

*2007 Annual Report
Lower Thames Valley
Conservation Authority*



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



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Partners in Conservation

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

Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association
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
University of Guelph - Ridgetown Campus
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 in 2007 to help us achieve our goal to efficiently protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations.



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.

Chair's Remarks & Executive Summary

It is my pleasure as Chair, to bring greetings and outline the achievements of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) in 2007. Our vision as a watershed-based partner, is to **work with the local community** to efficiently protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations. I am proud to say we served our member municipalities and residents of the lower Thames region well, working hard to develop **partnerships** to manage our watershed's natural resources.

In 2007, the LTVCA **protected 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 municipalities and agencies. Through plan input and review, we monitored new development near or in natural hazard areas to identify potential threats. Under the new Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation, the number of applications was twice the number reviewed under the prior regulation.

Habitat was protected and restored through our involvement in the bi-national Lake St. Clair Water Management Study and the review of drain improvements. Letters of approval written on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans doubled in 2007. The need for reforestation, especially in Chatham-Kent demonstrates the link between trees and a healthy environment. Through a partnership with Chatham-Kent, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Stewardship Kent, staff were engaged in many "greening strategy" projects. With funding accessed through various foundations and government agencies, 105,305 trees were planted in the LTVCA last year.

The LTVCA continued its work in **research and monitoring**. Through our involvement in the Species at Risk Recovery Strategies for the Thames River and Essex-Erie region, healthy aquatic ecosystems and the survival of species at risk are possible. We also continued to work with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program, and in the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network program.

The **Source Protection Program** reached many objectives in 2007. The Conceptual Water Budget and Draft Watershed Characterization Report were completed and the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region received approval to undertake a Tier One Water Budget. Work also continued on the "Intake Protection Zone" studies. Numerous forums provided opportunities for public participation in the Source Protection Planning Process, including the Chair and Committee selection. The Minister of the Environment named Bob Bedgood as Chair of the Source Protection Committee and later, the Committee membership was announced.

Conservation lands allow the public to **enjoy, learn and respect the environment**, and provide important habitat for wildlife. Our education programs and events demonstrate why it is critical we all take responsibility for the protection of precious natural resources for the future health of our watershed and region. Over 7,100 students and chaperones enjoyed school programs in 2007 while thousands of visitors attended events and camping. We accessed over \$320,000 of funding to hire nine workers, who assisted full time staff with conservation projects.

The **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation** has raised over \$500,000 for conservation projects over the years, and I applaud its volunteer Directors for their ongoing support of the LTVCA. Of special mention is the Trillium Grant "Save the Cabins" project – \$75,000 applied for through the Foundation to restore three heritage log cabins at Longwoods Road Conservation Area in 2007.

In closing, I thank our Directors who represented their municipalities well over the past year, balancing the needs of the watershed with the needs of the individual municipalities, and the staff for another year of hard work and support.



Brian King - Chair Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 2007.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian W. King".

Brian King - Chair LTVCA

Board of Directors & Committees



Directors' Meeting in Chatham-Kent at the LTVCA Administration Building in 2007.

Committees:

Personnel and Finance / Executive

Brian King, Stan Lidster, Ron Doane, Paddy Byrne, Bob Hosford

Ice Management

Brian King, Stan Lidster, Paddy Byrne, Art Stirling, Steve Pinsonneault

Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village

(Conservation Authority Representatives):

Brian King, Stan Lidster, Stanley Caveney, Jonathan Wolf, Ron Doane, Jerry Campbell

Chair: Brian King - Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Vice-chair: Stan Lidster - Township of Southwold

Steve Pinsonneault - Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Art Stirling - Municipality of Chatham-Kent
John Yokom - Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich
Paddy Byrne - Town of Lakeshore
Bill Derbyshire - Municipality of Leamington
Stanley Caveney - City of London
Bob Hosford - Township of Middlesex Centre
John Kavelaars - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Ron Doane - Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
Jonathan Wolf - Municipality of West Elgin



Staff held an orientation night for Directors in February.

Budget

The LTVCA's 2007 budget of \$1,733,195 received approval in February.

Funding sources included:

34% in general levies

12% for infrastructure in water related capital projects
with matching grant from the Province

30% in Federal and Provincial grants

23% in revenues from program and services fees

1% in grants from the Lower Thames Valley
Conservation Foundation



The municipal drinking water intake at Eagle on Lake Erie in West Elgin was one of the stops on the Directors' bus tour of the eastern half of the watershed in September.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Administration

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 - 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

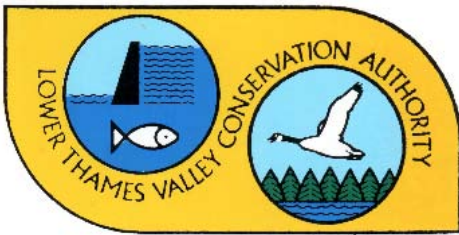
Conservation Education Technician - Denise Biega / Jerry DeZwart

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

Workshop

Western District Supervisor – Russ Dysarz

*LTVCA Staff
Directory 2007*



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

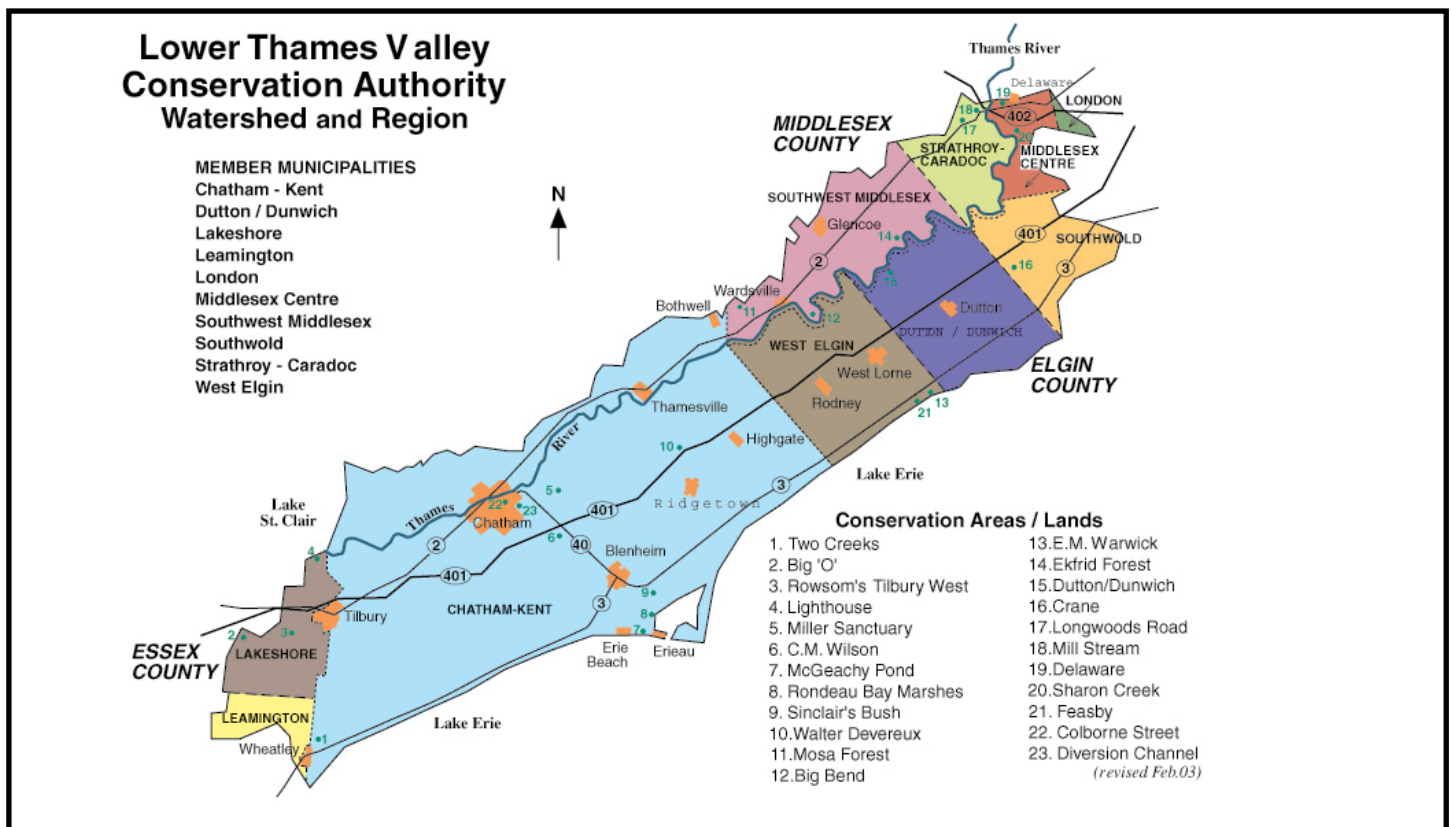
Protecting Life & Property

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Research & Monitoring

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Partnering with the Local Community



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.

Protecting Life & Property

Water Management Flood Control & Great Lakes Levels

It was a relatively mild start to the winter of 2006-2007. December of 2006 provided the region with temperatures approximately 4.5 degrees Celsius warmer than normal, and January came in with temperatures about 3 degrees warmer than normal. No snow or ice was evident during this period but a rainfall of approximately 35 millimetres on January 4th and 5th was enough to produce a flow on the river of approximately 310 cubic metres per second. February provided a change, in that it was quite cold, and by the end of the month there was approximately 30 mm of ice on the lower Thames River and 40 mm of water equivalent in the snowpack in the Upper Thames watershed. The area received about 7 mm of rainfall on the 10th of March and temperatures reached about 14 degrees Celsius on both the 13th and 14th. These conditions created the most significant runoff event of the year, with the Thames River reaching flows of about 400 cubic metres per second on the 17th of March. This event was successful at removing the built up ice in the lower river without any consequences. Another event with flows of 335 cubic metres per second was created on March 26th following more warm temperatures of 23 degrees Celsius on the 26th and 27th of March. Each of these events were sufficient to flood the extensive river flat regions of the Lower Thames but they were not enough to flood the upper tableland areas.

The lack of precipitation during much of 2007 was a regional situation and as a result both Great Lakes that border the Lower Thames experienced falling levels in 2007. Lake St. Clair began the year at near normal levels but by the end of 2007 it was approximately 0.5

metres below average. Lake Erie displayed a similar fall as it began the year approximately 0.2 metres above the long term average and by the end of the year it was 0.25 metres below average. Long-term levels on these two lakes have a range of approximately 1.5 metres. With lake levels below the long-term averages and the lack of any significant wind generated storms, no flood events were recorded on the lakes in 2007.



The Chatham Water Level Gauging Station is equipped with enough instrumentation to measure water level, water and air temperature, as well a weighing type precipitation gauge that measures rain and snow. The entire station, as well as the pressure transducer that measures water level, is powered by a solar panel. Above is the instrument that stores the data for downloading.



Thames River flooding into the floodplain regions in 2007.

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 2007, as well as comparable numbers in 2006 and 2005. The costs outlined are the grants received. Eligible project costs would be twice the number shown in the table.

Category	2007	2006	2005
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

Other Water Related Initiatives

In 2007, the LTVCA received funding from the Provincial Experience program to hire two summer students. Jennifer Drummelsmith (right) and Whitney McWilliam (left) of the Dutton area were hired under this program and during their tenure, they

undertook surveys of road bridges in West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich and Southwold. Later in the summer, Ryan Vandendriessche of Newbury and Caleb Stocking of Wardsville undertook similar surveys in Southwest Middlesex, Strathroy-Caradoc and a portion of Orford. The output of the surveys will be used to determine flood plain areas in rural areas of the Conservation Authority

In 2007, we continued to work on 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 LTVCA assisted by lending them a water testing meter, hip waders and a small boat.



Surveys of road bridges in West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich and Southwold will determine flood plain areas in rural areas.

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 4 to 6 meetings per year.

Protecting Life & Property

Land Use Planning & 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 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 following table lists the specific types and number of planning development issues reviewed in 2007. Figures from previous years are included.

Planning development issues reviewed in 2007.

PLAN REVIEW						
	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Official Plans (OP)	3	0	1	2	2	2
Official Plan Amendments (OPA)	11	7	3	8	15	9
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws (ZB)	3	0	1	5	0	1
Zoning Bylaw Amendments (ZA)	102	109	107	137	118	115
Severances (SEV)	128	124	118	181	66	54
Minor Variances (MV)	46	49	50	59	185	160
Plans of Subdivision (SUB)	3	11	3	8	6	7
Drainage Reports & Maintenance. (DR)	49	49	96	75	44	64
Property Clearances (PC)	72	33	47	42	40	48
General Property Inquiries (GPI)	731	452	317	374	308	292
Total	1,148	834	743	891	784	752

Plan input and review services by Municipality 2007.

2007 Municipal Plan Input and Review Services										
Official Plans				1			1			1
Official Plan Amendments	4		1		3	2				1
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws					3					
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	61	5	1	2	4	4	10		2	13
Severances	73	15	2	5		3	17	3	2	7
Minor Variances	24	7		1		4	2	1	5	1
Plans of Subdivision	3									
Property Clearances	39	1	1		1	1	1		1	4
Drainage Reports	48	3	4				4	0		7
General Property Inquiries	451	28	72	9	8	6	27	11	14	49
TOTAL SERVICES PER MUNICIPALITY	703	59	81	19	19	20	62	21	25	83
SERVICES										
MUNICIPALITY	Chatham-Kent	Dutton/Dunwich	Lakeshore	Leamington	London	Middlesex Centre	Southwest Middlesex	Southwold	Strathroy-Caradoc	West Elgin

Protecting Life & Property

Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses

2007 marked the first full year that the Conservation Authority's new Regulation was in effect. The regulation is known as the Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. We reviewed 80 applications under the Regulation in 2007. Four applications were not approved of which three applications required a hearing

in front of the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee.

This generic regulation came into effect in May of 2006. Having completed a full year of activity under the new generic regulation, we found that the number of applications reviewed is over two times the number reviewed under the prior regulation. The Conservation Authority also saw a

significant increase in the number of general property inquiries undertaken. This increase is related to the new regulation, as more landowners are becoming aware of the regulation and are concerned with how the regulation affects their property.



We reviewed 80 applications under the Regulation in 2007.



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.

The bank of the Thames River has become a hazard to this road in an area of Chatham-Kent.



Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Lake Erie & Lake St. Clair Water Management Plans

The Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA), which is the federal-provincial agreement that supports the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, was approved in 2007. 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.

The LTVCA worked with our partners in producing 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 could help contribute to the success of the COA.

Low Water Response

The Conservation Authority monitors watershed conditions to determine if the area is in a low water situation. Over many recent years, summer rainfalls have been low enough to create borderline situations of low water.

The summer of 2007 proved to be one of the driest in recent times. Conditions reached the point where a meeting of the Water Response Team for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority was held on July 27th. The area was in generally a Level One condition, which is characterized by a combination of the three-

month precipitation indicators being below 80 per cent of normal and low stream flows throughout the watershed. In fact, three month precipitation values across much of the eastern portion of the watershed were well below 60 per cent of normal levels. Significant rainfalls fell in the third week of August which helped to relieve some of the problem. However, another Water Response Team meeting was held on November 30th with the Team reconfirming the Level One condition.



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

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) Drain Classification

2007 marked the ninth 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 the DFO in 2004. Level Two status means that we conduct 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.

The number of letters of approval written relating to the review of permits on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans doubled in number for the LTVCA in 2007. This was in large part due to a number of major works involving road upgrades on the Talbot Trail, water line installations and numerous culvert installations for wind turbine projects. In 2007, the Conservation Authority dealt with 106 applications dealing with the review of municipal drainage reports, private landowner projects, culvert installations for the wind turbine project in Chatham-Kent and the Talbot Trail upgrades dealing with culvert repair and replacements in Dutton/Dunwich. In comparison, there were 92 applications in 2006.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Reforestation

LTVCA Tree Planting Program

From 1988 to 2007, the Conservation Authority has planted approximately 1,783,442 trees within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's jurisdiction.

In 2007, a total of 105,305 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. Individuals rented the LTVCA's machine tree planters or trees were hand planted by landowners, LTVCA staff and volunteers.

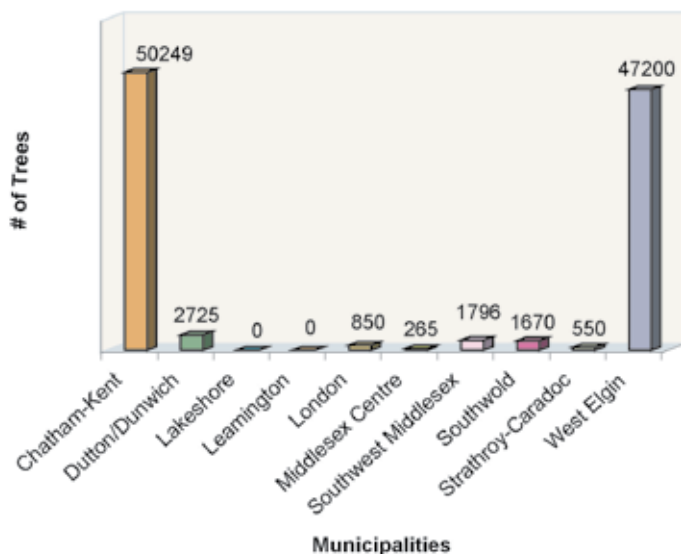
The Conservation Authority purchased tree seedlings in bulk from several different suppliers in 2007.

The primary sources of trees were private nurseries including Baker's Nursery, Forest Care. St. William's, Richardson's Pine Needle Tree Farm and Somerville

Nurseries. 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.

Randall Van Wagner and Bob Pennington (Environmental and Forestry Project Coordinators) held two tree planting workshops during the month of March. These were very well attended and most of these people eventually purchased trees from the Conservation Authority. The feedback was positive with a request to host similar workshops next year. They also participated in the Nature Conservancy of Canada's tree planting project north of Highgate and Autoliv's project in Tilbury. In addition, they provided expertise and helped plant trees for the Emerald Ash Borer Response Program, Trees of Ontario Foundation and Habitat Stewardship Program customers, other private landowners, and in Conservation Areas and Memorial Forests.

2007 Forestry Program



Forestry program by Municipality 2007.

TREES SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS FOR PRIVATE PLANTING

Township of Strathroy-Caradoc	100
Municipality of Southwest Middlesex	1,086
City of London	850
Municipality of West Elgin	240
Municipality of Dutton/ Dunwich	49,685
Norm Miller	(46,960)
Elgin Scouts	(150)
Township of Southwold	1,670
Middlesex Centre	240
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	49,614
Emerald Ash Borer Response program	(12,797)
Trees Ontario Foundation	(4,265)
Stewardship Kent	(12,405)
HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM	(4,260)
T.D. Friends of the Environment Foundation	(1,575)
Autoliv Tilbury	(2,250)
Sub-Total	103,485

TREES PLANTED IN CONSERVATION AREAS

MEMORIAL FORESTS AND CA'S	1,820
TOTAL TREES PLANTED 2007	105,305

Total trees planted 2007.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Reforestation Forestry Grant Programs

Stewardship Initiatives

During the fall of 2006 a seed-collecting program was implemented. Tree seeds and tall grass prairie seeds were collected and stratified for spring planting in 2007. Some of the tree seeds were planted using the Municipality of Chatham-Kent greenhouses on Grand Avenue East. These seeds had successful germination and approximately 1,500 trees were grown. The tall grass prairie seed is to be used in a project at the McGregor Creek Diversion channel property.

Trees for Tomorrow

In the fall of 2007, a Trees for Tomorrow program modelled on the one being used in Elgin County began. The program started small, with approximately 5,000 trees and will eventually reach the Elgin totals of 15,000 to 20,000 trees per year, all of which will be planted within the respective communities.

Grants for Tree Planting

The Environmental and Forestry Project Coordinators applied for grants/donations from many organizations and foundations during the year. In some instances, foundations consider the LTVCA as a government agency, so to become eligible for funding, staff utilized the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation as the required charitable organization. Several applications were successful and funding was received in excess of \$145,000 from such organizations as the Evergreen Foundation (\$10,000), T.D. Friends of the Environment (\$2,500), Nature Conservancy of Canada (\$2,000), Trees Ontario Foundation (\$4,300), Government of Canada (EABRP and HSP – \$17,500), Greencover Canada (\$1,800) see details below, Government of Ontario, Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities Job Creation Program funding (\$110,000). Other Foundations have suggested that funding will be available later this year or into next year.

Greencover Canada

The Greencover Canada program will come to an end on April 1, 2008. This \$110 million dollar Government of Canada program, which began in 2005, 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 contributed 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 was allocated under Greencover Canada. The Greencover Canada Program was 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 had been arranged between OSCIA and Conservation Ontario for Conservation Authorities to help deliver the Greencover Program and provide on-farm technical assistance when requested by the producer. In return, Conservation Authorities received modest compensation for each completed project, directly from OSCIA, to help cover a portion of the incremental costs associated with the service provided.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Emerald Ash Borer

In 2007, there were five Emerald Ash Borer Regulated Areas in Southwestern Ontario:

Essex County, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Lambton County, Elgin County and parts of the City of London. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) had confirmed the presence of additional trees infested with the emerald ash borer (EAB) in the City of London. Because these new sites were located outside of the current quarantine zone, the CFIA implemented quarantine measures for them. Property owners in these areas were issued Notices of Quarantine advising them of restrictions on the movement of firewood and ash material to prevent the artificial spread of the pest.

All facilities located in EAB regulated areas that produce ash lumber, and pallets, wood packaging

and other non-manufactured products with an ash component and which may be removed from the regulated area must be approved by the CFIA under the EAB Approved Facility Compliance Program and be certified under the Canadian Wood Packaging Certification Program (CWPCP) or the Canadian Heat Treated Wood Products Certification Program (CHTWPCP).

The CFIA has extended the deadline to apply for compensation for non-host tree replacement. Property owners that had ash trees ordered destroyed to control the spread of the EAB can now submit an application for compensation until December 31, 2009.

Conservation Services

The Conservation Authority provided financial support to the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association with their Conservation Farmer Award in 2007. 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 2007 went to Kees and Audrey Poppe who farm near Dresden.

For at least 20 years we have made a contribution to the Scholarships and Awards Committee of Ridgetown College. The award in 2007 was the sponsorship of "Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award" with a monetary value of \$200. Nicolaas Ammerlaan of Kennilworth, Ontario received the award at convocation in May. Ridgetown College offers an excellent program and for years has been a promoter of the conservation ethic in agriculture.



The 2007 Conservation Farmer Award went to Kees and Audrey Poppe who farm near Dresden.

Research & Monitoring

Species at Risk Recovery Strategies

Thames River

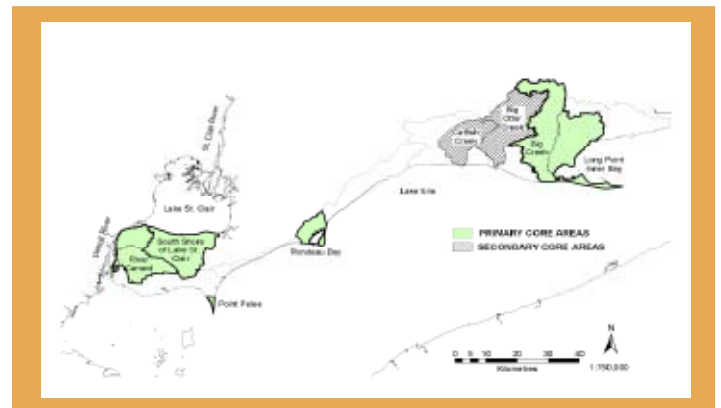
The purpose of the Recovery Strategy is to sustain a healthy aquatic ecosystem and encourage long-term survival of aquatic Species at Risk in the Thames River. The Upper Thames River and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities are working in partnership with the Department of Fisheries & Oceans and the Stewardship Networks along with other NGO's to achieve this goal. The Federal Habitat Stewardship Program is the key funding partner.



The Greenside Darter is one of the fish species at risk in the Thames River.

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. This area includes the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek, Essex Region, Longpoint Region and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities. As in the Thames River strategy, we are working in partnership with the Department of Fisheries & Oceans, the Stewardship Networks and other NGO's to achieve this goal. Once again, the Federal Habitat Stewardship Program is the key funding partner. One of the core areas within the entire study area is Rondeau Bay.



Map showing the watersheds of the five primary and two secondary core areas of the Essex-Erie Recovery Strategy.

The three most prevalent threats affecting fish species at risk are habitat loss, sediment loadings and nutrient loadings. Within the five primary and two secondary core areas, these three threats were assessed as being a primary threat affecting species at risk with a high level of certainty within the draft recovery strategy. Direct landowner stewardship actions and providing targeted outreach activities to promote awareness of these threats, and of appropriate recovery actions, are of primary importance to the recovery of the fish species at risk within the Essex-Erie Region.



The Spotted Sucker is a fish species at risk along the Lake Erie shoreline.

Research & Monitoring

Provincial Water Monitoring Program

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



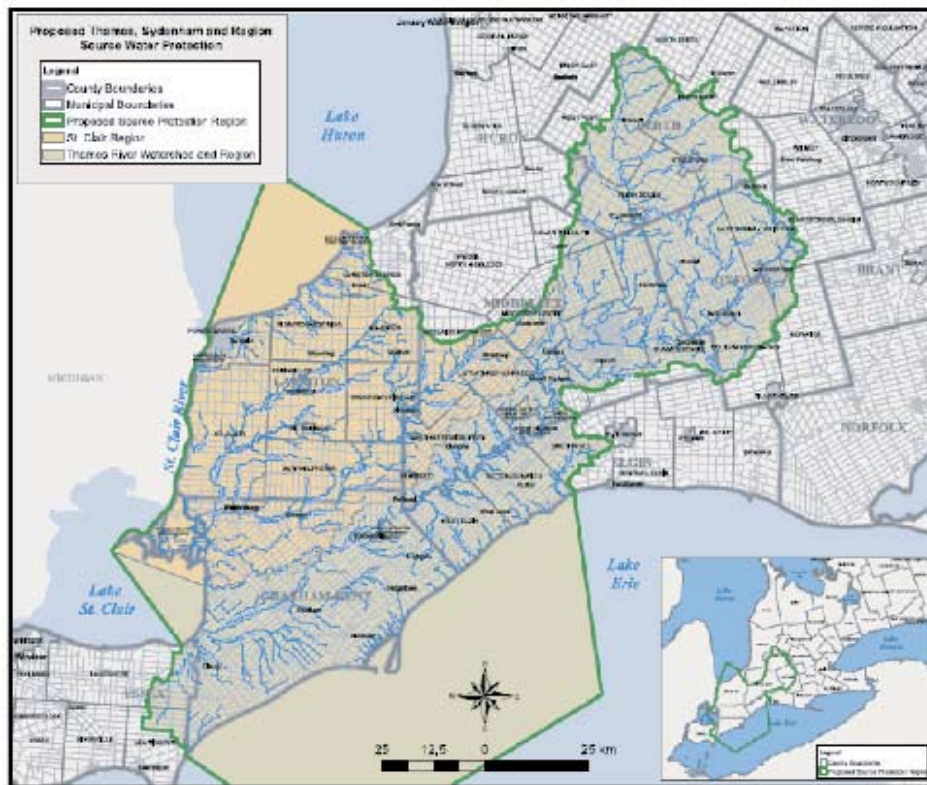
The intent of the Provincial Water Monitoring Program is to have a provincial network for monitoring ambient ground water conditions.

In 2007, the Conservation Authority installed solar panels and tipping bucket rain gauges at the wells at Bothwell and Ridgetown. Water samples were also taken at eight of the wells and sent to a laboratory for analysis.

As well, through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) program, we continued working with the MOE with the sampling of inland surface waters at nine locations in the LTVCA including on the Thames River. In this program, in-stream water is collected on a monthly basis in the spring, summer and fall and then sent to the MOE laboratory in Toronto for testing. The results are then returned to the Conservation Authority.

Both of these programs emphasize our role as the primary delivery agent for provincial programs related to the environment and natural resources.

Thames-Sydenham and 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 (MOE), in late 2002, formed an Advisory Council on a provincial framework for Watershed-based Source Protection Planning. The report of this Advisory Council was completed and its 55 recommendations set out a comprehensive framework that addresses roles and responsibilities, the planning process, resources, timing and legislation.

The implementation of this report created 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 LTVCA, together with the Province, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) and Conservation Ontario, signed an agreement to collaborate in the undertaking of the planning, research and analysis needed to implement the Crown's obligations under the proposed source protection planning legislation. The Conservation Authority had earlier signed an agreement with the UTRCA and SCRCA to work together in the preparation of the Source Water Protection Plan.

2007 was marked by much progress in regard to the Source Protection initiative. The Conceptual Water Budget was completed early in 2007. It is a peer-reviewed document that outlines in a conceptual manner where the water in the Source 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, private consultants, as well as academia. In late 2007, the Source Protection Region received approval to undertake a

Tier One Water Budget. The Tier One Water Budget reviews more closely the water takings and water supply from the Region to determine potential stresses on water supply.

Another document that was completed in late 2007 was the Draft Watershed Characterization Report. This Watershed Characterization Report provides a compilation of the physical, sociological and economic characteristics of the Thames River Source Protection Region. It also provides a preliminary review of water quality and a summary of known or suspected issues pertaining to drinking water sources.

Numerous forums were held during 2007 in regard to Source Protection Planning. The purpose of the forums was to provide an opportunity for public participation in the Source Protection Planning Process including the selection of the Chair, Committee Selection, and information dissemination. The first set of forums in 2007 targeted municipalities and were held in January. These three forums were held in London, Ridgeway and Wyoming. The second set of forums targeted the agricultural sector and was held in March. These four forums were held in Ridgeway, St. Marys, Wyoming and Woodstock. The third set of forums targeted industry, business and recreation audiences and was held in June. These four forums were held in London, Stratford, Chatham and Sarnia.

In early July, a four page Source Protection Tabloid was produced and distributed to every household in the Thames, Sydenham and Region. It included numerous articles covering broad topics about Source Protection, such as The Clean Water Act, the Source Protection Committee, Watershed fundamentals and Public Involvement opportunities in Source Protection Planning.

Work continued on the “Intake Protection Zone” studies for the intakes in the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source 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 managing the Intake Protection Zone study for Eagle. These studies include data collection, intake characterization, zone delineation, vulnerability assessment, modeling 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 Public Utilities Commission and individual operator at the intake. Update meetings were held late in the year to keep municipalities informed of project progress. The studies are expected to be complete in the later half of 2008. The cost of undertaking the study at each intake is approximately \$65,000 and they are all fully funded by the MOE. MOE also funded projects to undertake threats inventories and risk assessment in the Intake Protection Zones, which will be completed in 2008.



The second set of forums targeted the agricultural sector and was held in March. These four forums were held in Ridgeway, St. Marys, Wyoming and Woodstock. The Ridgeway forum is pictured above.

In early 2007, the Minister of the Environment named Bob Bedggood as chair of the Source Protection Committee of the Thames - Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region. For over 20 years Mr. Bedggood has been involved in water quality issues at the local, provincial and national levels. Among local affiliations he has been involved with the Clean Up Rural Beaches Program and the Clean Water Program. Provincially, he has been the President of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario and Co-chaired the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition.

In late 2007, the membership of the Source Protection Committee was announced. Their names and other information regarding the individuals are found in the adjacent table. This committee was able to meet once in December of 2007.



Membership of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee.

Sector		Seats	Description	Committee	
Chair		1	The Minister of the Environment appointment.	Robert Bedggood	
Municipalities		7	According to regulation, representatives from municipalities comprise 1/3 of the committee. The region was broken down into seven groups of municipalities (usually by upper tier) with each group self-selecting one representative.	Chatham-Kent	Sheldon Parsons
				Lambton	Darrell Randell
				London	Patrick Donnelly
				Middlesex	James Maudsley
				Elgin	Brent Clutterbuck
				Oxford	Pat Sobeski
				Perth, Stratford, St. Marys, Huron	Joe Salter
Sectors	Agriculture	3	Three representatives were allocated to agriculture to reflect the importance of this sector to the region and the potential impact of the Clean Water Act to this sector.	John Van Dorp	
				Patrick Feryn	
				Don McCabe	
	Industry/ Commercial	2	Two representatives from this group include heavy industry and small business. The importance of this sector to the economy of the region and the potential impact of the Clean Water Act to this sector warrants two positions on the Committee.	Dean Edwardson	
				Earl Morwood	
	Aggregate/ Oil and Gas	2	Oil and gas operations are particularly prominent in Lambton County and Chatham-Kent. Aggregate and quarry operations are concentrated more in Middlesex and Oxford Counties. These two positions were filled based on individual applications supported by nominations of the groups.	Aggregate and Quarries	Paul Hymus
Oil and Gas				Joe Van Overberghe	
Other		7	One third of the representatives of the Committee fall under the other category and include representation by the general public and landowners. This category of members also includes recreation, environmental non-government organizations, and academics. The Striking Committee appointed these members to best represent this sector within the region, based on the applications received.	Richard Philp	
				Doug McGee	
				Joseph Kerr	
				Carl Kennes	
				Valerie M'Garry	
				Margaret Misk-Evans	
				Charles Sharina	
First Nations		3	The Provincial regulation has provided for up to three First Nation seats on the Source Protection Committee. There are eight organized First Nations communities within the Thames-Sydenham and Region.	To be determined	
Liaisons		3	The Provincial regulation allows for 3 non-voting liaisons on the committee.	Medical Officers of Health	To be confirmed by MOE
				Province	To be confirmed by MOE
				Source Protection Authority	Murray Blackie

In late 2007, the membership of the Source Protection Committee was announced.

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect Conservation Lands & Employment Grants

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has protected environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands, culturally unique features and significant biological, ecological, and scenic qualities through its conservation lands program. Over 675 hectares of conservation land have been preserved at 23 sites for public use in the LTVCA watershed and region. Some activity highlights are illustrated below.

In 2007, the LTVCA received over \$320,000 of funding for workers to assist with the completion of projects over and above those of full time staff in areas such as 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. We were able to augment and improve our programs and services in various conservation areas through several Federal and Provincial employment program grants in 2007.

Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities

- 2 positions - Re-forestation Project Coordinator & Re-forestation Project Assistant, value \$83,561, Jan 2/07 to June 30/07 (after that they became LTVCA employees through financial assistance from Chatham-Kent)
- helped the rural community access various grant programs available for re-greening efforts in Chatham-Kent, assisted landowners with LTVCA tree planting program, worked with other agencies and groups to increase the forest cover and habitat quantity

- 3 positions - Repair & Construction Project Team, value \$221,919, April 15 to December 21/07, crew undertook repairs and construction projects at various conservation areas, diversion channel repairs and plantings, assisted the forestry staff during spring tree planting, installed a water management system

Young Canada Works

- 1 position - Exhibition Design Assistant, value \$3,830.40 (YCW contribution = \$2,872.80), 48 days, student designed an indoor exhibit of the interior of a longhouse

Summer Employment Program

- Experience Program -> 1 position & Canada Summer Jobs -> 1 position, Assistant Water Resources Technicians, value \$10,000, approx. 4 months, undertook surveying to establish stream cross sections in the watershed and region to assist with the establishment of the LTVCA's new Regulations

Canada Summer Jobs

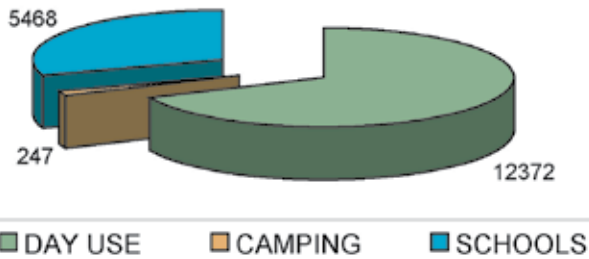
- 1 position - Conservation Authority Administrative Assistant, value \$2,385, 8 weeks, from June 25/07, reorganized the LTVCA's filing system and storage room, assisted Accounting Clerk

The first annual Chatham-Kent Children's Water Festival was held in October at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. It was a huge success as a result of the hard work of the steering committee members and volunteers: Rondeau Watershed Coalition - Stewardship Kent / Ministry of Natural Resources - Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority - St. Clair Region Conservation Authority - Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission - Lambton-Kent District School Board - St. Clair Catholic District School Board - Le Conseil scolaire du district des écoles catholiques du Sud-Ouest - Chatham-Kent Community Strategic Plan Committee - Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit - CAW local 200 Computers for Kids - CAW Local 127 Environmental Committee - Kent Federation of Agriculture - Chatham-Kent Culture and Special Events - University of Guelph / Ridgetown Campus - Sydenham Field Naturalists - Point Pelee National Park - Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village.

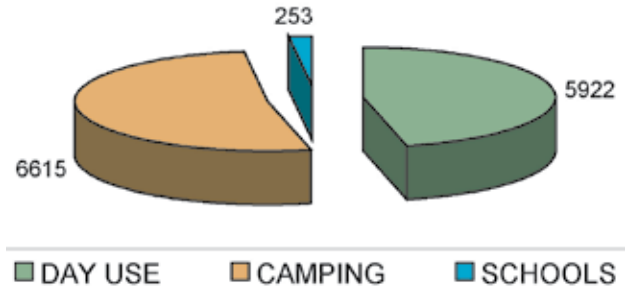


Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

LONGWOODS ROAD 2007



C.M. WILSON 2007

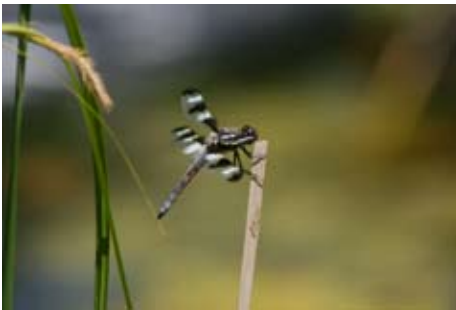


Visitation 2007.

LTVCA Conservation Area Facilities, Services and Recorded Attendance 2007

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
			5922				1000's							1000's							12372		
Day Use	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■
Historic / Museum											■										■		
School Program			253					■						■							5468		
ANSI Site				■	■	■												■			■		
Family Camping			6615													NA							
Group Camping			■					■				■		■		■					247		2326
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	Rowson's Tibbury West	Big O	Sharon Creek	Delaware	Big Bend	Ekfrid Forest	Mosa Forest	Crane	Mill Stream/Janes Bush	Longwoods Road	Feasby	E.M. Warwick

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect Education Programs



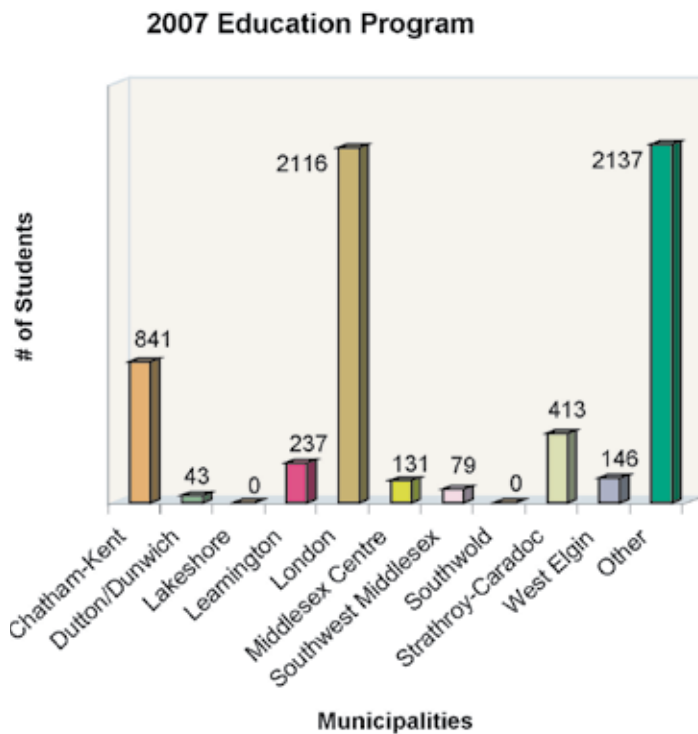
*The LTVCA operates two different types of education programs for students
- Conservation Education and Native Studies at the Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum.*



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	28		2	57	86	4					10	3	2	38		
February	37		2	40	236	9										
March	48		3	66	274	12										
April	41	5	2	35	230	10					5		2	48		
May	101	25	8	143	440	21					45		5	110	188	9
June	156	41	7	152	641	28	5		1	29	49		8	164	43	2
September	15				79	3					15		1	13	51	2
October	133	8	6	132	618	24					48	1	9	183	105	5
November	132	2	7	158	702	30					28	1	5	120		
December	42	4	2	40	247	10										
TOTALS	733	85	39	823	3553	151	5	0	1	29	200	5	32	676	387	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											18	393				
April																
May																
June	25	16	4	81	14	1										
September																
October	6		7	158												
November																
December																
TOTALS	31	16	11	239	14	1	0	0	0	0	18	393	0	0	0	0

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect



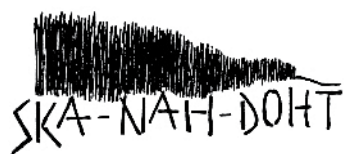
Sitting in the longhouse at Ska-Nah-Doht is a memorable experience!

Education programs by Municipality 2007.



Learning about trees, plants, wetlands and animals is fun through hands on experiences in the outdoors!

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect Education Programs



Iroquoian Village & Museum



Rose Nicholas instructs a class.



*Happy volunteers gather at the
"Nightwalk" rehearsal.*



*A new indoor longhouse exhibit helps
visitors imagine home life 1,000 years
ago!*

Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Advisory Committee

Don Fairbairn - Chair

Ron Watts - Vice-chair

Brian King, Stan Lidster, Ron Doane, Jonathan Wolf, John Caveney,
Andy Chisholm, Glenn Stott, Jerry Campbell

The Budget

The Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village and Museum budget for 2007 was \$183,731. This year we received a very generous increase in financial support from the Ministry of Culture through the Community Museum Operating Grant. The grant totalled \$22,992 up from \$8,550 in previous years.

Annual Events

The London Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society saw several collections from local residences as they identified their "treasures" at *Archaeology Day* in July. In August, attendance was up from 2006 at *"Nightwalk with the Spirits"*. This year we had a new dramatic plot which kept the audience intrigued while teaching them about a few traditional First Nations medicines. At the newly revised, *"Tastes of Fall-a feast for the senses"* held in October, over 200 people celebrated the harvest season in a fun filled family afternoon.

Education Programs

A total of 4,405 students and 823 supervisors and parents enjoyed a variety of programs this year. There were 307 workshop participants in 2007.

Federal Summer Grant

We received a Young Canada Works in Heritage grant through the Canadian Museum Association and hired one student, Sarah McIntyre, to review the curriculum links in our programs. A new exhibit was designed. Next time you visit be sure to take time to sit in our "dressed" longhouse in the hands on activity room. Try a game or make some music around the indoor fireplace!

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Education Programs Conservation

Field Trips

During the 2007 season, 1,345 elementary and secondary students accompanied by 257 adult supervisors, participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area (Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc) and C.M. Wilson Conservation Area (Municipality of Chatham-Kent). Ages ranging from pre-school to grade 12 participated in various curriculum related programs such as Sensational Seasons, Habitats and Communities, Orienteering, Soil Ecology, Wetlands, Predator-Prey, and Incredible Insects. Combining educational strands with outdoor hands-on experiences greatly enhanced student ability to grasp scientific, geographic, mathematic and environmental concepts.

Southwestern Ontario Envirothon Groups visited Longwoods Road Conservation Area on April 4 for an all day workshop geared to prepare students for the Regional Competition on April 26. Four stations were set up to cover the modules of Forest, Wildlife, Soils and Aquatics.

Classroom Programs

The River and Creek Safety Program (RCSP) was available in 2007, with LTVCA staff presenting to schools east of Chatham-Kent and the Chatham-Kent Safety Village presenting the program to schools within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The LTVCA received funding from local service clubs to visit 18 classrooms in the eastern end of the watershed. The outreach program was delivered to 393 students in the municipalities of West-Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich, Southwest Middlesex, Middlesex Centre, Strathroy-Caradoc and Southwold during late February and early March. The RCSP targets students at grade 2 level, teaching them waterway safety for all seasons, but with special emphasis on winter (ice safety) and spring (melting) when the danger is highest.

Conservation Workshops

Over 270 Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Sparks, and Venturers participated in a variety of workshops at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and LTVCA outreach locations. Youth groups obtained different badges for various outdoor activities including Owl Hikes, Snowshoeing, Naturalist Hiking, World Conservation, Soil and Water Management, and Forestry.



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



This year's supporters of the RCSP include: Delaware Lioness, Delaware Lions, Elgin West Chapter IODE, Glencoe Lions, Kiwanis Club of West Lorne, Mount Brydges Lioness, Mount Brydges Lions, Optimist Club of Mount Brydges, Optimist Club of West Lorne, Rodney Kiwanis, Rodney Lions, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 598.

Partnering with the Local 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 2007.



In 2007, staff focused on providing communication services for the Source Protection Program. Many public forums and open houses were held across the watershed.

Communications Products & Services

writing, editing, designing, presenting

- “Lower Thames Beacon” newsletter
- annual reports
- presentations for member municipalities and stakeholder groups
- conservation area brochures and other publications
- displays and exhibits
- advertising and marketing
- website updates
- media releases and public service announcements
- communications plans for special projects

organizing

- meeting facilitation
- public events

fundraising

- employment programs
- conservation projects and services

representation on watershed committees and working groups

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.

Partnering with the Local Community

Moonlight Winter Family Hike

About 100 people visited Longwoods Road Conservation Area on the evening of February 3 for the annual Moonlight Winter Family Hike. It was a very cold and windy winter night. Many people warmed up by the bonfire after their hike and enjoyed a hotdog. Indoors, many people had a hot drink and some homemade chili. George Wickham exhibited his woodcarvings and also demonstrated his craft. Lynn Eves entertained visitors with a dynamic presentation about owls. Downstairs in the museum, children made owl crafts. A big thank you goes out to our Foundation volunteers Dawn and Peter Snow, John Lawrence, Al and Suzanne McGregor, Sandy Wilson, Rick Gray and Anne Smith. Thanks also to Mike and Britney, Bob and Sandy Morrison, Cleve Lowthian, Tyler Clark and our special guests for volunteering their time to help make this event a success!

Owl Prowls

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and family members from the surrounding communities of Mount Brydges, Komoka and Kilworth came to Longwoods to participate in an Owl Prowl in February as well. It didn't take long to hear owls calling back to the group from a recorded screech owl call and soon a few owls were spotted. It was a great night experience to see and learn about owls! The 1st Komoka-Kilworth Scouts made several screech owl nesting boxes which they donated to the LTVCA.

Earth Day and Star Party Event

On Saturday, April 21, the park was busy with people riding their bikes, taking a hike or having a picnic. Many people enjoyed touring the resource centre and making a craft out of recyclables. Outside people were also able to build their own bluebird nesting box. In the evening, the Star Party offered visitors a chance to learn about the world of astronomy. Many thanks to the volunteers from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-London Centre who brought their telescopes and "star" knowledge!

The Thames

- A Canadian Heritage River

In 2007, the Thames River celebrated its seventh year as a Canadian Heritage River.



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The eighth Annual Thames River Clean-up was held in April with thousands of volunteers cleaning up hundreds of kms along the river.

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



The seventh annual Thames River Symposium was hosted in Chatham-Kent. The event included a guided "ghost" bus tour along the Thames.



Over 100 people participated in the Moonlight Winter Family Hike (owl hike) in February.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation



2007 Highlights:

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. Thousands of dollars were raised in 2007 for conservation projects.

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. 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. The Foundation’s Annual Charity Golf Scramble raised over \$5,000 for Conservation Authority projects in 2007.



Through the Foundation’s Memorial Forest Program, the Conservation Authority planted over 400 trees in 2007.



Many thanks to the 48 golfers, 1 “Hole-In-One” sponsor, 28 “One-Hole” sponsors and 46+ 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 \$75,000 over six months for the “Save the Cabins” project. The project was 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 support that the Foundation Directors and the Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society provided towards the success of this project.

By September, the three cabins were virtually completed and a recognition service was held to celebrate the completion of the project in October as part of the “Tastes of Fall - a feast for the senses” annual special event. The event was attended by local Trillium representatives and all the partners that had been a part of this tremendous project.



From start to finish!



A recognition service was held to celebrate the project in October.





The Canadian Heritage Rivers System
The Thames - A Canadian Heritage River

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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