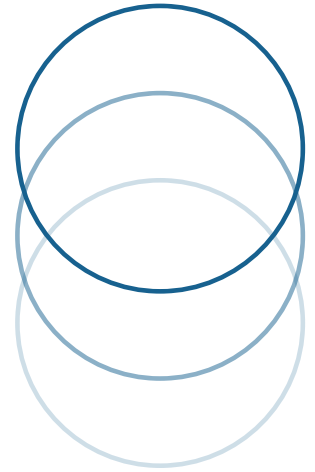




2024 ANNUAL REPORT





Vision

The LTVCA...
for a balanced and
healthy watershed

Mission

Leading by example
in environmental
protection in
partnership with the
community

Core Values

Respect, integrity,
commitment,
objectivity, and
collaboration

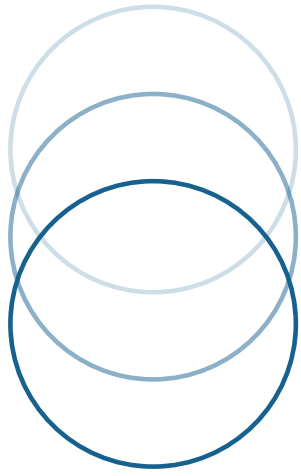


Land Acknowledgement

We will begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario. We also acknowledge the local lower Thames River watershed communities of this area which include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation, Caldwell Nation and Walpole Island First Nation. We acknowledge the first nations people within the villages, towns and cities of our communities. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.



T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR AND CAO	04
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SERVICES	08
CONSERVATION LANDS & SERVICES	11
CORPORATE SERVICES	18
EVENTS	21
LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS	23
AWARDS	25
PARTNERS	29



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



It is a great honor to provide these remarks as I close my final year as Chair of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. As I look back on my time as Chair, I am reminded of the collective effort it takes to ensure that our communities and the ecosystems which sustain us are protected and sustained for generations to come.

Over the past year, the LTVCA has celebrated many successes. We are expanding and improving our scientific and technical work which supports the resilience and health of our aquatic ecosystems and Lake Erie. For example, funding received for the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program directs significant resources to our rural communities to support a reduction of phosphorus loading to Lake Erie. The LTVCA is supporting the Pelee Coastal Resilience Project, which brings a nature based and collaborative community approach to coastal resilience and sustainable adaptation.

In addition, our work to support community and municipalities has continued to grow. The LTVCA and the community came together to revitalize the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival. The new organizing committee was able to implement a successful event to continue this much-loved community event. Our work in stewardship continues to showcase the importance of environmental restoration and best management practices but also highlights the power of collaboration. Without the efforts of private landowners, so much work which benefits the entire watershed would go undone.

All of this has been accomplished with the significant handicap of increased provincial requirements –in the form of the new Section 28 policies and procedures. The LTVCA staff completed five major reports for the Province without any additional funding being provided to support this work. As a result, 2025 will be a year of addressing those important items which were put aside to complete the provincially required reporting.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority remains dedicated to responsible management, community engagement, and science-based decision-making that puts the needs of our natural environment and the people who live here at the core of everything we do. We also rely on the continued support of our partners, stakeholders, and you, the community members who live and work alongside us in this beautiful watershed. Together, we can tackle the challenges ahead, whether it's protecting environmental health, providing a connection to nature or collaborating on community initiatives. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to sit in this chair for two years, and I look forward to supporting the LTVCA in the years to come.

A handwritten signature of Sarah Emons in black ink.

Sarah Emons
LTVCA Board Chair,
2023-2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



As demonstrated within the pages of this annual report, the Staff and Members of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) continue to work toward the fulfilment of our vision for the watershed by balancing the health of our water and natural heritage with a healthy economy. The LTVCA made great strides in 2024 but this was not without challenges.

The year 2024 was a year of additional work to address new requirements of the provincial government. This required staff to complete a number of significant studies. These included the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy, the Conservation Lands Strategy, the Conservation Lands Inventory, the Water and Erosion Control Structures Infrastructure Operational Plan and the LTVCA Asset Management Plan. These studies were completed by staff who set aside work that was scheduled to be completed to meet timelines as set by the province. The year 2025 will be a year of catching up on programs delayed by this work.

In addition to the work described above, in 2024 LTVCA staff prepared new planning and regulations policies and procedures and an updated LTVCA Administrative By-Law to address changes in the Conservation Authorities Act and its regulations.

A significant amount of the LTVCA's efforts support stewardship, as the LTVCA implements projects to meet ambitious goals – especially pertaining to reduction in nutrients reaching Lake Erie. This effort received a significant boost with the LTVCA signing an agreement with the federal government under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (FEI). The program began ramping up in 2024. In the next 3 years the LTVCA will be implementing a Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program across the watershed. Environment and Climate Change Canada is providing \$13,000,000 over the duration of the program to complete this work.

I would like to thank staff for all their hard work and provide a note of staff's appreciation to a committed and supportive Board of Directors. Finally, I would like to thank the hundreds of watershed residents who worked with the LTVCA to improve the watershed. The LTVCA was able to meet the challenges of 2024 because of the support of all these people.

I would urge you to become familiar with our programs and services and engage with our staff at every opportunity to help fulfil our collective goals. We are fortunate to live and work in the Lower Thames Valley, and have a duty to conserve and improve this region's environment for present and future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Peacock', written in a cursive style.

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

PROVINCIAL UPDATES

The following describes the strategies and plans that were required to be prepared by all Conservation Authorities in Ontario by December 31, 2024.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy

The Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy has been developed with the purpose of assisting the authority with enhancing its programs and services to address local watershed issues. The strategy both demonstrates the rationale for existing programs and services and identifies opportunities for future programs and services to address identified gaps in watershed management. The strategy is an opportunity to review how the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority approach to watershed management has evolved, as watershed issues and knowledge have changed since the Conservation Authority was established in 1961, and to forecast where it's heading based on emerging concerns.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Conservation Lands Strategy

In December 2020, changes in the Conservation Authorities Act resulted in the introduction of mandatory programs and services which are to be delivered by all conservation authorities. Ontario Regulation 686/21 defines one of the mandatory programs as the “conservation and management of lands”. Further, Section 10 of the regulation requires all conservation authorities to prepare a Conservation Area Strategy, for all lands owned or controlled by conservation authorities, by December 31, 2024.

This strategy provides a clear set of objectives which will inform decision-making related to the management, acquisition and disposal of lands owned by the LTVCA. Currently, the LTVCA has been operating under a number of Land Management and Conservation Area Management Plans

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Lands Inventory

LTVCA's Land Inventory identifies every parcel of land that Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority owns and includes some basic information for each parcel, such as location, acquisition date, method, and land use category.



PROVINCIAL UPDATES

Water and Erosion Control Structures Infrastructure Operational Plan

The LTVCA's Water and Erosion Control Structures Infrastructure Operational Plan is comprised of operational plans prepared in the past for each structure managed and operated by the Authority. The Plan identifies the following key elements:

- The purpose of each structure
- The operations required to meet the design targets of the structure
- The maintenance procedures required to ensure the structure is always operable
- The information that is required to ensure staff can operate the structure safely and as intended in its design

LTVCA Asset Management Plan

The LTVCA Asset Management Plan has been in the works for the last two years. LTVCA staff had originally planned to complete the plan in 2023. During this period however, the provincial government has made a number of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and approved a number of regulations that changed the way the LTVCA does business. All of these changes have limited the time available to complete the plan on its original timelines. Provincial requirements meant that the plan had to be completed by the end of 2024. The final LTVCA Asset Management Plan has now been prepared and was approved at the December 2024 meeting of the LTVCA Board of Directors.



WATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Water Management

The Winter of 2024 was another mild one. The Thames River didn't start freezing over until around January 15th. There were stretches of the river that remained open the entire winter, while some areas of the river may have seen up to around 10 cm of ice thickness. After six days of warm temperatures and rain, starting on the 23rd, all the river ice was flushed out into Lake St. Clair by the 28th. Periods of warm temperatures through the rest of the winter didn't allow the river to refreeze.

The main high flow event on the Thames River in 2024 occurred earlier than usual. From January 23rd to 25th, the entire lower Thames watershed received around 60 mm of rain, with about half of that falling on the evening of the 25th. In response, the Thames River rose, flooding the river flats from Delaware down to Chatham. Local runoff played a larger role than usual in producing the high river flows. Flows peaked near Dutton at around 450 m³/s on the 29th. But at Thamesville it was already up at 500 m³/s on the 27th, due to the local rains and snowmelt. At Thamesville, it finally peaked at 525 m³/s overnight on the 29th. The 6th Street Backwater Dam in Chatham was operated between the evenings of the 27th and the 30th. Water levels peaked at around 178.55m (CGVD28:78) in Chatham early on the 30th.

The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated seven times in 2024. The first time was January 9th to 11th. It was then operated again on January 13th and 14th. From January 25th to February 1st, it was operated in association with the event on the Thames River. Operations also occurred from April 12th to the 14th, April 30th to May 1st, and August 6th to 8th. The last operation occurred between December 29th, 2024, and January 3rd, 2025.

Water levels on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie were still above average and overall, quite similar to those seen in 2022 and 2023. However, slightly dryer conditions beginning in late summer started to bring lake levels back down to near normal by November. The year ended with lake levels still slightly above average.

With respect to the Ontario Low Water Response Program, there were no Low Water Conditions issued during 2024.



WATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Water Quality

Groundwater monitoring is conducted at nine wells throughout the watershed, with the use of water level loggers and supplemental rain and barometric pressure loggers at some locations. Water quality sampling at the wells was completed in November and early December.

The provincial stream water quality sampling is conducted at 11 locations throughout the watershed. LTVCA collects the samples monthly and the provincial lab performs analyses for general water chemistry. This program is supplemented by an additional 11 locations across the watershed using grant funding from MECP. By expanding the network to 22 locations and sampling during the winter months, a better understanding of water quality can be achieved as winter and spring months have shown to be the time where most nutrients and contaminants are transported to the Great Lakes. This program is further supplemented with pesticide monitoring at three sites during the spring, summer and fall.

Sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates (insects, worms and crustaceans that live at the bottom of the stream) was conducted by LTVCA staff in June. Samples are analyzed by the University of Windsor. The species richness of benthic organisms is another indicator of water quality.

Algae blooms were observed in 2024 along both the Lake Erie shoreline and on the Thames River. During the first half of September, a bloom was detected along the Lake Erie shoreline, from the eastern side of Point Pelee through almost to Dealtown. Operators at Chatham-Kent's Wheatley and South Chatham-Kent Drinking Water Plants detected low levels of microcystins in the lake water (raw water). The presence of the microcystins did not have any impact on drinking water quality. The Thames River saw two small blooms. The first bloom was observed between August 28th and September 4th. The bloom was observable between Thamesville and Bloomfield Road, with the highest concentrations in downtown Chatham. A second bloom was observed between September 23rd and the 27th, and seemed to be limited to the city of Chatham between Communication Road and Keil Drive. Isolated blooms were also seen this year on Big Creek and Jeanettes Creek. During a bloom, LTVCA staff monitor them with an algae sensor. Two samples, one on the Thames River and one at the Deary Pump Station on Jeanettes Creek, were collected for analysis. They showed low levels of microcystin.

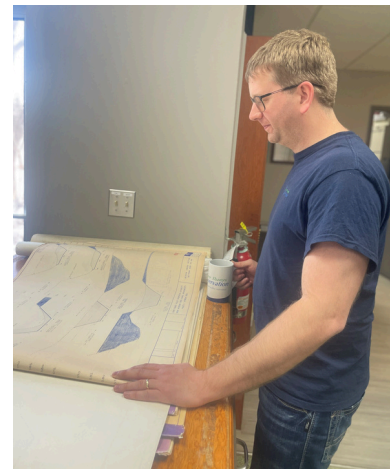


WATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Planning and Regulations

The land use planning and regulations program directs development away from hazardous areas to reduce hardship, loss of property/possessions and to aid in the protection of life. Reducing the impacts of human activities (development/infill) along and within natural hazard areas provides for unimpeded flood and erosion processes to occur without interference or impacts to structures from the hazards. Education of the public and our member municipalities is key to helping maintain these areas in a natural state so that they continue to provide an incalculable service on the landscape.

Planning staff commented on 195 municipal planning submissions in 2024, the lowest amount within the last decade. Regulations staff processed and reviewed 1,108 permit applications in 2024, up significantly from all previous years, exceeding the previous record by 434 applications, set in 2021.



On February 16, 2024, a new Minister's regulation (Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) under the Conservation Authorities Act was approved by the Province. This regulation replaced the existing LTVCA-specific regulation (Ontario Regulation 152/06: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) and is now used by all 36 Conservation Authorities across the Province. This new regulation came into effect on April 01, 2024 which coincided with the proclamation of associated sections within the Conservation Authorities Act. The changes to the Act and the new regulation created a number of requirements to be implemented prior to April 01, 2024. Staff worked diligently to draft a manual entitled, "Policies and Procedures to Support Administration of the Conservation Authorities Act Part VI and Ontario Regulation 41/24". This manual is currently in draft format as the Procedural sections haven't yet been drafted and consultation has not yet been completed for the policies. The regulation also required mapping updates and to have our regulated area screening map available online, which were also completed. A number of required mapping updates have been identified and will be implemented in 2025.



CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

Construction Projects

LTVCA has been immersed in construction projects for the past year and many these projects will be ongoing into 2025. As our organization grows with programming and services, so do the building spaces which staff occupy. Phase 1 of the revitalization of the Longwoods Road Resource Centre has concluded with the creation of a new Indigenous Hall, complete with a commercial kitchen and accessible bathroom. Currently, we are working toward the completion of Phase 2; a new LULA Elevator, renovations to the public washrooms on the lower level, and the conversion of the former theater, now used as office space, into gallery space.

In the western part of our watershed, renovations to the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre have begun converting a portion of the building into new workspace for Phosphorus Reduction staff. These modifications will provide our field staff with space for officework as well as a dedicated area for the processing of collected samples.

Conservation Areas

A new classroom at the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre has been created and will be the home to upcoming Indigenous Education programs for our community.

The year has seen the construction of many trails, including a new section within our Walter Devereux Conservation Area. Signage has been updated to include new features like wayfinding throughout some conservation areas, such as Longwoods Road, C.M. Wilson and Dutton-Dunwich. A new parking area has also been created at Mosa Forest for day-use visitors. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent, through Southwestern Ontario Tourism, featured our C.M Wilson and Two Creeks Conservation Areas in their Winter and Spring campaigns.



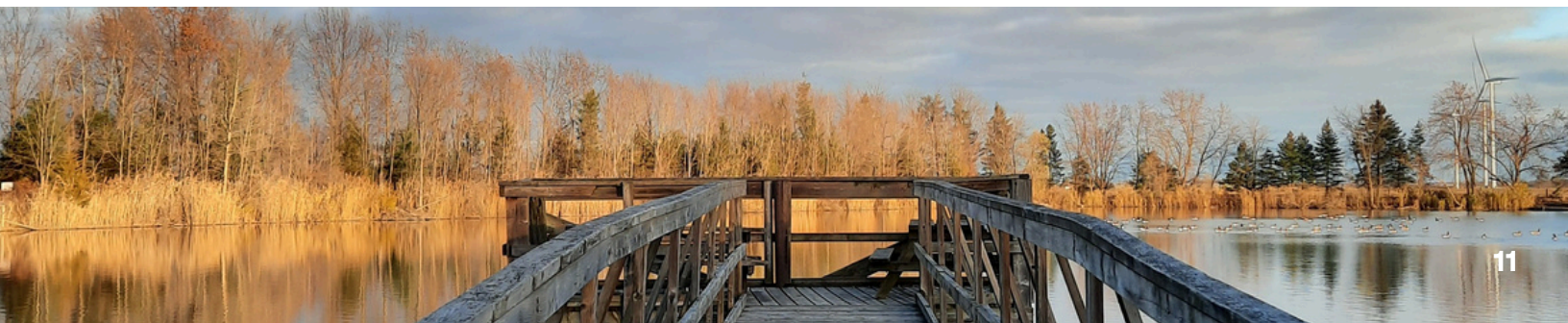
New parking lot at Mosa Forest Conservation Area



Inside view of the addition at Longwoods Road Conservation Area



One of the many new signs throughout our conservation areas



CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

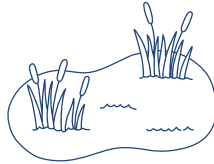
Rural Stewardship

Afforestation



27 projects
57 acres

Wetlands



21 projects
19 acres

Tallgrass Prairie



30 projects
321 acres

Seedlings Sold



66,191



ALUS

CHATHAM-KENT

Acres



60
New
Acres

Funding



\$378,525
Invested

Projects



35
New
Projects

Impact



324
Acres
to Date

Farmers



19
New
Participants



ALUS ELGIN

Acres



53
New
Acres

Funding



\$216,987
Invested

Projects



36
New
Projects

Impact



874
Acres
to Date

Farmers



29
New
Participants

ALUS Middlesex

Acres



131
New
Acres

Funding



\$891,000
Invested

Projects



50
New
Projects

Impact



827
Acres
to Date

Farmers



44
New
Participants

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

Urban Stewardship

Large Stock Trees Sold



1768

Invasive Removal Events



4

Pollinator Gardens



4

Volunteers



449
(1057 Hours)



Garbage pickup
with the Thames Art
Gallery



Pollinator garden
planting with
Woodbridge



Invasive removal
with UCC



Garbage pickup
with the Children's
Treatment Centre



Pollinator garden planting with
Chatham Christian School



TD Tree Days tree
planting.



Garbage pickup with the
Sydenham Field Naturalists

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

Lower Thames River Watershed Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program

In 2024, the Agriculture Program successfully secured a four-year funding agreement with the Canada Water Agency through the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative for Toxic and Nuisance Algae. This ongoing approved project, titled The Lower Thames River Watershed Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program, is being executed by Agricultural Services staff with \$13,000,000 in funding for the duration of the program from 2024 through 2028.

The purpose of the new project is to support the agricultural sector in reducing non-point source agriculture nutrient loads within the Lower Thames River watershed, resulting in reductions of phosphorus and overall nutrient loads to Lake Erie. The multi-part project began in October and will deliver a Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation program, a monitoring program, and an outreach and education program.

On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring

The ONFARM program continued collection of data supporting BMP outcomes from long-term edge-of-field water quality monitoring sites. Monitoring includes subsurface (tile drainage) flow, and when possible, surface runoff flow. 16 events were captured for sampling during 2024. Field data collection that occurred at the three sites included: soil sampling, crop hand harvest sampling, drone imagery mapping. The highlight of the year for the ONFARM program was the significant progress in data analysis of the edge-of-field sites which has been performed using the Water Information System (WISKI) database.

OMAF- COA

In September 2024, the fourth annual Cultivating Conservation Tour took place in the Chatham-Kent area. The tour showcased 6 BMP projects and highlighted the benefits of BMPs to improve soil health and water quality. Other projects funded by the OMAFA-COA agreement include the continuation of the water monitoring program with the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, this partnership works together to continue the collection of water quality and quantity data.

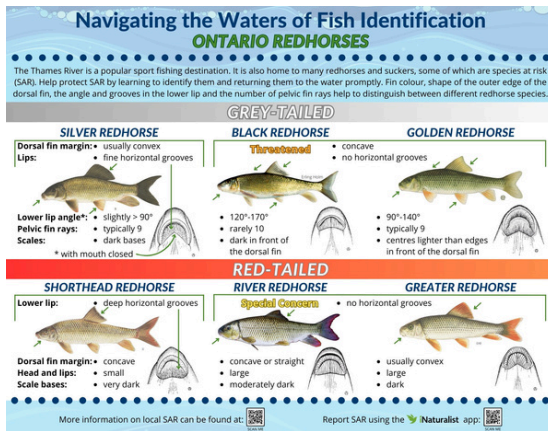


CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

Aquatic Species at Risk

Letters were sent to ranchers whose livestock access watercourses, or whose creeks lack shoreline vegetation (riparian buffers) within approximately 5 km, as the creek flows, from areas in the Thames River and Rondeau Bay inhabited by aquatic species at risk (SAR). These letters generated one livestock exclusion project that will protect 300 m of watercourse (to be completed in 2025) and four riparian projects totaling 7.37 ha (18.2 acres). A positive meeting was held with City of London drainage and ecology representatives to discuss the potential adoption of a municipal riparian buffer policy.

Temperature and dissolved oxygen data loggers were deployed at 13 Thames River, one Big Creek and two Rondeau Bay tributary locations to monitor environmental conditions experienced by fish and mussel SAR in these locations across seasons and years.



Seven Aquatic Invasive Species Alert! factsheets were printed, and two Navigating the Waters of Fish Identification factsheets have been developed and posted to the LTVCA's SAR webpage. The first will help fishers identify redhorse fish species, two of which are SAR, from look-alike species. The second will help fishers identify four native lamprey species (Silver, Northern Brook, American Brook and Chestnut) from the non-native, parasitic Sea Lamprey. These factsheets will encourage fishers to return SAR, as well as all native species, back to the water as quickly as possible.

LTVCA's aquatic SAR threat assessment and prioritization processes was presented at the Society for Canadian Aquatic Sciences conference. A presentation regarding the Aquatic SAR found in the watershed, threats to them and what individuals can do to reduce those threats was also given to the Sydenham Field Naturalists.

Funding for these initiatives has been provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP), and Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk.



CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

Terrestrial Species at Risk

Recommended actions to protect SAR at the Mosa Forest Conservation Area were incorporated into a draft management plan for the property. A final report was submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada for the Species at Risk Management Planning and Recovery Implementation in the *Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority* project.

Song Meter Mini acoustic and Anabat Swift ultrasonic detection units were deployed at C. M. Wilson, McGeachy Pond, Stirling and Rondeau Bay Marshes CAs in 2024 (see photo to right). A Wildlife Technician, funded through Canada Summer Jobs, analyzed Song Meter Mini data from the latter three CAs to determine the breeding birds and amphibians present. One Anabat unit was tampered with, resulting in \$120 in damage.



Staff participated in a threat assessment meeting for Pyramid Dome (occurs in Sinclair's Bush CA) and Globose Dome snails.

Survey123 electronic forms were developed, tested and refined for Anabat Swift, Song Meter Mini and water quality field data collection to save time and reduce the potential for transcription errors.



Outreach



CORPORATE SERVICES

Education Programs

The LTVCA continued to operate in-demand education programs at Longwoods Road Conservation Area (including Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum). Through the latter part of 2024, new program offerings were developed for the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre. Education programs offered by LTVCA strive to promote community building, foster understanding of local Indigenous heritage, and promote healthy relationships with the environment.

Members of the Education Team participated in a number of educational opportunities in the community, including offering: River and Creek Safety Programming, free of charge, at select schools within the watershed; supporting the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) Science Fair as well as the TVDSB and London District Catholic School Board Heritage Fair; providing career day talks; and, participating in the St. Thomas-Elgin Water Festival which had 3200 grade 2-5 students in attendance.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

Renovations at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum continue. Despite this, approximately 3,707 members of the public visited the indoor Museum in 2024.

Ska-Nah-Doht Village was once again caught on camera in 2024. Professional photography of the site was taken with the support of Visit Middlesex in April, while approximately 45 cast and crew were on-site in October to film “Uncharted Beats.”

June through November, staff of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village conducted public consultation regarding the new Indigenous Community Learning Centre and the future of the Village and Museum. There were 91 responses, with the majority indicating a desire for opportunities related to personal learning, representation, and Truth and Reconciliation.

The museum curator presented at the History Symposium in February, and in June attended 'Object Lessons in Re-imagining Collections' at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology - a collaborative day centered on rethinking how we approach caring for, engaging with, interpreting, and understanding the cultural belongings of Indigenous communities.

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Advisory Committee

Williem Bruinink – Chair

Ken Loveland – Vice-Chair

Gayle Bogart

Ronald Doane (*until November*)

Don Fairbairn

Darcy Fallon (*until March*)

Sandi Hipple

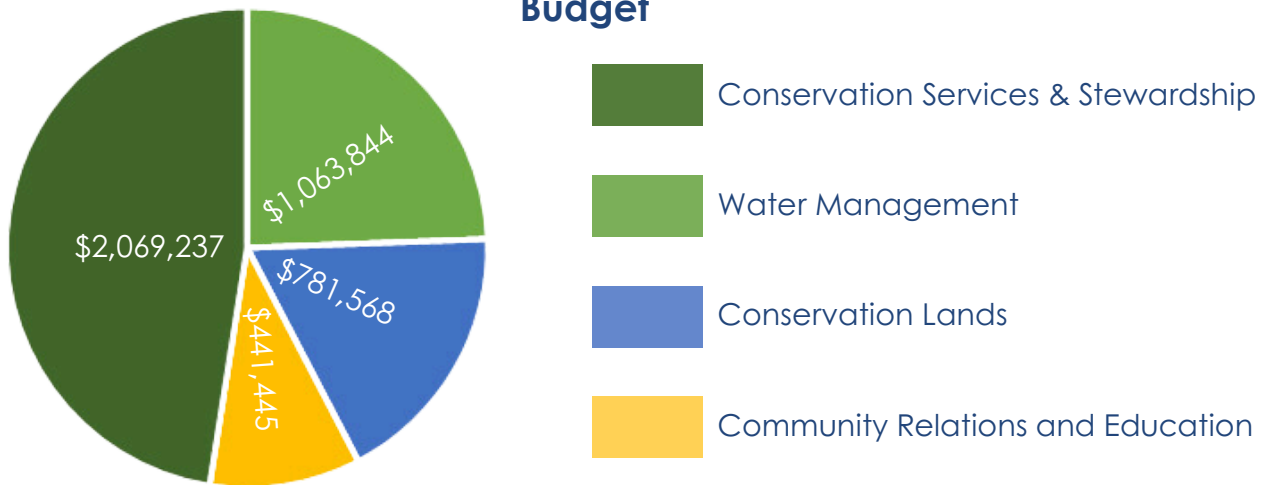
Christopher Parker



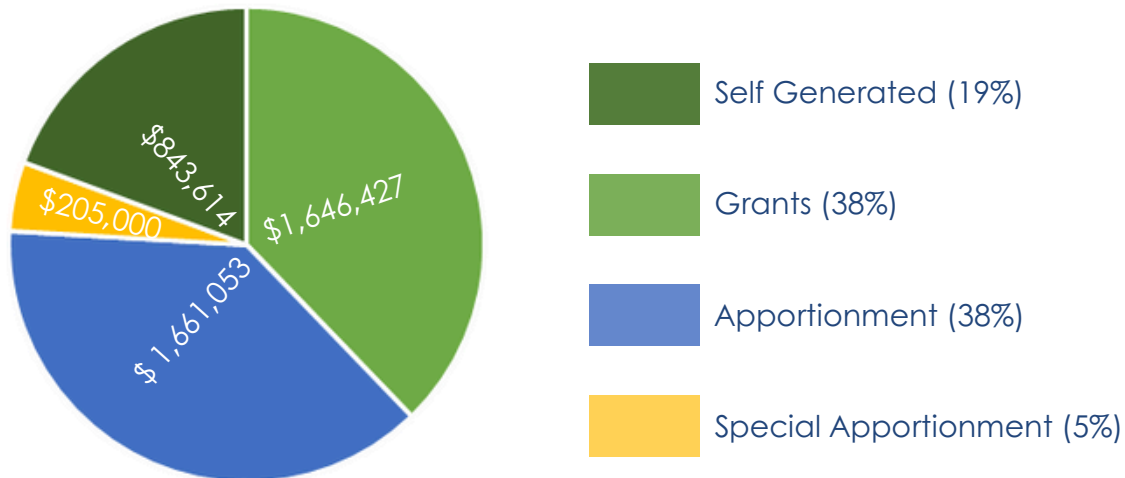
CORPORATE SERVICES

Finance and Administration Services

Budget



Source of Funds



EVENTS

Approximately 300 people attended Stories in the Longhouse at Ska-Nah-Doht Village in February.

The LTVCA partnered on a river clean-up with the Thames Art Gallery, as part of the exhibit GardenShip and State (see photo top right of Scouts Chatham Group 19 cleaning up the Thames River.)

Low and no-cost March Break programming was hosted at both C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Areas.

The Battle of Longwoods, hosted in partnership with the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society was held at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, May 4-5, 2024. The weekend was attended by approximately 1,074 people, including reenactors.

The 4th Annual Cultivating Conservation Tour, celebrating five years of ALUS Chatham-Kent, was a huge success. 85 people visited six different sites ending with dinner and drinks at Red Barn Brewing Co. (see photo second from top on right, staff at a stop on the tour.)

The Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival took place at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area in early October. In partnership with the Water Festival Committee, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, and community groups, the LTVCA hosted this three day event. The festival was attended by approximately 2,100 elementary school students, and supported by over 300 local high school students, plus adult volunteers.

This year, two Free Tree Giveaways were held at C.M. Wilson CA, staff gave out over 2,000 large stock trees.

Staff participated in the Conservation Ontario Bonspiel and took home the top prize (see photo bottom right.)



LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS

Water Management Services

		2022	2023	2024
Permit Applications Received		543	460	1108
Permits Issued		556	451	715
Planning Applications		312	416	195
Landowner Inquiries		2341	1091	3228
Legal Inquiries		105	61	91
Average turn around time for permits (days)	Routine Development	7	3.5	12
	Minor Development	18	14	23.5
	Major Development	153	n/a**	n/a**
Hearings		7	0	0
Violations/Potential Violations		26	21	28

Water Monitoring

	2022	2023	2024
Number of Surface Water Quality Monitoring Stations	23	22	22
Number of Ground Water Quality Monitoring Stations	9	9	9
Number of Benthic Monitoring Sites	6	12	10

ONFARM

Number of Water Sampling Stations	12	7	8
Number of Water Samples Collected	202	108	398



LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS



Lands and Conservation Services



		2022	2023	2024
Total Land Holdings (Hectares)		704	704	704
Total Hectares Under Forest Management Plans		153	153	153
Total Taxes for Landholdings		\$ 52,417	\$ 54,046	\$ 57,621
Seedlings Sold		71,170	71,210	66,191
Total Acres of Habitat Restored	Trees	117	83	57
	Wetland	51	5	19
	Prairie	86	40	321
Total Number of Projects	Trees	56	49	27
	Wetland	28	9	21
	Prairie	17	19	30
New ALUS Participants	Chatham-Kent	13	12	19
	Elgin	24	14	29
	Middlesex	30	30	44
Total ALUS Acres	Chatham-Kent	62	23	60
	Elgin	90	72	53
	Middlesex	285	150	131
Urban Stewardship Events		20	24	30
Total Seasonal Campsite Purchased		72	72	72
Total Campers		31,865	29,952	30,371
Day Use Visitors (C.M. Wilson)		5,881	5,577	4,508
Day Use Visitors (Longwoods)		11,716	13,401	14,185
Day Use Visitors (Sharon Creek)		N/A	3,630	1,911
Total Parking Passes Sold		396	343	346



LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS

 Agriculture Services 			
	2022	2023	2024
Participating Farm Businesses	70	51	81
Funding Provided to Farm Businesses	\$138,420.85	\$138,062.50	\$309,429.00
Cover Crops Planted (Acres)	9,785	8,900	10,314

 Communication, Outreach and Education 			
	2022	2023	2024
Volunteers	1065	915	990
Volunteer hours	6,472	5,764	5,302
Students Participating in Education Programing	3,586	5,049	5,105
Facebook Followers	3,223	3,483	3,766
Instagram Followers	1,101	1,258	1,352



AWARDS

Environmental Awards 2024

Most Dedicated Organization

Enbridge - Mark Gagner



Mark Gagner, on behalf of Enbridge, is recognized for his outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship in Chatham-Kent. Through his tireless efforts in securing funding, planning, and executing several large-scale tree planting events, Mark has played a pivotal role in enhancing the region's green spaces and promoting community involvement in conservation initiatives. His leadership and dedication have significantly contributed to the success of local reforestation efforts, making a lasting impact on both the environment and the community.

Most Dedicated Landowner (East)

Hadler Farms Inc.



Hadler Farms Inc. completed a 2-acre tree planting project with the LTVCA, featuring a blend of coniferous and deciduous trees. Her property is located just outside the Glencoe area. The trees were planted in an open space at the front of her property, and the Groundskeeper, George, did an outstanding job preparing the site beforehand. Following the planting, he has continued to provide excellent maintenance through mowing and controlling weed competition.

Most Dedicated Landowner (West)

Bob and Moira Kerr



Bob and Moira Kerr have transformed a portion of the Flook & Hinton drain into 10 acres of protected space for species at risk. In addition to a series of wetlands, tallgrass prairie buffers and trees, Bob and Moira have created a hibernaculum for Fox Snakes, a series of fish cribs, and a turtle beach.

AWARDS

Volunteer Heroes Awards

Special Events

Retired Teachers of Chatham-Kent
Kathy Flanagan & Anne Velle



Over 60 retired teachers from Chatham-Kent have volunteered for the CKL Water Festival for 18 years, engaging over 25,000 elementary students. Their contributions include leading activities, serving on the festival committee, providing logistical support, acting as event ambassadors, and offering funding through the local Retired Teachers of Ontario chapter.

Environmental

John and Jan Everett
"Turtle Talks"



John and Jan Everett have been actively raising awareness about turtles, turtle crossings, and assisting turtles across the road at various LTVCA events, including Twilight Tuesdays, CKLWF, and Turtle Talks. Their passion and informative approach to turtle conservation is immeasurable in protecting these vulnerable creatures.

Committee

Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Waterfest *new* Committee

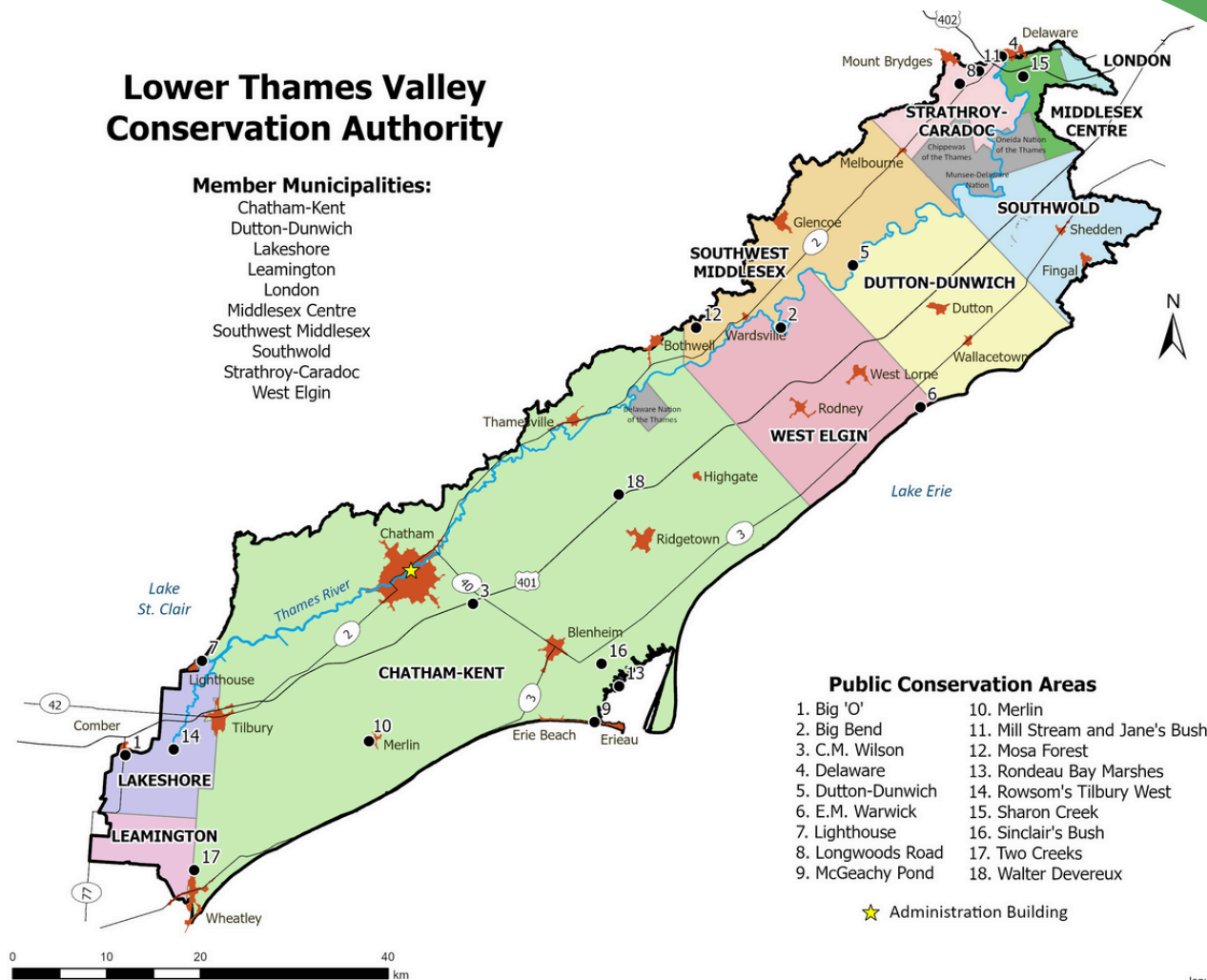


Following 18 years of devoted service by Don Hector in organizing the CKLWF, a new committee has been established. With Don's assistance, this committee effectively planned and carried out the event. The CKLWF is a yearly event that is a highlight of the school year for over 2,100 students. This event would not have been possible without the outstanding work of this committee.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Member Municipalities:

Chatham-Kent
Dutton-Dunwich
Lakeshore
Leamington
London
Middlesex Centre
Southwest Middlesex
Southwold
Strathroy-Caradoc
West Elgin



January 2023

LTVCA Board of Directors

Chair

Sarah Emons (Township of Southwold)

Vice Chair

Trevor Thompson (Municipality of Chatham-Kent)

Vice Chair

Paul Tiessen (Municipality of Leamington)

Amy Finn (Municipality of Chatham-Kent)

Michael Bondy (Municipality of Chatham-Kent)

Ken Loveland (Municipality of Dutton Dunwich)

Larissa Vogler (Municipality of Lakeshore)

Paul Van Meerbergen (City of London)

Hugh Aerts (Municipality of Middlesex Centre)

Martin Vink (Municipality of Southwest Middlesex)

Sandi Hipple (Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc)

Richard Leatham (Municipality of West Elgin)

Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Waterfest Committee

Chair

Glenn Smith

Janice Boose

Glenn Smith

Stephanie Peltier

Don Hector

2024 LTVCA STAFF

Full-Time/Long-Term Contract Staff

Mark Peacock – CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Adam Gibb – Western District Supervisor
Agnes Vriends – Administrative Assistant
Alison Klages – Curator, Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum, Team Lead Education and Communications
Alyssa Broeders – Community Educator/Urban Stewardship Technician
Amanda Blain – Community Educator/Land Stewardship Technician
Amanda Doucette – Agricultural Outreach and Communications Technician
Amber Frak – Water Quality Technician
Andrew Mickle – Agricultural Stewardship Specialist
Bashir Rokni Deilami – GIS/Engineering Technician (*until September*)
Brittney Littlefield – Soil & Water Quality Technician
Donna Small – Agricultural and Phosphorus Reduction Program Coordinator
Elise Gabrielli-Schroeder – ALUS Middlesex Program Director (*on leave*)
Erica Ion – Interim ALUS Middlesex Program Director
Genevieve Champagne – Manager, Conservation Lands & Services
Greg Van Every – Conservation Services Coordinator
Holly Blondeel – Administrative Assistant, Planning and Regs
Jason Homewood – Water Resources & Regulations Technician
Jason Wintermute – Manager, Watershed & Information Services
Jessica Cook – Indigenous Community Educator (*until April*)
Kally Casier – Finance & Administrative Assistant
Leah Ripley – Agricultural Program Administrative Assistant
Mariah Bneshiins Alexander – Indigenous Community Educator
Masen Kankula – Western District Lead Hand
Michael Young – Wetlands and Stewardship Technician
Mike Shore – Eastern District Supervisor
Nicole Clark – Eastern District Lead Hand
Nolan Thibert – Western Lead Hand (*until August*)
Randy Kirby – Watershed Monitoring Specialist
Rashel Tremblay – ALUS Chatham-Kent Program Coordinator
Robert Guo – Planning Technician
Russell Vey – ALUS Elgin Coordinator
Stephanie Cullen – ALUS Elgin Coordinator (*until June*)
Thomas Martel – Community Educator (*until August*)
Todd Casier – Manager, Finance & Administrative Services
Tyler Thornton – Eastern District Stewardship Technician
Valerie Towsley – Watershed Resource Planner
Vicki McKay – Species at Risk Biologist



Short-Term/Part Time Contract Staff

Alexander Dabski – Wildlife Technician
Alison Roland – Administrative Assistant
Arthur Klages – Visitor Services, Longwoods
Daniel Okubay Tewolde – Water Resources Eng. Co-op
Darren Hughes – SAR Technician
Dorothy Li – Western District Ranger
Edmund McRae – Eastern District Ranger
Erica Chaif – Western District Ranger
Graham Moddle – ALUS Middlesex Program Coordinator
Ian Gauthier – Watershed Monitoring Assistant
Kristina Silvera – Environmental Technician
Lela Burt – ALUS Middlesex Co-op
Madelaine Boucher – ALUS Elgin Co-op
Mark Bakelaar – Visitor Services, Longwoods
Miranda Jacques – Conservation Restoration Technician
Sabryn McLennan – Assistant Curator
Sarah Cook – Outreach Specialist (*until April*)/Ranger, CM Wilson
Sarah Riley – Reforestation Maintenance Technician/Eastern District Ranger

PARTNERS

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity, governed by a volunteer Board of six Directors.

LTVCF works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and other watershed conservation organizations, raising funds to support renewable natural resources, natural and cultural heritage conservation projects.

Since the establishment of the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program 27 years ago, 10,492 trees grow at six memorial forests. Three dedication services welcomed loved ones to these forests. The Foundation provided the LTVCA with \$5,386 towards the planting of 372 memorial tree seedlings donated this year.

The Foundation continued its capital fundraising campaign initiated in 2023, supporting the LTVCA's Indigenous Learning Centre and Revitalization of Ska-Nah-Doht Museum project, located at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.



PARTNERS

Member Municipalities

ALUS Canada
Campbell Toyota
Canada Water Agency
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
Chatham Kent Community Foundation
Canadian Wildlife Federation
Delaware Lioness Club
Dillon Consulting Limited
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Eco Canada
Elgin Clean Water Program
Elgin Stewardship Council
Employment and Social Development Canada
Enbridge
Environment & Climate Change Canada
Farmers Lending Group
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Forest Canada
Government of Ontario

Hat Trick Farms

Invasive Species Centre
IODE
Kiwanis Club of Rodney
Lambton Kent District School Board
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
Optimist Club of West Lorne
Ridge Landfill Community Trust
Rodney Lions Club
Salus Mutual
St. Clair Catholic School Board
Sunrise Rotary
TD Bank
Together CK
Tourism HR Canada
Tree Canada
Waste Connections Canada
Westminster College Foundation
Wildlife Habitat Canada
Woodbridge Foam Corporation





100 Thames Street
Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8
(519)354-7310
www.ltvca.ca

