



*The Thames,
A Canadian Heritage River*

*In 2010, the Thames River celebrated its tenth year as a Canadian Heritage River.
The eleventh Annual Thames River Clean-up was held in April
with thousands of volunteers cleaning up hundreds of kilometres along the river.*



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 2010 Annual Report

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



Kayaking the Thames River.

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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

Algonquin College
Blenheim District High School
Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation
Canadian Museum Association
Carolinian Canada
Chandra Clark
Chatham Daily News
Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village
Chatham-Kent Communities in Bloom
Chatham-Kent Community Foundation
Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
Chatham-Kent Secondary School
Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association
Comber Chamber of Commerce
Friends of C.M. Wilson
Delaware Lioness
Delaware Lions Club
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Ecole Secondaire de Paincourt
Electronic Pencil - Rob Dziedziczak
Forest City Checkers
Friends of Sharon Creek
Friends of Tilbury Northside Park
George Wickham
Glencoe District Lions Club

Greenlane Trust Fund
Gregory Drive Public School
Guardians of Longwoods
John McGregor Secondary School
Lambton-Kent Composite School
London District Chiefs Council
Longwood Kennels
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
Ontario Archaeological Society, London Chapter
Ontario Forestry Association
Ontario Power Generation
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Optimist Club of West Lorne
Ridge Landfill Trust
Ridgetown District High School
Rodney Lions Club
Royal Canadian Astronomical Society
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 598
Scribendi Editing
Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee
Southern First Nations Secretariat
Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, Co-op Education Program
TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation
Thames Canadian Heritage River Committee
Thames Valley Trail Association
Tilbury District High School – Environment Club
Tilbury and District Horticultural Society
Trees Canada
Trees Ontario Foundation
Union Gas
University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus
Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society
Ursuline College Secondary - The Pines
Versacold Atlas
Wallaceburg Community Living
West Elgin Secondary School, Co-op Education Program
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 2010 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 volunteers gathered at Longwoods Road Conservation Area in July 2010, enjoying the barbecue and evening activities.

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 manage this watershed and region's natural resources by working with ongoing and new conservation **partners**. Together, we efficiently serve our member municipalities and residents of the lower Thames region.

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. In 2010, minimal flooding occurred in the Thames River flats upstream of Chatham from a March runoff event precipitated by heavy rains. In addition, over 1,000 plan reviews identified potential threats by monitoring new development near or in natural hazard areas. The number of applications reviewed under the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation doubled, with over 150 received. Moving through our twelfth year of an agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, application numbers increased with 240 applications for proposed works in watercourses and effects on fish habitat for review presented in 2010. Work continued in areas of **research and monitoring** with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program, laying the groundwork for the development of watershed report cards for the lower Thames region. As well, awareness for Rondeau Bay's species at risk was building through information and education.

Habitat was protected and restored as the pace increased in reforestation. Staff engaged local schools, community groups and businesses in tree plantings made possible through the Chatham-Kent Greening Partnership and funding provided through the Trees Ontario Foundation and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Response program. Additional donations were welcomed from various charitable foundations including the T.D. Friends of the Environment Foundation Chatham Chapter. In 2010, 70,000 trees were planted across the watershed and region. Endangered tall grass prairie habitats spread across Chatham-Kent with three new sites added to the Pollinator Enhancement Program.

Through the **Drinking Water Source Protection Program** work continued on the Assessment Report - a technical document that forms the basis of the source protection plans. Technical studies were completed as per the Clean Water Act (2006). Intake protection zones (IPZ) and wellhead protection areas (WHPA) for the Lake Erie surface water intakes to the Chatham, South Chatham Kent, Wheatley and West Elgin water treatment plants, and for the Ridgetown and Highgate well supply systems were delineated and assessed. Highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas were delineated and assessed. Activities that 'are or would be' significant threats were identified. Water Budget reports were completed, identifying where drinking water sources may be stressed and determining areas where water taking might have an impact on those sources. The draft proposed and proposed versions of the Assessment Report for the Lower Thames Valley Source Protection Area were consulted on in two separate comment periods and eventually submitted to the Ministry of the Environment. Work has now begun to prepare for the source protection planning process in the Thames - Sydenham and Region. Source Protection Plans will be completed in 2012. Under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program, funding for various projects was also provided to eligible landowners within a certain area of a municipal intake or wellhead.

Conservation lands allow the public to **enjoy, learn and respect the environment**, and provide important habitat for wildlife. In 2010, 5,705 students and chaperones took part in school programs while more than 27,000 visitors enjoyed events, camping and day use in our conservation areas. We accessed nearly \$55,000 of funding to hire 11 workers, who assisted full time staff with conservation projects and services.

The **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation** has raised over \$550,000 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 team for their dedicated work and support.



Brian King - Chair Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 2010.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Brian W. King". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian King - Chair LTVCA

Board of Directors & Committees



Directors at the Annual General Meeting of the Conservation Authority in Chatham-Kent at the Ridgeway Campus of the University of Guelph - February, 2010.

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
Conrad Wodrich - Municipality 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, John Kavelaars, Bill Derbyshire

Ice Management

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

Ska-Nah-Doht

(Conservation Authority Representatives):

Brian King, Stan Lidster, Stanley Caveney, Conrad Wodrich, Ron Doane, Jerry Campbell

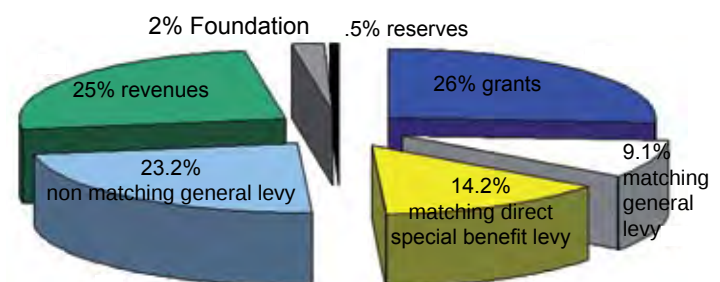


Budget

The LTVCA's 2010 budget of \$2,039,379 received approval in February. Jerry Campbell - General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, directed the administration and financial aspects of the LTVCA, with support from the Accounting Clerks - Sharlet Piggott and Sandy Maynard.

Funding sources included:

26% in Federal and Provincial grants
25% in revenues from program and services fees
23.2% in non matching general levy
14.2% in matching direct special benefit levy
9.1% in matching general levy
2% in grants and revenues from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
0.5% in reserves



Staff Directory 2010

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Administration Building

Jerry Campbell - General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Sandy Maynard - Accounting Clerk
Sharlet Piggott - Accounting Clerk
Jack Robertson - Water Management Supervisor
Valerie Towsley - Resource Technician
Jason Wintermute - GIS Specialist / Resource Technician
Chitra Gowda - Source Protection Technical Coordinator
Randall VanWagner - Environmental Project Coordinator
Bob Pennington / Greg VanEvery - Environmental Technical Assistants

Chris Tasker - Source Protection Manager of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region - (Lower Thames Valley, St. Clair Region and Upper Thames River Conservation Authorities)



*LTVCA Administration Building
100 Thames Street, Chatham*

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

Workshop

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

Resource Centre and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

Bonnie Carey - Community Relations Coordinator
Agnes Vriends - Clerk / Secretary
Karen Mattila - Village Curator
Rose Nicholas - Village Education Technician
Jerry DeZwart - Conservation Education Technician
Derekica Snake - First Nations Liaison / Source Protection Technician of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region



*Longwoods Road Conservation Area Workshop
R.R. # 1, Mount Brydges*



*Resource Centre and Ska-Nah-Doht Museum
Longwoods Road Conservation Area
8348 Longwoods Road, Mount Brydges*

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

Workshop

Russ Dysarz - Western District Supervisor



*C.M. Wilson Conservation Area
21799 Fargo Road, Chatham*

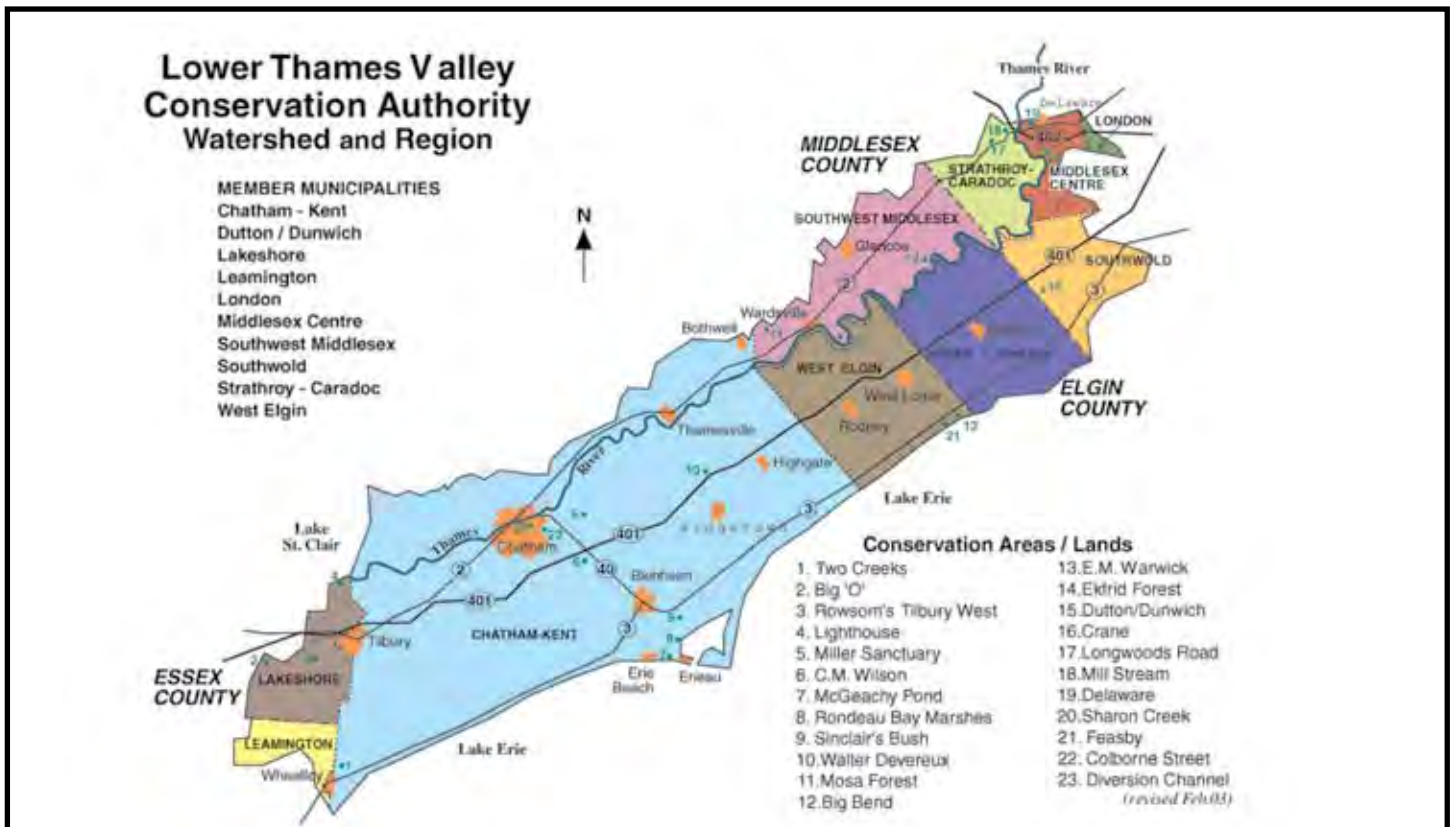
Our Vision



“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 109,709 people.

Protecting Life & Property

Water Management

Flood Control

By early March, much of the snow and ice in the region had been reduced to marginal amounts, due to moderate temperatures and little precipitation. As a result, the only spring runoff event of consequence occurred from a rainfall in mid March.

Over the 12th and 13th of March, the area received between 15 and 20 mm of rain. The creeks and streams responded, with the Thames reaching a peak of 400 cubic metres per second (cms) on March 15th and in Thamesville reaching a peak level of 360 cms on March 16th.

These levels necessitated a flood warning for the river flats of the Thames River upstream of Chatham. Levels of this nature did not affect the upper table lands or the urban areas of Thamesville and Chatham.



A spring runoff event, precipitated by rainfall, occurred in March in the Thames River flats upstream of Chatham. Jack Robertson, LTVCA Water Management Supervisor, monitored conditions throughout the year.

Great Lakes Levels

The Great Lakes tracked slightly below their long term average levels during 2010. Lake St. Clair was generally ten centimetres below its long term average while Lake Erie was about five centimetres below for the year. With lake levels at this point and the lack of any significant wind generated storms, no flood events were recorded on the lakes in 2010.



Wetlands such as marshes, swamps, fens and bogs are very important as they slowly release water during times of drought, "recharging areas" like giant sponges. Wetlands also help reduce the effects of flooding.

Low Water Response

The small amounts of precipitation in the winter continued into spring. By the end of April, according to the strict use of the definition, the area was in a Level One three month Low Water Condition.

The two different precipitation triggers that put a specific watershed into a Level One Low Water condition are:

1. if a watershed has its 18 month precipitation fall below 80% of average; or
2. if a watershed has its three month precipitation fall below 80% of average

Over the months of May, June and July, each of the weather stations in Windsor, London and Chatham recorded in excess of 300 mm of rain. Therefore, there was no need to call a meeting of the Conservation Authority's Water Response Team.

Regardless of the short term fluctuations of precipitation, the area has not been in an 18 month low water condition for many years.

Provincial Water Monitoring Program

The Conservation Authority continued to work with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program. The intent of the program is to have a provincial network for monitoring ambient ground water conditions. Such a network will assist in the monitoring of potential drought conditions and in the implementation of provincial and local action plans and environmental decision making by municipalities and the province. In 2010, we undertook water sampling at nine wells and sent the samples to the MOE laboratory for analysis.

Also, the LTVCA continued working with the MOE with the sampling of in-stream waters at nine locations in the watershed. 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 LTVCA. With the objective of maintaining the same amount of laboratory work, we worked with the MOE in 2010 to increase the number of locations that water samples will be taken in 2011 and beyond. By reducing the number of tests on samples at some of the existing locations, we will be able to sample two additional stream locations in 2011. Both the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program and the Provincial Water Quality Program emphasize the Conservation Authority's role as the primary delivery agent for provincial programs related to the environment and natural resources.

2010 marked the third year that the Conservation Authority undertook testing for e-coli at each of its stream sampling locations. The results from this testing, as well as the results obtained from the Provincial lab, will be useful in the preparation of Watershed Report Cards for the LTVCA.

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
- related administration

Category	2010	2009	2008
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

The above table outlines the total approved funding in each category in 2010, as well as comparable numbers in 2009 and 2008. The costs outlined are the grants received. Eligible project costs would be twice the number shown in the table.



The McGregor Creek Dam is used to prevent high Thames River water from entering the south Chatham area. Under normal flows while the dam is open, debris such as this log can accumulate upstream of the dam. The debris must be removed in order for the dam to operate effectively.

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 floodplains 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.

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Official Plans (OP)	3	0	2	3	0	1
Official Plan Amendments (OPA)	2	7	8	11	7	3
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws (ZB)	2	2	2	3	0	1
Zoning Bylaw Amendments (ZA)	91	110	135	102	109	107
Severances (SEV)	123	107	132	128	124	118
Minor Variances (MV)	52	42	39	46	49	50
Plans of Subdivision (SUB)	3	5	1	3	11	3
Drainage Reports & Maintenance (DR)	115	46	54	49	49	96
Property Clearances (PC)	50	82	41	72	33	47
General Property Inquiries (GPI)	649	735	694	731	452	317
Total	1,090	1,142	1,108	1,148	834	743

Planning development issues reviewed in 2010.



In 2010, 1,090 plan reviews were completed for LTVCA municipalities.

Official Plans	1				1		1		
Official Plan Amendments	1	1							
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws		1					1		
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	52	3	5		3	1	12	1	12
Severances	70	7	9	8		3	13	2	7
Minor Variances	28	4	1	1		3	5		10
Plans of Subdivision	3								
Property Clearances	26	6	2			2	5		5
Drainage Reports	62	11	28	2			4	3	5
General Property Inquiries	391	42	66	3	4	22	17	16	21
TOTAL SERVICES PER MUNICIPALITY	633	74	113	14	7	32	56	24	45
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 2010.



Before Conservation Authority regulations came into being, development in hazard lands such as floodplains occurred, with consequences.

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

2010 marked the fourth 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.

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 150 applications under the Regulation in 2010. Two applications were denied without any further proceedings. Five applications required a hearing in front of the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee and all were approved with conditions.

In 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Ontario developed Policy Guidelines for the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation. The Guidelines provide a framework for the development of policy guidelines for individual Conservation Authorities.

Rondeau Bay & 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 living here. The focus of the group is to work with the local community to promote awareness within Rondeau Bay.

In 2010, interpretive Species At Risk signs were installed around the Rondeau Bay watershed, funded through a Habitat Stewardship Program grant. These signs help educate visitors, local residents and cottagers about watersheds, and how activities inland of the Bay can impact the species of Rondeau Bay.



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 how close the flood waters from the Thames River came to a subdivision in the early 2000's.

As a result of these guidelines, the LTVCA updated their procedures for dealing with applications related to the regulation in 2010.



Many Species at Risk make Rondeau Bay their home.

Department of Fisheries & Oceans Drain Classification

2010 marked the twelfth 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 the LTVCA conducts the initial assessment of the project to identify any impacts on fish habitat. If an impact is foreseen as a result of the proposal, the matter is then referred to DFO. With Level Two status, the Conservation Authority may also determine how the proponent can mitigate any impacts. Staff attended several conferences and meetings to improve compliance with the Fisheries Act.

Valerie Towsley, Resource Technician for the LTVCA, reviewed 240 items under the DFO agreement in 2010. The applications primarily included maintenance and newly designed works under the Drainage Act. However, there were some applications from private individuals involving shoreline works along the lakes and waterways within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Authority.



Many applications were reviewed in 2010 for replacement and/or repair of steel jetties along Lake Erie. This is a situation where the Conservation Authority, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ministry of Natural Resources each have concerns under their respective Acts.



Municipal Drain maintenance was undertaken, which protected side bank vegetation. This helped to retain bank stability and habitat value.

Other Water Related Initiatives

Boat Speeds on the Thames

The speed limit for boat traffic on the lower Thames River became an issue in 2010. There was a proposal from the Economic Development Department of Chatham-Kent to increase the speed from its current eight km per hour so that boats could navigate from the mouth of the river up to Chatham in less time. The LTVCA supported the continued use of the current speed limit of 8 km per hour, in the absence of any science showing that a higher speed limit would not cause erosion damage to both public and private flood control projects on the Thames River.

2010 Provincial Aerial Photography Project

The LTVCA continued to partner in the 2010 Provincial Aerial Photography Project. It is also known as SWOOP2010 (South Western Ontario Orthoimagery Project). The aerial photography was taken in the spring of 2010 and the delivery of the imagery is expected in March of 2011. The total cost of the project to the Conservation Authority is approximately \$32,000. The imagery will have an accuracy of 20 cms compared to the 30 cm accuracy obtained when the 2006 project was undertaken. The project will also result in a layer of spot elevations throughout the Conservation Authority with an accuracy of plus or minus 0.5 m. Jason Wintermute - GIS Specialist / Resource Technician for the LTVCA, is involved with this project.



The above aerial photo is of Feasby Conservation Area in the Municipality of West Elgin, taken in 2006. The spring 2010 imagery will have an accuracy of 20 centimetres as opposed to the 30 centimetre accuracy that was obtained when the 2006 project was undertaken.

Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario

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

Summer Student Employment

The Conservation Authority hired two students for the 2010 summer with funding from the Provincial Summer Experience and Canada Summer Career Placement grant programs. Jason Homewood of Chatham and Amanda Griffore of Grande Pointe worked on numerous projects including;

- site surveying for the Conservation Authority Regulation
- water quality sampling
- maintenance of the wells within the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program
- digitizing lake shore elements including top of bank and toe of slope
- ground-water-fed stream surveys



Amanda Griffore and Jason Homewood determine the water level in a well, as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program.

Protecting & Restoring Habitat

Reforestation LTVCA Tree Planting Program

From 1988 to 2010, the LTVCA has planted approximately 2,081,265 trees within the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's watershed. In 2010, 69,332 trees were planted into windbreaks and woodlots on private lands, memorial forests and conservation area nurseries (2009 - 76,133 trees planted).

The cost to landowners for the Conservation Authority to supply trees varied in 2010 depending upon the species, ranging from \$0.65 to \$1.70 per tree for seedling stock. A minimum tree order of \$100 and 25 trees per species was required. Funding for eligible tree planting projects was provided through the Trees Ontario Foundation and the Emerald Ash Borer Response Program (EABRP). Additional donations were received from various charitable foundations including the T.D. Friends of the Environment Foundation, Trees Canada, Chatham-Kent Community Foundation, Union Gas and private individuals.

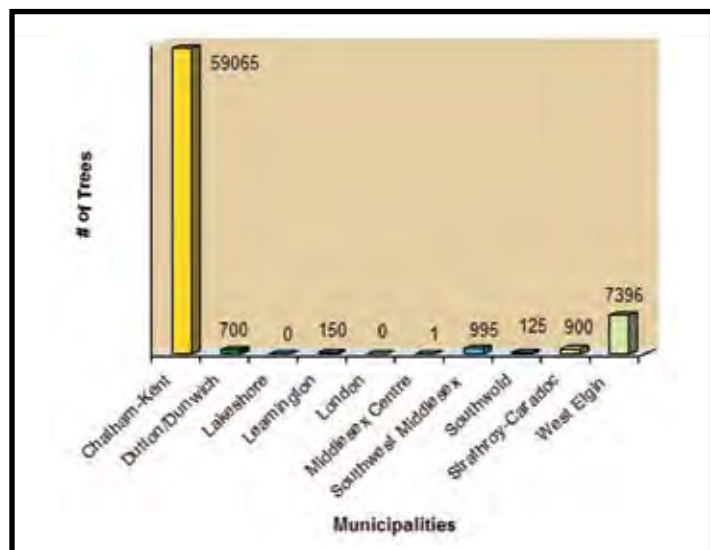
Property owners rented the Conservation Authority's machine tree planters. In some cases trees were machine planted by the Conservation Authority's staff or hand planted by landowners, LTVCA staff and/or volunteers.

Spring weather turned warm and dry early this year, causing nurseries to scramble to get trees lifted out of the ground before bud break. Pine Needle Farms, Forest Care, and Wheatley Woods supplied our seedling stock this year,

all delivering the week of April 18th. Versa Cold Storage, of Chatham, donated a cooler to store and sort tree orders, which took place over three weeks. A total of 100 orders were taken. Nearly 70,000 seedlings and over 629 large stock were planted throughout the watershed. This included 20 different species and over 35 varieties.

Tree orders were taken this fall for a limited number of species suited to fall planting. The species list was posted on the LTVCA website and a newspaper advertisement went into rural papers in Chatham-Kent. A total of 1,800 seedlings were ordered from Pineneedle Farms. Trees were planted by LTVCA staff and private landowners throughout the Chatham-Kent region. Landowners accessed financial assistance from the Emerald Ash Borer Response Program (EABRP).

LTVCA has been working with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to plant trees along the 401 highway. Future planting sites are being mapped out and submitted to the MTO. Adjoining landowners are eligible for full coverage of costs incurred for planting up to 30 m into their property. Conservation Services staff Randall VanWagner and Greg VanEvery are currently informing these eligible landowners.



Forestry program by Municipality 2010.

TREES SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS FOR PRIVATE PLANTING

Municipality of Chatham-Kent	58682
Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich	700
Municipality of Leamington	150
Municipality of Southwest Middlesex	929
Township of Southwold	125
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc	900
Municipality of West Elgin	7396
TOTAL	68882

MEMORIAL FOREST PLANTINGS

McKinlay Woodlands at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area	378
Tilbury Northside Park	5
Badder & Robinson at Mosa Forest	62
Sharon Creek at Sharon Creek Conservation Area	1
Big Bend at Big Bend Conservation Area	4

TOTAL TREES PLANTED IN 2010	69332
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Every year forestry staff tour various tree planting sites. The tour is conducted by our EABRP partners: Essex Region Conservation Authority, Essex County Stewardship Network, Stewardship Kent and Ontario Power Generation.

One site in particular will be a showcase for years to come. Theo Van Asten has devoted a substantial amount of money and time to make this site worth seeing. Three hundred large stock trees were planted on both sides of the lanes through the Cedar Springs property. Eight thousand five hundred seedlings were also planted around the two ponds. Mr. Van Asten went the extra mile and planted over 60,000 tulip bulbs around the ponds and other features.



The LTVCA planted 8,500 seedlings and 300 large stock trees for Theo Van Asten, a landowner in Cedar Springs. Mr. Van Asten also planted over 60,000 tulip and lily bulbs and excavated two wetland ponds.

Chatham-Kent Greening Strategy

Our “greening” partners - the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (C-K) and Stewardship Kent (MNR) were involved in many ways. C-K Parks, Cemeteries and Horticulture assisted with watering, plant propagation, delivery of mulch and equipment such as shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows, delivery of large stock trees and customer contacts. Don Hector from Stewardship Kent provided his many years of technical expertise, financial support, equipment use, and landowner contacts.

The TD Friends of the Environment Fund Chatham-Kent Chapter, approved an LTVCA grant request of \$7,500 for the purchase of 180 large stock trees, planted at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. The event was well attended by over 25 volunteers, Chatham-Kent Secondary School, media and TD staff. An additional 40 large stock trees were planted at the LTVCA Diversion Channel / yard waste depot on Creek Road.

Volunteers played a key role in the Greening Strategy, with 97 individuals assisting in some way. To name a few: the Friends of Northside Park augered tree holes, Community Trees Initiative Coordinator- Cory Peltier sorted and planted trees and Tilbury High School, Chatham-Kent Secondary School, Blenheim District High School, Gregory Drive

Public School, Algonquin College, Union Gas and Scribendi Editing planted, mulched and staked trees.



A \$7,500 grant from the Chatham-Kent Chapter of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation allowed for the planting of 180 large stock trees at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Mature ash trees in this conservation area were devastated by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Pollinator Enhancement Program Gaining Headway

The Pollinator Enhancement Program is used to promote the planting of Tall Grass Prairie in our region. It educates landowners on the benefits of native plants and how important pollinators, such as honey bees, can benefit from the use of such plants. Ninety percent of agricultural plants require pollination from the insect world!

Three new sites have been added to the pollinator enhancement program within Chatham-Kent. One site is on River Line east of Chatham. The second site is near Lake Erie in east Chatham-Kent on New Scotland Line. The third site is located behind the leaf yard waste depot along the Diversion Channel in Chatham.

Working in cooperation with the Community Trees Initiative, nine kg of tall grass prairie seed was collected for the program. This is a great educational experience for volunteers, school and community groups.

The Maple Leaf Cemetery Prairie project has consistently improved over the growing season. There are 12 to 15 native tall grass prairie species now established at the three sites.



Helianthus Autumnale or Sneeze Weed, is a native prairie plant which thrives in low moist areas.

Forestry Grant Programs

The Emerald Ash Borer Response Program has been funded by the Forest Future Trust over the last several years. This funding opportunity comes to an end in 2010 but will be replaced by the Ontario Power Generation. Essentially the same guidelines will apply, however some good news for landowners is that the zone will now include all of Chatham-Kent. Prior to this, the zone was just west of the Merlin Road. Seventy-five percent of project costs will now be covered.

One landowner took advantage of the Habitat Stewardship Program. Jack Foster owns a parcel near Rondeau Park. Mr. Foster's site area is approximately 0.78 ha and will require 780 trees of deciduous mix.

Landowner Ken Goodreau was also referred to the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program and used the LTVCA as the consulting official. Mr. Goodreau lives near Tilbury.



Chatham-Kent Secondary School Environment Club teacher Gord Williams involves his students in many LTVCA projects. Illustrated above are students at landowner Larry Drew's six acre restoration site in Merlin.

Community Trees Initiative

Our Community Trees Initiative program is continuing to grow. We have realized a need for large stock trees and are potting up approximately 500 “whips” (three feet in height) to be nursed at the Grand Avenue greenhouses. These will be planted throughout Chatham-Kent. To reduce costs, we built our own compost yard and now produce our own soil. Approval has been received to construct a root propagation system for stem cuttings.

LTVCA staff and volunteers have collected all of the seed required for 2011 greenhouse sowing including a variety of native species such as Hackberry, Red oak, Bur oak, Redbud and Ninebark. The work of “potting up” seedlings into larger pots to produce large stock trees has begun.



Students from Ursuline College - The Pines in Chatham plant seedlings as part of the Community Trees Initiative.



The Greening Partnership greenhouse is located on Grand Avenue in Chatham. Ten thousand seedlings are grown annually. American Sycamore seedlings are pictured above.



Ursuline College - The Pines students continued their involvement and conducted a seedling line out in May and June on the school grounds. The greenhouse seedlings are now in the ground!

During September, conservation services staff conducted woodlot tours of the Walter Devereux Conservation Area and the Reynolds Tract for the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus ecology class. Urban ecology, population density and dispersion were a few of the topics discussed.



A Grey Tree Frog made an appearance at the Reynolds Tract.



The ecology class from Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph learned about Eco-tones at Walter Devereux Conservation Area. An eco-tone is a zone of transition between two different ecosystems, such as between a wetland and an upland or a forest and a beach dune. Any two habitats that meet, create an eco-tone.

Conservation Scholarships and Awards

The Conservation Authority provided financial support to the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association with their Conservation Farmer Award in 2010. Judging was conducted in December and the award is to be presented at the Chatham-Kent Soil and Crop Association Annual Meeting in mid January of 2011.

For at least 25 years, the Conservation Authority has made a contribution to the Scholarships and Awards Committee of the Ridgetown College, University of Guelph. The award in 2010 was the sponsorship of "Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award" with a monetary value of \$200. Matthew Finch of Belmont received the award at convocation on June 4, 2010. Ridgetown College offers an excellent program and for years, has been a promoter of the conservation ethic in agriculture.



l-r: LTVCA's Water Management Supervisor - Jack Robertson, presented the 2010 Proficiency in Farm Structures and the Environment Award to Matthew Finch.

Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region

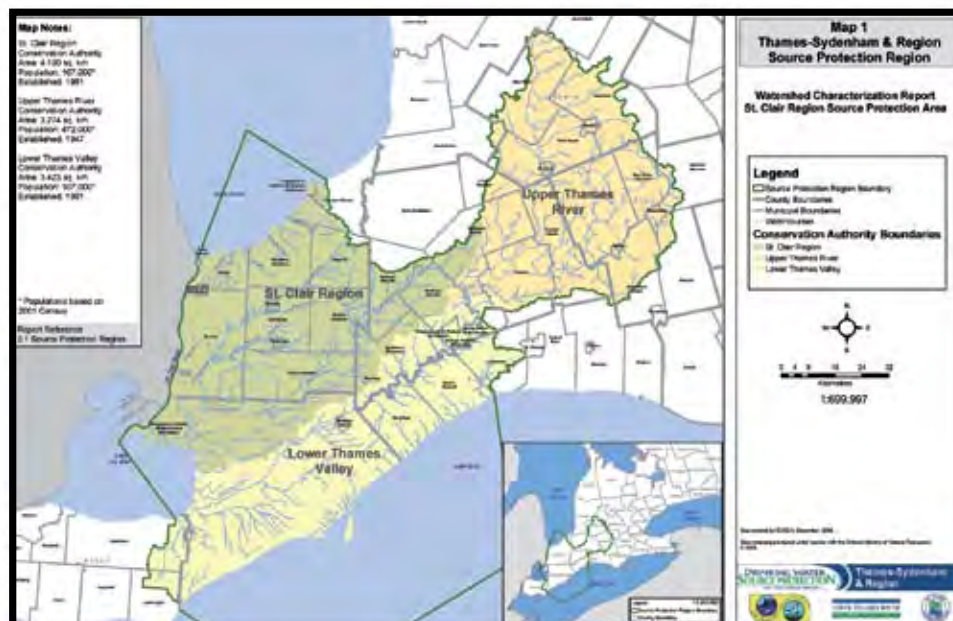
Drinking Water Source Protection

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. 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.

The Upper Thames River, Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities have partnered together to form the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region. 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

The responsibility of the Source Protection Committee, appointed in November 2007, is to guide the development of local source protection plans. Over the next few years, there will be a number of open houses, forums and working groups. Information on committee meetings including notices, meeting minutes and reports can also be accessed through the website www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca.



The Thames - Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region.



Robert Bedggood (left), Chair of the Thames - Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee and Chris Tasker (right), Project Manager, attended the public consultations for the review of the draft proposed and proposed versions of the Assessment Report for the Lower Thames Valley Source Protection Area. They were on hand to address any questions and concerns posed by the public.

2010 Highlights

Assessment Reports (2010-2011)

The Assessment Report is a technical document that forms the basis of the source protection plans. Technical studies were completed as per the Clean Water Act (2006). Intake protection zones (IPZ) and wellhead protection areas (WHPA) for the Lake Erie surface water intakes to the Chatham, South Chatham-Kent, Wheatley and West Elgin water treatment plants, and for the Ridgetown and Highgate well supply systems were delineated and assessed. Highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas were delineated and assessed. Activities that 'are or would be' significant threats were identified. Water Budget reports were completed, identifying where drinking water sources may be stressed and determining areas where water taking might have an impact on those sources.

provided directions in an October 29, 2010 letter. These directions resulted in the Amended Proposed Assessment Report, posted for comments on November 30, 2010 on our website www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca, for a comment period to end on January 7, 2011. Amendments to the report helped fill some data gaps identified in the Proposed Assessment Report. No written comments were received on the Amended Proposed Assessment Report. It was submitted to the MOE.

Also in this Source Protection Region, the Upper Thames River Proposed and the St. Clair Region Amended Proposed Assessment Reports can be viewed at www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca.

The draft proposed and proposed versions of the Assessment Report for the Lower Thames Valley Source Protection Area were consulted on in two separate comment periods. Upon review of the proposed Assessment Report, the Director of the Source Protection Programs Branch, Ministry of the Environment (MOE),

Updated Assessment Reports (2011)

Further work in the St. Clair Region and Upper Thames River source protection areas will be conducted in 2011 resulting in updated Assessment Reports. In the St. Clair Region, work will be conducted on Intake Protection Zone-3, modeling the Lake St. Clair up the Thames River, into the Lower Thames Valley source protection area. Technical studies on the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation intake are yet to commence. The Upper Thames River Report may include the WHPA-E and F for GUDI systems, and additional threats and risk assessment.

Source Protection Plans

Source Protection Plans will develop policies that reduce the risks posed by significant threats identified in Assessment Reports and prevent new significant threats. Some threats may be reduced through voluntary action by landowners, or with assistance from certain programs. Some threats may be addressed through regulatory requirements. Risk management plans may also be used. Educational activities may be implemented. Source protection planning discussion papers can be found at www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca. Over the next year and a half, the Source Protection Committee will be developing the plan with extensive public and stakeholder input. The plan must be submitted to the Province in August 2012.



Chitra Gowda - Source Protection Technical Coordinator, attended the public consultations for the Lower Thames Valley Assessment Report.

Stewardship Funding Program

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. During the 2009 round of funding, these areas were expanded a moderate amount by the Province, provided that they were approved by way of municipal resolution. The projects that were funded included septic tank upgrade, decommissioning of abandoned wells and pollution prevention reviews. The 2010 funding allocation came to an end in September. Application to MOE for a new round of funding will be made in 2011. If approved, only properties identified as having significant drinking water threats within designated areas would be eligible for funding under the program.

First Nations

Efforts continued to engage First Nations in the Drinking Water Source Protection process. Derekica Snake is the First Nations Liaison. She was instrumental in assisting the First Nations with the filling of the three First Nations members' seats on the Thames - Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee. Current representation covers the region with Darlene Whitecalf - Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Gus Tobias - Delaware Nation and Kennon Johnson - Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation).

The definition of liaison is to work towards cooperation between two separate groups - anything from sharing information, being a resource or getting involved in community outreach. In 2010, the First Nation Liaison was very active within the First Nation communities and the watershed.

The Oxford County and Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festivals were the largest audiences reached in 2010. The First Nations component of both water festivals showed the "attitude towards water" through a presentation of the Haudenosaunee legend - the creation of Turtle Island, shown to over 1,000 grade fours and fives.

Various First Nations' organizations and clubs invited the First Nation Liaison to their events. Permission was given to the Conservation Authorities by the Southern First Nations Secretariat to create a set of First Nation "Where Does Your Water Come From?" display panels. The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians hosted an Elders

Education and Outreach

Community outreach efforts are an important part of delivering the Drinking Water Source Protection program. The Notices of Public Consultation on the Assessment Report were posted on our website (www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca). Notices were mailed with a letter to affected landowners and to municipalities. Advertisements were published in newspapers. The Report is made available for review at different locations. CD's of the report are also available.

Gathering in the summer and the Thames - Sydenham and Region was invited. An information booth was set up and updates on the current activities of the Source Protection Region were presented. As well, staff gave a performance of the Turtle Island play. London District Chiefs Council's Elders and Youth Gathering requested a workshop activity on Turtle Island and another information booth. The Liaison also participated in Career and Health Fairs on various First Nations, highlighting the number of careers available relating to water and the importance of water to the body.



The First Nations component of both water festivals showed the "attitude towards water" through a presentation of the Haudenosaunee legend - the creation of Turtle Island.

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 ha of conservation land have been preserved at 23 sites for public use in the LTVCA watershed and region. Russ Dysarz and David Little - Western and Eastern District Supervisors respectively, and Bruce Clark - Construction and Maintenance Technician, are responsible for the management of these sites.

In 2010, the LTVCA accessed \$55,227.60 of grant funding for 11 workers to assist with the completion of projects over and above those of full time staff in field services management, forestry, watershed planning, water quality sampling, groundwater monitoring, community relations, visitor services, museum assistance, clerical and GIS. Through the Provincial Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Job Creation Program (JCP), four workers assisted the LTVCA with field services in our conservation areas. Seven summer student positions were funded through other Provincial and Federal grant programs. All gained experience working with an environmental agency and the public. We were able to augment and improve our programs and services

through these Federal and Provincial employment program grants. In addition, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (C-K), provided two positions approved by council for a fourth term in 2010 to continue 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.

	MTCU Job Creation Contribution	LTVCA In-kind Contribution and Other	Length of Program	Total Project Costs
Field Service Management Technicians - Western District 2 Positions	\$25,760.00	\$3,872.21	6 months	\$29,632.21
Field Service Management Technicians - Eastern District 2 Positions	\$10,575.00	\$95,511.67	4 months	\$106,086.67
Total Job Creation Project Costs	\$36,335.00	\$99,383.88		\$135,718.88
	Prov. Summer Experience Program Contribution		Length of Program	
GIS Technician / Assistant Water Resource Technician 2 Positions	\$5,570.72		34 days	
Assistant Clerk 1 Position	\$2,795.36		34 days	
	Canada Summer Jobs Program Contribution		Length of Program	
Water Resource Technician 1 Position	\$1,642.00		9 weeks	
Community Activities Coordinator 2 Positions	\$5,931.00		8 weeks	
	Young Canada Works Contribution		Length of Program	
Curatorial Assistant 1 Position	\$2,963.52		48 days	
Total Project Funding	\$55,227.60			



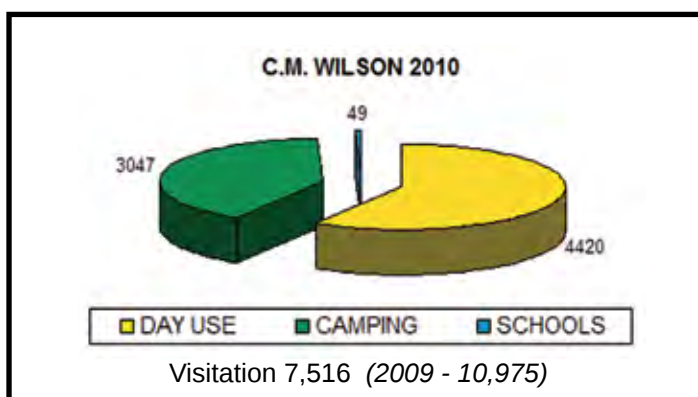
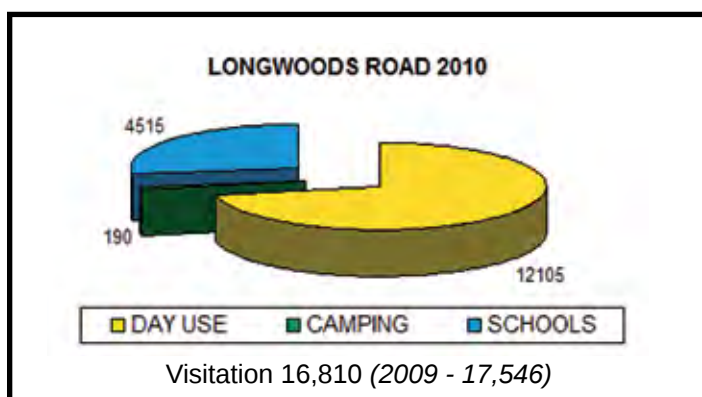
Canada Summer Jobs students Kristine Vodon and Ashton Selig teach clay crafts with visitors at the "Crafty Cabin" at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

A New Children's Playground!

Donations from Ridge Landfill Trust, Chatham-Kent Community Foundation, and the Friends of C.M.Wilson, have totalled \$25,000. This amount was matched by the C-K Recreation Partnership Fund for approximately \$50,000 towards a new playground at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Active Playground Equipment is assisting with the ordering of structures and equipment, as well as layout of the project site. LTVCA staff have demolished the old playground and the excavation for a spring 2011 installation has begun.

Recorded Visitation

Not all of our conservation areas have recorded attendance figures, however the following statistics are available for 2010: Big Bend - camping 1,617 (2009 - 1,037), E.M. Warwick - camping 2,290 (2009 - 3,211).



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	
			4420				1000's							1000's		1000's					12105			
Day Use	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■			■	
Historic / Museum											■											■		
School Program			49																			4515		
ANSI / PSW Site				■	■	■												■				■		
Wetland / River			■				■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	
Forest	■	■	■	■			■			■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Family Camping			3047													1617								
Group Camping			■				■					■		■		■					190		2290	
Memorial Forest			■				■					■		■		■		■						
Volunteer Groups			■				■														■			
Pavilion			■				■					■				■					■	■	■	
Trails / Boardwalks	■		■	■		■	■					■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	
Fishing			■		■	■				■	■			■	■	■	■				■		■	
Boat Launch																■								
Unsupervised Beach			■			■								■									■	
Picnic Table			■			■	■				■					■					■	■	■	
CONSERVATION AREA LANDS	Walter Deyereux	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	Elkford Forest	Mosa Forest	Crane	Mill Stream/Janes Bush	Longwoods Road	Fasby	E.M. Warwick	

Conservation Authority Education Programs

SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE							CONSERVATION EDUCATION LONGWOODS ROAD C.A.						COMBINATION SKA-NAH-DOHT and CONSERVATION EDUCATION			
	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day Full Day		# classes full day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day Full Day		# classes full day	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes full day	# Students Full Day
January	5				60	2	9		2	37	36	2				
February	24		2	53	119	6	13		1	15	59	3				
March	6				37	2										
April	52	1	2	38	261	13	11		1	27	98	4				
May	46	5	6	120	112	6	36	2	3	65	265	13				
June	139	20	9	204	519	26	61	5	5	97	295	13	27	8	8	156
September	10	0	4	72	46	2										
October	126	11	9	168	502	20	56	6	12	228	87	3				
November	48	5	1	17	312	13	27	1	1	22	189	8	21		5	139
December	8	1	2	36	24	1										
TOTALS	464	43	35	708	1992	91	213	14	25	491	1029	46	48	8	13	295

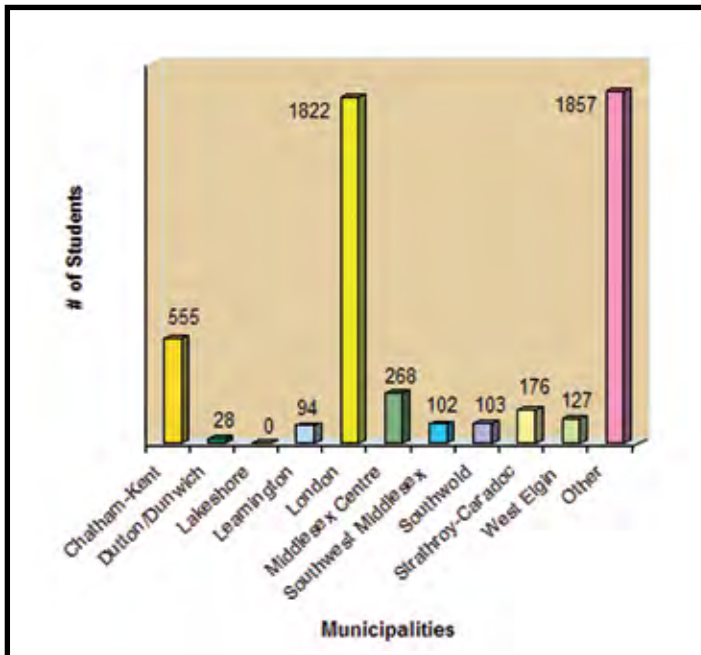
CONSERVATION EDUCATION C.M. WILSON C.A.							CONSERVATION EDUCATION OUTREACH					
	# Adults free	# Adults paid	# classes half day	# Students Half Day Full Day		# classes full day	# classes quarter day	# Students Quarter Day	# classes half day	# Students Half Day Full Day		# classes full day
January												
February												
March							14	285				
April												
May	10	2	2	37								
June												
September												
October												
November												
December												
TOTALS	10	2	2	37	0	0	14	285	0	0	0	0

Education program statistics 2010 (above). The LTVCA offers two types of education programs out of Longwoods Road Conservation Area - Conservation Education and Native Studies at the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum (below).



Ducks Unlimited continued sponsorship of "Project Webfoot", a wetland program at Longwoods Road.





Education programs by Municipality 2010.



Students are instructed on how to snowshoe, making winter an enjoyable experience at Longwoods Road!

Proud to Support Co-op Education!

Longwoods Road Conservation Area received extra help from two co-op education students in 2010. Ashley McFadden, from West Elgin Secondary School, helped every morning for one semester with the education programs. Cori Charlton, from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute assisted every afternoon for one semester. The assistance that these volunteers provided the staff was greatly appreciated! In return, the volunteers received training and experience in the field of conservation.



Ashley McFadden, a student from West Elgin Secondary School volunteered in the new year.



Cori Charlton, a student from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute helped out in the fall of 2010.

Children's Water Festival



The fourth annual Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival was held October 5-7, at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. 1,100 grade three to five students attended the festival. Over 100 volunteers helped each day!

Native Studies Education Programs



Advisory Committee

Don Fairbairn - Chair Ron Watts - Vice-chair
Brian King, Stan Lidster, Ron Doane, Conrad Wodrich, Stan Caveney, Andy Chisholm,
Glenn Stott, Jerry Campbell

The Budget

Village Curator - Karen Mattila managed the \$127,784 Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum budget for 2010. Rose Nicholas - Village Education Technician conducted programs, events and is the "life-blood" of the gift shop. Financial support is acknowledged from the Ministry of Culture through the Community Museum Operating Grant of \$22,992.

Education Programs

A total of 2,995 students (2009 – 3,789) and 563 supervisors and parents (2009 - 708) enjoyed the Village programs this year. These numbers represented 139 half and full day class visits (2009 - 170). In addition, there were 479 public tour / workshop participants (2009- 899). There appear to have been no adverse effects to the 2009 program fee increase for half days but the rising cost of busing continues to be an issue. Some schools have reported bus costs from \$800 to \$1,700.

Federal Summer Grants

We received a Young Canada Works in Heritage grant through the Canadian Museum Association and hired Museum Studies student, Codie Kish of Glencoe. We also received a Canada Summer Jobs grant for two students, Ashton Selig (Delaware) and Kristine Voden (London). The students created a traveling display to take into the community at London's Farmers Market, Parks Blueberries (Bothwell) and Sunfest in July, London's most popular event.



Canada Summer Jobs students marketed Ska-Nah-Doht and brought the gift shop to the Sunfest event in London.

"Turtle Trail" elevates the Gift Shop

The gift shop was named "Turtle Trail" to raise its profile - a natural fit for both the environment of Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht. Armed with our new advertising banner, donated by "Electronic Pencil" (London), staff went to the community. Off-site events resulted in over \$1,000 to gift shop revenue and raised awareness of our programs.



The Turtle Trail Gift Shop and the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection shared display space at the First Nations' Elders Conference at Point Pelee National Park.

Annual Events

The Village hosted Archaeology Day in July and Tastes of Fall in October and were well attended. Nightwalk with the Spirits in August was cancelled due to extreme rain but the staff and volunteers will be all set for the 2011 production. Our dedicated volunteers continue to play a key role in the success of these events.

Donations

Thanks go to donors of the Ska-Nah-Doht Fund. Among them are the Thames Valley Trail Association and retiring Teacher – Paul Marshman. Outstanding in their support is Greenlane Community Trust (Fingal) with a \$500 donation towards the purchase of cedar poles for village reconstruction. A special thank you is extended to Stan Lidster, LTVCA member representative from Southwold, for facilitating this donation.



Our youngest volunteers were amongst those honoured at the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration's annual Volunteer Service Awards, in London.

Conservation Education Programs

Field Trips

During 2010, 1,852 elementary and secondary students (2009 - 1,595) accompanied by 295 adult supervisors (2009 - 238), participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area (Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc) and C.M. Wilson Conservation Area (Municipality of Chatham-Kent). These numbers represented 86 half and full day class visits (2009 - 74). Pre-school through Secondary school groups participated in various curriculum related programs such as Soil Ecology, Habitats and Communities, Acid Rain, Aquatic Ecology, Wetlands, and Predator-Prey. Outdoor learning opportunities greatly enhanced student comprehension of scientific, geographic, mathematic and environmental concepts.

Conservation Workshops

One hundred and eighty-four Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Sparks, and Venturers (2009 - 81) 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, World Conservation, and Forestry. A Stream Assessment Survey was carried out on McKay's Creek at E.M. Warwick Conservation Area (Municipality of West Elgin) in partnership with students and teachers from West Elgin Secondary School, contributing practical experience to their environmental program.

Students have fun while making discoveries about life forms, habitat, and biodiversity on a boardwalk at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.



Classroom Programs

The River and Creek Safety Program (RCSP) was jointly presented by LTVCA staff (presenting to schools East of Chatham-Kent) and the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village (presenting the program to schools within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent). This outreach program for schools in the municipalities of West-Elgin, Dutton-Dunwich, Southwest Middlesex, Middlesex Centre, Strathroy-Caradoc and Southwold performed by LTVCA staff was delivered to 285 students - 14 classes (2009 - 219 - 11 classes) during the month of March. The RCSP targets grade two students, teaching them waterway safety with special emphasis on the Winter (ice safety) and Spring (melting) seasons when danger is greatest. Special thanks goes to these service clubs - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 598, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251, Glencoe District Lions Club, Rodney Lions Club, Delaware Lions and Lioness Clubs, Optimist Club of West Lorne for their ongoing support of this important safety program.



Jerry DeZwart - Conservation Education Technician, delivers the LTVCA's River and Creek Safety Program to a Grade 2 class.

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 2010. Bonnie Carey - Community Relations Coordinator is assisted by Agnes Vriends - Clerk - Secretary with many communications projects.



Communications staff provided many services for the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region in 2010. These included advertising, organizing and supporting many public forums and open house consultations as per the Clean Water Act and hosting educational workshops for the Source Protection Committee.



In September, the LTVCA was one of five Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario sharing a tent display at the Elgin - St. Thomas International Plowing Match. Over 17,000 people visited the tent, which highlighted the water cycle - from source to tap. The need to protect our sources of drinking water was emphasized throughout the tent.

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 / public consultations

fund raising

- employment programs
- conservation projects and services

representation on watershed committees and working groups

Year-round Special 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 2010 events have been included in this report.

Moonlight Winter Family Hike

A beautiful winter's evening was enjoyed by 108 participants (2009 - 115) who searched for Eastern Screech Owls at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. There were hotdogs beside the bonfire and homemade chili and hot drinks in the Resource Centre. George Wickham was present to reveal his award winning bird carvings while Lynn Eves and her assistant from the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation, allowed audiences to view a long-eared and a screech owl up close! Owl crafts were made downstairs and owl pellets were investigated by children to determine what owls eat. Thanks to our remarkable volunteers: Dawn and Peter Snow, Rick Gray, Sandy and Bev Wilson, Deb and Justin De Zwart, Cleve Lowthian, Mr. Stott, Karen Mattila, Vickie and Corey Day, Janine Butler, Denis Bolohan, Debra and Nakita Ramjeawan and Iryna Orzhakhovska who all helped make this event a great success!



In May, the Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society (UTMRS) hosted the Annual Longwoods Heritage Weekend. Hundreds of re-enactors from across North America engaged in the weekend long 1812 event, along with close to a thousand spectators.



In preparation for the Longwoods Heritage Weekend, the UTMRS head up a day long heritage education day on the Friday for over 800 local grade sevens and eights.



The Moonlight Winter Family Hike (owl hike) in February was enjoyed by 108 people and 19 volunteers at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

Star Party

At Longwoods Road, an evening in June featured a presentation by Dave McCarter and the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society (RCAS) of London. Visitors learned about stars, constellations, globular star clusters, planets and methods used to view them. Later, the crowd enjoyed using RCAS telescopes to view the night sky.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

2010 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 \$550,000 for natural and cultural heritage conservation. Thousands of dollars were raised in 2010 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 supports special projects and events like the Annual Moonlight Winter Family Hike, the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail and the William Erickson Bursary. Through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program, the Conservation Authority has planted thousands of trees in the lower Thames region. The Foundation submits funding applications to corporations, government agencies, service clubs and other philanthropic organizations to undertake projects and programs which assist the LTVCA.



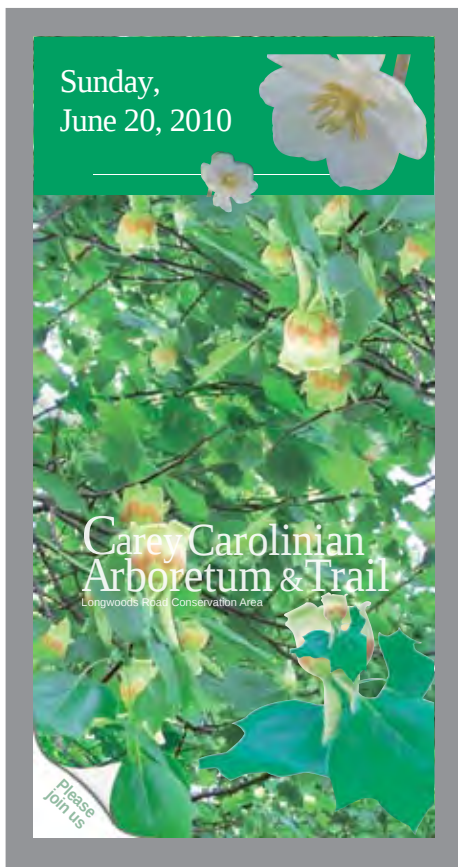
Every fall, close to 2,000 people attend memorial forest dedications held across the LTVCA watershed at McKinlay Woodlands in C.M. Wilson Conservation Area in Chatham-Kent (above), Badder and Robinson Memorial Forest in Mosa Forest near Bothwell (below) and Tilbury Northside Park.

The Foundation helped fund many Conservation Authority and watershed initiatives in 2010:

- Two new computer systems and software for Conservation Education and Ska-Nah-Doht Museum
- 30 picnic tables for C. M. Wilson Conservation Area
- 12 GPS units for Conservation Education programs
- 450 memorial trees from 2009
- Taste of Fall event at Ska-Nah-Doht sponsorship
- Support costs for summer students
- Sharon Creek Conservation Area land taxes (from Friends of Sharon Creek Trust Fund)
- Donation made to the Thames Talbot Land Trust towards the Tanager Tract in Elgin County



Carey Carolinian Arboretum & Trail



Facilitated through the Foundation, a \$26,000 gift in 2008 from a private donor - Dr. Lewis Carey, was used by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority for an educational "Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail" project at Longwoods Road Conservation Area in 2009. Dr. Carey passed away in November of 2009.

In the spring of 2010, more large stock Carolinian trees were purchased and planted with their signage including Kentucky Coffee, Cucumber Magnolia, Flowering Dogwood, PawPaw, and Slippery Elm as part of the Carolinian Arboretum. Later, an official opening and recognition ceremony was held on Fathers' Day, June 20. Over 70 friends, family and sponsors attended the afternoon event which included guided tours and a ribbon cutting by the Carey Family. Dr. Carey had left an additional \$5,000 in his estate towards the arboretum project, which was also presented by the family that day. To complement the conservation educational programs, the Foundation applied for the funding towards 12 GPS units to be used by students mapping the trail.

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. Dr. Carey's wish for messaging to reflect the connection between First Nations peoples and the natural surroundings of a Carolinian forest came to fruition, as Longwoods highlights both native and natural history. The final phase of this project will be the construction of an Carolinian information kiosk with plans to begin in 2011.



Dr. Carey's children officially opened the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail with a ribbon cutting on June 20, 2010. From left to right: John, Mark, Richard, Susan, David and youngest granddaughter Serena.



Dr. Carey's estate donated an additional \$5,000 to LTVCA's General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Campbell (second from left) and LTVCA Foundation's President Peter Snow (far right), at the official opening of the Arboretum and Trail.