



Long Point Region
Conservation Authority
Annual Report
2022





Gage Tract

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Cover image: Backus Children's Fishing Derby at Backus Heritage Conservation Area.

Message from the Chair

As was the case with the past several years, 2022 was a year of adaptation and change for Long Point Region Conservation Authority. While the province makes amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and other guiding legislation, the Authority will continue to work with our member municipalities to navigate the new reality with a continued focus on delivering exceptional services and experiences.

In looking back, I would like to thank the Authority staff for their continued commitment to excellence. As challenges presented themselves, you rose to the occasion. The Authority's ongoing success is thanks to your efforts.

Likewise, I would like to thank my fellow members of the Board of Directors who have taken the time to represent their municipalities and serve all residents of the Long Point Region watershed.

Long Point Region Conservation Authority enters 2023 ready to continue expanding upon the 75 years of vital conservation work done by Authorities in the area since 1948. Similarly, the efforts we undertake now will serve as the basis for countless future years of protecting the place we call home.

John Scholten

Chair, LPRCA Board of Directors

Message from the General Manager

2022 was a year of adjusting to the new post-pandemic world and changing regulatory environment overseeing Conservation Authorities. The Board and staff committed substantial time and effort transitioning to this new world, with a focus on optimizing the outcomes for all stakeholders.

Over the last year, important repairs were completed at the Deer Creek and Norwich dams. The watershed benefitted from 72,385 trees and 2,290 acres of cover crops planted, as well as the design of four erosion control projects and the implementation of a clean water project. Forestry staff conducted invasive spray programs on 468 acres of our forest tracts and planning staff worked on over 600 files, processing 278 permits.

Two projects commenced at the Conservation Education Centre at Backus Heritage Conservation Area: the main entrance and washrooms were retrofitted to be fully accessible and the classroom and gallery are being revitalized, updating a space that initially opened in 1991.

Overall, 2022 was an extremely successful year and I would like to thank staff for their continued commitment and efforts supporting the Authority's mandate and the Long Point Region watershed. The staff and I thank the Board of Directors for their support in 2022 and look forward to continued collaboration in 2023.

Judy Maxwell

General Manager, LPRCA

In Memoriam

Long Point Region Conservation Authority mourns the passing of two former members of the Authority's Board of Directors.

Samuel "Sam" Ivan Lamb passed in February 2022. Sam represented the Town of Tillsonburg on the Authority's Board, serving from January 25, 1995 through November 30, 2010. During his time on the Board Sam participated in numerous committees and sub-committees.

Leroy Bartlett passed in December 2022. Leroy represented Haldimand County and served on the Authority's Board of Directors from January 2007 through November 2018.

Both Sam and Leroy were dedicated community members and valued directors during their times with the Authority. They will be missed.



Sam Lamb (left) and Leroy Bartlett (right) pose for a group photo of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors. November 2010.



*Long Point Region Memorial Forest,
Backus Heritage Conservation Area*

The Authority

Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Our area of responsibility, the Long Point Region watershed, covers 2,782 square kilometres and is home to approximately 98,000 people. We're empowered through provincial legislation—primarily the *Conservation Authorities Act*—to manage the watershed's natural resources in partnership with our

member municipalities and the Province of Ontario to protect people and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.

We have eight member municipalities: the Municipality of Bayham, the County of Brant, Haldimand County, the Township of Malahide, Norfolk County, the Township of Norwich, the Township of South West Oxford and the Town of Tillsonburg.

Facts & Figures

Long Point Region Conservation Authority:

has jurisdiction over the **6** major sub-watersheds that form the Long Point Region watershed and drain into Lake Erie;

regulates **~200km** of Lake Erie shoreline and **3,700+ km** of streams and tributaries within the watershed;

owns and manages **11,000+ acres** of property;

protects and preserves **vital biodiversity** in the watershed;

operates **5** campgrounds with **600+** total campsites;

provides **public greenspace** for outdoor recreation;

processes **250+** development permit applications per year;

monitors flooding conditions **24/7/365**; and

runs environmental and heritage **education programs.**

Protecting Life & Property

Flood Forecasting

A key mandate for Conservation Authorities across Ontario is monitoring for possible flooding conditions and alerting municipalities and the public accordingly. LPRCA’s flood forecasting and warning team work on rotation to ensure that conditions are monitored 24/7/365. When flooding conditions present themselves, LPRCA issues notices to effected municipalities and the public.

In 2022, LPRCA issued 16 flood-related messages, including event updates and status terminations, to the public. The number of flood events prompting changes to the flood status indicator was up slightly from 2021.

	2022	2021
Conditions Statements	6	6
Flood Watches	4	2
Flood Warnings	3	3

The low water response team monitored groundwater levels but no advisories were issued in 2022.

New in 2022, LPRCA launched an email subscription service, where those interested can sign up to receive flood notices issued by the Authority’s directly in their email inbox.

Back in May of 2019, high static water levels in Lake Erie led LPRCA to issue a Standing Flood Watch for the Lake Erie shoreline within the Authority’s jurisdiction. This Flood Watch was later adjusted to a standing Shoreline Condition Statement in October 2019. Though the severity of the standing statement fluctuated, it persisted for multiple years as water supplies in the Great Lakes were above average and the static water levels in Lake Erie set numerous records. It was not until November 2022, that Lake Erie’s water level declined to a level where the standing shoreline statement was terminated.



Vienna, February 2022.

Planning & Regulations

Empowered by the *Planning Act*, the *Conservation Authorities Act* and *Ontario Regulation 178/06*, Conservation Authorities such as LPRCA are responsible for regulating development in floodplains and hazardous areas in order to prevent the loss of life and property due to hazards such as flooding and erosion. To do so, staff work with local municipalities to review and provide technical advice on *Planning Act* applications and permission from LPRCA is required for development activities within hazardous areas in the Long Point Region watershed.

Continuously pursuing organizational excellence, LPRCA's new permit application approval process substantially reduced application turnaround times in 2022. The average turnaround time was 4.2 days for minor applications and 4.9 days for major applications, compared to 10.7 days for minor applications and 21.3 days for major applications in 2021. Planning and Regulations staff reviewed and approved 278 permits for development under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 2022.

	2022	2021
Permit Applications Reviewed	278	272
Municipal Applications Reviewed	160	165
Pre-consultation Meetings	56	49

Norwich & Deer Creek Dam Repairs

The Norwich Dam, originally constructed in the late 1960s, underwent a Dam Safety Review by D.M. Willis Associates Limited in 2020. In 2022, repairs were made to the upstream west embankment, including a rip rap revetment to address severe erosion occurring to that bank.

The Deer Creek Dam was originally constructed in 1969 by Big Creek Region Conservation Authority for the purposes of water storage and recreation. In 2014, Riggs Engineering was hired to perform a close-up visual inspection of the Deer Creek dam. Recommendations relating to its structural condition, operational capability and public safety were given. In 2022, extensive repairs were made to the deteriorated concrete along the wing walls, sheet pile forms were installed along the existing wing walls and washed river rock was used to stabilize the wing walls.



Deer Creek Dam, August 2022.

Enhancing Watershed Health

Stewardship

Long Point Region Conservation Authority protects, preserves and enhances the Long Point Region watershed through a wide variety of land stewardship programs. From tree planting to cover crop incentives, LPRCA works closely with watershed landowners to encourage and facilitate forward-thinking land use that benefits both the landowner and the watershed as a whole.

In 2022, LPRCA planted 72,385 trees across the Authority's various planting programs: the Forest Ontario funded 50 Million Tree Program, Ontario Power



LPRCA staff planting seedlings.



An afforestation (tree planting) project site.



Before

Before/after the installation of a Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCoB) erosion control project

Generation's Forest Corridor Program, the Private Land Tree Planting Program and the municipal Trees for Roads Program.

Continuing the success of an incentive program originally launched in 2020, LPRCA was able to use Environment and Climate Change Canada's Integrated Conservation Action Planning Program funding to partner with agricultural landowners throughout the watershed and establish 2,290 acres of cover crops. Cover crops, particularly when planted in diverse varieties, help build soil structure, provide erosion control and can build yield potential for agricultural land.

To further combat erosion, LPRCA staff also designed and implemented erosion control projects, like water and sediment control basins, for four landowners in 2022. A Clean Water Project supported by a municipally-funded clean water program was also completed.



After

Invasive Species Control

In 2022, Ontario Power Generation's Regional Biodiversity Program supplied \$50,000 in funding to support invasive species control in the Long Point Region watershed. This funding facilitated the assessment of 1,093 acres and treatment of 355 acres of wetland. Invasive species such as *Phragmites Australis*, Common Buckthorn, European Black Alder and others were targeted in the treatment process.



Phragmites Australis control efforts at Dereham Wetlands Conservation Area



Cover crops on agricultural land.

Forest Management

Long Point Region Conservation Authority has over 10,000 acres of forest holdings that are managed to enhance the biodiversity and health of the watershed and provide critical green space. LPRCA is committed to sustainable forest management practices and recognizes social, economic and ecological values as important components of all forestry activities. In line with the Authority's *Forest Management Plan 2020-2039*, LPRCA marked, tendered and facilitated the harvest of 215 acres of forested property in 2022.

LPRCA joined Norfolk County, the Long Point Basin Land Trust and the St. Williams Conservation Reserve Community Council in 2020 to form the Forest & Treed Swamps Working Group, working together to secure funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada for Management and Improvement of Upland Habitat in Ontario's Priority Place Long Point Walsingham Forest. In 2021, LPRCA forestry

staff surveyed 548 acres across 18 forest tracts. In 2022, 14 of the surveyed tracts (a total of 468 acres) were treated for invasive species, limiting their spread throughout the watershed and restoring native vegetation. The remaining four properties will be treated in the spring of 2023, with further funding facilitating the identification of additional properties requiring treatment and re-treatment of original locations to ensure the invasive species are under control.

Knowledge sharing as leaders in sustainable forest management, LPRCA's forestry staff hosted a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) working group tour in September 2022. Attendees got to visit several LPRCA-owned properties throughout the watershed to see in-progress research projects (partnerships with Bird Studies Canada and McMaster University), an active timber harvest and ongoing cucumber tree protection and management.



*FSC® working group tour,
September 2022.*

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality can tell us a lot about the environmental health of a region and long-term consistent analysis of water quality is a great way to monitor, recognize and understand the changes that happen to the spaces around us. Long Point Region Conservation Authority participates in several water quality monitoring programs to collect, share and benefit from the valuable data that is collected.

In partnership with Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), LPRCA collects water samples for the Provincial Surface Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN). Staff collect samples at 10 sites throughout the watershed, eight times per year to send to MECP's lab.

The Provincial Ground Water Monitoring Network (PGMN) is also in partnership with MECP. For this program, LPRCA continuously monitors ground water levels at 11 locations in the watershed, testing the water quality once a year. This data is used for the Low Water Response program, when groundwater levels drop below specific thresholds.

To complement the data from the Water Monitoring Networks, LPRCA also performs benthic invertebrate sampling at 12 locations throughout the watershed and monitors stream temperatures on 17 watercourses. Benthic sampling and temperature monitoring are key ways to keep an eye on ecosystem health.



Water sampling for the PWQMN.



Backhouse Grist Mill, Backus Heritage Conservation Area.

Connecting People to Nature

Conservation Education Centre Revitalization

A year of work has brought the Education Centre Revitalization project much closer to completion. Project milestones in 2022 include:

- Updating the multi-purpose classroom space with new lighting fixtures, flooring, tables, chairs and a fresh coat of paint;
- Replacing the flooring in the lower section of the gallery; and
- Reworking the front entrance to be barrier-free and accessible with a new exterior entrance ramp, new entrance doors and a fully accessible washroom.

Next steps for the project are updating the educational display content throughout the Centre to better showcase the story of conservation throughout the Long Point Region watershed. We can't wait to welcome everyone back to the newly revitalized Education Centre in 2023!



The Education Centre's updated classroom space.

Conservation Areas & Land Holdings

2022 brought a substantial increase in seasonal camping, with 441 seasonal sites booked across LPRCA's five campgrounds, compared to 398 in 2021. Nightly camping was also active, with 2,368 reservations made through the online booking system and an additional 444 reservations placed through others means.

Another 2022 success worth celebrating was the return of on-site education programs at Backus Heritage Conservation Area in the fall. Over 1,000 students visited Backus as 44 classes from schools within the watershed were welcomed for fun hands-on outdoor and heritage education.

A range of upgrades were completed across the campgrounds and conservation areas throughout the year. Highlights include:

- Creation of a non-electrical small trailer/tent section at Waterford North Conservation Area, with 12 new sites;
- Replacement of the Backhouse Historic Site's Community Hall roof;
- Septic system repairs and the renovation of the North-side washroom at Haldimand Conservation Area; and
- Enhancement of the water filling and dumping station at Backus Heritage Conservation Area.



Backus Heritage Conservation Area.



Deer Creek Conservation Area.



Deer Creek Conservation Area.



Children's Fishing Derbies

Popular community events, LPRCA's Backus and Deer Creek children's fishing derbies were greatly missed when they could not be held in 2020 and 2021. Thankfully, conditions permitted them to return from hiatus to great success in 2022. The Backus Children's Fishing Derby was held on July 9 with 137 children fishing from the shore of the mill pond. The 25th Annual Deer Creek Children's Fishing Derby had 133 youth reeling in both fish and prizes on August 13.



Leighton & Betty Brown Conservation Scholarship

The Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee presented watershed high school graduates Fred Wernaart and Ali Flinsenbergh with \$1,000 Leighton & Betty Brown Conservation Scholarships in August 2022. Fred and Ali were selected as recipients due to their keen interest in and contributions to conservation and environmental sustainability in the Long Point Region. The scholarships support the young conservationists in their pursuit of post-secondary environmental education.



Fred Wernaart shakes the hand of Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee Chair Tom Haskett. (Ali was unable to attend.)



Memorial Forest Dedication Service

After two years of recorded services released as videos due to the inability to hold in-person events, 2022 saw a crowd return to the forest at the entrance of Backus Heritage Conservation Area for the annual Memorial Forest Dedication Service in September. Over 135 people attended the 2022 service and were moved by Pastor Ted Smith's heartfelt words and Brenda Atkinson's beautiful music.

For more than 30 years the Long Point Region Memorial Forest has been a comforting place for family and friends to reflect on fond memories of those who have passed. The trees planted there serve as a living and growing memorial that persists for generations. Donating towards planting trees in the Memorial Forest is a unique way to celebrate the life of a loved one with a symbol of strength, shelter and durability.

Thank you to everyone who makes the Memorial Forest possible.



Pastor Ted Smith at the 2022 Memorial Forest Dedication Service.

Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship Award

Long Point Region Conservation Authority is proud to present the annual Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship Award to Mary Gartshore.

Mary was nominated for and selected as the recipient of the Stewardship Award because of her lifelong passion for conservation and environmental stewardship. A member of numerous local environmental organizations, such as the Norfolk Field Naturalists, the Long Point Bird Observatory and the Long

Point Basin Land Trust, Mary is active and engaged in her community. In 1995 and 1996, she was a provincial appointee on LPRCA's Board of Directors.

Mary has played a role in the restoration of hundreds of hectares of marginal agricultural lands using local native seeds and plants; protecting, preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Long Point Region watershed. Her nominators also emphasized how frequently Mary goes above and beyond to mentor other conservationists.

A true champion of the environment, Mary is well deserving of the Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship Award.



Backus Heritage Conservation Area

2022 Financial Highlights

2022 Revenue

Municipal Levy – Operating	\$	1,724,259	30%
Municipal Levy – Capital	\$	381,700	6%
Provincial Funding	\$	35,229	1%
User Fees	\$	3,135,241	54%
Forestry	\$	512,506	9%
Gain on Sale of Assets	\$	13,339	0%
Total	\$	5,802,274	100%

2022 Expenditures

Planning & Watershed Services	\$	770,456	17%
Backus Heritage Conservation Area	\$	191,304	4%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$	723,313	16%
Forestry Services	\$	408,206	9%
Conservation Parks	\$	1,308,732	28%
Corporate Services	\$	1,199,132	26%
Total	\$	4,601,143	100%

Use of 2022 Operating Levy

Corporate Services	\$	622,056	36%
Planning & Watershed Services	\$	493,252	29%
Backus Heritage Site	\$	94,968	5%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$	513,983	30%
Total	\$	1,724,259	100%

Share of 2022 Operating Levy

Haldimand County	\$	24,5330	14%
Norfolk County	\$	901,067	52%
Oxford County	\$	368,308	21%
Brant County	\$	119,089	7%
Municipality of Bayham	\$	77,927	5%
Township of Malahide	\$	12,538	1%
Total	\$	1,724,259	100%



Fond Farewells

Two long-term members of the LPRCA team retired in 2022. Ginny VanLouwe retired from her Accounting Clerk role in June, after more than 35 years with the Authority. Bonnie Bravener retired from her position as Resource Technician

in September, after 31 years with the Authority. Staff gathered in June and September respectively to thank Ginny and Bonnie and say our bittersweet goodbyes; they shall be missed, but we wish them both the best in the exciting new chapters they have begun.

2022 LPRCA Staff

Judy Maxwell	General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Aaron LeDuc	Manager of Corporate Services
Ben Hodi	Manager of Watershed Services
Leigh-Anne Mauthe	Interim Manager of Watershed Services
Lorrie Minshall	Project Manager, Watershed Services

Brady Baker	Development Technician	Dana McLachlan	Executive Assistant
Helen Bartens	Curator	Barry Norman	Workshop Operations
Kim Brown	Marsh Manager		Labourer
Jeff Calliauw	Carpenter	David Proracki	Water Resources Analyst
Alex Cassidy	Lands & Waters Technician	Chris Reinhart	Forestry Technician
Zachary Cox	Marketing Coordinator	Darell Rohrer	Workshop Operations
Bob Dewdney	Marsh Operations		Labourer
	Labourer	Frank Schram	Workshop Supervisor
Paul Gagnon	Lands & Waters Supervisor	Jeffery Smithson	Workshop Operations
Brandon Good	Superintendent of		Labourer
	Conservation Areas	Andrew Spearin	Heritage Programmer
Isabel Johnson	Resource Planner	Nicole Sullivan	HR Associate/Receptionist
Amanda Kaye	Accounting Clerk	Debbie Thain	Supervisor of Forestry
Aisling Laverty	Resource Planner	Sarah Willson	Project Support
Matthew Marchioni	Outdoor Educator		

As well as our many seasonal staff and summer students.

2022 Board of Directors

Chair

John Scholten Township of Norwich

Vice Chair

Michael Columbus Norfolk County

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

Larry Chanda

Michael Columbus

Lou Kociuk

John Scholten

Backus Museum Committee

Betty Chanyi, Chair

Dave Beres

Michael Columbus

Dene Elligson

Tom Masschaele

John Scholten

Heather Smith

Julie Stone

Madaline Wilson



Lee Brown Waterfowl Management Area.



Long Point Region Conservation Authority



Member of the
Conservation Ontario Network

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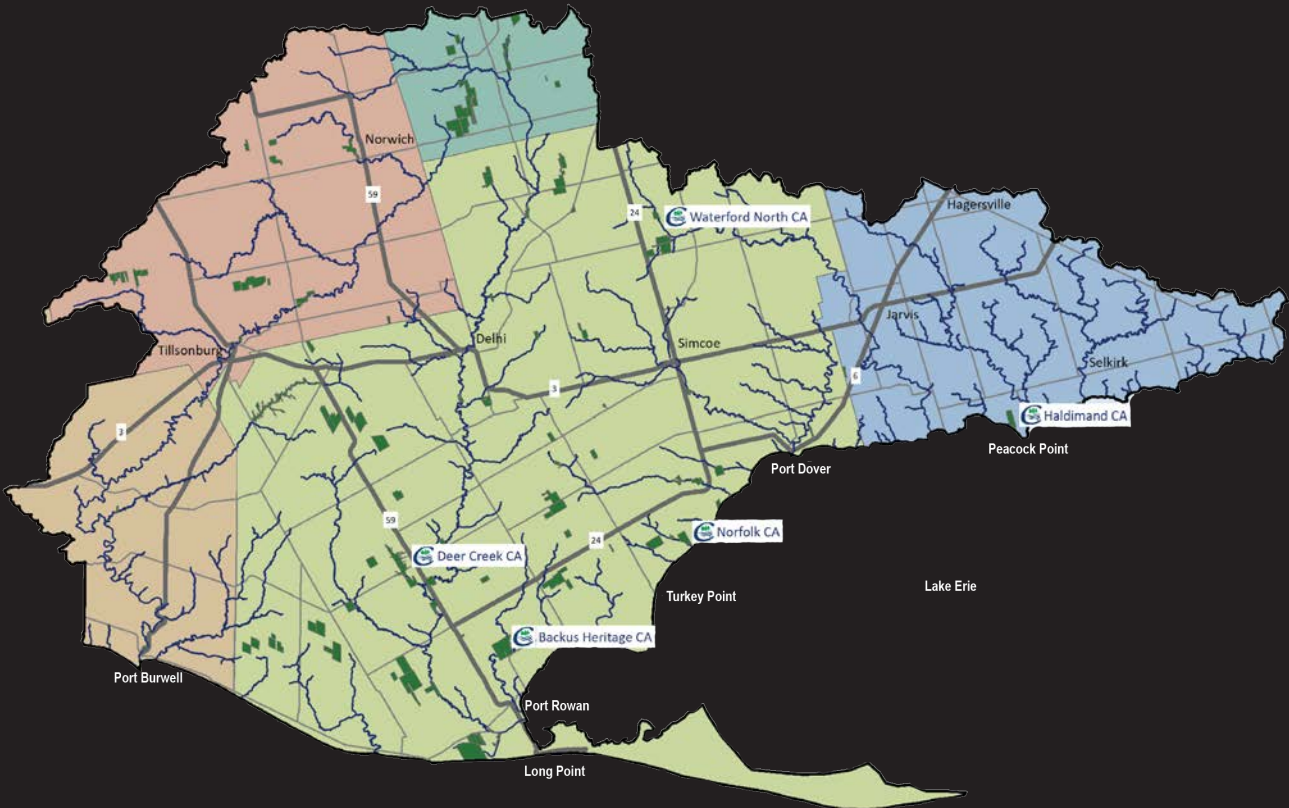
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Thank you to our municipal partners

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