

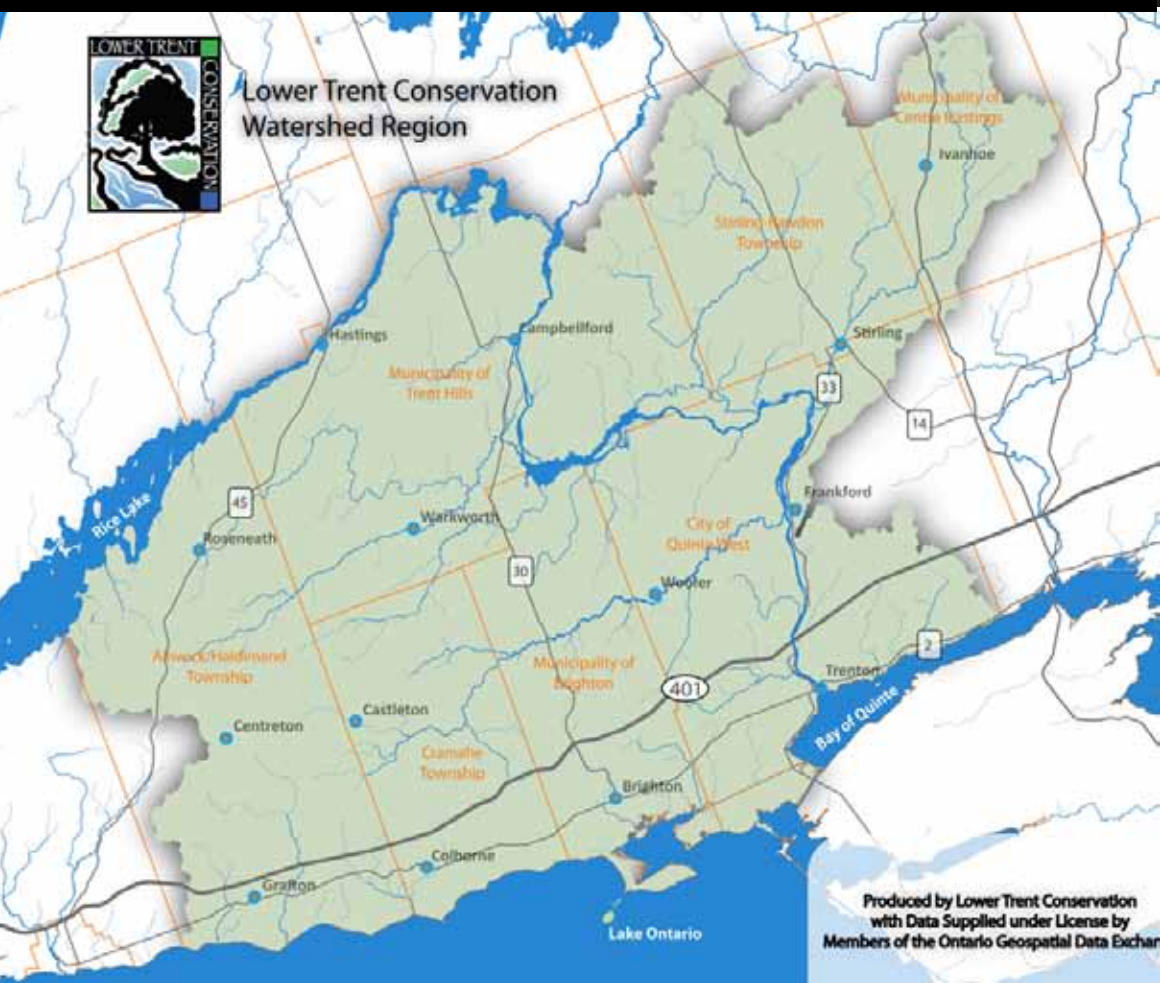
OUR WATERSHED 2010 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR WATERSHED

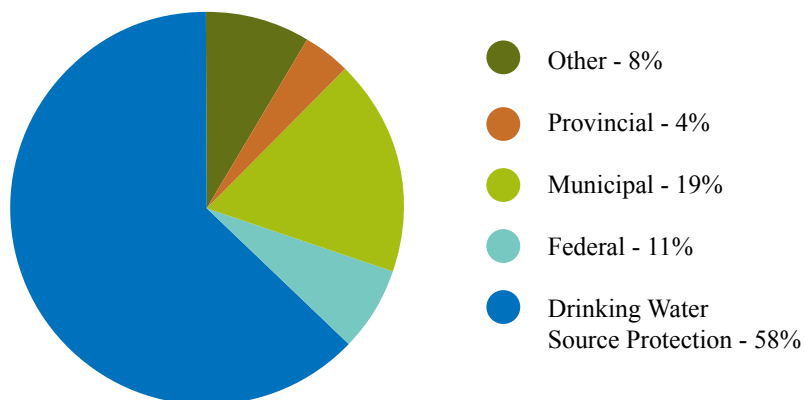
Encompassing 2,121 square kilometres, the jurisdiction of Lower Trent Conservation includes the lower Trent River watershed and a number of smaller watersheds that drain into Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte.



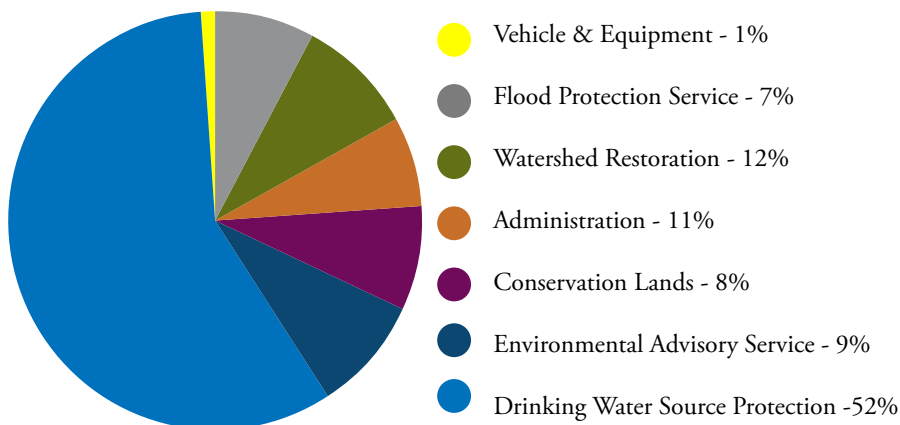


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2010 Revenue - \$3,656,577



2010 Expenses - \$3,656,577



Audited financial statements available upon request

Municipalities in the Lower Trent watershed region appoint representatives to the Board of Directors. The 10 Board members oversee the activities of the Conservation Authority and report back to their municipal councils. Seven municipalities represent the public's interests:

**Alnwick/
Haldimand**
Art Jeninga

Brighton
Craig Kerr
Dave Cutler

Centre Hastings
Tom Simpson

Cramahe
Patricia Westrope

Quinte West
Jim Alyea
Jim Harrison

Stirling-Rawdon
Barry Cooper

Trent Hills
Hector Macmillan
Dean Peters

Message from the General Manager



2010 was a year of change for Lower Trent Conservation. Jim Kelleher, General Manager since 1986, retired and I have taken on that role. My job is to ensure that the conservation program he worked so hard to build continues to evolve to meet current and future challenges.

The 2010 annual report provides a summary of our many accomplishments over the past year. In particular, I'd like to highlight our expanded outreach into the community with events like the Quinte Children's Water Festival and Yellow Fish Road Program, stewardship programs and school presentations. We also made major improvements at a couple of Conservation Areas – a new lookout tower and trail at Sager Conservation Area (a must see) and trail construction and improvements at Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area. It was also a big year for the drinking water source protection program – the proposed assessment report, which compiles over 5 years of technical studies, was submitted to the Province for approval.

Throughout 2010, Lower Trent Conservation continued to work in partnership with special interest groups, community groups, neighbouring conservation authorities, provincial ministries, federal agencies, and most importantly, with our local municipalities. It is only through these partnerships that we are able to deliver a meaningful conservation program for our local watersheds and for the people that live here and visit, and for those yet to come. 🌳

Glenda Rodgers
General Manager

Drinking Water at the Source

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) has partnered with four other conservation authorities (Crowe Valley, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha and Otonabee) across the Trent/Ganaraska River watersheds to assist the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee with the development of source protection plans in conjunction with local municipalities.

As lead conservation authority, LTC continued its coordinating role in 2010, ensuring that technical studies and assessment reports were completed and providing ongoing technical, communications and administrative support to the Source Protection Committee.

The Proposed Trent and Ganaraska Assessment Reports were completed in 2010 and included two phases of public consultation during the year. These reports, which identify and evaluate threats to municipal drinking water supplies, provide the basis for the development of the source protection plan.

The 28-member Source Protection Committee met 13 times in 2010 to review technical documents and guide the preparation of the assessment reports. 🌳



COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Education and outreach are critically important to engaging residents in environmentally sustainable behaviours and drawing attention to conservation issues. Special events, workshops, volunteer activities, displays, new media and website development, press releases and publications are some of the initiatives that provide opportunities for everyone to learn about the importance of environmental protection and stewardship of the Lower Trent watershed region.

Lower Trent Conservation also recognizes that the students of today are the environmental stewards of tomorrow. Through a variety of educational activities, young people are educated about the importance of our natural environment.



Highlights-----

LTC staff, Girl Guides, high school students, and municipal councillors brought the Yellow Fish Road program (an awareness program that focusses on storm water pollution) to Colborne in June.

134 children discovered nature all summer long at the Goodrich-Loomis Nature Camp held at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area.

Promoted the Authority at 14 trade shows and special events.



Over 700 local grade 3-5 students learned about water conservation, science, and attitudes through a variety of interactive hands-on activity stations at the second annual Quinte Children's Water Festival in May.



Check Your Watershed Day held in July. 30 volunteers monitored stream flow, depth, and width at over 100 stream crossings along Percy Creek.

Several interactive presentations given to local schools and youth groups regarding water conservation.

Lower Trent Conservation adopted social media by using twitter, facebook, foursquare, and blogging.

Launched a new website bringing much needed functionality, information, and accesibility to its watershed residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICE

Lower Trent Conservation monitors, evaluates and reports on our watershed's existing conditions which allow us to offer important environmental services and programs to municipalities and the watershed community.

Many development activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, shorelines and waterways can damage the environment or pose a threat to public safety. Provincial policies, and provincial and federal legislation, are in place to help control such activities. Lower Trent Conservation offers advice to municipalities, landowners and developers to help them meet provincial policy requirements and to ensure compliance with government legislation. These services also ensure environmental integrity and protect people and property from flooding and erosion hazards.

Long-term strategies, including watershed plans, natural heritage strategies and shoreline management plans, also help guide land use and resource management decisions.



Highlights-----

Reviewed and provided advice and formal comments to local municipalities on 186 *Planning Act* applications.

Sampled benthic invertebrates at 43 stream sites; these are insects that live in the bottom of streams, and are indicators of water quality.

Completed environmental review for 23 legal requests and 33 general development inquiries.

36 surface water quality samples collected and analyzed at nine locations for several different parameters in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment.



54 samples analyzed for groundwater chemistry from 11 groundwater monitoring wells and daily water level measurements collected.

Several Conservation Authorities including LTC and the Ministry of Environment initiated a study to compare current benthic sites to a historical reference point which will determine whether these sites are impaired or not.

Need a permit?

If your property is adjacent to a river or valley system, wetland, significant natural feature or the Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte shoreline, you must receive written permission from Lower Trent Conservation before initiating certain types of work.

FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICE

Lower Trent Conservation provides a flood protection service to local municipalities and the general public to reduce the risk of property damage and loss of life from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.

Ten water control structures including a dam, flood walls, berms, weirs and overflow channels help to protect existing development from potential flood damages. Ongoing inspection and maintenance ensure these structures continue to function as designed.

Water and flow levels along the region's waterways and weather forecasts are monitored daily as part of a flood forecasting and warning system intended to provide the earliest possible notification to municipalities and the public of the potential for flooding.

Regulation of construction activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, shorelines and waterways ensure that activities in these areas will not result in a risk to public safety or property damage. This preventative approach also ensures that wetlands, shorelines and waterways are protected.



Highlights-----

Issued 118 permits and eight violation notices under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Ontario Regulation 163/06 Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) for development activities adjacent to wetlands, watercourses, and shorelines.

Worked with a property owner to remediate four acres of a Provincially Significant Wetland after being charged under the Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation with placing fill within the wetland.

Baseflow (the base amount of water that flows through the watershed) monitored at 150 sites throughout the region.

Nine water level bulletins issued throughout the year, plus morning announcements regarding spring water awareness throughout schools within the watershed.

Operated and maintained nine stream gauge stations as part of the flood forecasting and warning system.



Kris Vande Sompel

CONSERVATION LANDS

Lower Trent Conservation owns 3800 acres of natural open space. These forests, valleys, meadows and wetlands form part of a regional system of protected landscapes that depict the natural diversity of the region. They are special places in the watershed that are protected from development, where the natural world comes first.

There are 17 properties in total that range in size from small parkettes to over 650 hectares. Ten properties are classified as Conservation Areas and provide venues for healthy and active lifestyles such as hiking, bicycling, fishing, canoeing and other recreational activities to residents and tourists. Seven Natural Habitat Areas, while open to the public, are left in a natural state with no maintained trails or recreational facilities.



Highlights-----

Prescribed burns took place at Goodrich-Loomis, Seymour, and Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Areas to aid with continuing efforts to restore provincially significant savanna/prairie habitat.



Bleasdehl Boulder Conservation Area improvements included a parking lot re-alignment, kiosk, and trail improvements, and a new link to the Lower Trent Trail.



400 native grasses planted at Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area.

Plant species signs installed in the native garden at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area.

Close to 100 participants attended the annual Seymour Family Fishing Day held at Seymour Conservation Area.

Thousands of visitors flocked to Sager Conservation Area to experience the new 30ft lookout tower



WATERSHED RESTORATION

While Lower Trent Conservation believes that prevention is the most cost-effective method of protecting and enhancing the many natural features of our watershed region, there is still a role to play in restoration efforts. By establishing partnerships with other agencies, technical and some financial assistance is available to private, public and corporate landowners, community groups and individual residents for practices that enhance, restore or protect their properties. Restoration activities allow for a hands-on approach to watershed protection. 

Highlights-----

Sold over 25,000 tree seedlings to residents as part of the Tree Seedling Stock Program.

Partnered with Agrium to introduce Caring for Our Watersheds (a school competition) to students in Campbellford.

Introduced a new landowner program called Healthy Shorelines Clean Water. It will offer stewardship and best management practices expertise to shoreline property owners throughout the Lower Trent watershed region.

Joined forces with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Ecology Centre to remove thousands of invasive sweet white clover from the savanna.



Identified invasive plant species along roadsides from Warkworth to Brighton with the OFAH to monitor and track growth over time.

The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) hosted seven workshops and presentations to educate people about the Bay.

The BQRAP Habitat Enhancement Program provided financial assistance to four landowners to assist with shoreline naturalization on the Bay of Quinte.

The BQRAP approved re-designation of one of the environmental challenges facing the Bay - "Fish tumours and other deformities" it was determined that liver tumours in Bay of Quinte brown bullheads (an indicator species) are no longer a concern.

LTC distributed \$43,215 in funding from the Ministry of the Environment to six participants for well decommissioning and upgrades, septic pump-outs and inspections and erosion control projects as part of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

Need more information?

We are always here to help and provide you with information regarding any of our programs and services. Email information@ltc.on.ca • Phone: 613-394-4829



Lower Trent Conservation

714 Murray Street, R.R.1 Trenton, ON K8V 5P4

T: 613-394-4829 | E: information@ltc.on.ca

www.ltc.on.ca

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