

A close-up photograph of a yellow and black striped butterfly, possibly a Giant Swallowtail, resting on a purple flower. The butterfly's wings are spread, showing prominent black stripes on a yellow background. The background is a dense thicket of green foliage.

Partners in Conservation	3
Chair’s Remarks and Executive Summary	4
Board of Directors and Committees, Budget	5
LTVCA Staff Directory 2008	6
Our Vision, Our Objectives	7
Protecting Life and Property	
Water Management	
Flood Control	8
Great Lakes Levels, Provincial Grant Funding for Capital Maintenance & Flood Forecasting	9
Land Use Planning and Regulations	
Municipal Plan Input and Review Under the Conservation Authorities Act	10
Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses	11
Low Water Response, Other Water Related Initiatives	12
Protecting and Restoring Habitat	
Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Drain Classification	13
Reforestation	
LTVCA Tree Planting Program	14
Forestry Grant Programs	15
Emerald Ash Borer and Conservation Services	17
Research and Monitoring	
Provincial Water Monitoring Program	18
Drinking Water Source Protection - Thames-Sydenham and Region	19
Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn and Respect	
Conservation Lands and Employment Grants	22
Education Programs	24
Partnering with the Local Community	
Community Relations - A Part of All Programs	28
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation	
2008 Highlights	30

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

Arvin Meritor
Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation
Canadian Automobile Association
Canadian Museum Association
Carolinian Canada
Chatham Daily News
Chatham District High School
Chatham-Kent Brain Injury Association
Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village
Chatham-Kent Communities in Bloom
Chatham-Kent Community Foundation
Chatham-Kent Community Living
Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association
Comber Chamber of Commerce
C.M. Wilson Seasonal Campers
Delaware Lioness
Delaware Lions
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Ecole Secondaire de Paincourt
Evergreen Foundation (The)

Forest City Checkers
Friends of Sharon Creek
George Wickham
Glencoe Lions
Goodreau Excavating
Green Streets Canada
Guardians of Longwoods
Handy Brothers Heating and Cooling
John McGregor High School
Kent Christian Farmers Association
Longwood Kennels
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
Mount Brydges Lioness
Mount Brydges Lions
Ontario Archaeological Society, London Chapter
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Optimist Club of Mount Brydges
Optimist Club of West Lorne
Rondeau Bay Watershed Coalition
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 598
Scribendi Editing
Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee
TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation
Thames Canadian Heritage River Committee
The Home Depot
Tilbury District High School – Environment Club
Tilbury and District Horticultural Society
Trees Ontario Foundation
Union Gas
University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus
Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society
Versa Cold Storage
Wallaceburg Community Living
Wheatley Two Creeks Association

Thank You!

And to all other individuals, corporations, foundations, government agencies, Scouts and Guides, youth groups, schools, businesses and service clubs, which have partnered with us in 2008 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. We also publicly recognize our youth and adult volunteers through the annual Ontario Volunteer Services Awards program. Pictured left are the **Forest City Checkers** camping group who have helped out at Longwoods Road Conservation Area for over 30 years!*



Chair's Remarks & Executive Summary

It is my pleasure as Chair, to bring greetings from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA). Our vision is to **work with the local community** to protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations. We serve our member municipalities and residents of the lower Thames region well, working hard to cultivate new and rewarding **partnerships** that help us manage watershed natural resources.

In 2008, 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. A challenging year presented significant runoffs requiring protection from the McGregor Creek Dam. Plan input and review identified potential threats by monitoring new development near or in natural hazard areas. Eighty-four applications were reviewed under the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation.

Habitat was protected and restored through our tenth year of an agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Eighty-six applications for proposed works in watercourses and effects on fish habitat were reviewed in 2008. Great strides were made in reforestation, as staff engaged local schools, community groups and businesses in tree plantings made possible through Chatham-Kent Greening Partnership, Trees Ontario, Trees for Tomorrow, Chatham-Kent Parks Projects, Tall Grass Prairies and the Evergreen / Home Depot - Rebuilding Nature Grant. In 2008, 84,809 trees were planted across the watershed and region.

The LTVCA continued its work in **research and monitoring** with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in the Provincial Water Monitoring Program, laying the groundwork for the development of watershed report cards for the lower Thames region.

The **Drinking Water Source Protection Program** highlights of 2008 included the identification of draft intake protection zones and wellhead protection areas for Lake Erie surface water intakes and the wellheads of Ridgetown and Highgate. The identification of threats to these drinking water sources is underway. The Tier One Water Budget neared completion, showing where drinking water sources may be stressed. Efforts continued to engage First Nations in the process and a First Nations Liaison position was created. Many community outreach efforts were initiated and funding to eligible landowners within municipal intakes or wellhead protected areas was available for stewardship projects. The Terms of Reference or work plan to guide the source protection planning process was developed and submitted to the Province for approval in December 2008.

Conservation lands allow the public to **enjoy, learn and respect the environment**, and provide important habitat for wildlife. In 2008, 7,092 students and chaperones took part in school programs while more than 30,000 visitors enjoyed events, camping and day use. We accessed over \$84,000 of funding to hire ten 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 recognize the volunteer Directors for their ongoing support of the LTVCA. In closing, I thank our Directors who represented their municipalities well over the past year, balancing watershed needs with needs of individual municipalities, and the staff for their dedicated work and support.



Brian King - Chair Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 2008.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Brian W. King".

Brian King - Chair LTVCA

Board of Directors & Committees



Directors conduct their Annual General Meeting in Chatham-Kent at the University of Guelph - Ridgetown College in February, 2008.

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
Rudy Zuyderhoff - Township of Middlesex Centre
John Kavelaars - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Ron Doane - Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
Mary Bodnar - Municipality of West Elgin

Committees:

Personnel and Finance / Executive

Brian King, Stan Lidster, Ron Doane, Paddy Byrne, Bill Derbyshire

Ice Management

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

Ska-Nah-Doht Village

(Conservation Authority Representatives):

Brian King, Stan Lidster, Stanley Caveney, Rudy Zuyderhoff, Ron Doane, Jerry Campbell



2008 Board of Directors L.to R. - Steve Pinsonneault, Ron Doane, John Yokom, Paddy Byrne, Brian King, Rudy Zuyderhoff, Bill Derbyshire, John Kavelaars, Stanley Caveney, Art Stirling. Absent: Stan Lidster, Mary Bodnar.

Budget

The LTVCA's 2008 budget of \$1,842,535 received approval in February.

Funding sources included:

- 26% in Federal and Provincial grants
- 25% in revenues from program and services fees
- 25% in non matching general levy
- 14% in matching direct special benefit levy
- 8% in matching general levy
- 2% in grants from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Staff Directory 2008

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 - Jason Wintermute

Source Protection Technical Coordinator - Chitra Gowda

Environmental & Forestry Partnership Coordinator - Randall VanWagner

Environmental Technical Assistant - Bob Pennington

Source Protection Manager of the Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region - (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 Village and Museum

Community Relations Coordinator - Bonnie Carey

Clerk / Secretary - Agnes Vriends

Village Curator - Karen Mattila

Village Education Technician - Rose Nicholas

Conservation Education Technician - Jerry DeZwart

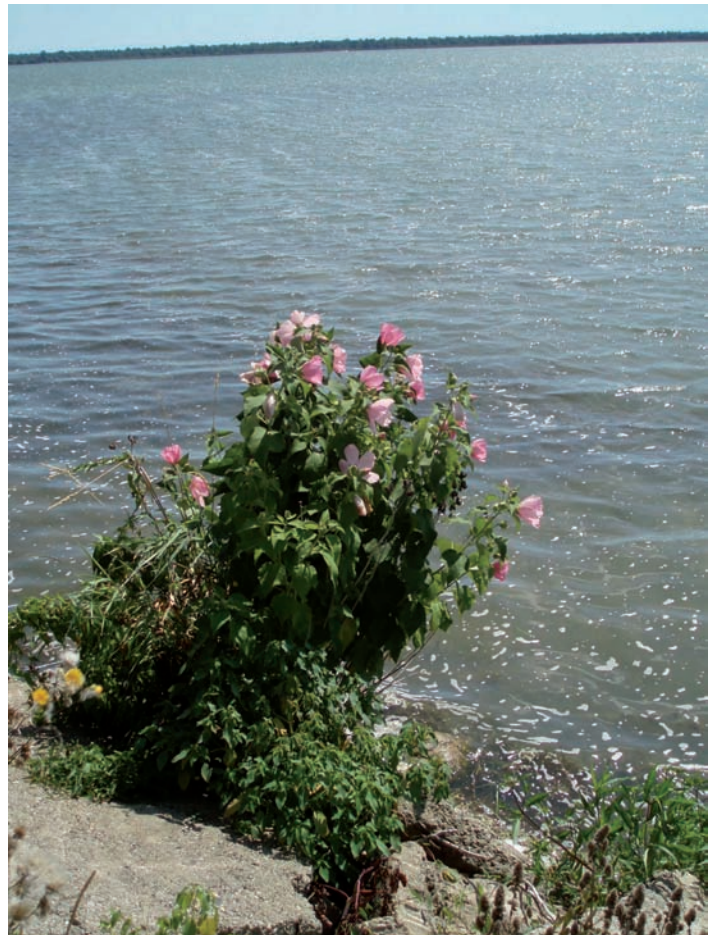
First Nations Liaison / Source Protection Technician
- Derekica Snake

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

Workshop

Western District Supervisor - Russ Dysarz

Hibiscus palustris, commonly known as Swamp Rose-Mallow, is listed as a Species at Risk. It was found growing in the Rondeau Bay watershed this past summer.





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

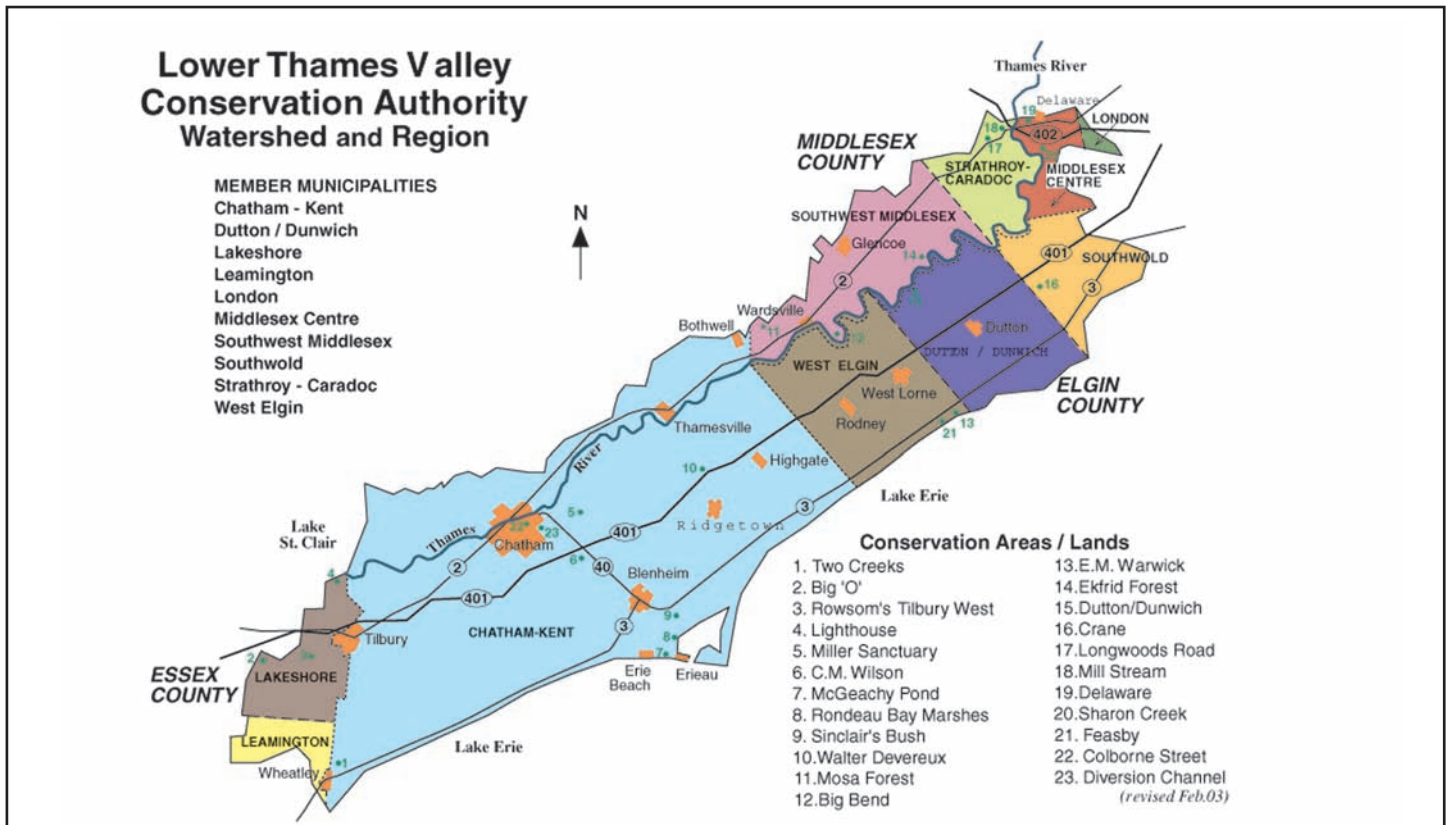
Protecting Life & Property

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

The Conservation Authority was subject to numerous flow events in 2008. In the first week of January, with approximately 27 mm of water equivalent in the upper Thames region snowpack, the area experienced warm temperatures and rainfall amounts from 18 mm in London to 42 mm at Dutton and 24 mm in Chatham. This provided enough runoff for a flow of 678 cubic metres per second (cms) at the Byron gauge on January 10. The Thames River peaked in Chatham at an elevation of 178.35 metres on January 13. If the Thames River had reached 178.6 metres above normal it would have necessitated the closing of the McGregor Creek Dam and the initiation of pumping operations. The LTVCA was fortunate that a 40 mm rainfall pattern tracked south of Lake Erie on the night of January 10.

The river peaked again at the Byron gauge with flows of 259 cms on February 6, 281 cms on February 19, 256 cms on March 4 and 266 cms on March 20. Each event was sufficient to threaten activities in the river flats between Delaware and Chatham but prevented ice buildup in the lower Thames River during the winter.

By March 31, the upper Thames River region had 44 mm water equivalent in the snowpack and there was no ice on the

river downstream of Chatham. Three days of temperatures exceeded 10 degrees Celsius and the region experienced precipitation amounts from 18 mm in London to 22 mm in Thamesville and 24 mm in Windsor. The melting snow and rainfall produced a flow of 875 cms on the Thames River at the Byron gauge on April 2. The LTVCA's concern was of a storm system containing 20 to 30 mm of precipitation, predicted to pass through the lower Great Lakes region on April 4. The system tracked south of Lake Erie and the lower Thames River region received six to eight mm of precipitation. The Conservation Authority closed the dam on McGregor Creek and initiated pumping operations at 1630 hours on April 4. The Thames River peaked in Chatham on April 5 at an elevation of 179.0 metres on April 5. Dam operations were then terminated on April 6.

Another significant runoff event occurred at the end of December. By mid December there was no snow in the upper Thames River region of the watershed. Minimal ice covered the river in the lower Thames River region. On December 15 the area received between 10 and 15 mm of rainfall and temperatures up to nine degrees Celsius. This created a flow at the Byron gauge of 320 cms on December 18 which flooded the flats of the lower Thames River valley. The river subsided, but in the next few days, the area received heavy snowfalls and a snow/rain mix on December 23 and 24 bringing 30 to 45 mm of precipitation. Temperatures reached a record 14 degrees Celsius on December 27 with a five to ten mm rainfall. This combination of climactic events produced a flow of 930 cms on the Thames River at the Byron gauge on December 29. The flows from this event at the Byron gauge were similar to early April and in February of 1997. However, the flow in the river in the Thamesville and Chatham areas was much higher during this event. The gauge at Thamesville recorded a flow of 820 cms on December 31 and Chatham recorded a water level of 179.5 metres on January 1. The LTVCA closed the dam on McGregor Creek and initiated pumping operations between 1800 hours on December 30 and 2300 hours on January 2. This event flooded the riverflats upstream of Chatham and caused flooding to many streets, parks and low lying areas beside the river within the Chatham urban area. Several basements of King Street merchants also received flooding during this event.



The Delaware flats near Interchange 86 of the 402 were completely flooded by the Thames River in December.

Protecting Life & Property

Date	Byron Flow (cms)	Thamesville Flow (cms)	Chatham Water Level (m.)
February 3 to 5, 1968	980	840*	180.3*
March 15 to 18, 1977	970	955	180.0
April 14 to 19, 1979	810	860	179.3
April 1 to 4, 1982	835	690	179.2
Feb 25 to 27, 1985	820	860*	180.4*
January 4 to 9, 1993	800	660	178.9
February 20 to 24, 1997	930	700	179.1
July 10 to 14, 2000	920	465	177.8
March 6 to 10, 2004	775	595	178.6
April 2 to 6, 2008	875	645	179.0
December 27 to 31, 2008	925	820	179.5



*Comparison of the two significant flow events of 2008 with other recent flood events. Note * affected by ice jamming.*

Great Lakes Levels

The Great Lakes generally tracked on their long term average levels during 2008. Lake St. Clair began the year about 25 cm below the long term average but quickly ramped up to the long term average by mid February. It then receded to spend the remainder of the year 10 to 20 cm below the long term average. Lake Erie spent the entire

year of 2008 with levels within 10 cm of the long term average. The long term averages of both Lakes Erie and St. Clair are approximately 70 cm lower than the long term high lake levels reached in the mid 1980's. With lake levels at this point and the lack of any significant wind generated storms, no flood events were recorded on the lakes in 2008.

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 2008 as well as comparable numbers in 2007 and 2006. The costs outlined are the grants received. Eligible project costs would be twice the number shown in the table.

Category	2008	2007	2006
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

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 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.



1,108 plan reviews for LTVCA municipalities were completed in 2008.

PLAN REVIEW						
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Official Plans (OP)	2	3	0	1	2	2
Official Plan Amendments (OPA)	8	11	7	3	8	15
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws (ZB)	2	3	0	1	5	0
Zoning Bylaw Amendments (ZA)	135	102	109	107	137	118
Severances (SEV)	132	128	124	118	181	66
Minor Variances (MV)	39	46	49	50	59	185
Plans of Subdivision (SUB)	1	3	11	3	8	6
Drainage Reports & Maintenance. (DR)	54	49	49	96	75	44
Property Clearances (PC)	41	72	33	47	42	40
General Property Inquiries (GPI)	694	731	452	317	374	308
Total	1,108	1,148	834	743	891	784

Planning development issues reviewed in 2008.

2008 Municipal Plan Input and Review Services										
Official Plans			1			1				
Official Plan Amendments	6		1			1				
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws						1			1	
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	86	15	6	1		1	22			4
Severances	81	13	2	8		5	12		2	9
Minor Variances	21	2	1	1		2	7	1	1	3
Plans of Subdivision	1									
Property Clearances	25	6				2	2		1	5
Drainage Reports	40	2	4			1	3	1	1	2
General Property Inquiries	418	26	56	7	4	15	26	14	17	38
TOTAL SERVICES PER MUNICIPALITY	678	64	71	17	4	29	72	16	23	61
SERVICES										
MUNICIPALITY	Chatham-Kent	Dutton/Dunwich	Lakeshore	Leamington	London	Middlesex Centre	Southwest Middlesex	Southwold	Strathroy-Caradoc	West Elgin

Plan input and review services by Municipality 2008.

Protecting Life & Property

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

In 2008, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Ontario set up a Peer Review and Implementation Committee for Section 28 Regulations. The purpose of the committee was to prepare Policy Guidelines for the “Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation”. A draft document was produced by the Committee in 2008.

The new Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations To Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation came into effect in May of 2006. More landowners are becoming aware of the Regulation and are concerned with how the regulation affects their property. The main objective of the 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 LTVCA reviewed 84 applications under this Regulation in 2008. Three applications required a hearing before the Conservation Authority’s Executive Committee and all were approved with conditions.

LTVCA staff attended a landowner open house in the Municipality of West Elgin in mid April. The meeting dealt with the inclusion of Provincially Significant Wetlands in the West Elgin Official Plan. West Elgin has more Provincially Significant Wetlands within its boundary than any other municipality in the LTVCA. As the wetlands are regulated under the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations To Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation, staff reviewed the Operational Guidelines we use in dealing with applications under the regulation.



The main objective of the 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. This picture illustrates the flooding that occurred in the Thames River flats in Delaware, December 2008.



The Elgin Nature Reserve is a Provincially Significant Wetland, located on Downie Line at Colley Road, Municipality of West Elgin. The green lines indicate the extent of the wetland within the larger woodlot.

Protecting Life & Property

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 dry weather conditions of 2007 meant that the Conservation Authority entered 2008 in a Level One Low Water 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. However the numerous precipitation events in the early months of 2008 brought about the removal of this condition. Dry weather was not a factor for the remainder of 2008.



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

Other Water Related Initiatives

Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI)

The Province has a program that provides 50% grants for repairs to existing flood and erosion control projects of Conservation Authorities. It is known as the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Program (WECI). LTVCA obtained funding in 2008 for a study to find a solution to the scour erosion problem on the bottom of the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel. Dillon Consulting of Chatham completed the study in late 2008 for a cost of approximately \$18,000.

2010 Provincial Air Photo Initiative

The Province, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, is laying the groundwork for another air photo project in Southern Ontario in 2010. Jason Wintermute, an LTVCA staff member, is on the planning committee. In early March of 2008, the LTVCA hired Jason as our GIS Specialist / Resource Technician. He holds a degree in Water Resources Engineering from the University of Guelph, a Master's degree from the University of Windsor in Computer Science and over two years of related GIS experience.

Thames River Clearwater Revival

The LTVCA supported the Thames River Clearwater Revival initiative in 2008. This is a City of London led project to form a partnership for finding solutions to reduce pollution in the Thames River caused by sewage treatment bypasses.

Rondeau Bay and Species at Risk

A group consisting of staff members from the Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Fisheries & Oceans, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Conservation Authority, is concerned with aquatic weed removal in Rondeau Bay and the protection of the Species at Risk located here. The focus of the group is to work with the local community to promote awareness within Rondeau Bay about safe and approved practices for controlling weed growth and protecting Species at Risk.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) Drain Classification

2008 marked the tenth year of an agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for the review of proposed works in watercourses and their effect on fish habitat as it relates to the Federal Fisheries Act. The Conservation Authority entered a “Level Two” agreement with DFO in 2004. Level Two status means that 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.

In 2008, the Conservation Authority dealt with 86 applications regarding the review of municipal drainage reports, notices of maintenance on municipal drains, private landowner projects, culvert installations and the Talbot Trail upgrades including culvert repair and replacements in the Municipality of West Elgin. In comparison, there were 106 applications in 2007.

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 four to six meetings per year.



A recent drain maintenance project undertaken by a municipality, in cooperation with DFO and their concerns for maintaining fish habitat, resulted in a low flow channel dug down the middle of the drain. This drain had been completely choked, bank to bank, by vegetation restricting water flows downstream and causing localized flooding on upstream agricultural lands. This new, narrower channel, provides for improved water flows, maintains bank stability, allows for fish movement further upstream in the spring for spawning purposes and maintains habitat quality. A healthier, more stabilized drain results, which has the ability to filter out and trap more sediments and nutrients from the water column. Sediment ponds are usually dug in the drain bottom at convenient access points so the municipality can clean them out as needed. This results in less time and money spent on cleaning out entire drain lengths, providing a cost savings to ratepayers on the drain.



Due to its age and undersized span capacity, this bridge will need to be replaced.



This open bottomed culvert appears in good condition but the bottom has eroded. The stream has deepened, resulting in the culvert's walls becoming undermined, which creates unstable footing.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Reforestation

LTVCA Tree Planting Program

From 1988 to 2008 the LTVCA has planted approximately 1,868,247 trees within its jurisdiction. In 2008, a total of 84,809 trees were planted into windbreaks, new woodlots on private lands, reforestation, memorial forests and Conservation Authority (CA) properties. Of these trees, 60,000 were planted in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (C-K) under the Greening Partnership. The cost to landowners and municipalities for the LTVCA to supply trees varied depending upon the size and species, ranging from \$0.60 - \$2.50 for seedlings to \$15 - \$20 for large stock trees. A minimum tree order of \$100 was required plus a minimum of 25 trees per species. The primary source of trees were commercial nurseries including Baker's Nursery, Bayfield, Forest Care, St. William's, Richardson's Pineneedle, Pontypool and Somerville Industries, Everett. Versa Cold Storage in Chatham donated a cooler for the trees, which were sorted, packaged and then distributed to the customers.

Trees Sold To Individuals for Private Planting in 2008

Town of Strathroy-Caradoc	435
Municipality of Southwest Middlesex	2,915
City of London	475
Municipality of West Elgin	6,973
Municipality of Dutton / Dunwich	4,200
Township of Southwold	3,128
Township of Middlesex Centre	595
Municipality of Leamington	1,542
Town of Lakeshore	934
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	<u>60,000</u>
	81,197

Memorial Forest Plantings in 2008

McKinlay Woodlands at C.M. Wilson	407
Tilbury Northside Park	16
Badder & Robinson at Mosa Forest	100
Comber District Historical Society	25
Sharon Creek	3
Big Bend	<u>1</u>

552

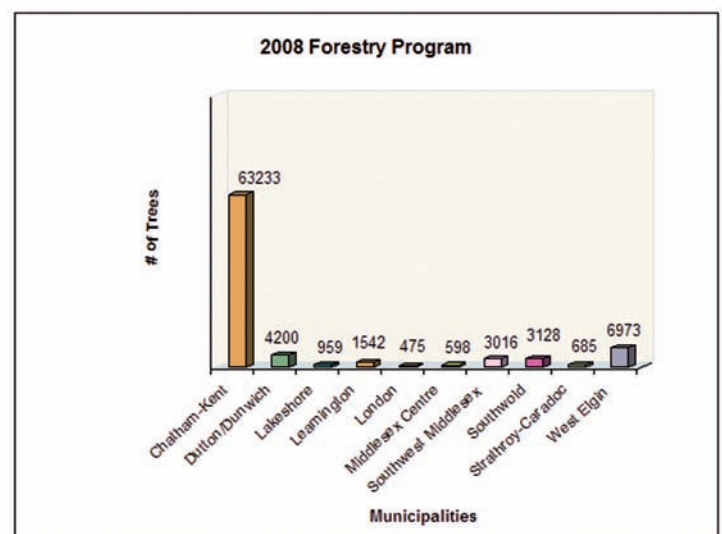
Conservation Area Plantings	1,260
Surplus Trees to Chatham-Kent	1,800

TOTAL TREES PLANTED 2008 **84,809**

Several municipal tree workshop sessions were held by staff across the watershed. Randall Van Wagner, Environmental Project Coordinator and Bob Pennington, Environmental Technical Assistant, attended numerous workshops and seminars during 2008 including a combined Trees Ontario Foundation (TOF) and LTVCA tree planting workshop at the University of Guelph's Ridgetown campus. Staff attended a Carolinian Canada woodland conference in London, where they made a presentation on the C-K "Greening Partnership"- considered to be a unique program instigated by C-K and approved by their Council.

In **March** a similar presentation was well received at the Kent Christian Farmers Association in Chatham. Later that same month, a Trees Ontario workshop on stock handling was attended in Woodstock.

In **June**, a tour of the Emerald Ash Borer Response program sites was held with members of the steering committee from the Essex Region CA and Essex and Kent Stewardship coordinators. The two sites chosen in the LTVCA watershed were at Stevenson and Wheatley.



Forestry program by Municipality 2008.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat



Partially funded through Trees Ontario's 50 million program, 8,250 trees were planted by LTVCA staff on an 11 acre site in Wheatley. The site was one of five chosen in Ontario for a media event. In photo from L. to R.: landowners Freda and Paul Brown, TOF president Micheal Scott, MPP of Essex Kent Pat Hoy, and LTVCA's General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Campbell.

A one day workshop was held in **July** at the Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. This was under the auspices of the TOF and a cross section of the

tree planting industry was in attendance from CA's, growers and various Government Departments. The meeting was highlighted by the attendance of the Hon. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources.

August saw the annual "Communities in Bloom" contest in C-K. Staff presented to the judges based on the "Trees for Tomorrow" program. It was well received and suggested that the presentation be made to their National Assembly. Under the categories of Urban Forestry and Environmental, the presentations have aided in improving the judges' scores for the last three years.

In **November**, another joint TOF and LTVCA workshop was held in Tilbury and staff attended the C-K "Be the change" conference at the University of Guelph's Ridgetown campus. Each participant was given a potted tree to take home. The trees were grown from seed in the propagation greenhouse at C-K's Horticultural complex on Grand Ave. E., through the "Trees for Tomorrow" program.

Forestry Grant Programs

Trees for Tomorrow

This project has two goals - education and tree production. This project is taking off in its second year. Volunteers collected seeds, stratified (store the seed to mimic natural conditions), propagated seeds and planted the seedlings in a nursery. The C-K Horticultural Department donated a 25' x 50' greenhouse at their greenhouse complex in Chatham and through a \$2,000 Home Depot Grant, propagation benches were built. Scribendi Editing donated 10,000 peat pots and challenged other businesses to do the same. In the spring, local groups from schools, C-K Community Living and public volunteers planted over 10,000 tree seeds. Around 2,000 were given away at Earth Day and Cancer Awareness Day events held by the C-K Health Alliance. The remaining 8,000 were transplanted into nurseries at the C. M. Wilson and Walter Devereux Conservation Areas, to be used in community projects.



In the spring, over 10,000 tree seeds were planted by local groups.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Forestry Grant Programs

Chatham-Kent Parks Projects

A coalition of community groups and national agencies are collaborating to increase tree cover at Tilbury Northside Park. In a kick off ceremony, Chatham-Kent (C-K) Mayor Randy Hope attended while groups planted ceremonial trees. Kathy Cottingham of the Tilbury Business Improvement Association, Ed Borczon of Trees Canada and Jeff Marshall of the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) were on hand along with members of the Tilbury and District Horticultural Society and students from Tilbury District High School Environmental Club. LTVCA staff member Randall Van Wagner coordinated the event. With \$3,500 donated from Green Streets Canada and the CAA, approximately 3,000 trees will be planted by spring of 2009. Arvin Meritor arranged to have equipment provided by Tilbury rentals for site preparation and Goodreau Excavating volunteered to make the improvements to the large pond.

Union Gas and the C-K Community Foundation contributed funds and volunteers to plant over 100 large stock trees along the Indian Creek Trail. Handy Brothers Heating and Cooling donated a portion of their sales to the Greening Partnership and in the spring of 2008, over 100 trees were planted by their staff and the C-K Brain Injury Association along the Trail. Species included Red Bud, Paw Paw, Kentucky Coffee Tree and Shumard Oak.

A grant of \$4,400 has been received from the Evergreen Foundation towards the planting of large stock trees at Kingston Park in Chatham. This amount will be matched by C-K's Parks and Recreation Department and the money used to replace dead trees removed in the fall of 2008. Work is scheduled to start in late spring 2009.

Tall Grass Prairie Project

LTVCA staff organized a two acre tall grass prairie planting project in the fall of 2008, at C-K's Maple Leaf Cemetery beside Indian Creek.

Volunteers from the Rondeau Bay Watershed Coalition and the horticultural class from John McGregor High School in Chatham helped out. The supervisor of cemeteries, Greg Kett, suggested more land may be available for a similar planting in 2009. Chatham Daily News filmed a video of the project, which can be viewed at www.chathamdailynews.ca.



Volunteers planted a tall grass prairie at C-K's Maple Leaf Cemetery last fall.

Evergreen Foundation Grant

Through the Greening Partnership and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation, a grant of \$10,000 was secured from the Evergreen/Home Depot - Rebuilding Nature Grant Program. Over 6,000 trees were planted at the McGregor Creek Diversion property. Jacob Trudell, a C-K District High School co-op student, built 25 blue bird and four barn owl nest boxes for the site. The three km grassed Diversion Channel provides excellent hunting grounds for both bird species.



A local co-op student built 25 blue bird and four barn owl nest boxes.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Regulated Area continues to grow and expand in Southwestern Ontario with six regions designated as regulated areas for EAB listed under six separate Ministerial Orders:

·Essex County · Municipality of Chatham-Kent
·Lambton County · Elgin County · Middlesex County
·Norfolk County · City of Toronto

EAB has also been confirmed in Ontario in the Municipality of Bluewater and in Pickering, Sault Ste. Marie, Vaughan, Ottawa, Mississauga, Brampton, Oakville, and in the Montérégie region of Quebec. The EAB has killed millions of ash trees in Southwestern Ontario, Michigan and surrounding states, and poses a major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas in both countries. The EAB attacks and kills all species of ash, except Mountain ash which is not a true ash.

All facilities located in EAB regulated areas that produce ash lumber, 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 Canadian Food Inspection Agency (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 for EAB. Property owners that had ash trees ordered destroyed in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent 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 2008. Judging was conducted in December and the award was presented at the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association Annual Meeting in mid January of 2009. The award in 2008 went to Charlie, Ron and Brian Craeymeersch of Thamesville.

For at least 20 years the LTVCA has made a contribution to the Scholarships and Awards Committee at Ridgetown College. The award in 2008 was the sponsorship of "Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award". The award has a monetary value of \$200 and was awarded to Mark Uher of Blenheim, at the convocation in May. The College implemented a two year diploma program approximately five years ago called the Environmental Management Diploma Course. In 2008, an LTVCA staff member sat on an advisory panel to provide feedback on the program. The College held a one day review session of the program in 2008.



LTVCA's Jack Robertson (left) presented the 2008 Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award to Mark Uher (right).



The LTVCA presented the 2008 Conservation Farmer Award at the January 2009 meeting. Left to right: Association President Ed VandeWynckel, recipients - brothers Ron and Brian Craeymeersch with their father, Charlie Craeymeersch, and Bob Pennington, of the LTVCA.

Research & Monitoring

Provincial Water Monitoring Program

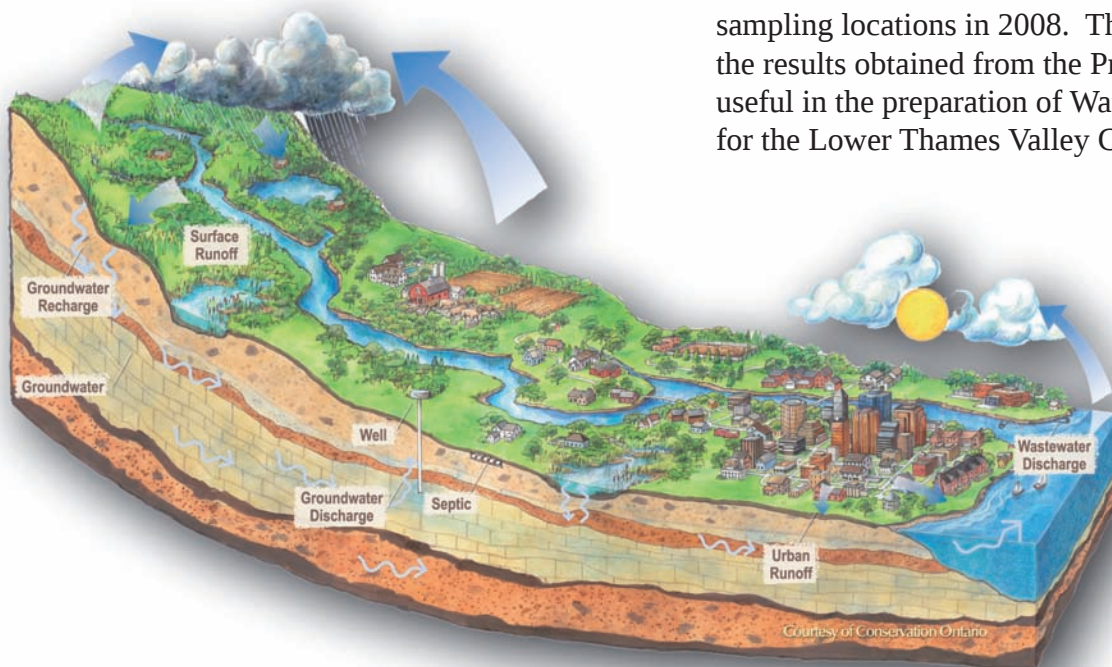
The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) continued to work with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program. The intent of the program is to have a provincial network for monitoring ambient ground water conditions. Such a network will assist in the monitoring of potential drought conditions and in the implementation of Provincial and local action plans and environmental decision making by municipalities and the Province.

In 2008, the LTVCA undertook water sampling at six of the wells and sent the samples to a laboratory for analysis. We also continued working with the MOE, sampling in-stream waters at nine locations within our jurisdiction. In this program, water is collected on a monthly basis in spring, summer and fall and sent to the MOE laboratory in Toronto for testing. The results

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

After many years of sampling, both the MOE and the LTVCA met in 2008 to determine the future direction of our stream sampling. We wanted to obtain samples at more locations, while MOE was constrained in lab resources they could allocate to the LTVCA for the program. The LTVCA could add three sampling locations but the sampling protocols at these “added and existing” locations would have to be altered so the same number of samples could be tested at the MOE lab. These changes could be accomplished, as some elements at several of the sites were not changing. Based on land uses within the subwatersheds, future changes were not anticipated.

The LTVCA tested for *E. coli* at each of its stream sampling locations in 2008. These results, along with the results obtained from the Provincial lab, will be useful in the preparation of Watershed Report Cards for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.



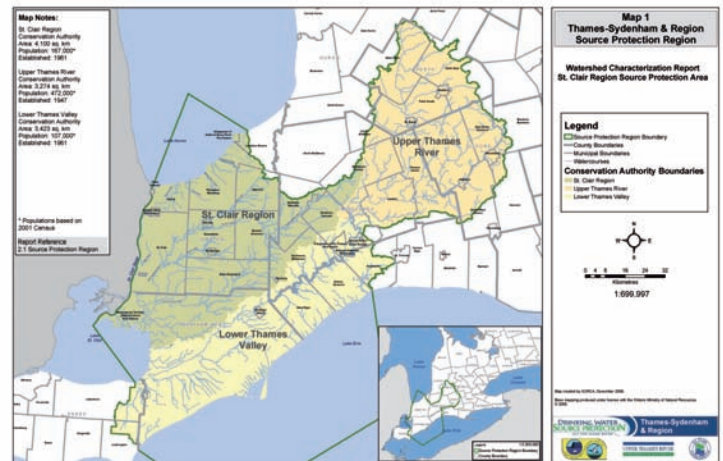
This graphic of a watershed's hydrologic cycle illustrates the connection between land use and our groundwater. "Groundwater is found underground in the spaces between particles of rock and soil, or in crevices and cracks in rock. The water filling these openings is usually within 100 metres of the surface. Much of the earth's fresh water is found in these spaces." (Environment Canada Freshwater Website)

Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region

Water is critical to all aspects of our lives and it is important that we ensure there is a safe and reliable source of water for all our uses - now and in the future. Our municipal drinking water comes from lakes, rivers, streams or underground sources (aquifers) located across the province. Clean and plentiful water supplies are among the most important natural resources. In our region, most municipalities rely on piped water from the Great Lakes. This does not lessen the importance of protecting water source areas within our watersheds. We need to be proactive to protect our watersheds and, as a result, the Great Lakes upon which we depend.

In this area, the Upper Thames River, Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities have partnered together to coordinate the development of Source Protection Plans for our watersheds. We are committed to working with our municipalities, other stakeholders and the public to develop Source Protection Plans that serve to protect our drinking water while taking into account the other needs of our communities.

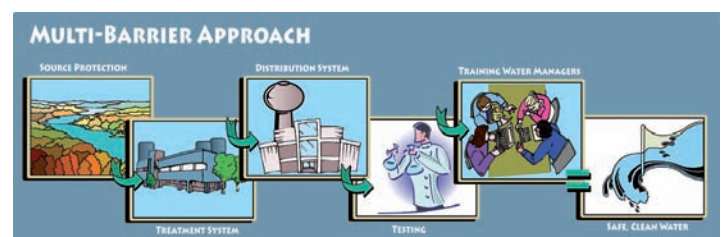
Source Protection Committee: On November 19, 2007 the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee was appointed. The 22 member committee represents a wide range of interests and brings a considerable breadth of knowledge and experience to the table. As laid out in the regulations, one-third of the Committee is composed of municipal members; members representing the major sectors in the region are to make up one-third of the committee; and environmental non-government organizations, recreation, academics, landowners and individuals make up the remaining one-third. The Minister of the Environment appointed Robert Bedggood as chair of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection



The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region.

Committee. In addition, there are three seats available for First Nations' representation on the Committee.

The responsibility of the Source Protection Committee is to guide the development of local source protection plans. An important part of this process will be public and stakeholder involvement. Over the next five years, there will be a number of opportunities to become involved through open houses, forums and working groups. In addition, information will be provided through publications such as this one and through our website at www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca. Information on committee meetings including notices, meeting minutes and reports can also be accessed through the website.



To date, the Source Protection Committee has been reviewing technical information which has been collected over the last two years. At its February 2008 meeting, the Source Protection Committee agreed upon a Mission Statement and a set of Guiding Principles:

Mission Statement:

Protect sources of drinking water by developing a plan based on science and local cooperation.

We value:

- Fair and reasonable solutions
- Consensus within our diverse area group
- Clarity of information
- Open communication
- Respecting diversity of opinion

2008 Highlights

In the Lower Thames Valley Source Protection Area, vulnerability analysis technical studies identified the draft intake protection zones and wellhead protection areas outlined in the legislation for Lake Erie surface water intakes to the South Kent/Chatham, Wheatley and West Elgin water treatment plants, and the wellheads of the Ridgetown and Highgate well supply systems. Work is going on at identifying threats within these zones. The release of the Technical Rules by the Province provides the framework for the vulnerability analysis, threat inventories and risk assessment work.

The **Tier One Water Budget** was substantially completed. The purpose of a water budget is to identify where drinking water sources may be stressed and determine those areas where water taking might have an impact on those sources. The Tier One Water Budget identifies those sub-watersheds where additional water budget work is required.

Efforts continued to engage First Nations in the Drinking Water Source Protection process. A First Nations Liaison position was created to help to encourage the sharing of information between First Nation Communities and the Source Protection Committee. A 2009 calendar was produced highlighting traditional knowledge related to water.



In 2008, the Source Protection Committee visited many drinking water systems, including those servicing First Nations communities in order to grasp a better understanding of local issues and situations.

Community outreach efforts are an important part of delivering the Source Protection Program. In 2008 several open houses were held throughout the region; a tabloid was distributed to 186,000 households; regular updates were distributed to stakeholders; two Children's Water Festivals were supported; and presentations were made to a number of organizations.

Under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship program, funding for various projects is provided to eligible landowners within a certain area of a municipal intake or wellhead. These areas have been expanded in this year's round of funding. These expanded areas of vulnerability are to be approved through municipal council. The projects that may be funded include septic tank upgrade, decommissioning of abandoned wells and pollution prevention reviews.



Several open houses were held through the Thames-Sydenham and Region including this one at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus.

The first major task of the Source Protection Committee was to develop a work plan that will guide the source protection planning process for the next five years. The work plan – called the **Terms of Reference** was developed with input from municipalities, stakeholders and the public. The Terms of Reference outlines who does what, when it will happen and how much it will cost. It will guide us through the completion of the **Assessment Report** and the **Source Protection Plan** itself. There was a Terms of Reference document developed for each Source Protection Area in the region (one for each Conservation Authority area). Following input from a number of open houses and public meetings, the Committee revised the Terms of Reference and it was submitted to the Province for approval in December 2008.

Development of the Source Protection Plan

**Implement the Plan
Monitor
Revise**

Source Protection Plan

- how do we deal with the risks to drinking water sources

2012

Posting of Source Protection Plan
Consultation on Draft Source Protection Plan
Source Protection Plan Submitted to Minister August 2012
Source Protection Plan Approved

2011

Development of Policies

2010

Assessment Report submitted to Province

2009

Approved by Minister

Open Houses and Sector Forums
for Assessment Report findings

2008

Watershed Characterization Report Submitted
Tier I Water Budget
Committee Vision and Mission Adopted
Municipal Forums
Surface and Groundwater Municipal Working Groups established
Draft Posting and Open Houses
Final Posting

2007

Clean Water Act Passed
Chair Bob Bedggood appointed by Minister
Source Protection Committee Formed

2006

Conservation Authorities and Ministry of the Environment
agree to work together in Source Protection Planning
Collection of background information for:
- Watershed Description Report
- Watershed Characterization Report
- Conceptual Water Budget
- develop Participation Discussion Paper
- sector and public forums held
- Municipal Technical Studies

Threats and Risk Assessment

- what areas are vulnerable and what threats are in those areas

Terms of Reference

- preparing a work plan

Getting Started

Pre-Legislation

- doing our homework

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.



The seven acre tall grass prairie at Sharon Creek Conservation Area had a prescribed burn in April to maintain this endangered plant community.



Through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Ranger program, students arrived at Ska-Nah-Doht Village to help with repairs and maintenance.



LTVCA staff helped the Comber Chamber of Commerce with trail maintenance at the Big "O" Conservation Area - a southwestern Ontario birding 'hot spot'.



In May, LTVCA staff assisted at the St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival in St. Thomas. The second annual Chatham-Kent Children's Water Festival was held in October at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Both events were successes as a result of the hard work of the steering committees' members and volunteers.

In 2008, the LTVCA received \$83,495.87 of funding for workers to assist with the completion of projects over and above those of full time staff in forestry, watershed planning, water quality sampling, groundwater monitoring, community relations, visitor services, museum assistance and GIS. These people gained experience working 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.

Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities

- 4 positions - (3 Field Workers and 1 Water Resources Technician), value \$300,007 (\$54,144 labour costs, \$11,001 support costs, \$234,862 LTVCA In-kind costs), 7 months
- worked on Provincial Groundwater Monitoring and Water Quality Programs, the Provincial Dam Inventory Project and a Ground-Water-Fed Stream project, installation of underground hydro and water lines to various Children's Water Festival activity sites at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, installation of new playground equipment at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, replacement/repair of bridges at several conservation areas, repair of gravel access roads at conservation areas, preparation of land at various sites for tree/tall grass prairie planting, removal of ash trees effected by emerald ash borer at various conservation areas and repairs and maintenance to the McGregor Creek dam and control building

Young Canada Works in Heritage (Canadian Museum Association)

- 1 position - Design Assistant, value \$4,563.36, 76 days, student designed graphics for Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum (position was extended into 2009)

Summer Experience Program

- Experience Program - 1 position Assistant Water Resources Technician, value \$4,506.51, 34 days, undertook work related to the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program, Provincial Water Quality Program, the Provincial Dam Inventory Project and a Ground-Water-Fed Stream project

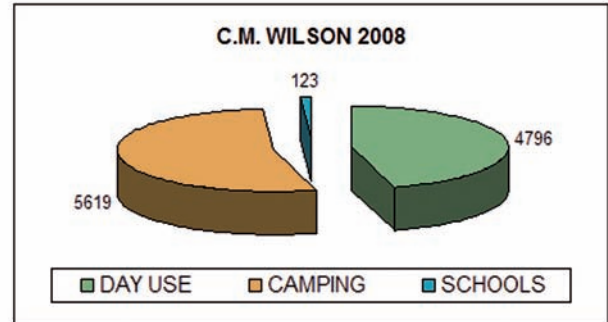
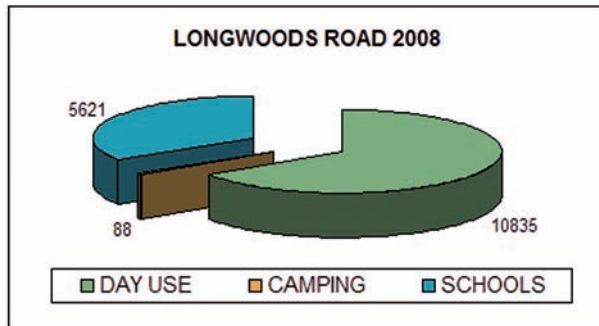
Canada Summer Jobs

- 4 positions
 - 2 Assistant Water Resources Technicians, value \$4,051, 12 weeks each, undertook work related to the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program, Provincial Water Quality Program, the Provincial Dam Inventory Project and a Ground-Water-Fed Stream project
 - 2 Museum Activities Coordinators, value \$5,230, 9 weeks each, designed a travelling display of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum for community events

Greening Partnership

- 2 positions - Municipality of Chatham-Kent (C-K) council approved 2 positions for a second term in 2008 to implement the Greening Partnership (LTVCA, C-K, and Stewardship Kent) with a mandate to green Chatham-Kent, through tree planting, wetland, and tall grass prairie restorations

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect



Visitation 2008.

MUNICIPALITY	Chatham-Kent									Dutton/Dunwich	Lakeshore			Middlesex Centre		Southwest Middlesex			Southwold	Strathroy-Caradoc		West Elgin	
FACILITIES																							
Land Area (hectares)	35.21	2.22	30	1.62	20.64	14.97	33.55	39.83	.48	93	78	25.66	4.37	46.37	3.06	36.42	40.47	121.2	3.19	9.22	59.68	7.88	14.16
Day Use	■	■	4796	■	■	■	1000's	■	■	■	■	■	■	1000's	■	■		■	■		10835		■
Historic / Museum											■												
School Program			123																		5621		
ANSI / PSW Site				■	■	■												■			■		
Wetland/Rivers	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■
Forest	■	■		■			■			■		■	■	■			■	■	■		■		■
Family Camping			5619													1169							
Group Camping			■					■				■		■		■					88		2411
Memorial Forest			■					■				■		■		■		■					
Volunteer Groups			■					■						■							■		
Pavilion			■					■				■				■					■	■	■
Trails / Boardwalks	■		■	■		■	■					■	■	■		■		■			■	■	■
Fishing			■		■	■				■	■			■	■	■					■		■
Boat Launch										■						■							
Unsupervised Beach			■			■								■		■							■
Picnic Table			■			■	■				■					■					■		■
CONSERVATION AREA LANDS	Walter Devereux	Miller Sanctuary	C.M. Wilson	Sinclair's Bush	Rondeau Bay Marshes	McGeachy Pond	Two Creeks	Diversion Channel	Colborne Street	Dutton/Dunwich	Lighthouse	Rowsons Tilbury West	Big 'O'	Sharon Creek	Delaware	Big Bend	Ekfrid Forest	Mosa Forest	Crane	Mill Stream/Janes Bush	Longwoods Road	Feasby	E.M. Warwick

LTVCA Conservation Area Facilities, Services and Recorded Attendance 2008.

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect Education Programs

	SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE						COMBINATION SKA-NAH-DOHT and CONSERVATION EDUCATION				CONSERVATION EDUCATION LONGWOODS ROAD C.A.					
	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day	# Students Full Day	# classes full day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes full day	# Students Full Day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day	# Students Full Day	# classes full day
January	30		2	50	173	7					9	1	1	15	16	1
February	21		4	94	88	4					18	4	5	89		
March	29				185	7	3		1	10						
April	67	5	2	61	399	17					9		1	16	28	1
May	98	7	6	118	416	19	5		1	20	44		11	234		
June	125	66	7	124	460	21	4		1	19	35		3	68	142	8
September	54	2	7	139	224	8					10		3	81		
October	124	5	7	161	663	26	9		4	115	86	8	18	363	85	4
November	114		8	185	558	23										
December	45	6	8	188	34	2										
TOTALS	707	91	51	1120	3200	134	21	0	7	164	211	13	42	866	271	14

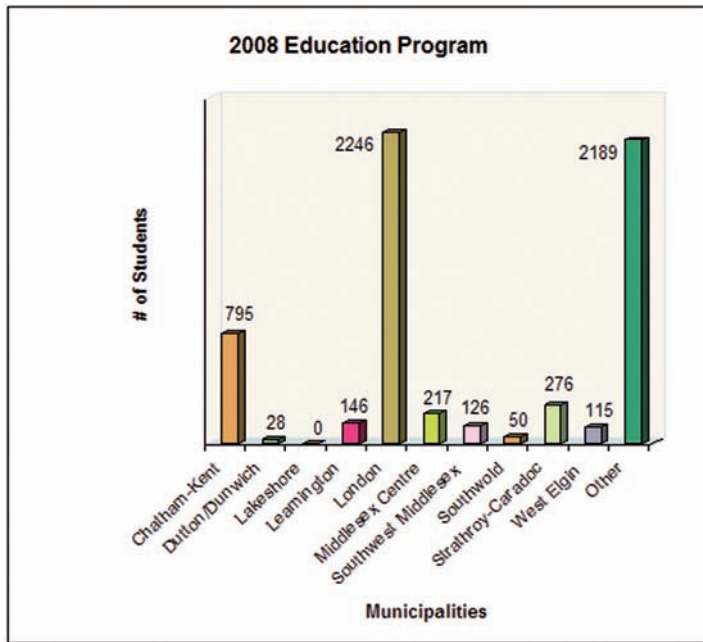
	CONSERVATION EDUCATION C.M. WILSON C.A.						CONSERVATION EDUCATION SHARON CREEK C.A.				CONSERVATION EDUCATION OUTREACH					
	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day	# Students Full Day	# classes full day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day	# classes quarter day	# Students Quarter Day	# classes half day	# Students Half Day	# Students Full Day	# classes full day
January																
February																
March											13	280				
April																
May	1		1	14												
June	20	8			74	4										
September																
October																
November	7		2	35												
December																
TOTALS	28	8	3	49	74	4	0	0	0	0	13	280	0	0	0	0

Education program statistics 2008.



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

Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect



Education programs by Municipality 2008.



Ducks Unlimited sponsored "Project Webfoot", a wetland program offered at Longwoods Road.



Learning to snowshoe makes winter an enjoyable experience at Longwoods Road!

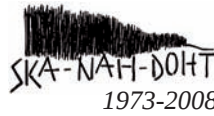
Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect Education Programs

Logo-a-Go-Go

In 2008, the Village Advisory Committee accepted a new logo. The former logo designed by Jack Roper in 1973 will be retired. The new logo was created by Ian Bullock, a Design student on staff through a Young Canada Works in Heritage Grant. The Haudenosaunee or “People of the Longhouse” who the village and educational program represents inspired Ian.

Advisory Committee

Don Fairbairn - Chair
Ron Watts - Vice-chair
Brian King, Stan Lidster,
Ron Doane, Rudy Zuyderhoff,
Stan Caveney, Andy Chisholm,
Glenn Stott, Warren Huff,
Jerry Campbell



2009...

The white pine draws from the “Tree of Peace”. It represents the coming together of all the Haudenosaunee nations to inspire each other through reasoning and spiritual means. We encourage the open exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing with open hearts and open minds. The corn husk dolls represent the harmony of nature and an agricultural society. The stylization comes from the celestial bead work designs of the Haudenosaunee.



Ian Bullock, a design student, was hired to create a new logo for the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum.



The village hosted the annual events - Archaeology Day in July, Nightwalk with the Spirits in August and Tastes of Fall in October. All were successful and well attended.

Along with the new logo came the decision to drop the word “Iroquoian” from the official name of the village. From the language of the longhouse people, Ska-Nah-Doht “a village stands again” is recognized in the community and does not need any more description.

The Budget

The Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum budget for 2008 was \$202,507. We received financial support from the Ministry of Culture through the Community Museum Operating Grant for \$22,992.

Education Programs

A total of 4,484 students and 819 supervisors and parents enjoyed the Village Programs this year. There were 874 workshop participants also.

Federal Summer Grants

We received a Young Canada Works in Heritage Grant through the Canadian Museum Association and hired Design student, Ian Bullock. We also received a Canada Summer Jobs grant for two students, Anthony Wallace and Jolayne Booth. A travelling display was designed and taken to community events.



Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

Education Programs Conservation



Snowshoeing is enjoyed at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.



Wetlands are explored at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area.

Conservation Workshops

Over 65 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, World Conservation, Soil and Water Management and Forestry.

Field Trips

During the 2008 season, 1,424 elementary and secondary students accompanied by 281 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.

Classroom Programs

The River and Creek Safety Program (RCSP) was available in 2008, 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 13 classrooms in the eastern end of the watershed. The outreach program was delivered to 280 students in the municipalities of West-Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich, Southwest Middlesex, Middlesex Centre, Strathroy-Caradoc and Southwold during late February and early March. This year's supporters of the RCSP include: Delaware Lioness, Delaware Lions, Glencoe Lions, Mount Brydges Lioness, Mount Brydges Lions, Optimist Club of Mount Brydges, Optimist Club of West Lorne, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 598. 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.

Partnering with the Local Community

Community Relations A Part of All Programs

Community Relations activities inform Directors, member municipalities and residents, media and politicians about all LTVCA's programs and services. Staff participate in special events and tours, initiate and assist with local environmental projects, produce literature on conservation programs, design and create displays for fairs and conferences and write articles for local newspapers and newsletters. We partner with organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders, including our Foundation, to help with the conservation of our watershed resources. The communication of information and education about the LTVCA encourages the wise management of our natural environment in the lower Thames River watershed and region. This report highlights Community Relations activities in 2008.

Communications Products & Services

writing, editing, designing, presenting

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

organizing

- meeting facilitation
- public events

fundraising

- employment programs
- conservation projects and services

representation on watershed committees and working groups



In 2008, staff provided communication services for the Drinking Water Source Protection Program, including organizing and supporting many public forums and open houses across the watershed.



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. Highlights of some 2008 events have been included in this report.

Partnering with the Local Community

Moonlight Winter Family Hike

A beautiful winter's evening was enjoyed by 103 participants who searched for Eastern Screech Owls at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Owls were heard and one even came to inspect visitors more closely! After the hike, hotdogs were relished by participants beside the bonfire. Homemade chili and hot drinks warmed insides in the Resource Centre. Master carver George Wickham was present to reveal his beautiful bird carvings while Lynn Eves allowed onlookers to view her remarkable raptors. Owl crafts were made downstairs and owl pellets were investigated by children to determine what owls eat. A huge thank you goes out to our remarkable volunteers Dawn and Peter Snow, Rick Gray, Sandy Wilson, Deb De Zwart, Sandy Morrison, Cleve Lowthian, Glenn Stott and Karen Mattila who all helped make this event a great success.



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



In 2008, the Thames River celebrated its eighth year as a Canadian Heritage River. The ninth 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.

Spring Woodland Discovery Program

A celebration of Spring was experienced by participants

on the sunny afternoon of Sunday, April 27, at Longwoods. A discussion of Field Guides and their use was followed by a hike to view flowers, trees, shrubs, birds and animal signs.

Participants received a Longwoods Spring Wildflower Field Guide they could make use of during the hike along the colourful winding trails. Many interesting birds, plants and wildlife signs were encountered on this journey, and a wonderful time was had by all!



Erythronium americanum - Trout-lily, Adder's-tongue or Dog-toothed Violet.

Spring Birding Hike

Beautiful weather and birds were both present in the early morning

of Sunday, June 22, when the Spring Birding Hike took place at Longwoods. Participants

used binoculars to view the "early birds" but no worms were

observed being captured. Calls were used to lure birds closer, so they could show off their feathers more effectively to the hikers. Birds showing up for the hike included an Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrows, Cardinals, Blue Jays and a Black-billed Cuckoo. All thoroughly enjoyed the day of birds and birdsong!



Passerina cyanea - Indigo Bunting (male).

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation



2008 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 2008 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 projects and events like the Annual 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.



McKinlay Woodlands Dedication Service at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area.



Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest Dedication Service at Mosa Forest.

In 2007, Foundation Directors applied to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and received \$75,000 over six months for the "Save the Cabins" project. The project preserved three cabins at the Longwoods site. By 2008, the cabins were in full use once again, serving as outdoor classrooms for 1000's of students and visitors.

A First Nations dance group performing at the Taste of Fall event at Ska-Nah-Doht Village was sponsored by the Foundation and partial funding was provided for a Longwoods' summer staff member.



Memorial Forest Dedication Service at Tilbury Northside Park.

Through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program, the Conservation Authority planted over 500 trees in 2008. Forestry staff were also grateful for the successful funding for trees for other community plantings.



In 2008, the Foundation was successful in obtaining funding from the Hodgson Family Foundation for the construction of a wheelchair ramp for one of the cabins. A solar panel for cabin energy needs was also funded by our Foundation.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Carey Carolinian Trail and Arboretum

One of the most significant donations in 2008 came to the Foundation as a \$26,000 gift from a private donor- Dr. Lewis Carey. The money is to be used by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority for an educational “Carey Carolinian Trail and Arboretum” project at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

In 2008, the Conservation Authority developed a project management plan and budget. The trail route was finalized and hazard trees removed. Non-native tree and shrub species were identified for removal. The new section of trail was created and surfaced with chip and dust. Materials for the eventual construction of an information kiosk were also donated to the Conservation Authority by Dr. Carey.

The purchase and planting of Carolinian tree species, signage and an interpretive brochure will be completed for the trail and arboretum in 2009, followed by an official opening and recognition ceremony. Both the Conservation Foundation and Conservation Authority realize the importance of creating a Carolinian arboretum and trail system as an educational tool for this unique habitat. As Longwoods highlights both native and natural history, Dr. Carey suggested that messaging reflect the connection between First Nations peoples and the natural surroundings of a Carolinian forest.



Work began in August with the removal of hazard trees and the blazing of the new section of the trail.



By October, the new section of the Carey Carolinian Trail and Arboretum was ready for use by visitors and school groups.



*The Tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is one of two wild magnolia species found in Canada, and probably one of the most common ‘Carolinian Canada’ symbols. - Carolinian Canada website.*