has on new development near or in natural hazards like 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 Conservation Authority reviewed 23 applications under the Authority’s Fill, Construction and Alteration of Waterways Regulations in 2005. All were approved by the Board of Directors.

Conservation Authority staff surveyed the elevation along the shore of Lake St. Clair to see where an addition to a dwelling would fall in relation to flood lines.

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Official Plans (OP)	1	2	2	2	2	2
Official Plan Amendments (OPA)	3	8	15	9	22	17
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws (ZB)	1	5	0	1	1	1
Zoning Bylaw Amendments (ZA)	107	137	118	115	125	145
Severances (SEV)	118	181	66	54	156	156
Minor Variances (MV)	50	59	185	160	50	71
Plans of Subdivision (SUB)	3	8	6	7	8	5
Drainage Reports & Maint. (DR)	96	75	44	64	60	42
Property Clearances (PC)	47	42	40	48	74	59
General Property Inquiries (GPI)	317	374	308	292	189	256
Total	743	891	784	752	687	754

Table 2: Planning Development Issues Reviewed in 2005.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Drain Classification Project

2005 marked the seventh 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.

The Conservation Authority entered a “Level Two” agreement with DFO in 2004. Level Two status means that the LTVCA 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 then referred to DFO. With Level Two status the Conservation Authority can also determine how the proponent can mitigate any impacts. Staff attended several conferences and meetings to improve compliance with the Fisheries Act.



This bridge will be replaced with a similar structure like an open bottom culvert. This type of replacement is preferred as it allows free fish passage without disturbing the bed of the system, allowing for a low flow channel within the culvert section.

Official Plans	1									
Official Plan Amendments	2				1					
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws										1
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	73	8			6	2	8	2	6	2
Minor Variances	30	5	3			2	3	1	5	1
Severances	77	16	2	1	3		3	1	8	7
Plans of Subdivision		3								
Drainage Reports and Maintenance	66	5	7	7			5		2	4
Property Clearances	33	2		1		2	5	2	1	1
General Property Inquiries	187	8	24	2	1	11	14	4	7	29
TOTAL SERVICES PER MUNICIPALITY	469	47	36	11	11	17	38	10	29	45
SERVICES	Chatham-Kent	Dutton/Dunwich	Lakeshore	Leamington	London	Middlesex Centre	Southwest Middlesex	Southwold	Strathroy-Caradoc	West Elgin
MUNICIPALITY										

Table 3: Plan Input and Review Services by Municipality 2005.

Generic Regulation

On April 14, 2004, the new Conservation Authority Generic Regulation was signed and approved by the Lieutenant Governor. The proposed Generic Regulation will replace all Conservation Authorities Fill, Construction and Alteration of Waterways Regulations in the Province. The Regulation specifies the content of a Conservation Authority’s local regulation under subsection 28 (1) of the Act. The new Conservation Authority or local regulation will be known as the “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”.

The new Generic Regulation requires that the Conservation Authority produce a local regulation by April 14, 2006. The LTVCA was also informed that there will be no provincial funding for the preparation of the new local regulation.

During the year, the LTVCA worked on the preparation of a technical

report and mapping which determined the areas in the LTVCA that will be affected by the new Regulation. The Conservation Authority hired Ryan Stevenson to undertake the mapping of the areas affected by the Generic Regulation.

The LTVCA held two Open Houses to fulfill the consultation requirements for the Generic Regulation. One was held at the Dutton/Dunwich Municipal Building on September 27 and another was held at the Conservation Authority Administration Building on September 29. Each one was attended by approximately 25 persons. A PowerPoint presentation regarding the regulation was shown six times at the Dutton/Dunwich Open House and three times at the Chatham event. Nine panel boards were on display as well as numerous examples of map schedules. Attendance was limited even though over 500 notices were mailed to agencies, companies and

persons, 14 notices were placed in local newspapers, and numerous web pages contained information concerning the Open Houses.

The proposed Generic Regulation was reviewed by the Provincial Technical Review Committee on November 1st. They reviewed the methodologies used by the LTVCA in translating the words and phrases of the Provincial Regulation into lines on maps within the jurisdiction of our Conservation Authority. The major issue of this Committee was the Conservation Authority’s wish to revise our Regulatory Flood standard at the same time as we bring in the new Generic Regulation. It was therefore determined that the Conservation Authority could delay their appearance before the subsequent Peer Review Committee until well into the winter of 2006, with the intention to obtain the redefinition of the Regulatory Flood standard before approval of the Generic Regulation.

Forestry

Tree Planting Program

From 1988 to 2005, the Conservation Authority has planted approximately 1,638,116 trees within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's jurisdiction. In 2005, a total of 74,836 trees were planted into windbreaks and woodlots on private and municipal lands, memorial forests and conservation area nurseries. Within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's watershed, 9.5 hectares were approved for program funding through the **Forest 2020** program, resulting in 25,400 trees being planted within Southwold Township and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

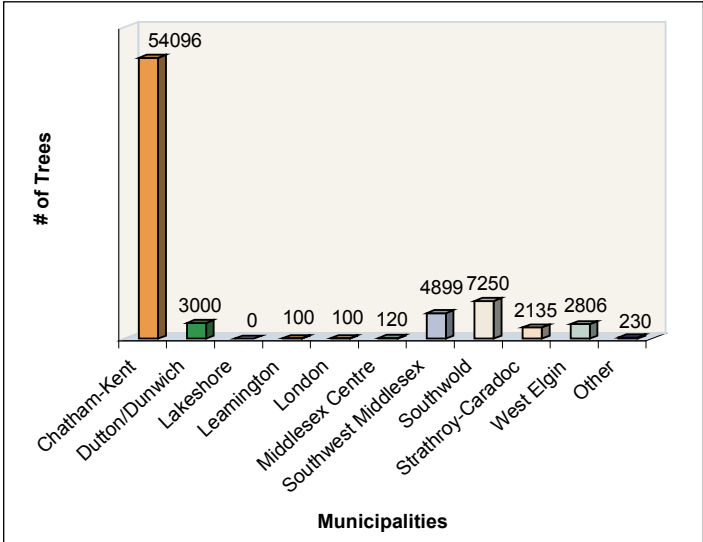


Table 5: Forestry Program by Municipality in 2005.

Emerald Ash Borer

During its ongoing surveys for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed the presence of the EAB in ash trees near Dutton in the summer of 2005. It was also found on Walpole Island and in St. Clair Township in Lambton County. The Ministerial Order declared in 2004 to help control the spread of the EAB in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been expanded to include Lambton County.

Signs of infestation seem to indicate that the EAB may have been established at the Dutton site for up to five years. CFIA inspectors conducted intensive surveys in the area and the CFIA and the Canadian Forest Service collected information to determine the extent of the infestation and develop a pest mitigation strategy.

The CFIA did not officially extend the Ministerial Order to the whole of Elgin County in 2005, but began a campaign to inform and educate loggers and members of the general public of methods to prevent the further spread of the insect.

Emerald Ash Borer Restoration Grant Program

In 2005, Bruce Crozier, MPP of Essex and Pat Hoy, MPP of Chatham-Kent-Essex, together with Windsor City Councillor Tom Wilson and other partners, planted the first

The Conservation Authority purchased tree seedlings from several different suppliers in 2005. The primary sources of trees were private nurseries including Baker's Nursery, Ferguson Forestry Centre, St. Williams Forest Care, Richardson's Pine Needle Tree Farm, Sloan's Tree Farm and Somerville Nurseries.

trees to launch the Natural Areas Restoration Grant Program on the property of a participating landowner. In response to the infestation of the EAB, the Ministry of Natural Resources also announced grant funding to allow natural areas to be restored strategically across Essex County and portions of the Chatham-Kent region affected by the initial cut zone.

Grants of up to 75% of project costs were made available to participating landowners to restore natural areas on private lands, establish or expand neighbouring areas of forests, create natural corridors, plant on retired or marginal lands and ultimately increase the total natural areas cover within the Essex Region and west Chatham-Kent.

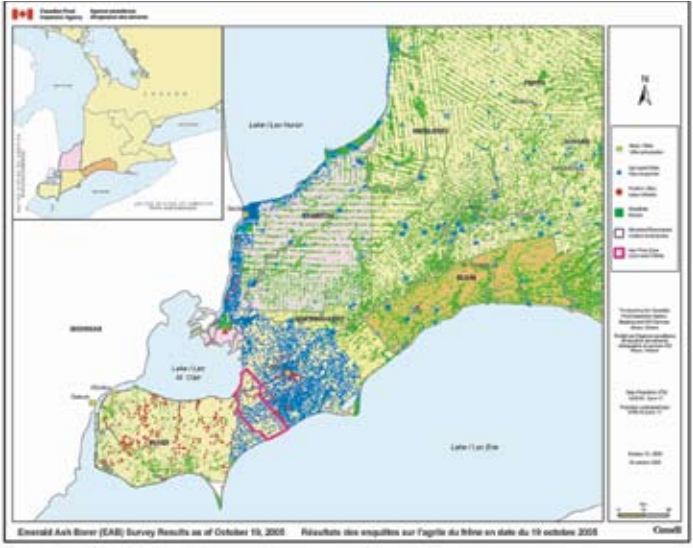
Only native seedlings grown from locally collected seed will be used for the restoration projects, and projects that use a diversity of native species are encouraged. The Essex Region Conservation Authority, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, the Essex County Stewardship Network and Stewardship Kent will work with private landowners to help evaluate their land and develop a planting plan and stewardship agreement. The City of Windsor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, and the CFIA are also partners in this initiative.

TREES SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS FOR PRIVATE PLANTING		
	# Landowners	# Trees
Township of Strathroy-Caradoc	10	2,135
Middlesex Stewardship		(900)
First Nations		(577)
Municipality of Southwest Middlesex	12	4,754
Middlesex Stewardship		(2,300)
Municipality		(400)
Township of Middlesex Centre	2	70
City of London		0
Municipality of West Elgin	4	2,906
Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich	6	3,000
Elgin Scouts		(2,100)
Municipality		(500)
Township of Southwold	3	7,350
Forest 2020		(5,300)
Town of Leamington	1	100
Town of Lakeshore		0
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	66	53,826
Stewardship Kent		(3,470)
Forest 2020		(20,100)
SUB-TOTAL		74,371
TREES PLANTED IN CONSERVATION AREAS		
C.M. Wilson Conservation Area		270
Big Bend Memorial		20
Sharon Creek Memorial		50
Badder Robinson Memorial (Skunk's Misery)		125
SUB-TOTAL		465
2005 TOTAL TREES PLANTED		74,836

Table 4: Total Trees Planted in 2005.



Bruce Crozier, MPP of Essex and Pat Hoy, MPP of Chatham-Kent-Essex with Windsor City Councillor Tom Wilson and other partners planted the first trees to launch the Natural Areas Restoration Grant Program on the property of a participating landowner.



Map 4: This map shows EAB survey results as of October 19, 2005.

Greencover Canada

Greencover Canada is a \$110 million dollar Government of Canada program which provides agricultural producers with technical and financial assistance to implement land-use related farming practices that offer both environmental and economic benefits. Through its four program components - Land Conversion, Critical Areas, Technical Assistance, and Shelterbelts - Greencover contributes to the improvement of grassland-management practices, supports sustainable land use, protects water quality, reduces greenhouse-gas emissions, enhances biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and promotes expansion of the national land base covered by perennial forage and trees.

In Ontario, \$15 million has been allocated under Greencover Canada until April 1, 2008. The Greencover Canada Program will be administered and delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. A partnership has been arranged between OSCIA and Conservation Ontario for Conservation

Authorities (CA's) to help deliver the Greencover Program to provide on-farm technical assistance when requested by the producer. In return, CA's will receive modest compensation for each completed project, directly from OSCIA, to help cover a portion of the incremental costs associated with the service provided.

Greencover Canada Components

- Under the federally delivered Land Conversion Component, producers can apply for financial incentives to convert environmentally sensitive annual cropland to perennial cover.
- The goal of the Technical Assistance Component is to accelerate the adoption of beneficial management practices for the sustainable use and management of pastures, hay land and riparian areas.
- Under the Critical Areas Component, producers can apply for financial assistance to help protect water quality by enhancing riparian areas.
- Under the Shelterbelts Component, producers can apply for financial assistance to plant trees on agricultural land to protect and preserve soil and water resources, enhance crop

production, provide wildlife habitat and capture atmospheric carbon.

Greencover Canada is an environmental initiative under the Agricultural Policy Framework. With the exception of those participating exclusively in the Land Conversion component, an Environmental Farm Plan must be completed and deemed appropriate through peer review in order to access any cost-shared funding through Greencover Canada.

Under Greencover, farmers may qualify for up to \$20,000 in federal funding based on a 50:50 cost-share arrangement on eligible planning, material and establishment costs. Projects must be undertaken in one of five specific beneficial management practices categories: •Riparian area management •Erosion control structures (riparian) •Shelterbelt establishment •Consultative services for grazing management planning and •Consultative services for riparian health assessment. The program got underway in late 2005. More activity is expected in the program in years to come.

Conservation Lands

Our Public Conservation Areas

The LTVCA has acquired land in the watershed to protect environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands, culturally unique features and significant biological, ecological, and scenic qualities from development. Over 675 hectares of conservation land have been preserved at 23 sites for public use in the LTVCA watershed and region. It is estimated that over 1,500,000 people have enjoyed the facilities and programs these areas have to offer. Big Bend Conservation Area southeast of Wardsville welcomed 706 campers in 2005. Last year at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area located on Lake Erie near Eagle, 2,948 campers enjoyed this facility.



In 2005, camping and day use at C. M. Wilson Conservation Area totalled 14,170 people. The wildlife pond received upgrades including a new boardwalk and native plantings, with donations from Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program and TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation. Volunteers were part of the Garage MC group and park campers.



Close to 20,000 people visited Longwoods Road Conservation Area in 2005. In search of owls, the annual Moonlight Winter Family Hike is always popular.

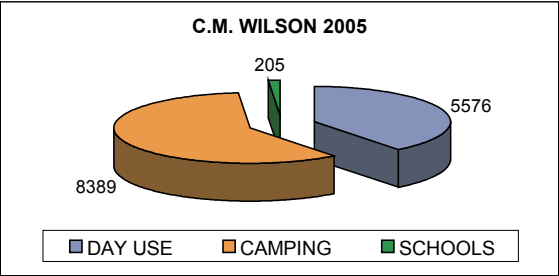


Table 6: C.M. Wilson Conservation Area Visitation 2005.

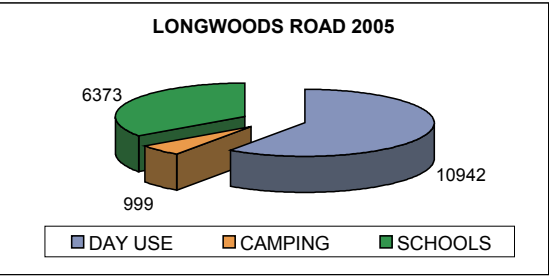
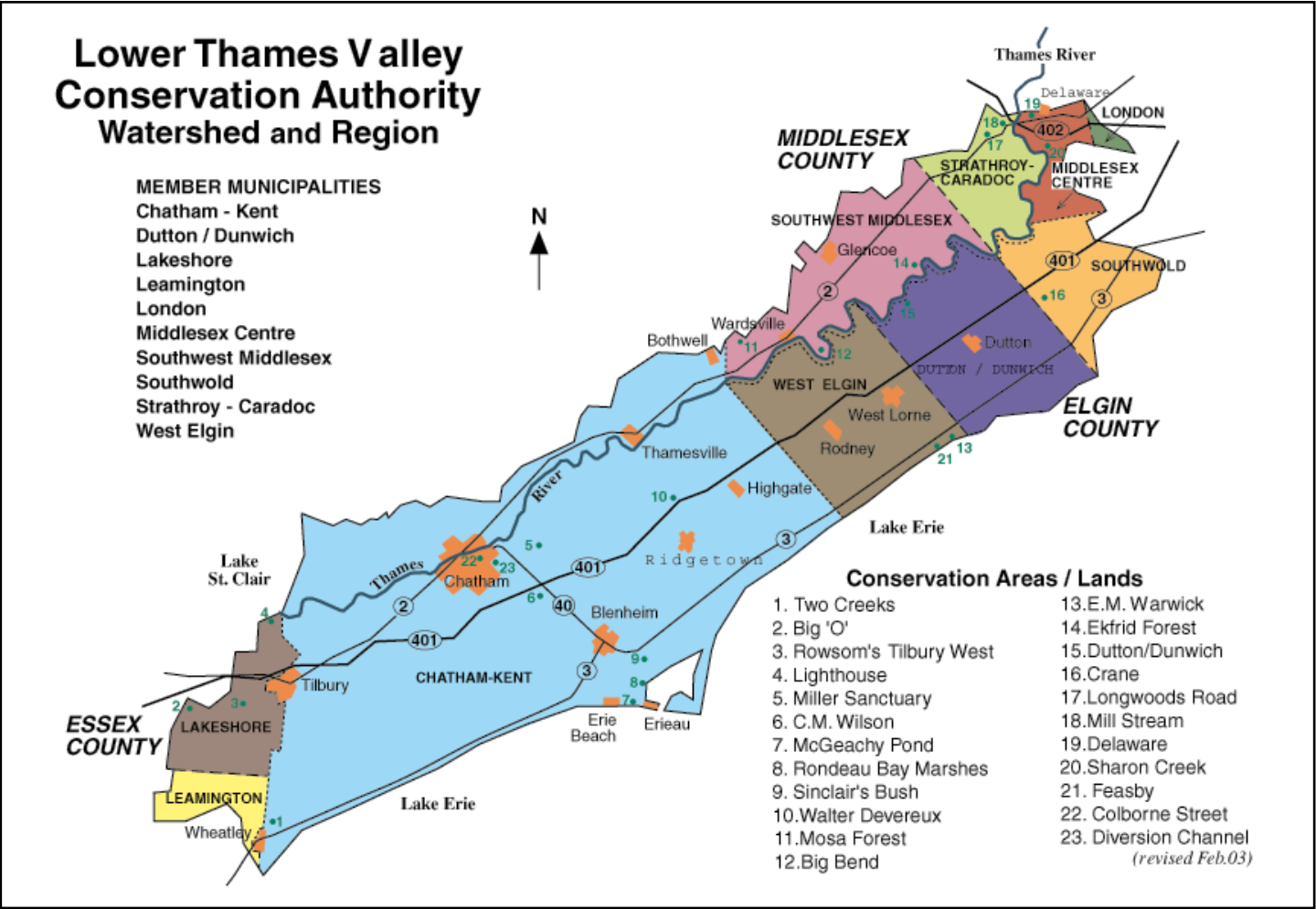


Table 7: Longwoods Road Conservation Area Visitation 2005.

A Special Thanks to Our Community Partners! Community groups, volunteers and special employment project staff, help us provide safe, clean and enjoyable conservation areas. Delaware's "Friends of Sharon Creek", and the "Wheatley Two Creeks Association", are committed to the stewardship of the Sharon Creek, and Two Creeks Conservation Areas. Lakeshore's Lighthouse Chamber of Commerce and Cove Marina helped at the Lighthouse Conservation Area. The Middlesex, Elgin and Kent Stewardship Committees also partnered with the LTVCA on numerous conservation area projects. The Environmental Community Opportunities (ECO) Partnership, gave 100's of hours of labour in conservation areas, as did the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources "Ontario Ranger Program".



Map 5: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed and Region.

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	■	■	5576	■	■	■	1000's	■	■	■	■	■	■	1000's	■	■	■	■	■	■	10942		■		
Historic / Museum											■										■				
School Program			205											■							6373				
ANSI Site				■	■	■												■			■				
Family Camping			8238													706									
Group Camping			151											50							999		2948		
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 8: LTVCA Conservation Area Facilities, Services and Recorded Attendance 2005.

Developments in Conservation Areas

Our Partners and Special Employment Projects

The LTVCA received \$62,056 of funding for workers to assist with the completion of projects over and above those of full time staff in areas of forestry, watershed planning, water quality sampling, groundwater monitoring, community relations, park visitor services, museum assistance, and GIS. These people gained experience and opportunities to work with an environmental agency and the public. The LTVCA also benefited from the many hours of volunteer help from community groups. We were able to augment and improve our programs and services to the public as a result.

Two students were hired on \$4,172 of Federal Government's Summer Career Placement Program, applied for through the Lower Thames Valley Foundation. One position was for Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and the other student worked at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada - Job Creation supplied \$47,495 for wages and equipment for four forestry technicians. The Provincial Government's Summer Employment Program through Ministry of Culture provided \$1,777 for a Museum Assistant at Ska-Nah-Doht and through the Ministry of Natural Resources \$6,306.90 hired three students for clerical, GIS and Water Resources positions. A Federal Young Canada Works in Heritage grant provided \$2,305.50 to hire a student at Ska-Nah-Doht for artifact displays and data entry. Ska-Nah-Doht also received two co-op placements from Chippewa of the Thames Band / Economic Development for visitor services. The Environmental Community Opportunities Partnership crew provided 1,900 person hours of labour towards conservation projects.



Safe Drinking Water Regulation - O.Reg. 170/03 is to ensure that the requirements for protecting drinking water match the relative risks of contamination. This affected conservation areas serviced by wells especially where children could be affected. In 2005, Longwoods Road Conservation Area upgraded its drinking water system with the installation of a 3,000 gallon storage tank, filtration equipment, ultra violet light and chlorinator.



On May 28, 1,000 Girl Guides and Rangers attended the 90th birthday party of Guiding in Ontario at Longwoods. Throughout the weekend, Guides and Rangers volunteered and resurfaced over 300 m of wheelchair accessible trails at Longwoods, including one to Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village. They also pulled garlic mustard in order to control this invasive species.



On July 5, Middlesex County, LTVCA and Carolinian Canada commemorated Skunk's Misery, an area of natural beauty and biological significance with an unveiling of a Carolinian Canada Heritage plaque at the McLaren Forest entrance.



The Wheatley Two Creeks Association volunteers continued their hard work at Two Creeks Conservation Area in 2005. Last year a steel bridge was installed over the creek improving the trail system at the park.



A load of cedar poles was delivered to Ska-Nah-Doht to rebuild the palisade last fall.



Construction began on the administration building of the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. The Village will hopefully be operational by the fall of 2006.

Community Relations

A Part of All Programs

Community Relations activities inform Directors, member municipalities and residents, about LTVCA programs and services. Partnering with organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders to help with the conservation of our watershed resources, staff participate in events and tours, arrange public consultation meetings, initiate and assist with local environmental projects, produce literature on conservation programs and services, create displays for fairs and conferences and write articles for inclusion in local newspapers and newsletters. The staff also help with our Foundation's activities. The communication of information and education about all programs and services encourages wise management of our natural environment in the lower Thames River watershed and region. Updates are available on our website at www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca.

The Thames

A Canadian Heritage River!



The Thames celebrated its fifth year as a Canadian Heritage River in 2005. 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 sixth Annual Thames River Clean-up was held April 23rd, with about 1,800 people cleaning up 200 km. The Natural Outdoor Activity Heritage Conservation Club (NOAH), Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and LTVCA invited concerned citizens, landowners and municipalities to participate. Issues of the Thames River Happenings newsletter were also produced and mailed out to watershed residents and interest groups. Many thanks to those who contributed articles!



The fifth annual Thames River Symposium was held in Stratford on April 15th with approximately 75 people attending.

Communications Products & Services

writing, editing, designing, presenting

- "Lower Thames Beacon" newsletter
- annual reports
- audiovisual presentations for member municipalities and stakeholder groups
- conservation area brochures and other publications
- displays and exhibits
- advertising and marketing
- website updates (11,312 hits in 2005)
- media releases and public service announcements
- communications plans for special projects

organizing

- meeting facilitation
- public events

fundraising

- employment programs
- conservation projects and services
- assisting Foundation

representation on watershed committees and working groups

Celebrating the Guardians of Longwoods

Longwoods staff hold a BBQ every July to celebrate the "Guardians of Longwoods". Volunteers participating in every aspect of our operations have attended. Maintenance and exhibit helpers, event volunteers, photographers, military re-enactors, and Directors from the Village, Conservation Authority and Foundation have come out to enjoy the summer's evening.



Year-round Special Public Events

Exploring the natural environment is made fun at the special events organized in our many conservation areas. Whether learning about endangered species or habitat restoration, enjoying an activity like hiking, canoeing or bird watching, reliving local history or listening to an outdoor concert, 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,

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 all year round. Other conservation areas which held public events in 2005 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 2005.



Over 100 visitors enjoyed the Longwoods Moonlight Winter Family Hike for owls in February.



Longwoods Heritage Weekend is held the first weekend in May each year. Young and old enjoy sights and sounds of this colourful event.



The Friends of Sharon Creek held their Family Fishing Day at Sharon Creek Conservation Area in July.



The autumn colours were backdrop for a 'Taste of Fall' event at Ska-Nah-Doht in Longwoods Road Conservation Area. 250 visitors attended.

Education Programs

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority offers two different types of education programs for students - native studies at the Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum, and conservation education. This page summarizes the 2005 activity in each, and highlights the numbers of education programs conducted in our member municipalities and beyond.

	SKA-NAH-DOHT IROQUOIAN VILLAGE						COMBINATION SKA-NAH-DOHT and CONSERVATION EDUCATION				CONSERVATION EDUCATION LONGWOODS ROAD C.A.					
	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students		# classes full day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes full day	# Students Full Day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students		# classes full day
				Half Day	Full Day									Half Day	Full Day	
January	21	1			104	5										
February	92	6	8	201	387	16					19		4	69		
March	41	2	9	203	190	8										
April	34		4	94	107	5					2		1	31		
May	136	49	9	194	598	26					24	9	5	128		
June	157	43	10	243	577	26					27	8	4	68	42	2
September	57	1	6	128	160	7	4		2	58	14		3	65	106	5
October	134	17	6	140	635	26					49		7	153	148	7
November	136	1	13	287	589	23					14		2	42	37	2
December	95				526	22	3		1	17	3				47	2
TOTALS	903	120	65	1490	3873	164	7	0	3	75	152	17	26	556	380	18

	CONSERVATION EDUCATION C.M. WILSON C.A.						CONSERVATION EDUCATION SHARON CREEK C.A.				CONSERVATION EDUCATION OUTREACH					
	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students		# classes full day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day	# classes quarter day	# Students Quarter Day	# classes half day	# Students		# classes full day
				Half Day	Full Day									Half Day	Full Day	
January																
February																
March											15	365				
April											15	340				
May																
June	20	14	2	45	50	2					1	33	1	25		
September																
October	13		2	43	67	2							1	38		
November																
December																
TOTALS	33	14	4	88	117	4	0	0	0	0	31	738	2	63	0	0

Table 9: Education Programs Statistics 2005.

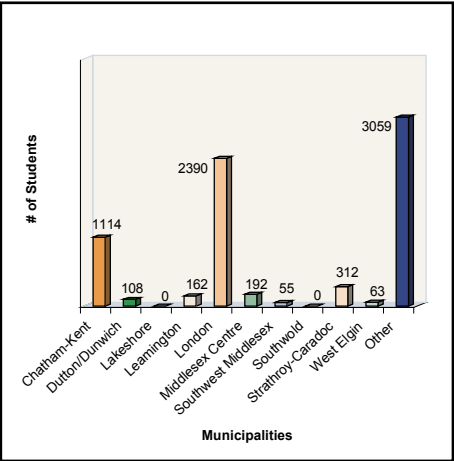


Table 10: Education Programs by Municipality 2005.

Thanks For Your Support!

The LTVCA recognizes the generous support of the **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation**, its Directors and many partners who made contributions towards the success of our education programs. This support includes: **The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation, S. M. Blair Family Foundation and the George Lunan Foundation (both through the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company), A. Cobban, E. Wittland, Chimo Farms, The Flegels, The Schofields, The Snows, Longwood Kennel, McKinlay Funeral Home, John C. Badder and Badder & Robinson Funeral Homes, watershed service clubs and participants in the Foundation's Golf Tournament.** Summer students were hired through the **Summer Career Placement Program (HRDC)**, and the **Federal Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations** grant. The Conservation Foundation assisted in these applications. Other services made possible by the Foundation 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

Summer Staff

Five students on four different work projects including Summer Career Placement - Human Resources Development Canada, Summer Experience Program - Ministry of Culture, Young Canada Works in Heritage - Canadian Museum Association and Chippewa of the Thames Summer Student Placement, worked well together and on their own projects through another busy summer. Two weekend staff also hired for the summer, kept the tourists informed at the gatehouse and the Resource Centre.



A Summer student works on a deer bone tool exhibit.

Special Events

The annual events have rebounded in numbers from a disappointing 2004. The spring hike in April event was removed from the "annual" event list. Both the "Nightwalk with the Spirits" in August and "A Taste of Fall" in October had an increase in participation from last year. "Archaeology Day" in July was the social hit of the season with the help of the London Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society's summer picnic being held at Longwoods on the same day as the event.

A new committee was set up to examine the October event, so look for a revitalized "Tastes of Fall, an Experience for the Senses" in 2006.



"Nightwalk" spirits prepare for the big production.

Iroquoian Village Committee 2005

Chairman: Don Fairbairn
Vice-Chair: Ron Watts

LTVCA Appointed:

- Jack Lorimer • Stan Lidster
- Jerry Campbell • Brian King
- Bill Scott • John Yokom

Community Members:

Andy Chisholm • Glenn Stott

The Ska-Nah-Doht Budget

The budget for 2005 was \$179,597 including \$8,550 received from the Community Museum Operating Grant, Ministry of Culture.



Log sawing was very popular at "A Taste of Fall" special event.

Education Programs

The 2005 school programs were as busy as ever and numbers are up from 2004. A total of 5,438 students visited (3,873 enjoying full day programs and 1,565 participating in half day tours). Teachers and parents numbered 1,030 in attendance. Another 463 experienced life 1,000 years ago on organized group workshops and tours throughout the year.

Conservation Education

Conservation Workshops

Over 200 youth participated in different conservation workshops at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and outreach locations. Education staff presented a bird workshop at the library in Strathroy and discussed tallgrass prairies with Art for Earth students at the London Public Library. A painting created by Art for Earth students, called "Flutterby" was donated to LTVCA as a "thank you" for their involvement and it is on display in the Resource Centre at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Badge work for youth groups included Owl Prowls, Snowshoeing, Winter Cubbing, Naturalist, Observer and World Conservation.

Five Envirothon Groups (25 students) visited Longwoods Road Conservation Area in April for a day workshop. Envirothon is a hands-on environmental education program for high school students delivered at the regional, provincial and international levels. Students develop skills and are introduced to career opportunities in science and natural resources. Four stations covered the modules of Forest, Wildlife, Soils and Aquatics. "Thanks" to the experts who brought their knowledge and equipment to share. Experts included Doug Young - Ridgeway College Professor, Steve Williams - Alymer District Forester, Matt Redmond - Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and Denise Biega - LTVCA.



Conservation Education staff gave a tallgrass prairie presentation, highlighting Sharon Creek Conservation Area to the Art for Earth students at the London Public Library.



Students learn about wetland ecosystems at the Longwoods marsh in preparation for the Regional Envirothon Competition on April 19.

Classroom Programs

A total of 801 students were taught in the classroom through either a conservation program or the River and Creek Safety Program (RCSP). Since 2002, the RCSP has been delivered to over 85% of the schools located in the LTVCA watershed and has "stream proofed" almost 3,000 students. This program is designed to equip students with knowledge to make wise decisions about personal safety around waterways, especially the Thames River. During March and April, LTVCA staff visited 31 classrooms (738 Grade 2 students) to deliver a lesson on river safety, in the municipalities of Chatham-Kent, Dutton/Dunwich, Middlesex Centre, Southwest Middlesex, Strathroy-Caradoc and West Elgin. Special thanks to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for supporting the RCSP.



Longwoods Summer Day Camp was two weeks long. Twenty-five youth attended week one and 19 youth attended week two.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Executive Summary

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF), 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 10 years ago, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation has been successful in raising over \$360,000 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 are able to enjoy a healthier quality of life. Our Board of volunteer Directors meets six times annually. 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. Our Registered Charitable Number is 89819 8171 RR0001.

LTVCF Highlights & Activities of 2005:

- The generation of nearly \$25,000 for Conservation Authority resources.
- Over 400 memorial trees were planted in 2005, in the seven Memorial Forests. This growing Memorial Forest Program is operating at the McKinlay Woodlands in the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, the Sharon Creek Memorial Forest in Sharon Creek Conservation Area, Rowsom’s Tilbury West Memorial Forest in Rowsom’s Tilbury West Conservation Area, the Big Bend Memorial Forest in Big Bend Conservation Area, the Comber District Historical Society Memorial Forest at Comber District Historical Society Agricultural Museum, the Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest at the Mosa Forest and the Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest in Tilbury.
- An Interpretive Trail Sponsorship Program continued at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.
- Funding applications were submitted to corporations, government agencies, service clubs and other philanthropic organizations to undertake projects and programs which assisted the Conservation Authority.
- The Foundation assisted volunteer organizations with their fund-raising efforts. The “adoption” of projects, included improvements to the Sharon Creek Conservation Area through the “Friends of Sharon Creek” volunteers, and the Sharon Creek Trust Fund.
- Special fund-raising events were sponsored such as the Annual Lower Thames Heritage Golf Tournament, and the Moonlight Winter Family Hike at Longwoods.
- Directors volunteered their professional expertise in areas such as communications, marketing, broadcasting, law and education.



Annual dedication services were held in three of the seven memorial forests. Over 400 memorial trees were planted in 2005.



Foundation Directors organized the 3rd Annual Lower Thames Heritage Golf Tournament in 2005, raising conservation awareness and over \$5,000 in profit for local conservation projects.



In 2005, the Foundation was successful in raising \$6,300 towards the reconstruction of longhouses at Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum.

Notes