

**For a breath of fresh air  
Tree Planting with the LTVCA**

In 1851, there was 80% woodland cover in Elgin, Kent and Middlesex Counties. By 1951, this had dropped to less than 10%, contributing to the large amount of soil erosion. Since 1985, over 1.5 million trees have been planted in the watershed and region with the help of the LTVCA. The Conservation Authority's tree planting program has many benefits. Trees: •enrich topsoil •reduce soil erosion •increase crop yields •reduce heating costs •cool our environment •absorb noise pollution •provide shelter for wildlife •beautify the environment •enhance our recreation areas •provide wood and paper products •use up carbon dioxide and produce oxygen

**A 'dirty' word  
Our Erosion Control Services**

The LTVCA's erosion control program reduces the impacts of erosion. Through prevention and structural controls, the Conservation Authority is able to prevent the loss of life, minimize property damage and social disruption. The prevention of erosion also protects farmland from the loss of fertile topsoil and helps eliminate water pollution which could damage river and lake ecosystems. Technical advice for erosion control problems on private land is available through the Conservation Authority as well as possible funding sources for projects depending on availability.

**In your own backyard  
Conservation Area Day Use & Camping**

The LTVCA has acquired land in the watershed to protect environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands, culturally unique features and significant biological, ecological, historical and scenic qualities from development. Over 1,000 acres of conservation land have been preserved at 20 sites for public use across the LTVCA watershed. It is estimated that well over 1,000,000 people have made use of all the conservation lands over the years.

**Lending a helping hand  
Conservation Authority Supporters**

Without new avenues of financial support, our conservation lands are at risk. The good news is that local community initiatives are making a difference! The "Friends of Two Creeks" in Wheatley, the "Friends of Sharon Creek" in Delaware and the seasonal campers at C.M. Wilson conservation area in Chatham-Kent have brought volunteers together to help with the maintenance and future development in these parks. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation also helps to support the ongoing activities and services of the Conservation Authority through a variety of programs. As Provincial funding for conservation areas has been eliminated, the work that these groups are doing is invaluable and key to their preservation.

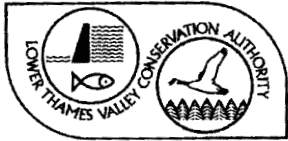
**Beyond the classroom  
Community Conservation & Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village Education Programs**

If we are to maintain an active, healthy and economically stable community, environmental integrity is a critical component. Unique education and awareness programs serve to re-acquaint people of all ages with the important natural features of our region and their conservation. Nearly 200,000 students have participated in the Longwoods Road Conservation Area education experience since 1980. Of this total, approximately half were from watershed municipalities. The Longwoods education programs are truly unique programs in the watershed with the Resource Centre at Longwoods Road being the only interpretive facility of its kind in the region. Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht have seen visitors from around the world!

Information on the LTVCA's programs and services is relayed to watershed residents through community information programs. Publications such as this are available at the Conservation Authority's Administration Building in Chatham or Longwoods Road Conservation Area just west of Delaware.

*The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is a watershed-based partner, working with the local community providing services and information to efficiently protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations.*

**For more information contact:**



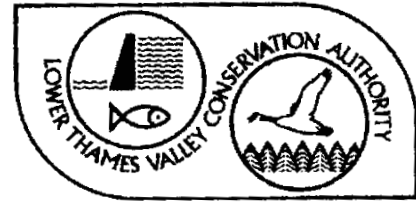
**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**Administration Building**  
**100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario**  
**N7L 2Y8**

**Tel: (519) 354-7310**  
**Fax: (519) 352-3435**  
**E-mail: ltvca@MNSi.net**  
**or**  
**lowerthames@odyssey.on.ca**  
**Website: www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca**



A member of Conservation Ontario

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**



*"providing conservation services to our local municipalities for nearly 40 years"*

A healthy environment, good water quality and the preservation of conservation lands are important to everyone!



## The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) was established in 1961 and serves 10 municipalities with a variety of environmental functions. The LTVCA has been working with residents of this watershed and region for 40 years. Residents living in the watersheds of Lakes Erie and St. Clair and the lower Thames River are served by the LTVCA. As each municipality's environmental concerns are unique, the Conservation Authority has tailored its programs accordingly to meet local needs. With jurisdiction over some 3,275 square km (1,264 square miles) of land, many programs and services offered have broad reaching benefits to communities across the watershed and region.

### Dams, dykes and channels

#### Water Control Structures to Protect YOU

The lower Thames River has a long history of flooding. The LTVCA has developed the expertise and understanding of the geography of the region, the nuances of the Thames River and its reaction to natural or man-made interference. In fact, one of the primary reasons for the founding of the LTVCA was to provide a coordinated response to the flood problem. Many of the most visible works of the LTVCA revolve around the flooding problem. Under the Federal/Provincial Dyking Program in the mid 1970's, the LTVCA constructed 58 km of dyking at a cost of over \$12 million. These dykes provided significant protection to many low lying areas downstream of Chatham which were under an annual flood threat. Currently, the LTVCA nears completion of the Indian/McGregor Creek Flood Control Project. This \$16 million project, which was undertaken through the cooperation of Chatham-Kent and the Province, has been calculated to provide over \$30 million of flood control benefits and protection to over 2,000 homes in south Chatham and adjacent areas in Chatham-Kent.

### Letting YOU know

#### Our Flood Forecasting and Warning System

Over the years, the LTVCA has developed a comprehensive flood forecasting and warning system. We have good communications with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority as well as with the Aviation, Flood and Fire Management Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The LTVCA has installed a system of water level monitoring stations on the Thames River and the Indian/McGregor Creek systems. These stations are used to determine the reaction of the stream to a climactic event and ascertain the impact these stream flows have on flood prone areas. The LTVCA has also developed a high degree of expertise in monitoring and evaluating the effect of weather conditions and river flows on ice jams in the lower part of the river. Quick response times to member municipalities of weather warnings or watches are a priority.



*Dam and pumping station  
Indian/McGregor Creek Flood Control Project*

### An ounce of prevention

#### Plan Review Under the Conservation Authorities' Act

The health and economic well being of an area requires planning to avoid or at least minimize, natural or man-made environmental disasters. Now more than ever, proper planning will be necessary to identify potential hazards before complications arise. The Conservation Authority's Plan Input and Review Program equates to an insurance policy against these significant expenses in terms of both dollars and loss of life. In order to support this program, the LTVCA has accumulated a significant collection of flood and fill line mapping. We review municipal documents and policies on a regular basis to provide a uniform planning direction throughout the watershed for upstream and downstream residents to protect lives and property. This program can be of great importance to developers and private individuals who may not be aware of these potential hazards. Municipal documents reviewed include: official plans and amendments, zoning bylaws and amendments, minor variances, severances, drainage reports, lawyer and general inquiries and plans of subdivision

### Rules to safeguard you and your property Fill, Construction & Alteration to Waterway Regulations

One of the first actions the Conservation Authority took after its formation was the implementation of Fill, Construction and Alteration of Waterways Regulations under the Conservation Authorities' Act. Regulations exist to prevent the loss of life and property damage as well as preventing increased flooding from improper fill placement along watercourses. These regulations were seen as the most effective tool in preventing the future loss of life and property damage due to flooding. Our Fill Regulation applies to the lands adjacent to the Thames River and McGregor Creek in Chatham and the Thames River downstream of Chatham. The Construction Regulation applies to all areas prone to general flooding in the LTVCA watershed and the Alteration of Waterways Regulation applies to all natural watercourses within the LTVCA's jurisdiction.

#### Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Watershed and Region

