

2013

Annual Report

LOWER TRENT Conservation



Member of



**Conservation
ONTARIO**
Natural Champions

Message from the CAO & Chair



Glenda Rodgers, CAO

As we look back at 2013, it is an opportunity to reflect on the progress Lower Trent Conservation has made since its formation in 1968 – 45 years ago. We have come a long way. In 1968, our newly formed Board of Directors, made up of representatives from local municipalities, began the job of developing programs to manage and restore the natural resources of the local watersheds.

Over the years, we acquired property for natural heritage preservation and public use, built flood and erosion control structures to protect existing development, and planted trees. While development pressures continue to grow, 45 years later the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region is still a naturally wonderful watershed, with healthy streams, forests, and wetlands.

In 2013, we released our Watershed Report Card that reported on the environmental health of the watershed. While there are areas requiring improvement, overall, the watershed is healthy. We are confident that this is due to the efforts of the Conservation Authority and all its partners, including municipalities, other agencies, and the public, who have worked



Craig Kerr, Chair

together to protect and enhance the natural amenities of our watershed.

In 2013, Lower Trent Conservation worked with landowners, school children, and municipalities to complete shoreline naturalization projects to protect water quality, reduce shoreline erosion, and provide wildlife habitat on public and private lands. We also offered hikes and activities in our Conservation Areas to increase environmental awareness and help promote the value of spending time outdoors to people's physical and mental health.

As you browse through the pages of this Annual Report, you will read about the programs delivered and projects completed in 2013 through our Watershed Science & Services, Conservation Lands, and Corporate Services, as well as the partnership programs we administer to enhance the Bay of Quinte and protect the sources of municipal drinking water.

Our watershed management program looks a lot different than it did in 1968. Nevertheless, the goal is still the same – a healthy watershed.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Lower Trent Conservation's 45th year successful.

Board of Directors

Municipalities located within the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region appoint representatives to the Board of Directors.

The 10-member Board, representing the seven municipalities located either entirely or partially within the watershed region, oversees the activities of the Conservation Authority and reports back to their respective municipal councils.

Township of Alnwick/ Haldimand

Joan Stover

Municipality of Brighton

Craig Kerr (Chair)
Mary Tadman

Municipality of Centre Hastings

Larry Mitz

Township of Cramahe

Patricia Westrope (Vice-Chair)

City of Quinte West

Jim Alyea
Jim Harrison

Township of Stirling- Rawdon

Wilfred Shier

Municipality of Trent Hills

Kim MacNeil
Bill Thompson

About Us

Lower Trent Conservation is a community-based environmental protection organization dedicated to protecting, restoring, and managing the natural resources of the Trent River valley.

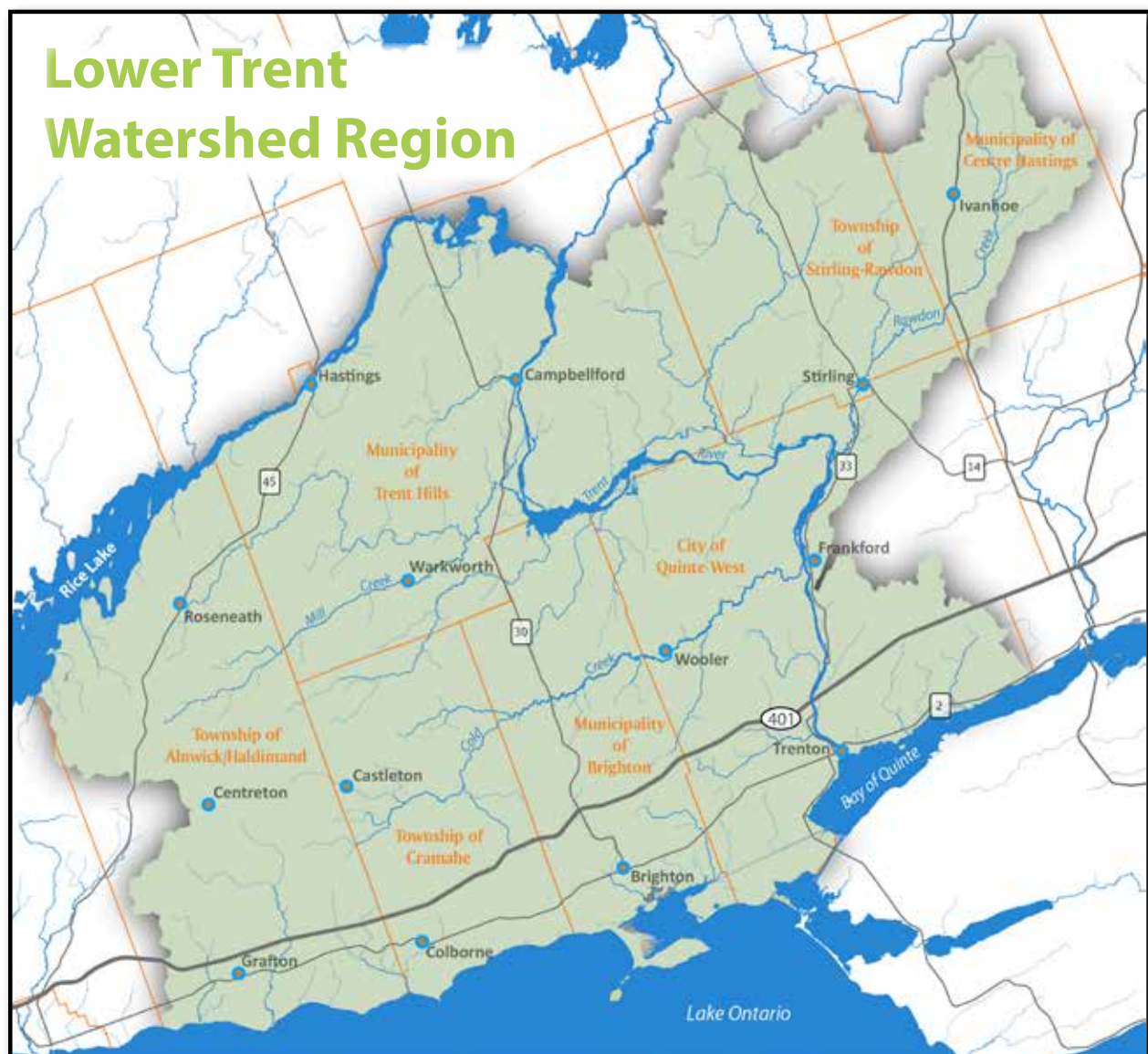
Established by the provincial government and our municipal partners in 1968 under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Lower Trent Conservation is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario, and a member of Conservation Ontario.

Lower Trent Conservation works in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, businesses, and community organizations to deliver locally-based environmental programs.

Encompassing 2,121 square kilometres, the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region includes the Trent River, which flows out of Rice Lake to the Bay of Quinte



at Trenton, and eight main tributaries. The watershed region also includes a number of smaller watercourses that flow directly into Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte.



Watershed Science & Services

Environmental Planning & Regulations

Development activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, shorelines, streams, and rivers can damage the environment or pose a threat to public safety. 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.

Regulation of construction activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, shorelines, and waterways ensures 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.

2013 Highlights

- Provided comments to local municipalities on 106 *Planning Act* applications (severances, minor variances, official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments, etc.).
- Over 1,415 interactions with the public seeking environmental information and advice (including emails, phone calls, meetings, office visits, etc.).
- Prepared written comments regarding property specific development constraints and environmental conditions for 27 legal requests and 24 general development inquiries.
- Provided ongoing review and input to 14 subdivision proposals.
- Issued 145 permits for development activities adjacent to wetlands, watercourses, and shorelines under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Ontario Regulation 163/06 Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses); issued 3 violation notices; continued investigation on 5 previous violations.
- Conducted 203 site inspections to assist with the environmental review of municipal planning and permit applications.
- Prepared an agreement to carry out enforcement powers under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* on behalf of 5 local municipalities.
- Conducted verification of drinking water threats for 10 municipal drinking water systems.



Watershed Science & Services

Flood Forecasting & Protection Works

Lower Trent Conservation, in cooperation with local municipalities and the provincial government, plays a key role in reducing the risk of property damage and loss of life from natural hazards such as flooding.

Weather forecasts and water conditions along the region's waterways are monitored daily, as part of a flood forecasting and warning system, in order to provide the earliest possible notification to municipalities and the public of the potential for flooding.

In addition, 10 flood control projects, including a dam, flood walls, berms, weirs, and overflow channels, have been constructed to help protect existing development in flood susceptible areas from potential damages resulting from a flood. The structures were constructed with the aid of the Province of Ontario and local municipalities on a cost-sharing basis.

2013 Highlights

- Issued 14 Water Level Notices regarding water level concerns on local waterways; included 2 water safety statements, 5 flood outlook statements, and 6 flood watches.
- Conducted daily risk assessments for flood forecasting and low water response.
- Operated and maintained 9 stream gauge stations.
- Conducted 8 snow surveys at 4 snow sampling sites.
- Investigated a new data management system (WISKI-SODA) for flood forecasting, low water response, and other monitoring data.
- Conducted annual inspection of 10 flood control structures.



Trent River at Glen Ross



Snow surveying



Watershed Science & Services

Environmental Monitoring & Reporting

Monitoring activities focus on collecting data for provincial water monitoring programs. The data is used to evaluate and report on existing conditions within the watershed, and helps to establish targets for protection and rehabilitation activities.



Benthic sampling

Lower Trent Region WATERSHED Report Card 2013



2013 Highlights

- Sampled benthic invertebrates at 37 stream sites; these organisms live in the bottom of streams and are indicators of water quality.
- Collected 63 surface water quality samples at 9 monitoring sites for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network.
- Collected water samples at 11 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network sites for geo-chemistry analysis; ongoing maintenance, data downloads, and manual water level measurements taken.
- Completed third of a five year water chemistry/ benthic sampling program at 15 sites as part of the Provincial Bio-Criteria Project; data will help to describe normal ranges of biological conditions in streams across southern Ontario.
- Analyzed thermal water characteristics for 13 streams; 26 temperature probes installed.
- Monitored baseflow (flow of water entering stream channels generally from groundwater sources) at 35 sites.
- Collected 28 water samples to determine Total Phosphorus at 7 sites on the Oak Ridges Moraine; temperature and benthic data also collected.
- Sampled 4 Bay of Quinte beach sites for E-coli 16 times through the spring and summer.
- Released a Watershed Report Card describing the current state of the lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, forest, and wetland resources for the 12 subwatersheds within the watershed region.

Watershed Science & Services

Education, Outreach & Stewardship

Education and outreach are critically important to engaging residents in environmentally sustainable behaviours and drawing attention to conservation issues. Special events, workshops, and landowner stewardship activities provide opportunities for everyone to learn about, and get involved in, the protection of the natural resources within the 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.

2013 Highlights

- Completed third year of Healthy Shorelines – Clean Water Stewardship Program with RBC Blue Water Project funding; created 2 natural shoreline demonstration projects; conducted 18 property visits; awarded 5 grants to landowners completing shoreline plantings totalling \$1,200.
- Promoted stewardship programs at 13 workshops and events.
- Facilitated implementation of 3 Caring for our Watersheds™ student projects.
- Sold 10,000 tree and shrub seedlings to watershed residents through the Tree Seedling Stock Program.
- Provided 10 presentations to 140 children at Batawa and Brighton day camps and Presqu'île Provincial Park.
- Attended 7 events to increase invasive species awareness in conjunction with the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters.
- Awarded \$9,000 in cash prizes in the Caring for Our Watersheds™ competition, an international contest of Agrium, Inc; 28 Grade 8 and 9 students from Campbellford and Brighton areas participated.
- Prepared 10 blog posts about shoreline naturalization and tree trivia.



Hastings Village Marina shoreline naturalization



Caring for Our Watershed contest finalists

Conservation Lands

Lower Trent Conservation owns 1,540 hectares 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 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.

2013 Highlights

- Completed various Conservation Area improvements including: trail expansion and new benches at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area; entrance upgrades at Bleasdel Boulder Conservation Area; picnic shelter repairs at Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area; and trail head kiosk at Proctor Park Conservation Area.
- Held 10th annual Seymour Family Fishing Day at Seymour Conservation Area; 125 adults and children attended.
- Promoted Healthy Hikes Challenge in conjunction with Conservation Ontario.
- Participated in Trails Open events in Northumberland County and Quinte West.
- Installed dog waste bag dispensers at Proctor Park & Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Areas, a winning student idea from the Caring for Our Watersheds™ contest.
- Conducted invasive plant inventories at Glen Miller, Trenton Greenbelt, Proctor Park, and Seymour Conservation Areas.
- Conducted baseline vegetation survey at Keating-Hoards Natural Habitat Area for monitoring management activity success.
- Hosted 2 nature hikes – ‘Forest Forensics’ at Proctor Park Conservation Area and ‘Come Glide with Me’ at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area; 35 people participated.
- Held a geocaching event at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area; approximately 75 people attended.



Seymour Family Fishing Day



Trail work at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides support to all Lower Trent Conservation programs including: financial and human resource management; administrative support; program planning and development; customer relations; partnership building; information management and mapping support; and marketing and communications.

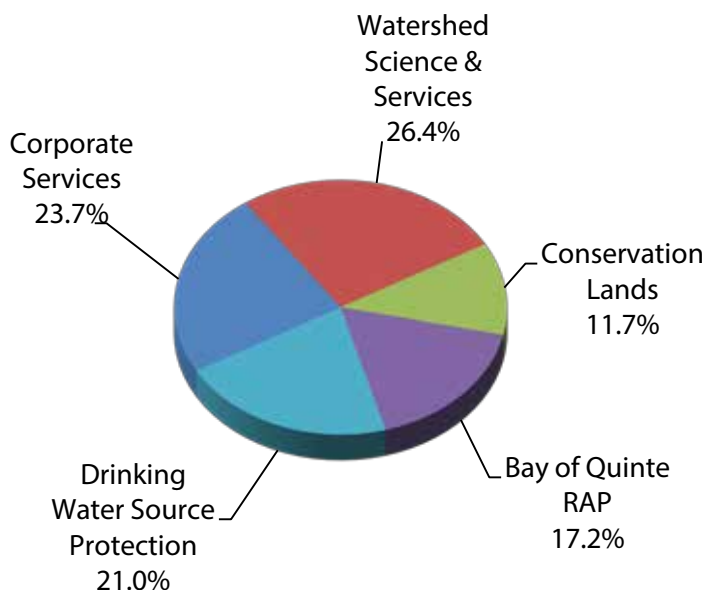
2013 Highlights

- Implemented new staff organizational structure.
- Approved policies related to health & safety, administration, fees, personnel, and corporate communications.
- Developed communications products including 18 press releases, 14 e-bulletins, numerous social media posts, publications, displays, etc. to market and promote programs and services.
- Hired 6 summer students through the federal Canada Summer Jobs and provincial Summer Employment Opportunity programs.
- Upgraded network server and back-up system.
- Initiated development of a digital document management system to improve document handling, searchability, and information management.
- Standardized and improved staff accessibility to mapping resources.
- Recruited 46 volunteers, providing 276 hours to assist with special events, education activities, habitat restoration, and groundwater monitoring.

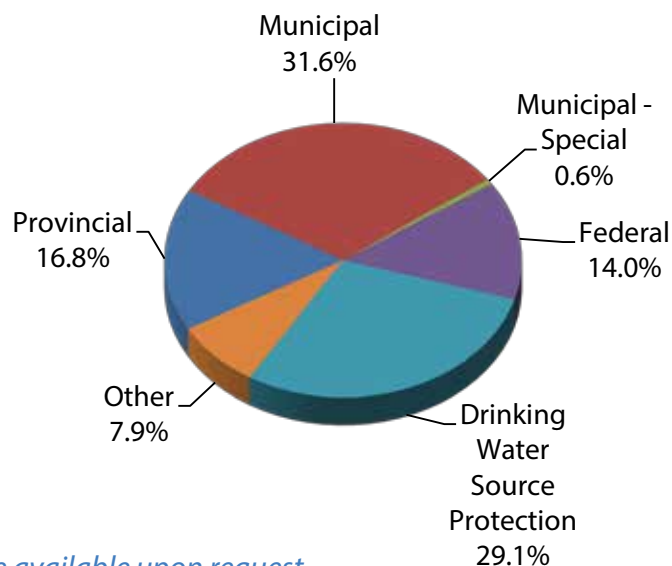


2013 Financial Summary

Expenditures - \$2,395,501



Revenue - \$2,395,501



Audited financial statements are available upon request.

Partnership Programs

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

Lower Trent Conservation coordinates the administration of the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP), co-chairs the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council, and provides communications and technical support aimed at rehabilitating the Bay.

In 2013, BQRAP completed linking the watershed phosphorus loading model and in-bay phosphorus level model necessary to develop a phosphorus management strategy for the Bay. This document will help guide future management actions, ensuring the Bay remains a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.

A Septic Stewardship Program was implemented for homeowners with shoreline property on the Bay of Quinte. This voluntary educational program provides homeowners with a free checkup of their septic system, helpful advice on the care and maintenance of the system, and pays for a septic tank/holding tank pump out.

The Habitat Enhancement Program continued to help landowners rehabilitate shorelines, install livestock fencing and enhance wildlife habitat all to improve water quality in the Bay.

The Community Wildlife Monitoring Program engaged over 60 volunteers to monitor wetlands around the Bay and various outreach and education activities updated the public on the health of the Bay.



A draft Natural Heritage Strategy was completed to assist municipalities bordering the bay with identifying natural features for long term protection and enhancement.

Drinking Water Source Protection



In 2006, the Ontario Government passed the *Clean Water Act* to protect the rivers, lakes, and groundwater that are sources of drinking water for municipalities.

Following six years of research, data collection, and extensive consultation and collaboration with local government, potentially affected stakeholders, and the general public, source protection plans were proposed for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region in 2012. The plans contain a series of policies, developed in consultation with the local community, to protect drinking water sources from existing and future threats.

Based on comments received from the Ministry of the Environment in 2013, the policies were reviewed by staff, the Source Protection Committee, and Municipal Working Groups. Revisions were prepared for consultation in early 2014.

Lower Trent Conservation continued to work with four other conservation authorities (Crowe Valley, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha, and Otonabee) across the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region in 2013. As the lead conservation authority, Lower Trent Conservation continued its coordinating role, providing technical, communications, and administrative support to the Source Protection Committee.

Amendments were also made to the Trent and Ganaraska Assessment Reports to include a new municipal well in Keene and wastewater treatment plant and marina fuel storage threat scenarios for the three Lake Ontario drinking water intakes.



Our Staff in 2013

Glenda Rodgers, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Corporate Services

Don Campbell, Manager, Corporate Services

Marilyn Bucholtz, Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Anna Morgan, Finance & Information Technician

Jeffrey Meyer, Information Technology Specialist

Watershed Science & Services

Janet Noyes, Manager, Watershed Science & Services

Cristal Heintzman, Environmental Planner/Regulations Officer

April Anderson, Water Resources Technician

Ewa Bednarczuk, Ecology & Stewardship Specialist

Anne Anderson, Special Projects Coordinator

Andrew Doiron, Source Protection Technician (Tania Clerac, June to Aug.) *

Ashley Jackson, Environmental Technician *

Conservation Lands

Mike Lovejoy, Manager, Conservation Lands

Frank Cherrier, Conservation Lands Maintenance Technician

Lee Barre, Conservation Lands Labourer *

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

Sarah Midlane-Jones, Community Outreach Specialist

Shan Mugalingam, Technical Specialist

Natalie Rosso, Environmental Stewardship Technician (Tamara Tucker, Jan. to Aug.)

Drinking Water Source Protection

Andrea Hicks, Program Coordinator

* Short Term/Seasonal Positions

STAFF





LOWER TRENT Conservation

714 Murray Street
Quinte West ON K8V 5P4

■
613-394-4829

■
information@ltc.on.ca

■
www.ltc.on.ca



[/LowerTrent](https://twitter.com/LowerTrent)



[/lower trent conservation](https://www.facebook.com/lower trent conservation)