

2021

Annual Report



 Long Point Region
Conservation Authority
www.lprca.on.ca
519-842-4242 | 1-888-231-5408
conservation@lprca.on.ca



Contents

- 3** | Messages from the Chair & General Manager
- 4** | Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area
- 6** | Protecting Life & Property
- 8** | Enhancing Watershed Health
- 11** | Connecting People to Nature
- 18** | 2021 Financial Highlights
- 19** | Board of Directors / LPRCA Staff

Message from the Chair

Reflecting on 2021, I first want to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to every employee of the Authority over the past year. Throughout 2021 the Board of Directors observed demonstrated examples of leadership, communication and teamwork. Without your collaborative efforts, passion, commitment and dedication, this past year would not have been the incredible success it was.

In Ontario, Conservation Authorities celebrated 75 years since being established in 1946 under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The milestone anniversary signifies the important role Conservation Authority's have in promoting an integrated watershed management approach balancing the human, environmental and economic needs of the watershed.

As Chair, I am proud of the programs and services we provide as we continue to fulfill the Authority's mission to deliver excellent services and experiences; protect, advance and rejuvenate the watershed; and optimize the health and well-being of the watershed.

To conclude, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for their support as the Chair and for their commitment to the Authority.

Michael Columbus

Chair, LPRCA Board of Directors

Message from the General Manager

Although 2021 came with challenges, there are many successes to celebrate, including the sound financial position of the Authority at year-end. We continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic ensuring the health & safety of our staff, volunteers, visitors and the public.

As an organization we are in the process of implementing and adapting to the new regulatory changes under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The member municipalities collaboration and support will be key in the successful implementation of the *Conservation Authorities Act* requirements.

In spite of the difficult year the Authority overwhelmingly achieved its goals which would not have been possible without the exceptional efforts and devotion of our staff. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their expertise, engagement and support. I would like to thank the municipalities and our many community partners for the support to deliver programs and services that enhance the watershed for today and the future.

Judy Maxwell

General Manager, LPRCA

Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area

Leighton & Betty Brown Conservation Scholarship

Having not presented a Leighton & Betty Brown Conservation Scholarship in 2020, the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee awarded three \$1,000 scholarships in 2021.

Brendan Sullivan, Emma VandenBroek and Carley Wilson are all students within the Long Point Region watershed who have demonstrated excellence in their studies, commitment to their communities and interest in sustainability and conservation that has led them to pursue post-secondary education in environmental fields. LPRCA and the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee are proud to help support Brendan, Emma and Carley in their continued education.

In Memoriam – Barry Smith

It is with sadness that Long Point Region Conservation Authority notes the passing of Barry Smith in November 2021.



Barry was an active member of the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee since 2011.

A distinguished dairy farmer, Barry was an involved community member who was devoted to the marsh committee. We are grateful for the 10 years Barry spent sharing his wisdom with the LBMMC and we join the community in mourning the loss of a friend of conservation and the Authority.

Marsh Manager Retires

After 32 years overseeing the Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area as Marsh Manager, Kim Brown began his well-deserved retirement in July 2021. Initially taking on the role in 1989, Kim quickly became a go-to source for advice, insight and smiles.

Generations of hunters know Kim as a well-respected, knowledgeable and responsible guide who cared deeply for the marsh. For decades, Kim successfully managed a very unique ecosystem at the Lee Brown Marsh Complex.

“Kim’s dedication to the Authority and specifically the conservation efforts at the marsh has been outstanding and on behalf of the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee we wish him a happy retirement!”

– Tom Haskett
Chair, LBMMC



Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area

Protecting Life & Property

Flood Forecasting

Long Point Region Conservation Authority's flood forecasting and warning system operates in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. Our role within the system is to have staff monitor weather forecasts and conditions, and alert municipal flood coordinators and the public when signs point to possible flooding. This way, action can be taken to keep people safe and limit property damage.

2021 was another active year for flood forecasting. Lake Erie's water levels have been high for a number of years now, making flooding more likely when the weather is particularly windy. Because of the high water levels, a standing Flood Outlook was in place for the Lake Erie shoreline throughout all of 2021, issuing higher level alerts when shoreline flooding was imminent or occurring.



In total LPRCA issued 11 flood messages throughout 2021.

	2021	2020
Conditions Statements	6	9
Flood Watches	2	10
Flood Warnings	3	4



Substantial rainfall through the summer months meant no low water advisories were issued in 2021.

Haldimand & Norfolk Flood Mapping

Long Point Region Conservation Authority staff worked with Haldimand County and Norfolk County to prepare interactive mapping tools that allow residents to see what areas of their communities are vulnerable to flooding. Searchable by address, the maps show where water may reach at various flood thresholds. These tools are free, easy-to-use and available on the respective municipal websites.

Planning & Regulations

Long Point Region Conservation Authority's planning and regulation services are a key part of our core mandate to protect our watershed from property damage and loss of life due to natural hazards including flooding and erosion. Staff operate under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to regulate development in and around wetlands, watercourses, floodplains and along the Lake Erie shoreline. Their work helps keep our communities safe.

Throughout 2021, 272 permits for development under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* were reviewed and issued by Planning and Regulations staff.

	2021	2020
Permit Applications Reviewed	272	296
Municipal Applications Reviewed	165	121
Pre-consultation Meetings	49	-

LPRCA participated in the development and review of Norfolk County's *Port Dover Secondary Plan*, Brant County's new *Official Plan* and Haldimand County's *Official Plan Update*.

Enhancing Watershed Health

Stewardship

Long Point Region Conservation Authority collaborates extensively with municipal, organizational and private partners to promote and implement environmental stewardship initiatives throughout our watershed. Project highlights from 2021 include:

- 75 acres of cover crops were planted under Haldimand County's Rural Water Quality program;
- 159 acres of cover crops were established in Norfolk County through Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Integrated Conservation Action Planning (ICAP) program;
- Staff worked with landowners to restore the natural hydrology in three locations, with funding support from ECCC's Habitat



Stewardship Program and the Essex-Erie Species at Risk program;

- Phragmites control efforts were undertaken at the Dereham Wetlands and the Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area marsh through the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) wetlands program; and
- Two erosion control designs were developed for agricultural landowners by LPRCA staff.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Keeping our drinking water clean is essential and the *Clean Water Act, 2006* ensures that source protection plans are in place to do just that. In 2021, LPRCA participated in a social media campaign coordinated by Conservation Ontario to highlight the existence of Drinking Water Source Protection Road Signs and explain that these blue and white signs – of which there are over 1,700 in Ontario! – mark areas that have protection requirements keeping natural water sources such as groundwater, lakes, or rivers that provide municipal drinking water safe and clean.



Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality data collected by LPRCA contributes to partnership programs such as the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN). The program dates back to 1964, permitting the tracking of changes in water quality over time. In 2021, LPRCA staff sampled nine PWQMN sites within our watershed.

Similarly, staff measured groundwater levels at 11 wells, five of which were also sampled for water quality, as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). This dataset is contributed to by all 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario, as well as municipalities from regions not within the jurisdiction of an Authority. With more than 450 wells monitored across the province and decades worth of data, long-term trends in water levels and water quality can be analyzed and responded to.

Another partnership, the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN), saw LPRCA performing benthic sampling at 10 sites in 2021. Sampling for benthic invertebrates is a common way to evaluate the condition of aquatic ecosystems.

Tree Planting

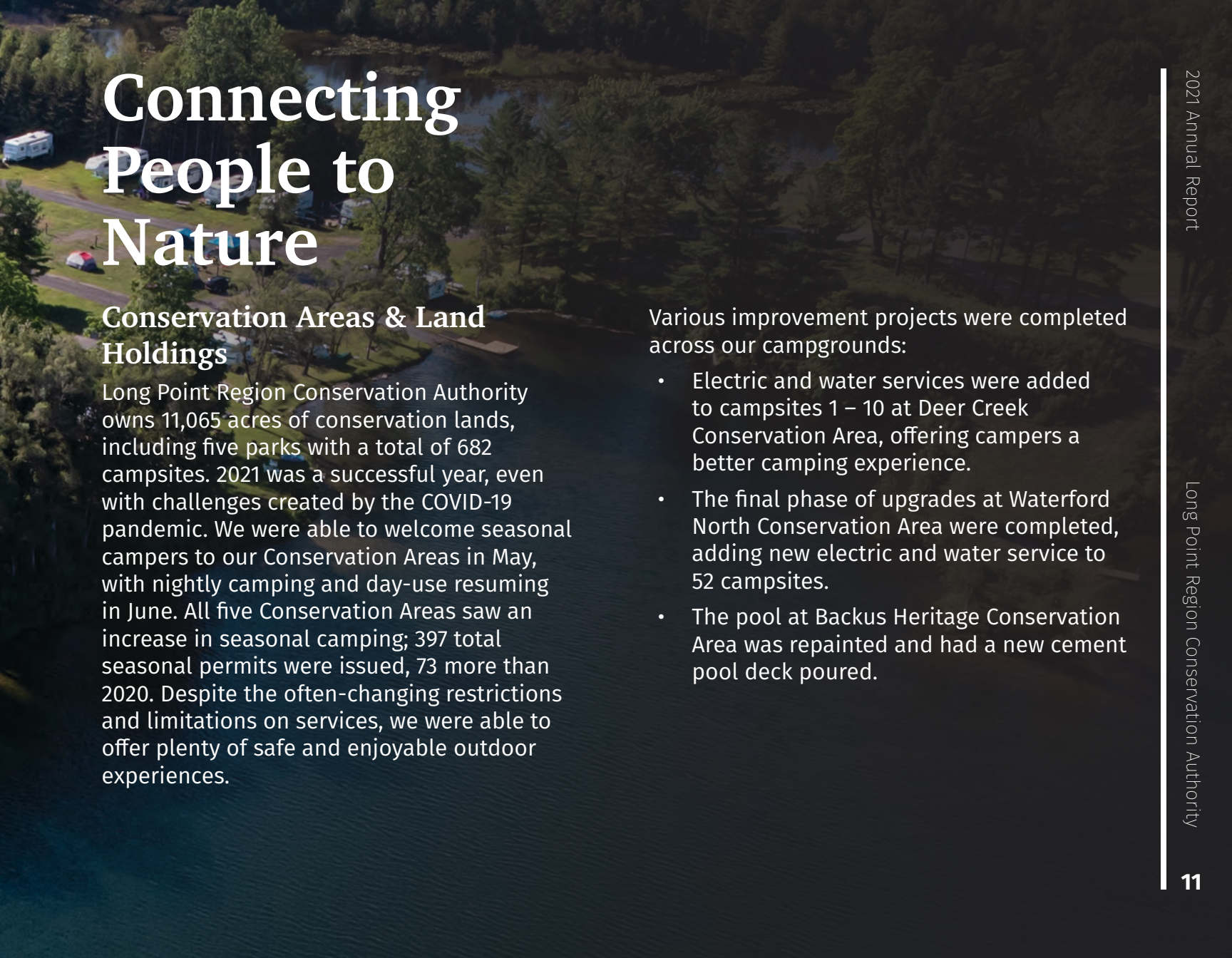
From erosion control to wind buffering to carbon sequestration; in planting trees we preserve, protect and enhance our environment for generations to come. In 2021, LPRCA arranged the planting of 53,825 seedlings throughout the watershed.

- 11 landowners planted seedlings through Forests Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program;
- 22 landowners planted seedlings with funding support from Ontario Power Generation;
- 24 landowners participated in seedling planting projects on their private property through LPRCA Private Land Tree Planting Program.

In addition to seedlings, LPRCA also planted 302 tall stock trees in the municipalities of Bayham and South-West Oxford, through the Trees for Roads Program.



Waterford North CA

An aerial photograph of a campsite. In the upper left, several white RVs are parked on a paved area. Below them, a few tents are set up on a grassy field. A body of water, likely a lake or river, flows through the center of the image, bordered by dense green trees. The overall scene is a peaceful outdoor setting.

Connecting People to Nature

Conservation Areas & Land Holdings

Long Point Region Conservation Authority owns 11,065 acres of conservation lands, including five parks with a total of 682 campsites. 2021 was a successful year, even with challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to welcome seasonal campers to our Conservation Areas in May, with nightly camping and day-use resuming in June. All five Conservation Areas saw an increase in seasonal camping; 397 total seasonal permits were issued, 73 more than 2020. Despite the often-changing restrictions and limitations on services, we were able to offer plenty of safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences.

Various improvement projects were completed across our campgrounds:

- Electric and water services were added to campsites 1 – 10 at Deer Creek Conservation Area, offering campers a better camping experience.
- The final phase of upgrades at Waterford North Conservation Area were completed, adding new electric and water service to 52 campsites.
- The pool at Backus Heritage Conservation Area was repainted and had a new cement pool deck poured.

Backhouse Historic Site

The Backus Homestead had a new metal roof installed in March 2021. The Homestead also received seven custom-made storm windows, funded by a gracious donation from Janet Gehring. Janet and John Gehring also donated a bench in memory of their mother, Hazel “Bud” Backus.

Pandemic challenges kept us from being able to open the buildings within the Historic Site, but the grounds remained open and accessible. Visitors were able to use the self-guided tour pamphlet while exploring the Historic Site.

A new outdoor visitor attraction in the form of a sunflower maze was planted in the summer of 2021. The brilliant yellow flowers made the sunflower maze a picture-perfect hot spot!



The gardens and landscaping of the Backus Homestead were redone with a period-correct design. A new trellis was recreated by reference to historic photographs. It was made by hand and donated by volunteers John, Heather and Kelsey Lamont. The trellis sits in front of the homestead where the original once sat in the early 20th century.



John and Kelsey Lamont

Forest Management

LPRCA manages forest tracts to maximize their benefits to the overall health of the watershed. All forest management and harvesting efforts are guided by a 20-year Management Plan.

Recently, staff surveyed LPRCA forest tracts that were the most susceptible to an ongoing *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) moth infestation and identified 1,150 acres across 16 forest tracts as having “severe” levels of infestation. In the spring of 2021, the Board of Directors authorized the use of reserves for an aerial spray program. The aerial spray involved two applications timed to the life cycle of the LDD moth. Inspection of the treated properties following the application showed success in controlling the presence of the invasive species, dropping the risk level from “severe” to “light”.

In 2021, five LPRCA properties underwent ecological surveys for species at risk and provincially rare plants and vegetation in preparation for upcoming forest management activities in 2022. All properties are surveyed before any harvesting occurs.

LPRCA continues research partnerships with multiple organizations on various forest tracts.



Tarcza, Hird, Roberts Tract



Conservation Stewardship Award

Long Point Region Conservation Authority is proud to present the annual Conservation Stewardship Award to Tillsonburg's Paul DeCloet.

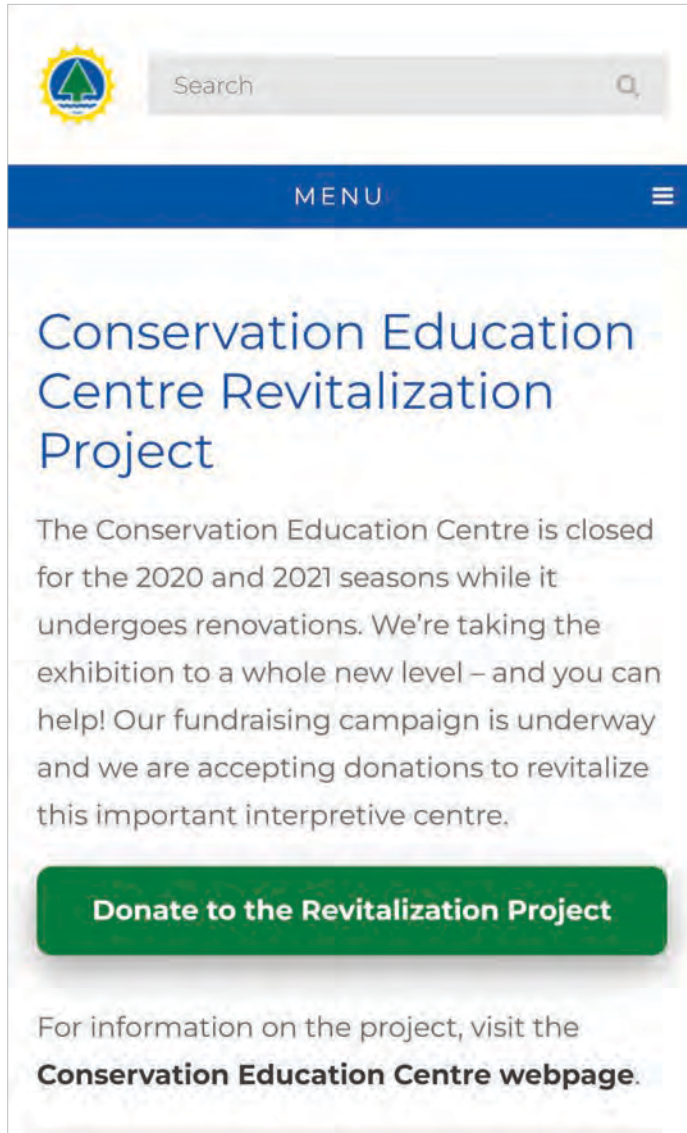
Paul was nominated for the award by the Nature Conservancy of Canada who commended him for his numerous contributions to the conservation of natural resources in the Long Point Region watershed. An active volunteer with the local Lions Club, Paul has been participating in tree planting and restoration projects in the region for decades. Between his farm properties and community projects, well over 100,000 trees have been planted in the area thanks to his efforts.

Paul's love for trees – tulip trees in particular – is no secret; he regularly gifts trees he

grows to his friends and community. In 2021, Paul donated a 50-hectare property in the Clear Creek Valley to Norfolk County through the Canadian Government's Ecological Gifts Program. This patch of Carolinian forest, now known as the Paul DeCloet Forest, will be preserved so that both people and wildlife can enjoy the many benefits a diverse forest tract provides.

Paul has also worked directly with LPRCA on restoration projects and was a member of the Authority's Board of Directors from 1987 through 1997. He was Vice-Chair of the Board in 1992 and Chair from 1993 to 1996, serving on several committees during his time with LPRCA.

Paul is a champion of conservation and sustainability, and it is our honour to present him with our Conservation Stewardship Award.



Online Donations

Our refreshed website, launched in December of 2020, was an initial step in an effort to modernize LPRCA's online presence. Digital platforms allow for quick and convenient access to LPRCA services and information. In the summer of 2021, Long Point Region Conservation Authority began accepting online donations through CanadaHelps. Now, anyone interested in donating to the Memorial Forest program or LPRCA's general operations can easily and safely do so online. Thirty-three donations totalling \$3,020 were made through the online system from its introduction on lprca.on.ca in June through the end of 2021.

The online donation platform has been a valuable addition to our Conservation Education Centre Revitalization fundraising efforts. After thirty years of providing fun and engaging conservation education to students and visitors, the Education Centre at Backus Heritage Conservation Area is getting a substantial upgrade thanks to support from the community. Updated interactive displays and improved building accessibility will help the Education Centre offer exciting learning opportunities to all for another three decades and beyond. Visit lprca.on.ca/donate to learn more and to contribute.

Virtual Memorial Forest Dedication Service

For the second year in a row, restrictions on crowd sizes meant we were unable to hold an in-person Memorial Forest Dedication Service at the Backus Heritage Conservation Area. Following the success of 2020's virtual version of the ceremony, LPRCA Chair Mike Columbus led a virtual 2021 Dedication Service – featuring speeches, musical performances and the planting of memorial trees – that was filmed and released as a video on LPRCA's YouTube channel where it remains available for viewing.

The virtual service provided the family and friends of those who passed with a safe way to remember their loved ones. The ongoing expansion of the Memorial Forest continues to provide a lasting, living memorial that will carry on for generations.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have donated to the Memorial Forest in memory of a loved one, and to all the volunteers and staff who made the 2021 Dedication Service possible.



2021 Financial Highlights

2021 Revenue

Municipal Levy – Operating	\$ 1,686,943	30%
Municipal Levy – Capital	\$ 564,623	10%
Provincial Funding	\$ 35,229	1%
Fees	\$ 2,776,541	50%
Forestry Sales	\$ 511,791	9%
Gain on Sale of Assets	\$ 1,219	0%
Total	\$ 5,576,346	100%

Use of 2021 Operating Levy

Corporate Services	\$ 742,095	43%
Planning & Watershed Services	\$ 512,547	29%
Backus Heritage Conservation Area	\$ 92,146	8%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$ 340,155	20%
Total	\$ 1,686,934	100%

2021 Expenditures

Planning & Watershed Services	\$ 782,335	17%
Backus Heritage Conservation Area	\$ 446,675	10%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$ 600,259	13%
Forestry Services	\$ 430,125	9%
Conservation Parks	\$ 838,314	18%
Corporate Services	\$ 1,251,404	27%
ALUS Elgin Partnership	\$ 262,262	6%
Total	\$ 4,611,374	100%

Share of 2021 Operating Levy

Haldimand County	\$ 240,090	14%
Norfolk County	\$ 882,185	52%
Oxford County	\$ 360,609	21%
Brant County	\$ 114,929	7%
Municipality of Bayham	\$ 76,671	5%
Township of Malahide	\$ 12,459	1%
Total	\$ 1,686,943	100%

Thank you to our municipal partners

Municipality of Bayham / County of Brant / Haldimand County / Township of Malahide
Norfolk County / Township of Norwich / Township of South West Oxford / Town of Tillsonburg

2021 Board of Directors

Chair

Michael Columbus Norfolk County

Vice Chair

John Scholten Township of Norwich

Directors

Dave Beres Town of Tillsonburg

Robert Chambers County of Brant

Kristal Chopp Norfolk County

Ken Hewitt Haldimand County

Tom Masschaele Norfolk County

Stewart Patterson Haldimand County

Ian Rabbitts Norfolk County

Peter Ypma Township of South West Oxford

Valerie Donnell Municipality of Bayham &

Township of Malahide

Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee

Tom Haskett, Chair

Kim Brown

Larry Chanda

Michael Columbus

John Scholten

Barry Smith

Backus Museum Committee

Betty Chanyi, Chair

Dave Beres

Michael Columbus

Robert Chambers

Dene Elligson

Tom Masschaele

Heather Smith

Julie Stone

Madaline Wilson

LPRCA Staff

Judy Maxwell

Aaron LeDuc

Ben Hodi

Leigh-Anne Mauthe

Lorrie Minshall

Helen Bartens

Bonnie Bravener

Trevor Brown

Jeff Calliauw

Alex Cassidy

Zachary Cox

Nathan Dunbar

Paul Gagnon

Brandon Good

Carolyn Jacques

Isabel Johnson

Jumanah Khan

Dana McLachlan

David Proracki

Chris Reinhart

Frank Schram

Nicole Sullivan

Debbie Thain

Ginny Vanlouwe

Ben Watson

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Manager of Corporate Services

Manager of Watershed Services

Interim Manager of Watershed Services

Project Manager, Watershed Services

Curator

Resource Technician

Marsh Manager

Carpenter

Lands & Waters Technician

Marketing Coordinator

Operations Support

Lands & Waters Supervisor

Superintendent of Conservation Areas

Accounting & Administration Supervisor

Resource Planner

ALUS Elgin Coordinator

Executive Assistant

Water Resources Analyst

Forestry Technician

Workshop Supervisor

HR Associate/Receptionist

Supervisor of Forestry

Accounting Clerk

Development Technician

And our many seasonal staff and summer students



Long Point Region Conservation Authority

4 Elm Street, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 0C4
519-842 4242 | 1-888-231-5408
conservation@lprca.on.ca
www.lprca.on.ca



Member of the
Conservation Ontario Network



@lpr_ca



@LongPointConservation



@longpointca

