



Long Point Region
Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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LONG POINT REGION WATERSHED

MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR & GENERAL MANAGER



**MICHAEL
COLUMBUS**
Chair, LPRCA

As I reflect on this year as the Chair of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions made by Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA). Last year, LPRCA approved our **2019–2023 Strategic Plan: Working together to shape the well-being of our watershed** that builds upon our commitment to protect, advance and rejuvenate the watershed.

The *Strategic Plan* was developed in consultation with our municipal partners, watershed residents, LPRCA staff and the Board of Directors. This plan, guided by LPRCA's new mission, vision and values ensures the watershed is at the centre of everything we do.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing support and contribution of their time and efforts in this role. With a focus on strategic planning LPRCA will continue to thrive and the Board is collectively confident that the future of the LPRCA is in good hands moving forward.



**JUDY
MAXWELL**
General Manager,
LPRCA

There is much to recognize and celebrate from the past year at Long Point Region Conservation Authority. As General Manager, I am very proud of the accomplishments of all LPRCA staff and volunteers in supporting and delivering quality services and experiences.

In 2019, we updated shoreline and riverine mapping data, planted 80,970 trees throughout the watershed, completed 14 wetland restoration projects and effectively worked with our municipal emergency management partners through 12 flood events.

Despite regulatory changes and funding challenges, LPRCA was able to maintain a positive financial position in 2019. The funding environment, which does not fully meet the needs of our mandated services, is an ongoing challenge in our province but LPRCA is committed to finding more efficient and effective ways to deliver our services.

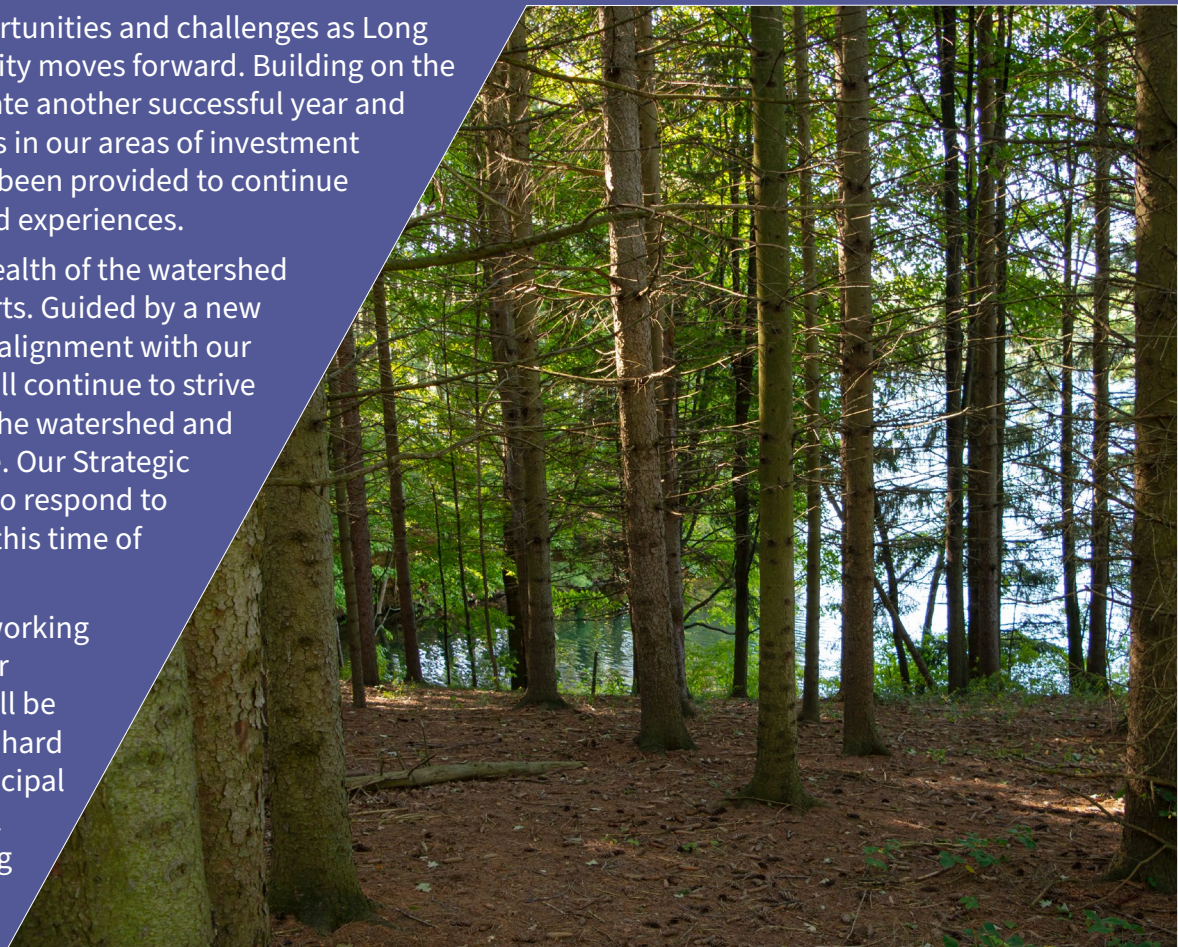
I would like to acknowledge our Board of Directors for their work, leadership and commitment to the necessary resources to achieve our successes. Transformation is constant for Conservation Authorities and both the Board and I remain committed to working together to enhance our watershed.

LOOKING FORWARD — 2020

The new year will bring both opportunities and challenges as Long Point Region Conservation Authority moves forward. Building on the achievements of 2019, we anticipate another successful year and are excited to make advancements in our areas of investment and implement the tools we have been provided to continue delivering exceptional services and experiences.

The new Strategic Plan puts the health of the watershed at the centre of our collective efforts. Guided by a new mission, vision and values, and in alignment with our four strategic directions, LPRCA will continue to strive for improvement in the health of the watershed and the mandated services we provide. Our Strategic Plan helps better position LPRCA to respond to change and will be crucial during this time of transformation in our province.

We look forward to another year working alongside all our stakeholders. Our successes over the coming year will be the result of the commitment and hard work of our staff, volunteers, municipal partners, residents and donors; all of whom are committed to shaping the future well-being of the Long Point Region watershed.





PROTECTING LIFE AND PROPERTY

PLANNING & REGULATIONS

Long Point Region Conservation Authority's planning and regulation services are essential to the prevention of loss of life and property damage. Careful consideration of development near wetlands, watercourses and the Lake Erie shoreline is required to mitigate the effects of flooding and erosion. LPRCA's planning department reviewed 259 permit applications in 2019 and worked with local municipalities to review and provide technical

advice on 156 applications. Planning department staff attended Client Customer Service Training in 2019 to ensure continued customer service excellence.

	2019	2018
Permit Applications Reviewed	259	240
Municipal Applications Consulted On	156	175

FLOOD FORECASTING & LOW WATER RESPONSE

Long Point Region Conservation Authority monitors weather conditions, weather stations, stream gauges, groundwater levels and snowpack measurements to evaluate the potential for flooding. 2019 was an active year for flood forecasting with water levels in Lake Erie remaining near or at record levels throughout the year. With these exceptionally high lake levels, a standing watershed conditions statement – Flood Outlook was issued for the Lake Erie shoreline on May 15th and remained in effect throughout 2019. High water levels, combined with periods of strong southwesterly winds, resulted in several instances of significant flooding along the lake shoreline.

A total of 21 flood messages were issued in 2019:

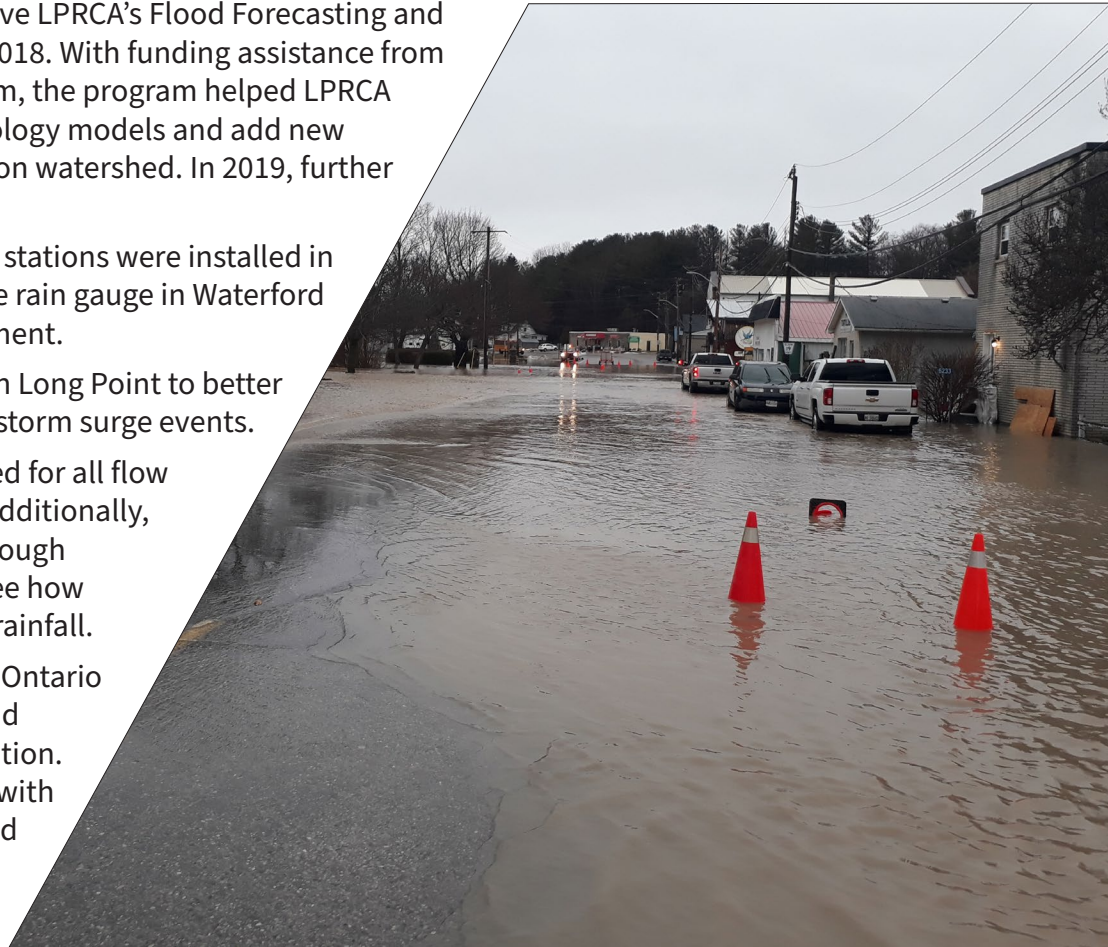
	2019	2018
Flood Outlooks	9	5
Flood Watches	10	9
Flood Warnings	2	5

Precipitation levels throughout 2019 were approximately 15% higher than average. Due to the adequate precipitation during the year, no Low Water Response declarations were issued in 2019.

FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A two-year project to update and improve LPRCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning System was launched in July 2018. With funding assistance from the National Disaster Mitigation Program, the program helped LPRCA automate data collection, update hydrology models and add new gauges throughout the Long Point Region watershed. In 2019, further improvements were made:

- Two new real-time rainfall weather stations were installed in Jarvis and Simcoe. A third real-time rain gauge in Waterford was upgraded with modern equipment.
- A water level sensor was installed in Long Point to better assess how the inner bay reacts to storm surge events.
- 100-year flood flows were calculated for all flow gauges in the LPRCA watersheds. Additionally, multiple storm events were run through the GAWSER hydrology model to see how watercourses respond to different rainfall.
- LPRCA partnered with the Western Ontario WISKI Hub to collect streamflow and rainfall data in a central online location. Database development is ongoing with public access anticipated by the end of 2020.



FLOODPLAIN MAPPING & RISK ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

In 2019, LPRCA undertook three floodplain mapping projects supported by funding from the Federal National Disaster Mitigation Program. These projects involved collecting new topographic and flow data to modernize floodplain maps for at-risk areas in the LPRCA watershed. Accurate and up-to-date floodplain maps will facilitate science-based planning decisions and thorough risk assessments. Two of the mapping projects focused on the Lake Erie shoreline in Haldimand and

Norfolk Counties while the third examined riverine floodplains throughout the Long Point Region watershed. Two rounds of Public Information Centre (PIC) events were held to share mapping project information and collect feedback from the public. The initial round of project PICs served to introduce and explain the scope of the initiative, while the second round featured draft versions of updated maps.



HALDIMAND COUNTY LAKE ERIE HAZARD MAPPING AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The mapping project along the Lake Erie shoreline in Haldimand County began in 2018 and was a collaboration between Haldimand County, Grand River Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and LPRCA. Engineering consultant W. F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers collected data and updated the shoreline maps. The first PIC was held in September 2018 and the second took place in September 2019. The project will reach completion in early 2020.

LAKE ERIE SHORELINE FLOODPLAIN AND EROSION MAPPING IN NORFOLK COUNTY

In the spring of 2019, Norfolk County and LPRCA partnered to update flood and erosion hazard mapping along the Lake Erie shoreline within the county's boundaries. Engineering consultant W. F. Baird & Associates Coastal Engineers gathered data and refined existing mapping. The first PIC was held in June 2019 followed by the second in November. The project will reach completion in early 2020.

RIVERINE FLOODPLAIN MAPPING

In May 2019, LPRCA launched a floodplain mapping project focused on flood-prone riverine regions within the LPRCA watershed. LPRCA worked with engineering consultant Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions who used updated flow models and recent topographic data to produce updated maps. The study areas of focus were Cultus, Garnet, Gilbertville, Jarvis, Norwich, Port Burwell, Port Dover, Simcoe, Tillsonburg, Vienna and Waterford. The initial round of PICs was held in November 2019 with the second round in February 2020 sharing further project information and draft mapping data.



An aerial photograph of a river meandering through a lush green landscape. The river is dark blue, contrasting with the vibrant green grass and fields. In the background, there are clusters of trees and some small buildings, suggesting a rural or semi-rural area. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A large, solid green triangle is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the text.

ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

TREE PLANTING

Trees reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. To harness the benefits of tree cover, LPRCA offers several tree planting programs. Through careful consideration of planting environments and environmental goals, LPRCA is able to help landowners plant species that complement existing ecosystems.

In 2019 Long Point Region Conservation Authority planted **80,970** trees throughout the watershed:

- 64,187 trees were planted through Forests Ontario's 50 Million Trees program, 59,730 on new sites and 4,457 on previously planted sites.
- 11,655 trees were planted with support of Ontario Power Generation's Forest Corridor Project.
- 4,963 seedling sales were made through LPRCA's Private Land Tree Planting Program.
- 165 trees were planted within the Municipality of Bayham, Township of South-West Oxford, and the Town of Tillsonburg as part of LPRCA's Trees for Roads program.



STEWARDSHIP

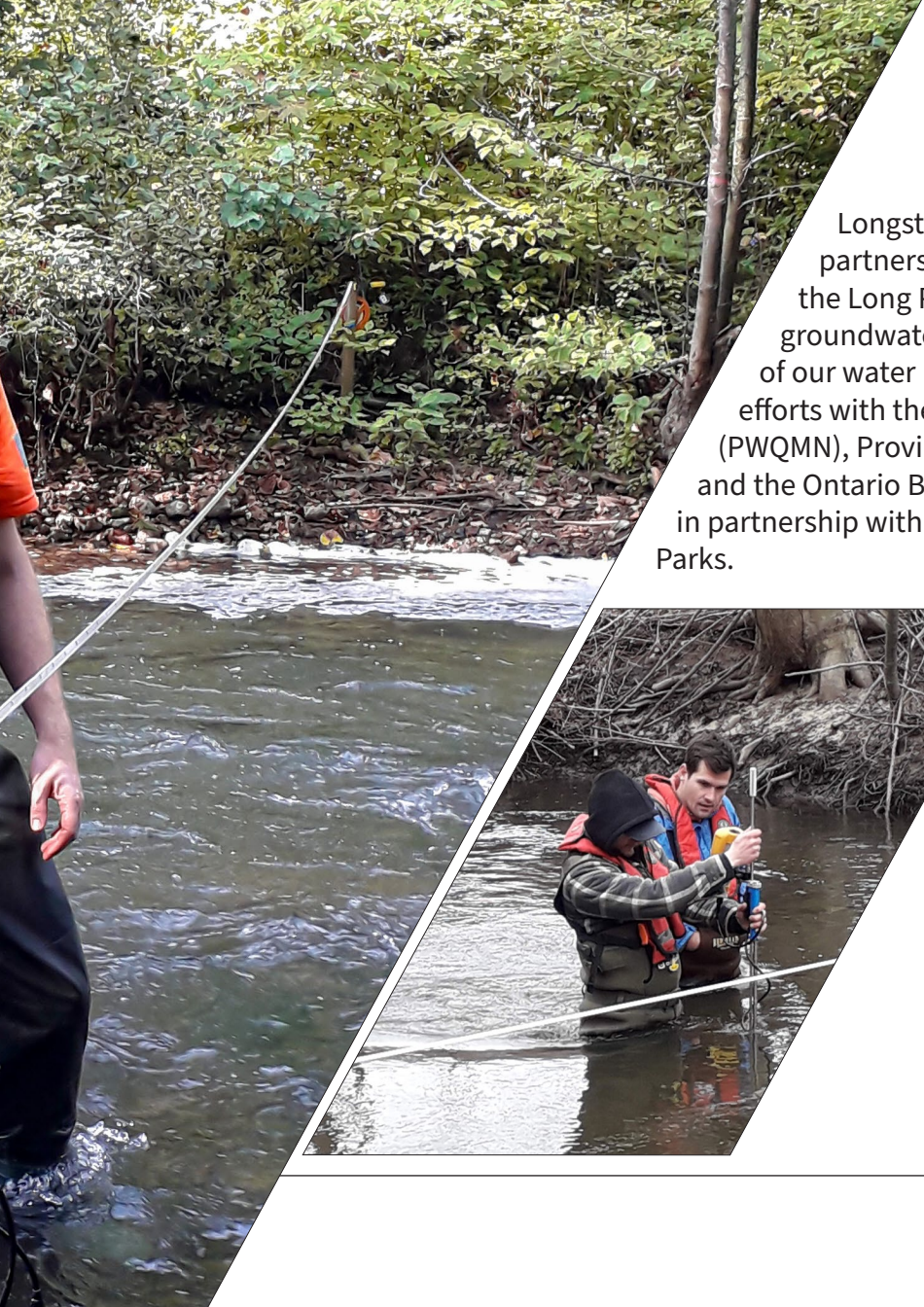
LPRCA is creating a healthier future with stewardship projects that contribute to the maintenance of clean air, land and water. Stewardship projects in 2019 included wetland creation, erosion control plans, habitat establishment and the planting of cover crops.

Wetland creation remained a popular interest for rural landowners looking to implement restoration projects on their land. There were 14 wetland projects undertaken in partnership with the Habitat Stewardship Program, ALUS Elgin and ALUS Norfolk. LPRCA consulted with eight landowners on erosion control projects and provided detailed site plans to assist in securing project funding.

With funding from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, LPRCA undertook several phragmites control projects. These projects were in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, ALUS Norfolk and the Long Point World Biosphere Foundation.

The ALUS Elgin program continued to work with farmers in Elgin County to return marginal or ecologically significant areas into natural ecosystems. Working in collaboration with farmers and local conservation partners, ALUS Elgin added 75 acres into the program in 2019, bringing the total acres to 450.





WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Longstanding partnerships with provincial and municipal partners allow LPRCA to monitor water quality within the Long Point Region watershed. Sampling surface water, groundwater and aquatic ecosystems guides the management of our water resources. In 2019, LPRCA continued collaborative efforts with the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) and the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network, all of which are in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.



Throughout 2019 surface water was collected from nine PWQMN sites, nine municipal partnership monitoring sites and one pesticide location. Groundwater levels were monitored for the PGMN at 11 well locations in 2019, five of which were sampled for water quality.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

A Revised Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan with new and updated policies for areas in Bayham and Norfolk was approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and came into effect in March 2019. An amended Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan with a focus on Otterville's well supply was developed throughout 2019 and submitted to the province for review in January 2020.

Work plans for Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan updates were completed in conjunction with partner municipalities and neighbouring Source Protection Authorities and submitted to the MECP in November 2019. Under section 36 of the *Clean Water Act*, an update must be submitted to MECP by June 2024.

While it was not issued until 2020, LPRCA worked on a municipal water quality notice in 2019, as part of a new protocol for the protection of municipal drinking water that was implemented in 2018. Such notices inform municipalities whether the required technical work under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* has been completed.

LPRCA's first Annual Progress Report was submitted to MECP in 2019. As the first report, the document covered implementation efforts from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018. Future reports will be annual reviews. The Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan and the progress made towards achieving plan objectives.



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE



CONSERVATION AREAS AND LAND HOLDINGS

Long Point Region Conservation Authority owns just over 11,000 acres of conservation lands, including five parks with a total of 682 campsites offering both seasonal and nightly camping experiences. The 2019 operating season brought an estimated 222,000 visitors to the parks.

Our parks are known for quality camping experiences and a wide variety of recreational activities such as hiking, swimming, canoeing and fishing. Backus Heritage Conservation Area is home to the Conservation Education Centre, the Backhouse Historic Site and the Backhouse Grist Mill which is a National Historic Site.

2019 brought significant capital investment to our Conservation Areas. The second phase of a multi-year campsite service upgrade project was completed at Waterford North Conservation Area with electrical and water services being brought to 47 campsites. The final phase will be completed in 2020 and will see service upgrades to 53 campsites. A number of facility upgrade projects were completed including a new roof on the Conservation Education Centre at Backus Heritage Conservation Area.



FOREST MANAGEMENT



Long Point Region Conservation Authority's forest tracts are sustainably managed to enhance watershed health through the protection of wildlife habitat and species at risk. The forest tracts provide public opportunities for recreation, hunting and education. Of the 11,000 acres of land owned by LPRCA, 7,498 acres participate in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) and are managed under good forestry practices. The Conservation Land Tax Incentive program (CLTIP) consists of 2,593 acres and 1,145 acres has been designated as Natural Heritage Woodlands (NHW).

2019 was an active field season for LPRCA, with projects including:

- 200 Ac/80.94 Ha of land across three LPRCA-managed tracts were surveyed to collect data on species at risk, provincially rare plants and vegetation types present.
- Six properties, amounting to a total of 288 Ac/116.55 Ha, were marked and tendered for harvest.
- A research project which started in 2001 with a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at the Landon Tract continued with eight additional gaps created throughout the property to promote red oak regeneration and carolinian species.
- Completion of a full hemlock inventory on all LPRCA properties throughout the watershed. All data was forwarded to the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Forest Managers Working Group to be included in their province-wide database.
- Completion of a *2020-2039 Forest Management Plan (FMP)* and a *5-Year Operating Plan – 2020-2025*.

OUTREACH, EDUCATION & EVENTS

Backus Heritage Conservation Area continues to offer unique learning experiences to more than 5,000 students within the watershed. Through the Conservation Education Program, students engage with nature as they explore the trails and ponds at Backus. The Heritage Education Program brought the past to life as students travelled through time and lived the life of early Canadian settlers and soldiers of 1812, exploring 19th century chores, dances and battle re-enactments.

Over 10,000 visitors enjoyed Heritage and Conservation Education events, the favourites of which included the War of 1812 Re-enactment, Field to Flour, Owl Prowl and Firefly Walk. Visitors enjoyed dynamic tours of the Historic Site and experienced the life of early settlers of Canada.

Following the success of 2018's theatre production, Adam Corrigan Holowitz returned in 2019 to bring his second production; the hilarious thieving melodrama *Pirates of Long Point* to the stage in August. A new exhibit opened in the Education Centre, *Sing a Song of Backus*, displaying a collection of original Vic Gibbons paintings with a focus on local song birds. At Home in Backus was a new exhibit on display in the Backus Homestead, taking visitors through the migration of the Backhouse family from England to Port Rowan.





Annual fishing derbies were once again a success thanks to the hard work and support of community volunteers, the Norfolk OPP and local community sponsors. Over 240 children participated in Bob Izumi: Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby events at Deer Creek and Backus Heritage Conservation Areas.

LPRCA partnered with Camp Trillium for the 4th Annual Pancake Breakfast and Children's Fishing Derby hosted at Waterford's Rainbow Lake. The event raised funds to support Camp Trillium.

The Lee Brown Marsh Committee awarded the \$1,000 Leighton & Betty Brown Conservation Scholarship to Simcoe Composite School student Zachary Peck. Zachary is attending Sir Sanford Fleming College and is enrolled in the Fish and Wildlife Program.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION EXHIBITION REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The Conservation Education Centre (CEC) at Backus Heritage Conservation Area opened in 1991 with a permanent exhibition on local conservation and waterfowling heritage. The exhibit in the CEC has been a crucial educational tool that has inspired thousands of students and visitors for almost 30 years. LPRCA has begun a revitalization project of the exhibition within the CEC.

This project will redevelop the exhibition to include cohesive storylines and bring the exhibition into compliance with accessibility standards. Updates to the content of the exhibit displays will focus on current environmental issues and conservation initiatives while continuing to honour our local waterfowling heritage.



2019 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2019 Revenue

Municipal Levy - Operating	\$	1,607,452	27%
Municipal Levy - Capital	\$	435,750	7%
Provincial Funding	\$	35,229	1%
Fees	\$	2,810,862	47%
Forestry Sales	\$	427,439	7%
Gain on Sale of Assets	\$	643,574	11%
Total	\$	5,960,306	100%

2019 Expenditures

Planning and Watershed Services	\$	1,195,483	25%
Communications	\$	75,737	2%
Backus Heritage Conservation Area	\$	606,313	12%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$	544,479	11%
Forestry Services	\$	395,589	8%
Conservation Parks	\$	728,079	15%
Corporate Services	\$	1,302,830	27%
Total	\$	4,848,510	100%

Use of 2019 Operating Levy

Corporate Services	\$	655,258	32%
Planning and Watershed Services	\$	683,316	33%
Communications	\$	106,832	5%
Backus Heritage Conservation Area	\$	152,708	8%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$	445,088	22%
Total	\$	2,043,202	100%

Share of 2019 Operating Levy

Haldimand County	\$	226,963	14%
Norfolk County	\$	845,974	53%
Oxford County	\$	344,257	21%
Brant County	\$	105,228	6%
Bayham Municipality	\$	73,371	5%
Malahide Township	\$	11,659	1%
Total	\$	1,607,452	100%

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DIRECTORS

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CHRIS BOOTHE, Planning Technician

BONNIE BRAVENER, Resource Technician

KIM BROWN, Marsh Manager

JEFF CALLIAUW, Carpenter

MATTHEW CHURLEY, Water Resources EIT

ALYSSA COUSINEAU, ALUS Elgin Coordinator

ZACHARY COX, Marketing Coordinator

NATHAN DUNBAR, Operations Support

PAUL GAGNON, Lands & Waters Supervisor

BRANDON GOOD, Backus Heritage Conservation Area Supervisor

BEN HODI, Water Resources Analyst & Regulations Officer

CAROLYN JACQUES, Accounting & Administration Supervisor

CRAIG JACQUES, Water Resources Specialist

SHEILA JOHNSON, Curator

LEIGH-ANNE MAUTHE, Planning Technician & Regulations Officer

DANA MCLACHLAN, Administrative Assistant

NICOLE PETKER, Outdoor Educator

CHRIS REINHART, Lands & Waters Technician

FRANK SCHRAM, Workshop Supervisor

NICOLE SULLIVAN, Reception

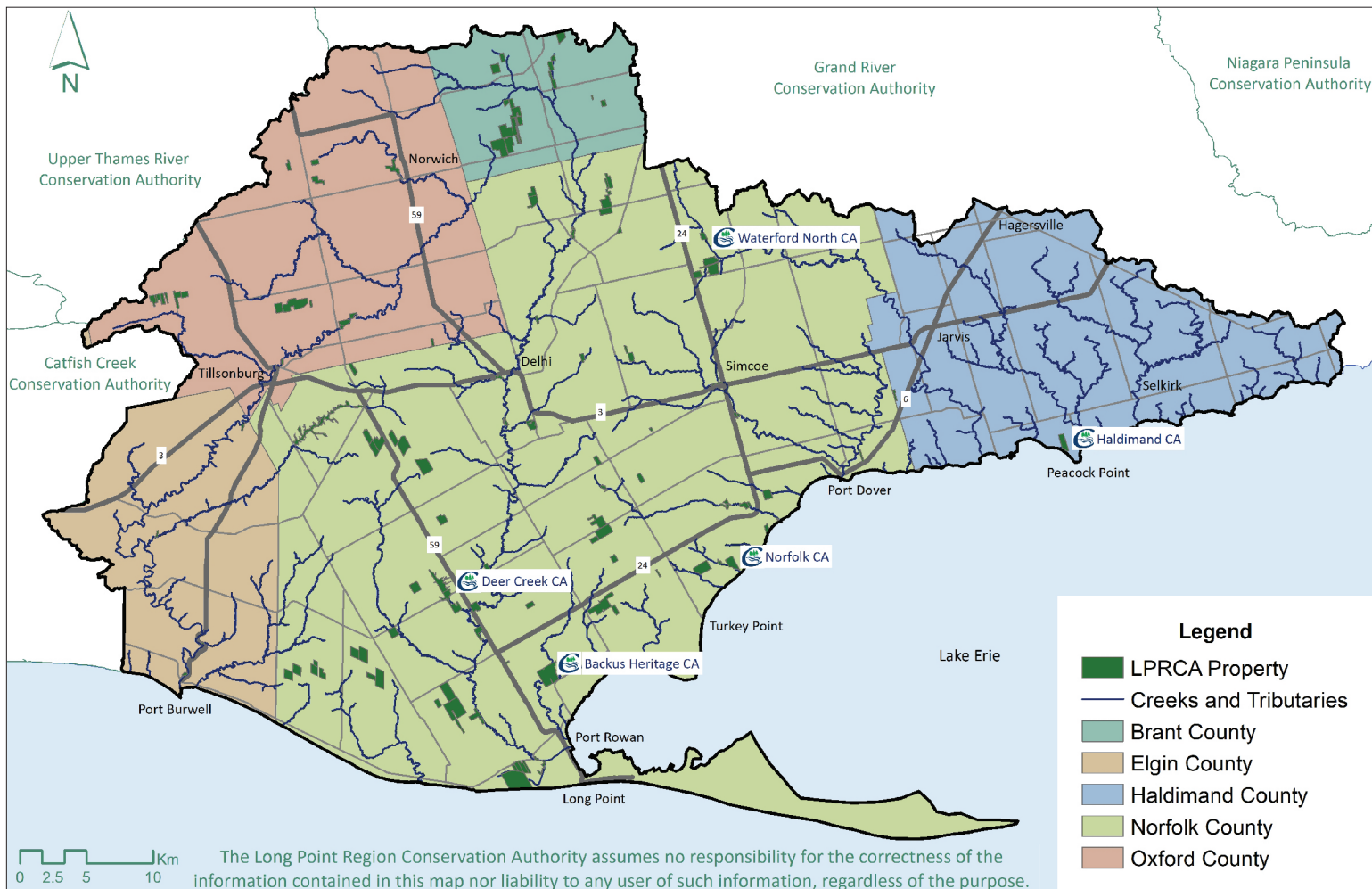
DEBBIE THAIN, Forestry Technician

GINNY VANLOUWE, Accounting Clerk

SARAH WILLSON, Administration Support

And our seasonal staff and summer students

THE LONG POINT REGION WATERSHED





Long Point Region Conservation Authority



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THANK YOU TO OUR MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

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Township of Malahide / Norfolk County / Township of Norwich / Township of South West Oxford