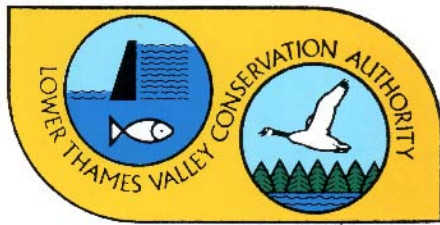




*2006 hi-lights
lower thames valley conservation authority*



Our Vision

"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."

Our Objectives

Protecting Life & Property

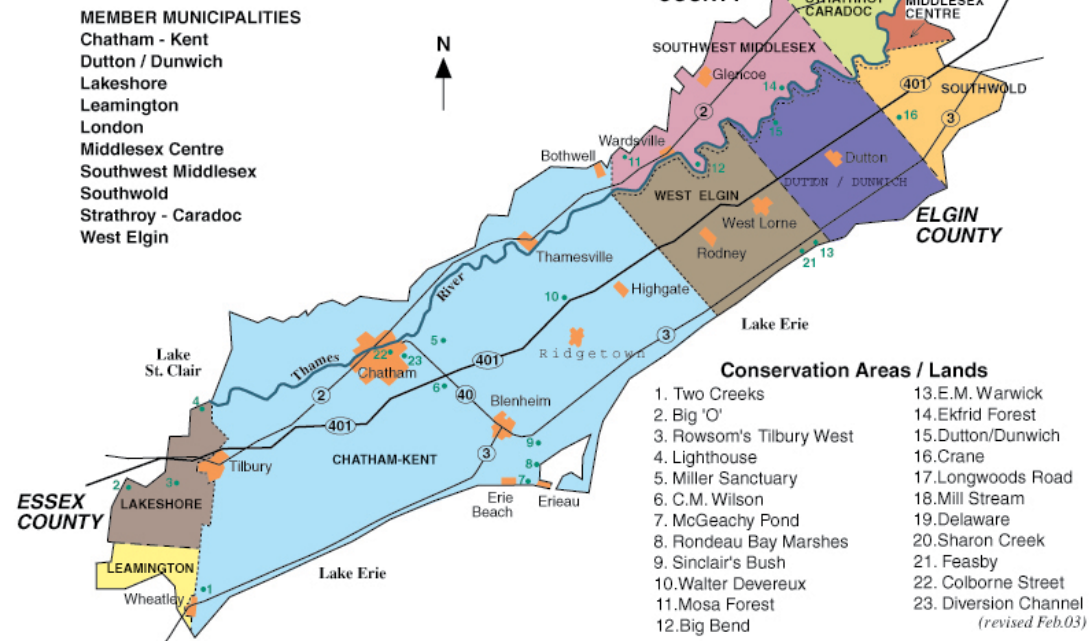
Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Research & Monitoring

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Partnering with the Local Community

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed and Region



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. 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. Total area covers over 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) in southwestern Ontario and is home to 106,971 people.

Budget

The LTVCA's 2006 budget of \$1,661,231 received approval in February.

Funding sources included:

33% in general levies

14% for infrastructure in water related capital projects with matching grant from the Province

29% in Federal and Provincial grants

22% in revenues from program and services fees

2% in grants from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Board of Directors & Committees



November 30, 2006 Directors' Meeting at the LTVCA Administration Building

Chair: Brian King - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

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

Jim Brown - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

John Yokom - Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich

Vic Vogler - Town of Lakeshore

Bill Derbyshire - Town of Leamington

Jack Lorimer - City of London

Bob Hosford - Township of Middlesex Centre

John Kavelaars - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

Stan Lidster - Township of Southwold

Ron Doane - Township of Strathroy-Caradoc

Bernie Wiehle - Municipality of West Elgin

Committees:

Personnel and Finance / Executive Committee

Ice Management Committee

Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Committee



*The LTVCA is one of 36 Conservation
Authorities in the Province of Ontario.
Member of Conservation Ontario.*

Protecting Life & Property

Water Management

Flood Control & Great Lakes Levels



Flooding along the Thames River.



Lakeshore flooding.

The LTVCA plays a significant role in the protection of life and property from natural hazards such as flooding. We are responsible for forecasting where and when flooding is likely to occur and for issuing flood alerts and warnings.

The winter of 2006 started out very harshly in December of 2005 but lost the bitterness in the early months of 2006. December temperatures in the region were approximately 1.3 degrees Celsius cooler than normal. The months of January and February turned out to be 4 degrees Celsius warmer

than normal. The normally coldest winter months were interrupted numerous times with small runoff events. On four separate occasions the Thames River recorded flows in excess of 150 cubic metres per second (CMS) in the months of January and February. As a result, by the first of March, the Upper Thames region was only able to accumulate 25 millimetres (mm.) of water equivalent in the snowpack and the Lower Thames was only able to accumulate approximately 200 centimetres of ice cover on the Lower Thames River.

The one runoff event of significance in 2006 occurred in early March of 2006. In London the temperature reached 11.2 o C on March 9th and the daily high temperature did not fall beneath 10 o C until the 14th. This was accompanied by a general rainfall in the eastern area of the LTVCA of 35 mm. and 25 mm. in the western portion. The ensuing runoff created the highest flow on the Thames River in 2006 as the river peaked on Saturday, March 11th at 615 CMS in Byron. This flow was the highest recorded since the February event of 1997. The runoff event had some added complexity in the sense that the general area received approximately 20 mm. of additional rainfall in the early morning hours of March 13th. This rainfall raised and extended the peak flow on the Thames River at Thamesville and necessitated the closing of the dam at the mouth of McGregor Creek. The dam at the mouth of the McGregor Creek was closed and pumping operations were undertaken for the 60 hour period beginning 11:00 P.M. on March 13th. During this time the Thames River's peak flow passed through the City of Chatham. The level reached in Chatham was 178.71 metres C.G.D. on March 15th. This was a level just above which basement flooding occurs to some businesses on King Street in Chatham upstream on the McGregor Creek just upstream of the dam. This operation also reduced water levels in the south end of Chatham by approximately 0.3 metres.

The remaining runoff event of significance occurred in early December of 2006. The Thames River region received approximately 40 to 50 mm. of rainfall on November 30th and December 1st. As a result the Thames River at Byron peaked at 480 CMS on December 2nd. This type of event creates flows high enough to flood the extensive river flat regions of the Lower Thames but it is not enough to flood the upper tableland areas.

The two Great Lakes that border the Lower Thames both experienced near normal water levels in 2006. Lake Erie essentially tracked the long term normal level while Lake St. Clair experienced levels approximately 100 cm. below normal for most of the year. Long term levels on these two lakes have a range of approximately 1.5 metres. Long term highs were recorded in the mid 1980's and the long term low levels were recorded in the mid 1930's. With lake levels at long term averages and the lack of any significant wind generated storms, no flood events were recorded on the lakes in 2006.

Protecting Life & Property

Water Management

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair Water Management Plans

The Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) is the federal-provincial agreement that supports the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. The Agreement between the governments of Canada and Ontario outlines how the two governments will cooperate and coordinate their efforts to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. It builds on the actions taken through previous agreements, and focuses priorities for future actions. The Agreement also contributes to meeting Canada's obligations under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Toward the accomplishment of the COA, the LTVCA has been involved in the preparation of both the Focal Erie Lake Area Management Plan (LaMP) and the "Lake St. Clair Draft Technical Report: An examination of current conditions". The Lake St. Clair plan was completed in 2005 and the Lake Erie LaMP was prepared some years earlier. Both plans provide a very good basis for actions that can be incorporated into the COA. It is our understanding that work continued in 2006 between various Federal and Provincial Ministries in an attempt to complete a COA for the upcoming years. Prior COA's had been agreed to in 1994 and 2002.

Water Management

Drought Response

The Conservation Authority monitors water conditions to recommend to residents appropriate water conservation options. Over many recent years, summer rainfalls have been low enough to create borderline situations of low water. However the region was blessed in 2006 with numerous rainfalls during the summer period to the point where low water advisories were not necessary.



Wetlands such as marshes, swamps, fens and bogs are very important as they slowly release water during times of drought, like giant sponges.

Protecting Life & Property

Water Management

Provincial Grant Funding for Capital Maintenance & 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 2006 as well as comparable numbers in 2005 and 2004. The costs outlined are the grants received. Eligible project costs would be twice the number shown in the table.

Category	2006	2005	2004
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

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. In 2006, the LTVCA obtained funding for two projects to repair the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel.

In mid July of 2006, Conservation Authority staff installed a 'drain board' in the side slope of the on the eastern side of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel just north of the Canadian National Railway. A few years before, staff had observed a slippage on the side slope in a 75 metre long section of the diversion channel and it was determined that the installation of the 'drain board' was a suitable solution. The cost of the project was \$10,000.

In 2006, the Conservation Authority also repaired the outlet weir of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. This project was let to Rivard Excavating at the tender price of \$137,100. The work began in early August and was completed by mid September. The intention of the project was to re-establish the outlet weir of the diversion channel which had suffered more damage than anticipated since the construction of the diversion channel. Both the 'drain board' installation and the weir repair received 50% funding from the Provincial Government through the Ministry of Natural Resources 'Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure' program. Chatham-Kent was the only benefiting municipality of the projects and paid the Authority's share of the cost.

Other Water Related Initiatives



Surveys of road bridges will determine flood plain areas in rural areas.

In 2006, the LTVCA received funding from the Provincial Experience program to hire two summer positions. Kate Lally and Jessie Van Roboys of Chatham were hired under this program and during their tenure they undertook surveys of road bridges. The output of the surveys will be used to determine flood plain areas in rural areas of the Conservation Authority. Kate Lally was replaced by Ashley Little late in the summer.

The Conservation Authority is also a longstanding associate member of the Chatham-Kent-Essex Chapter of the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario. This organization holds approximately 4 to 6 meetings per year.

The LTVCA continued to work on a cooperative program with the Rondeau Watershed Coalition. They undertake water sampling in Rondeau Bay and have worked with Ridgetown College in the past to undertake sampling. The Conservation Authority lent a water testing meter, hip waders and a small boat.

Protecting Life & Property

Land Use Planning and Regulations

Municipal Plan Input & 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 we have on new development near or in the 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.

Prior to May of 2006, the Conservation Authority's Fill, Construction and Alteration of Waterways Regulations were in effect. We reviewed 16 applications under this Regulation in 2006. All were approved by the Board of Directors.

After May 4th of 2006, the Conservation Authority's Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses came into effect. Under this regulation we reviewed 46 applications. Three applications were not approved of which one application required a hearing before the Authority's Executive Committee.

Planning development Issues reviewed in 2006.

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Official Plans (OP)	0	1	2	2	2	2
Official Plan Amendments (OPA)	7	3	8	15	9	22
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws (ZB)	0	1	5	0	1	1
Zoning Bylaw Amendments (ZA)	109	107	137	118	115	125
Severances (SEV)	124	118	181	66	54	156
Minor Variances (MV)	49	50	59	185	160	50
Plans of Subdivision (SUB)	11	3	8	6	7	8
Drainage Reports & Maint. (DR)	49	96	75	44	64	60
Property Clearances (PC)	33	47	42	40	48	74
General Property Inquiries (GPI)	452	317	374	308	292	189
Total	834	743	891	784	752	687

2006 Municipal Plan Input and Review Services

	Chatham-Kent	Durham	Lakeshore	Leamington	London	Mid Essex Centre	Southwest Middlesex	Southwold	Strathroy-Carleton Place	West Egin
Official Plans					2	1				
Official Plan Amendments	3		1							
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws					8	3	4		3	5
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	77	3	1			5	3	7	2	4
Minor Variances	23	3	2			3	7	8	6	7
Severances	77	9	3	4		3	7	8	6	7
Plans of Subdivision	7	1								
Drainage Reports	32	2	1	6			5		1	2
Property Clearances	16	3	1			5	4		2	2
General Property Inquiries	259	36	46	5	5	7	14	9	24	47
TOTAL SERVICES PER MUNICIPALITY	494	65	55	15	15	24	37	24	38	67
SERVICES										
MUNICIPALITY										

Plan input and review services by Municipality 2006.

Protecting Life & Property

Land Use Planning and Regulations

Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses – Generic Regulation

On April 14, 2004, the new Conservation Authority Regulation that regulates development, interference with wetlands and alteration to shorelines and watercourses, was signed and approved by the Lieutenant Governor. This Generic Regulation replaced all Conservation Authorities Fill, Construction and Alteration of Waterways Regulations in the Province. The Regulation specified the content of a Conservation Authority's local regulation under subsection 28 (1) of the Act and it also required that each Conservation Authority produce a local regulation by May of 2006.

In early 2006 the Conservation Authority's proposed Regulation was approved by the Provincial Peer Review Committee and the Conservation Authority's Board of Directors. A special information meeting regarding this regulation was held on February 7 in Chatham-Kent along with other information open houses held for the public across our watershed and region. At the same time, the Province approved a new Regulatory Flood for the LTVCA. The Conservation Authority's Regulation (Ontario Regulation 152/06) came into effect on May 4, 2006. The main objective is to ensure public safety with regards to natural hazards through issuance of permits for works within or in proximity to lakes, rivers, streams or wetlands.



The main objective of the new Conservation Authority Regulation is to ensure public safety with regards to natural hazards through issuance of permits for works within or in proximity to lakes, rivers, streams or wetlands.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

Drain Classification

2006 marked the eighth 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. We entered a "Level Two" agreement with the 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.



An agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) allows for the review of proposed works in watercourses and their effect on fish habitat as it relates to the Federal Fisheries Act.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Reforestation

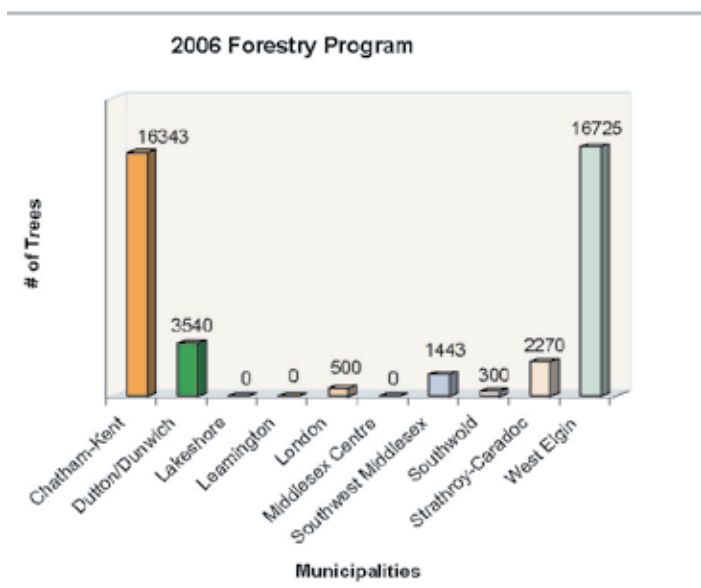
LTVCA Tree Planting Program

From 1988 to 2006, the Conservation Authority has planted approximately 1,678,737 trees within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's jurisdiction.

In 2006, a total of 41,121 trees were planted into windbreaks and woodlots on private lands, memorial forests and conservation area nurseries. The cost to landowners for the Conservation Authority to supply trees was varied depending on the species, ranging anywhere from \$0.56 up to \$1.50 per tree for seedling stock. A minimum tree order of \$50.00 was required. The Conservation Authority's machine tree planters were rented by individuals to plant their trees or trees were hand planted by landowners.

Randall Van Wagner and Bob Pennington (Environmental and Forestry Project Coordinators) held four tree planting workshops during the month of March. These were very well attended and most of these people eventually purchased trees from us. The feedback was generally positive and we have been requested to put on similar workshops, which will be scheduled in the fall. Staff also participated, alongside Stewardship Kent, in planting 1,900 shrubs on a private landowners property east of Highgate. In addition, they helped plant trees at Conservation Areas plus another private landowner's property near Blenheim. They are also looking into implementing a seed collection program in partnership with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and Stewardship Kent. There are savings to be made in growing trees from your own seeds and also it provides a degree of quality control as well as ensuring that species grown are native to this area (Carolinian). The table below outlines the numbers of trees planted or purchased through the Conservation Authority by Municipality.

The Conservation Authority purchased tree seedlings in bulk from several different suppliers in 2006. The primary sources of trees were private nurseries including Baker's Nursery, Forest Care Corp. St. Williams, and Richardson's Pine Needle Tree Farm. Trees were stored in coolers until they were sorted into individual orders and distributed to the customers. The whole process took three to four weeks.



Forestry program by Municipality 2006.

TREES SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS FOR PRIVATE PLANTING

Township of Strathroy-Caradoc	1,920
Middlesex Stewardship	(1500)
Municipality of Southwest Middlesex	1,293
Municipality	(250)
City of London	500
Municipality of West Elgin	1,590
Elgin Stewardship	15,635
Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich	3,040
Elgin Scouts	(610)
Township of Southwold	300
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	15,873
Stewardship Kent	(3,170)
SUB-TOTAL	40,151

TREES PLANTED IN CONSERVATION AREAS

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area	470
Longwoods Conservation Area	350
Badder Robinson Memorial (Skunk's Misery)	150
SUB-TOTAL	970
TOTAL TREES PLANTED 2006	41,121

Total trees planted 2006.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Reforestation

Forestry Grant Programs



Grant programs in 2006 included:

- Greencover Canada Program under the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan,
- the Emerald Ash Borer Restoration Program through the Ministry of Natural Resources,
- and the LTVCA's own tree planting program.

Machine planting trees on a farm in Chatham-Kent.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Restoration Program through the Ministry of Natural Resources Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) continued surveying for EAB in Lambton County, C-K and Elgin Counties as well as high-risk sites in Middlesex and Haldiman-Norfolk Counties. A quarantine 5 km around an EAB infestation in Dutton/Dunwich and West Elgin.

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

COMPENSATION REGULATIONS

The CFIA continues to support tree replanting initiatives for those property owners who replace trees ordered removed to control the spread of the EAB. Compensation is provided on the basis of the direct cost of replacing and replanting a tree up to a maximum amount of \$300 per tree on private property, \$150 per tree on public property and \$40 per tree in woodlots. All tree species and genera, other than ash, can be used as replacement trees.

Approximately 300 claims have been processed to date. To receive compensation, property owners must have received a "Notice to Dispose", have the ash trees removed, and have submitted a completed application form to the CFIA on or before December 31, 2007. The forms are available from the CFIA's Essex office at 1-866-463-6017.

Emerald Ash Borer - Latest Information

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/pestrava/ashfre/survenqe.shtml>

ASH TREE REMOVAL

The CFIA has recently contracted removal of approximately 300 ash trees in Elgin County in support of a Canadian Forest Service (CFS) research initiative to study the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Tree removal began on March 14, 2006 and concluded on March 24, 2006. Trees identified by the CFS were measured, evaluated and cut into sections before being taken to a designated CFS laboratory for processing, data collection and further study.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Conservation Services

The Conservation Authority provided technical and financial support to the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association with their Conservation Farmer Award in 2006. Judging was conducted early in December and the award was presented at the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association Annual Meeting in mid December. The award in 2006 went to Neal and Colleen Craven of Eberts.

For at least 20 years the LTVCA has made a contribution to the Scholarships and Awards Committee of the Ridgetown College. The award in 2006 was the sponsorship of "Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award". The award has a monetary value of \$200 and was awarded to Ian Van Middlekoop of Bothwell at the convocation in May of 2006. The Ridgetown College offers an excellent program and for years has been a promoter of the conservation ethic in agriculture.



Neal Craven (left) was presented the Conservation Farmer Award in 2006 by Jack Robertson - LTVCA Water Management Supervisor (right) in December. The LTVCA provides technical and financial support to the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association.

Research & Monitoring

Species at Risk Recovery Strategies - Thames River

The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is to sustain a healthy aquatic ecosystem and encourage long-term survival of aquatic species at risk in the Thames River. The Federal Habitat Stewardship Program is the key funding partner.



Bigmouth Buffalo

Species at Risk Recovery Strategies - Essex-Erie

The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is to sustain a healthy aquatic ecosystem and encourage long-term survival of aquatic species at risk along the Lake Erie Shoreline. The Federal Habitat Stewardship Program is the key funding partner.

One of the core areas within the entire study area is Rondeau Bay.



Pugnose Shiner

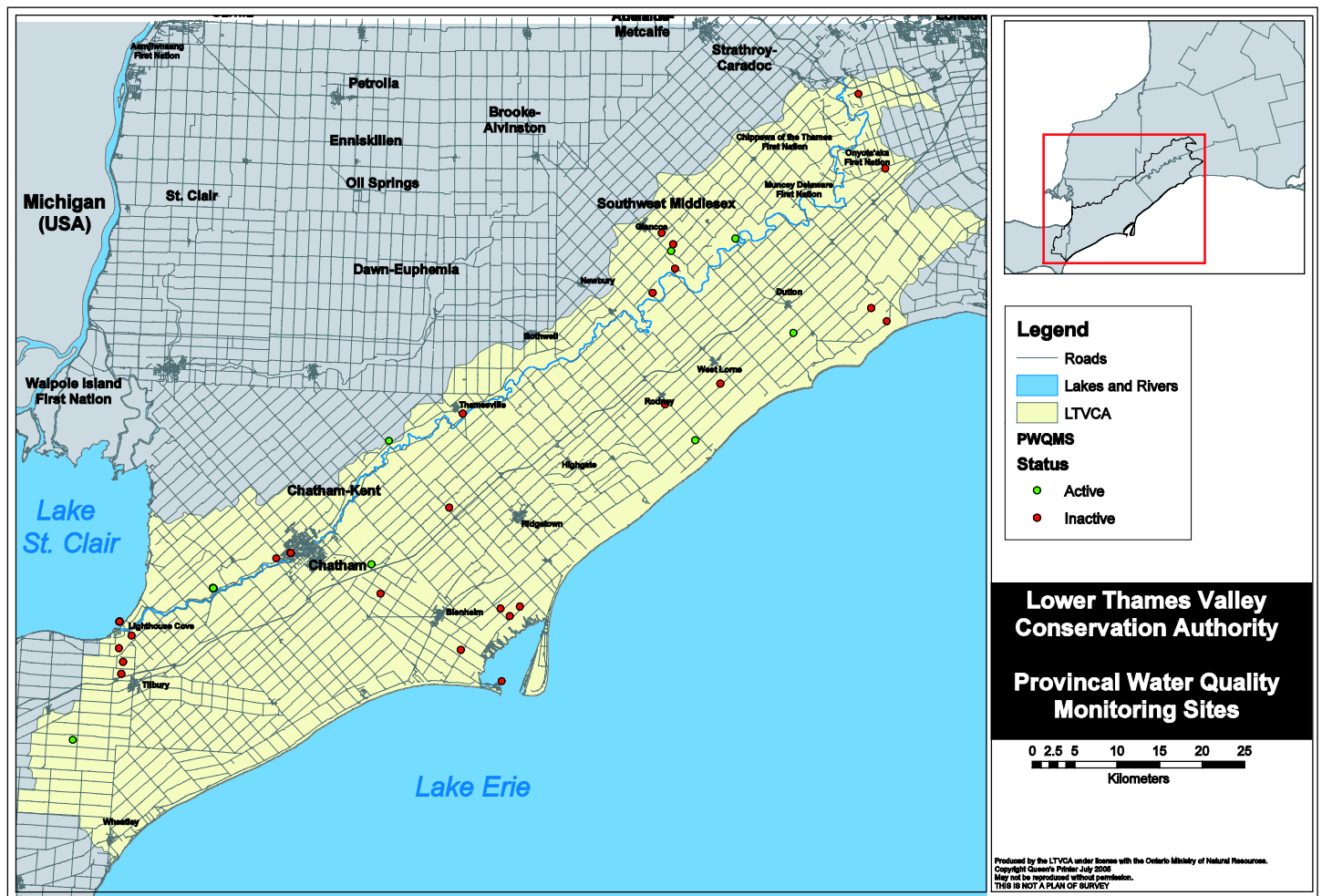
Research & Monitoring

Provincial Water Monitoring Program

The Conservation Authority continued to work with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOEE) 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.

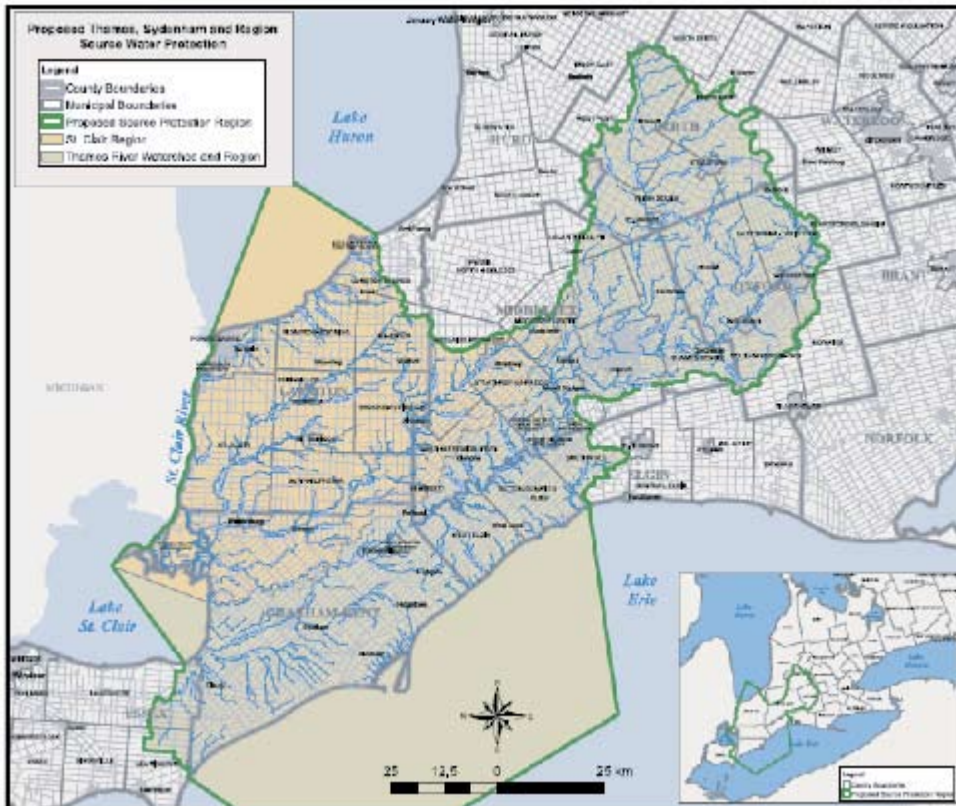
During 2006 the Conservation Authority installed dedicated pumps into two of the ground water wells in the region. The dedicated pumps are necessary in order to undertake water quality sampling of the wells.

In 2006, the LTVCA also continued working with the MOEE with the sampling of surface or stream waters at 9 locations in the Conservation Authority. In this program, water is collected on a monthly basis in the spring, summer and fall and then sent to the MOEE 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.



The intent of the Provincial Water Monitoring Program is to have a provincial network for monitoring ambient ground water conditions.

Thames, Sydenham & Region Source Protection Region



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.

In 2005 the Authority, together with the Province, UTRCA, SCRCA 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 water source protection planning legislation. The Authority had earlier signed an agreement with the UTRCA and SCRCA to work together in the preparation of the Source Water Protection Plan.

2006 was marked by much progress in regard to the Source Water Protection initiative. In 2006, staff continued to work on the Watershed Characterization Report and the Conceptual Water Budget. The Water Budget is a peer reviewed document that outlines in a conceptual manner where the water in the Source Water Protection region comes from and goes. The Peer Review Committee was made up of persons from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOEE) as well as academia. The final Peer Review Committee meeting was held in mid December and it is expected that the Conceptual Water Budget for the Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region will be complete by the end of January in 2007. The Conceptual Water Budget is a precursor to the more detailed Watershed Characterization Report, which will more rigorously review the water situation in the Source Protection Region.

In late summer, the MOEE approved the undertaking of "Intake Protection Zone" studies for the intakes in the Thames Sydenham and Region Source Water Protection Region. Within the LTVCA there are municipal water intakes on Lake Erie at Wheatley, Erie Beach and Eagle. Stantec Engineering is undertaking the studies for Wheatley and Erie Beach while the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) is undertaking the Intake Protection Zone study for Eagle. These studies include data collection, intake characterization, zone delineation, vulnerability determination, modelling and determination of further work needed. Included in each of the studies is a requirement for the consultant to meet and obtain information and comments on each intake from the

relevant PUC and individual operator at the intake. The cost of undertaking the study at each intake is approximately \$65,000 and they are all fully funded by the MOEE.

In 2006, the Conservation Authority received the draft of the 6 Conservation Authority Groundwater Modeling Study which was undertaken by Waterloo Hydrologic. This \$290,000 study or model development provides a very good analysis of the groundwater situation in the Southwestern Ontario Region and provides a good basis for the groundwater portion of the Watershed Characterization Report. The Ontario Geological Survey division of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines provided full funding for this project.

A Water Quality Specialist, Chitra Gowda, was hired in mid year to undertake a more rigorous look at water quality threats and vulnerabilities in the entire Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region. She will be working out of the LTVCA office for her 18 month contract. Her position is entirely funded by the Source Water Protection budget. She recently obtained her Masters of Applied Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Windsor.

The Clean Water Act received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006. The act delivers on 12 of Justice O'Connor's recommendations resulting from the judicial inquiry into the Walkerton tainted water tragedy. The Act ensures communities are able to protect their municipal drinking water supplies through developing collaborative, locally driven, science-based protection plans. Communities will identify potential risks to local water sources and take action to reduce or eliminate these risks.

Municipalities, Conservation Authorities, property owners, farmers, industry, community groups and the public will all work together to meet common goals.

Providing the public opportunity to comment and up to date information on the entire process was ongoing through 2006:

- Source Water Protection Calendars for 2006 were distributed
- Website continued to grow with current resource material
- 2 Children's Water Festivals were planned for Middlesex and Chatham-Kent in 2007 with focus on Source Protection
- A Meeting was held with local First Nations Chiefs' Councils in September
- Municipalities received "Update" newsletters throughout the year and
- Several municipal forums were held across the Source Protection Region and more sector forums are planned for 2007

The selection of Chair and Committee are the next step – subject to consultation with our stakeholders and to be established as per legislation. Municipal forums are planned for mid January 2007 explaining the process and Agricultural forums planned for March 2007.

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Conservation Lands

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's conservation lands have protected environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands, culturally unique features and significant biological, ecological, and scenic qualities. Over 675 hectares of conservation land have been preserved at 23 sites for public use in the LTVCA watershed and region.



Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area opened its doors.



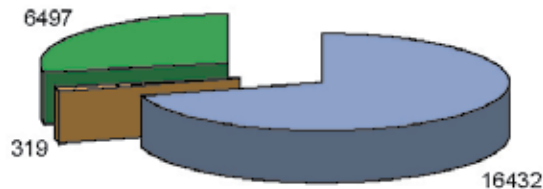
An all terrain wheel chair was donated to Longwoods by the Mount Brydges Optimists and a private donor.



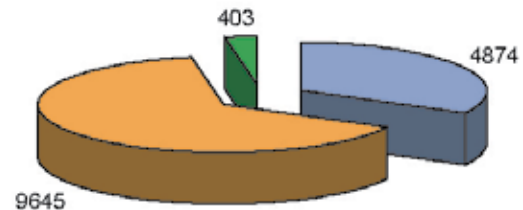
Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society sponsored the 17th annual Longwoods Heritage Weekend in May.

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

LONGWOODS ROAD 2006



C.M. WILSON 2006



DAY USE CAMPING SCHOOLS

DAY USE CAMPING SCHOOLS

Visitation 2006.

LTVCA Conservation Area Facilities, Services and Recorded Attendance 2006

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	82	81	25.4	4.5	47.6	3	36	41	81	3	10	63	7.8	14	
			4874				1000's							1000's		86					16432			
Day Use	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	
Historic / Museum											■										■			
School Program			403					■						■							6497			
ANSI Site					■	■	■											■			■			
Family Camping			9299													1742								
			345																		319		2591	
Group Camping			■					■				■		■		■					■		■	
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	Sindair's Bush	Rondsau Bay Marshes	McGeachy Pond	Two Creeks	Diversion Channel	Colborne Street	Dutton/Dunwich	Lighthouse	Rowson's Tilbury West	Big 'O'	Sharon Creek	Delaware	Big Bend	Elfrid Forest	Mosa Forest	Crane	Mill Stream/James Bush	Longwoods Road	Feasby	E.M. Warwick	

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Education Programs

The LTVCA operates two different types of education programs for students - Native Studies at the Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum and Conservation Education.



	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	51	10	2	64	308	12										
February	36	5	3	67	224	9										
March	39	2	4	86	226	9					5	1	1	32		
April	28	2	1	24	142	6										
May	149	16	7	140	642	26					21				194	8
June	189	40	16	389	616	27	17		4	96	19		2	46	88	4
September	52	5	3	95	215	10					16	4	2	36	78	3
October	102	7	9	201	522	20					48	3	10	205	22	1
November	153	11	8	180	804	32					36	4	7	148	41	2
December	108		11	198	368	15										
TOTALS	907	98	64	1444	4067	166	17	0	4	96	145	12	22	467	423	18

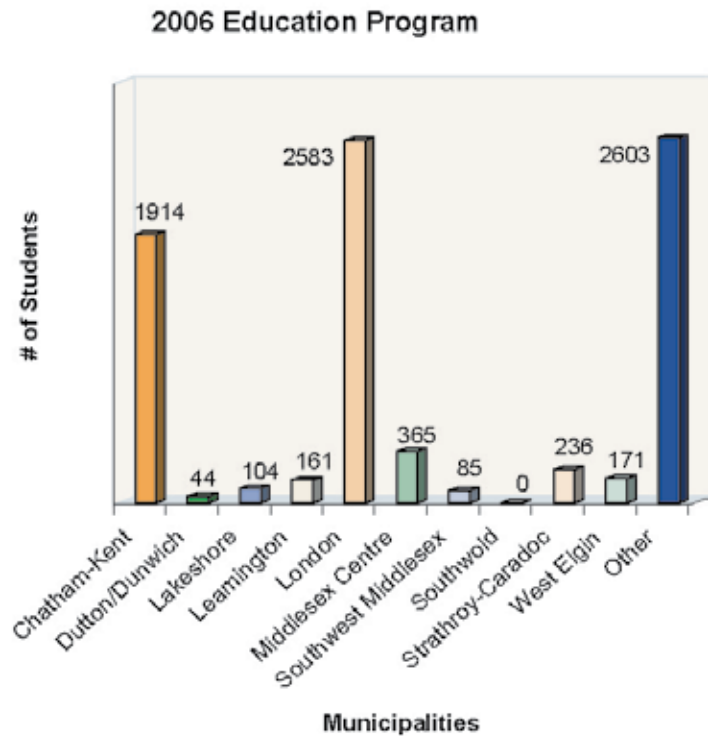
	CONSERVATION EDUCATION C.M. WILSON C.A.						CONSERVATION EDUCATION SHARON CREEK C.A.				CONSERVATION EDUCATION OUTREACH					
	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students		# classes full day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day	# classes quarter day	# Students Quarter Day	# classes half day	# Students		# classes full day
				Half Day	Full Day									Half Day	Full Day	
January																
February																
March											17	353				
April											37	848				
May											3	54				
June	55	12	6	132	120	6							1	15		
September																
October	16		8	151												
November																
December																
TOTALS	71	12	14	283	120	6	0	0	0	0	57	1255	1	15	0	0

Education program statistics 2006.

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect



"Trade Routes" is one of several workshops offered at Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum.



Education programs by Municipality 2006.



Through active outdoor games, students learn about endangered species as part of the Conservation Education program.

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Education Programs



Iroquoian Village & Museum

In 2006, the number of students that visited the Village and Museum was 5,607 plus 1,022 teachers and parents. Organized group workshops and tours attracted 181 people.

Ska-Nah-Doht's Budget was \$179,941 including \$8,550 received from the Community Museum Operating Grant, through the Provincial Ministry of Culture.

Highlights

The Museum received a big gift of a mounted moose head from the Fingal Mason Lodge.

A \$60,000 Job Creation Project (JCP) crew worked hard to restore Ska-Nah-Doht and assist with forestry and other conservation projects.

JCP workers built a new longhouse.

The London Free Press Mothers' Day Shunpiker tour attracted 3,400 visitors in less than 5 hours to Longwoods Road Conservation Area!

Special events were held - "Archaeology Day" in July, "Nightwalk with the Spirits" in August and "Tastes of Fall – a Feast for the Senses" in October.



Nightwalk with the Spirits is an event not to be missed!



A new longhouse was built in 2006.

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Education Programs Conservation



Field trips - 1,389 elementary and secondary students, plus 257 adult supervisors, took part in conservation education programs at Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas in 2006.

Classroom programs – 1,270 students were taught a conservation program or the River and Creek Safety Program.

Conservation workshops - 81 youth participated in different conservation workshops at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and outreach locations.

Based out of Longwoods Road Conservation Area, the Conservation Education programs take place in conservation areas and in the classroom.

Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village - opened in the fall and we helped to deliver a River and Creek Safety program to 800 grade ones and were invited to use space for some of our conservation programs.

Envirothon groups visited Longwoods in April in preparation for the Regional Competition with modules about Forest, Wildlife, Soils and Aquatics.

Project Webfoot – A Ducks Unlimited Canada Sponsored Wetland Education Experience was delivered at Longwoods Road Conservation wetland, free of charge to London area students.

Enhanced Conservation Education Programming was a result of Wetland Improvement Projects at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and C.M. Wilson Conservation Area funded through Healthy Wetlands...Healthy Communities. This initiative was with Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Community Fisheries Wildlife Involvement Program from MNR and TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation. Students from London Montessori House of Children and 1st Mount Brydges Scout Troop, JCP Program workers, Wilson seasonal campers and LTVCA staff provided assistance.



Longwoods Road C.A.



C.M. Wilson C.A.

Partners in the Community

Community Relations

A Part of All Programs

Community Relations activities inform our Directors, member municipalities, watershed and region residents, media and local politicians about all LTVCA's programs and services. 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 literature on conservation programs and services, design and 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 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 2006.

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.



Over 100 people participated in the Moonlight Winter Family Hike (owl hike) in February. Other events included Earth Day, and a Longwoods Star Party.

The Thames

- A Canadian Heritage River



In 2006, the Thames River celebrated its 6th year as a Canadian Heritage River.

The 7th Annual Thames River Clean-up in April with 1,800 volunteers cleaning up 200 km of the river.

A Thames River Happenings Winter newsletter was produced and mailed to Municipalities and Directors.



The 6th annual Thames River Symposium in Glencoe "Exploring the Heritage of the Thames Valley Through its Arts & Culture".

Partners in the Community

Some of Our Community Partners

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

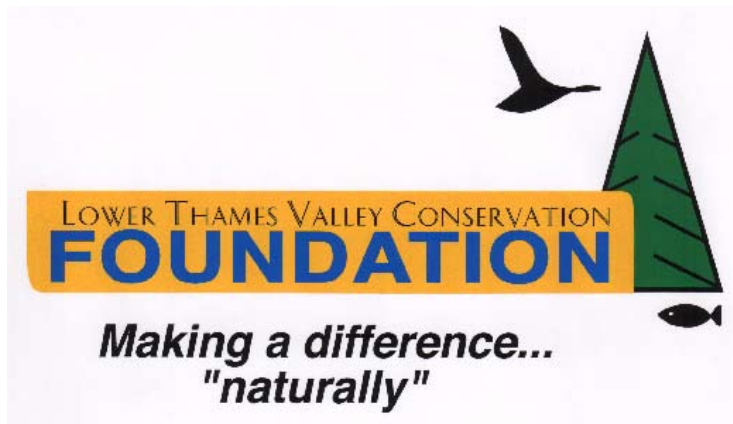
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation
Canadian Museum Association
Carolinian Canada
Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village
C.M. Wilson Seasonal Campers
Environmental Community Opportunities (ECO) Partnership
Forest City Checkers
Friends of Sharon Creek
Guardians of Longwoods
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

And all corporations, foundations, government agencies, Scouts and Guides, other youth groups, schools and businesses, which have partnered with us!



Celebrating the "Guardians of Longwoods", staff hold an annual BBQ to thank its volunteers. Volunteers participate in every aspect of operations including maintenance, exhibits, events, photography, and many are Directors.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation



The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, to raise funds towards the wise management of our renewable natural resources

Since 1995 the Foundation has raised over \$500,000 for natural and cultural heritage conservation. \$25,000 was raised for the LTVCA for conservation resources in 2006.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation assists volunteer organizations with their fund-raising efforts like the "Friends of Sharon Creek" volunteers, and the Sharon Creek Trust Fund.

The Foundation supported special fund-raising events and programs like the Annual Charity Golf Scramble, Moonlight Winter Family Hike, Interpretive Trail Sponsorship Program, and William Erickson Bursary (\$500 to a Comber student in 2006). The Foundation submitted funding applications to corporations, government agencies, service clubs and other philanthropic organizations to undertake projects and programs which assisted the LTVCA.

Foundation Directors volunteer professional expertise in areas such as communications, marketing, broadcasting, law and education. Five Foundation Directors were nominated and received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards through the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration last year.

The Foundation's Annual Charity Golf Scramble raised over \$6,000 for Conservation Authority projects in 2006.



Through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program, the Conservation Authority was able to plant over 460 trees in 2006.



Many thanks to the 59 golfers, 1 "Hole-In-One", 29 "One-Hole" sponsors and 75+ prize and silent auction donors for their ongoing support!

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

"Save the Cabins" Project - Ontario Trillium Foundation

Foundation Directors applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation on behalf of the Conservation Authority and received a \$75,000 over 6 months for the "Save the Cabins" project to preserve three cabins with significant heritage value at the Longwoods site by placing them on concrete foundations and replacing rotted timbers. The Conservation Authority is very grateful for all the work the Foundation Directors have done towards the success of this project.

The Foundation Directors also sourced out a flatbed of free barn timbers for restoring the 3 log cabins. Work began on Nov. 20 and by year-end the 3 cabins had been lifted, and full basements had been poured. Effective drainage had also been laid in place. Continental Building Movers out of Melbourne was the contractor. It is anticipated that work will be complete by the spring 2007.



Old barn timbers were saved and transported from London to Longwoods to be used to replace rotting timbers in the cabins.



The Chippewa Cabin is over 200 years old.



**THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION**



**LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO**

Full basements with an outside access were poured by December 2006 for all 3 cabins.

Conservation Authority Directory 2006

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Administration Building

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
Water Quality Specialist - Source Protection - Chitra Gowda
Environmental & Forestry Partnership Coordinator - Randall VanWagner
Environmental Technical Assistant - Bob Pennington

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

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Workshop

Eastern District Supervisor - David Little
Construction & Maintenance Technician - Bruce Clark

Resource Centre and Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum

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

Western District Supervisor – Russ Dysarz



*Photo by volunteer
I. Post*



"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."

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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E-Mail: ltvca@MNSi.net

Website: www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca

