

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

...helping to conserve
our natural & cultural heritage



2012
Annual Report

**We Gratefully Acknowledge
Donors in 2012**

Diamond \$1000+

Badder Funeral Homes Ltd.
- Thamesville, Bothwell &

Dresden

Carey, Dr. M. - Vancouver
Estate of Audrey Cobban
Green Lane Community

Fund - Fingal

McKinlay Funeral Homes
Ltd. - Chatham & Blenheim

Platinum \$500 - \$1,000

Carey, R. - Mount Brydges
Romsa, Dr. G.J. - London

Gold \$250 - \$500

Jundt, J. & R. - Chatham

Silver \$100 - 250

Chatham Goodfellows

Fleury, P. & M. - Tilbury

Peltier, J. - Calgary

Reuser, B. & D. - Calgary

Secord & Smith Funeral
Home Ltd. - Merlin

President's Message



The usual President's Message tries to bring attention to all the good things we have done in the past year, the projects that have been completed and formally recognize our benefactors. This year I am taking the liberty of departing from our normal format to include some remarks about a problem that has gained increasing importance in the not-for-profit sector over the past few years. That is a looming crisis in volunteer succession that we will all struggle to overcome in the next couple of years. The future of sustaining both economic and ecological well-being in the Lower Thames River region is at stake. But as little as one hour of your time could be life-changing.

Within a very short time, today's volunteers must be succeeded by a younger generation. The next wave of volunteers will bring new ideas, new energy and new engagement to our enterprise. The future must be powered by commitment, engagement and leadership. The future will not be about changing the mind-set of a group or individual. It will be in the skills to nurture a culture that motivates and even excites people to do what is required for the benefit of all. It is not about carrying others to a goal, but about creating a setting to help develop qualities in them so they might carry each other. The future of organizations like the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation will rest on these footings.

Our Foundation is an all-volunteer organization with no paid positions. Each act of volunteerism and support to sustain the struggling Carolinian ecosystem of the Lower Thames River Valley not only enriches our lives, but indelibly marks a path for generations of lives to come. The Foundation owes its very existence to a very small dedicated group. For the most part, these are individuals and organizations who have been willing to set aside self-interest to serve a more enduring purpose. They are people who have not sought position or praise. Their work is steady and quiet and fuelled by knowing that they are doing the right thing. They are your friends, and neighbours and relatives. And they all care deeply about what happens next in the Lower Thames watershed. In the months to come the Foundation will need to recruit additional volunteers who will lead us into the next bold generation of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.

Since incorporation in 1995, our volunteers and supporters have raised almost three-quarters of a million dollars for natural and cultural heritage conservation programs in the Lower Thames Valley region. Throughout we have received the heartfelt support of our Memorial Forest Program partners - McKinlay Funeral Home in Chatham and Blenheim, John C. Badder Funeral Home in Thamesville, Badder & Robinson Funeral Home in Bothwell and Dresden, and Secord and Smith Funeral Home in Merlin.

As we move forward to engage new horizons, I remain deeply in the debt to everyone who has chosen to support our vision with their time and commitment. On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors let me express our gratitude for countless volunteer hours and financial support in 2012. Thank you.

Peter Snow - President
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Volunteer Directors & Officers

2012

Peter Snow - President

Grant Jones - Vice-president

Ken Brooks - Secretary/Treasurer

Ralph Brodie

Brian King

Glenn Stott

Sandy Wilson

Bonnie Carey - Administrative Assistant

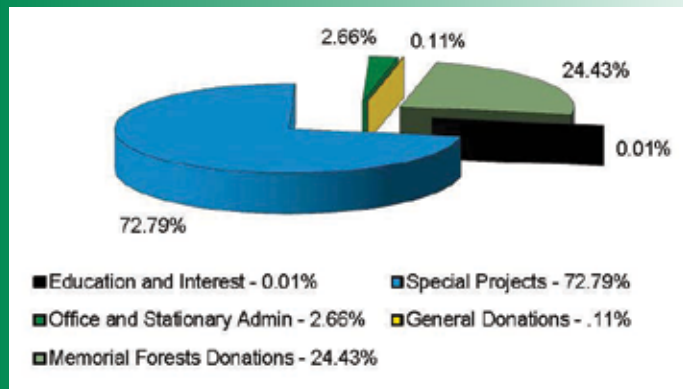
About the Foundation

The Conservation Foundation works with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority helping to raise funds for wise management of our renewable natural resources. Created in 1995, it cultivates and enhances all aspects of conservation, providing present and future generations with a safe and healthy environment, including natural and cultural heritage resources. The Conservation Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity - Number 898198171 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.

Revenues & Expenses

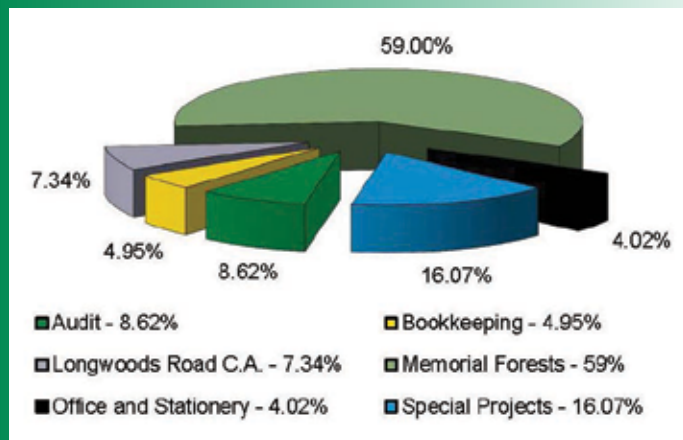
The Foundation facilitated the generation of \$62,507 in 2012. The excess of revenues over expenses for 2012 was \$35,249. Available upon request are the 2012 Financial Statements, which outline the revenues and expenditures in detail. The Secretary/Treasurer position was held by Ken Brooks in 2012. He is recognized for his financial expertise with the budget.

2012 Foundation Revenues \$62,507



Over the past year, nearly 73% the Foundation's revenue resulted from donations towards special projects of the LTVCF.

2012 Foundation Expenses \$27,258



Over 59% of the Foundation's expenses went to purchase, plant and maintain the memorial trees planted by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority in 2012.

We Gratefully Acknowledge Donors in 2012

Bronze up to \$100

291 Blenheim Squadron S.S.C.
 Allen, A. & D. - Merlin
 Bechard, P. - Dover Centre
 Brooks, K. & DeBruyn, H. - London
 Burri, S. & P. - Blenheim
 Butler, J. - Chatham
 Caughey, D. & D. - Chatham
 Chevalier, A. - Chatham
 Comet Rebekah Lodge #97 - Merlin
 Cuthbertson, M. - Chatham
 Dupuis, R. & A. - Tilbury
 Duquette, T. - Chatham
 Elston, D. B. & M. - Chatham
 Everitt, B. & A. - Thamesville
 Faber, S. & S. & Family - Ripley
 Fisher, D. - Oakville
 Fisher, K. - Chatham
 Flegel, C. - Mount Brydges
 Fobel, M. - Milverton
 Gagner, H. - Chatham
 Hardy, B. & S. - Sarnia
 Huffman, P. - Chatham
 J.D. Hogarth Public School - Fergus
 Jackson, R. & W. - Chatham
 Jenner, M. - Chatham
 Laidlaw, A. & McKenzie, D. - Chatham
 Lansue, S. & Family - Tilbury
 Marshall, L. & D. - Bothwell
 Mathany, C. & M. - Chatham
 Morris, C. - Merlin
 Newby, J. & T. - Nashville
 Odette, D. & Family - Wallaceburg
 O'Neill, D. & K. - Chatham
 Ott & Hogleund Family - Kent Bridge
 Owen, A. & Family - Chatham
 Parker, J. - Chatham
 Parrott Family - Chatham
 Pierce, B. & K. - Chatham
 Plazek, A. & K. - Rockwood
 Poissant, G. - Chatham
 Pro Resp Chatham
 Reid, R. - Merlin
 Ross, R. - Merlin
 Shadd, T. & S. - Merlin
 Skinner, R. & E. - Tilbury
 Sonneveld, J. & S. - Blenheim
 Spicehowicez, E. - Chatham
 Stonehouse, J. & D. - Tilbury
 TekSavvy Solutions - Chatham
 Tetreault, P. - Tilbury
 Toll, R. - Merlin
 Turner, A. - Dorchester
 Watson, C. & G. - Canton
 Whittal, H. & M. - Chatham
 Wilkins, S. - Grande Pointe
 Wilson, D. & Family - St. Catharines
 Zylstra, N. - Elora

Supporting Reforestation

Supporting the
Lower Thames Valley
Conservation Authority and
Community Conservation
Partners...

Projects and Services
“Assisted” Through Our
Foundation and Its Generous
Donors in 2012

- \$1,894 for Sharon Creek Conservation Area land taxes 2011-2012
- \$7,519 for planting and maintenance of 2011's memorial trees
- \$18,355 Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail
- \$1,192 for 13 large stock native species ceremonial memorial forest trees
- \$3,299 towards summer students at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- \$7,500 to Thames Talbot Land Trust for Wardsville Woods
 - \$500 William Erickson Student Bursary Awarded
 - \$350 Taste of Fall Special Event Support
- \$622 for a new McKinlay Woodlands Memorial Forest Sign
- Planting of 501 trees in five memorial forests in the lower Thames River watershed and region and assisting with memorial forest dedication services
- Management of environmental trusts and the William Erickson Bursary
- Volunteers for Moonlight Family Winter Hike at Longwoods



MEMORIAL FOREST PROGRAM

memories live on

A focus of the Foundation over the years has been its memorial forest program with 7,269 memorial trees planted. In 2012, \$15,272 in donations were received for trees, dedicated to loved ones, at seven Foundation memorial forests. The value of this memorial forest program has been reinforced, with less than two percent tree cover in the western lower Thames watershed, coupled with the extensive demise of ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer.

This program also helps support conservation lands and education programs of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. Recognized for their ongoing support of the memorial forest program are the **McKinlay Funeral Homes** of Chatham and Blenheim, **John C. Badder and Badder & Robinson Funeral Homes** of Thamesville, Bothwell and Dresden, the **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society** and **Secord & Smith Funeral Home Ltd.** of Merlin. Friends and families dedicated trees to loved ones who have passed away by contacting the Foundation, requesting a tree donation card and making a \$40 donation for each tree. Next of kin receive a certificate and an invitation to an annual memorial forest service.

“Friends” Helping Out

The Foundation recognizes the work done by local volunteer groups to help reforest and restore natural habitat in our watershed and region. We partnered with the **Friends of Sharon Creek** in Delaware over the years (dissolved in 2009), and the active **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society**. Our Foundation has also assisted the local volunteer efforts of **The Thames Talbot Land Trust**. These relationships that have developed are valued and of benefit to our environment and local communities.



The Tilbury Northside Park Memorial Forest is managed in partnership with the help of the Tilbury and District Horticultural Society volunteers. Close to 80 memorial trees have been dedicated at this local park.

Memorial Tree Dedications



Secord and Smith Memorial Forest

On June 10, 2012, the first annual dedication service was held at the **Secord and Smith Memorial Forest**, located in the Merlin Conservation Area. Thirty-one trees were dedicated and Foundation President **Peter Snow** brought greetings. The new sign was unveiled in an official ribbon cutting following the service. Approximately 75 people attended. **Richard Smith** of Secord and Smith Funeral Home has agreed to promote this newest memorial forest.



McKinlay Woodlands

On September 9, 2012, the fifteenth annual dedication service was held at the **McKinlay Woodlands** in C.M. Wilson Conservation Area south of Chatham and 313 memorial trees were dedicated. Foundation President **Peter Snow** offered greetings. The total of memorial trees now growing at McKinlay Woodlands is 4,971. Over 800 friends and family members attended this annual service. **Rob McKinlay**, second from the left, and **Colin Mardling** of the McKinlay Funeral Homes, are key partners with our Foundation.



Badder Memorial Forest

On September 16, 2012, the twelfth annual dedication service was held at the **Badder Memorial Forest** near Bothwell at the Mosa Forest. 83 trees were dedicated and Foundation Director **Glenn Stott** addressed the audience. The total memorial trees now growing in memory of loved ones at Badder & Robinson Memorial Forest is 1,475. Over 250 people attended this annual service. **Jason Badder** of Badder Funeral Homes has continued his support through the years.



Tilbury Northside Park

On September 23, 2012, the ninth annual dedication service was held at the **Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest**, located at the Tilbury Northside Park. Seventeen trees were dedicated and Foundation Director **Brian King** brought greetings. The total memorial trees now growing in memory of loved ones at this memorial forest is 80. Approximately 75 people participated in this service. Appreciation is extended to the **Tilbury and District Horticultural Society** for their continued

Memorial Forest Sites

McKinlay Woodlands... A Living Memorial

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area
Chatham-Kent, On
(supported by
*McKinlay Funeral Homes in
Chatham and Blenheim*)

Big Bend Memorial Forest
Big Bend Conservation Area
Wardsville, On

Sharon Creek Memorial Forest
Sharon Creek Conservation Area
Delaware, On

Badder Memorial Forest

Bothwell, On
(supported by *John C. Badder
and Badder & Robinson Funeral
Homes in Thamesville, Bothwell
and Dresden*)

Rowsom's Tilbury West Memorial Forest

Rowsom's Tilbury West
Conservation Area
Tilbury, On

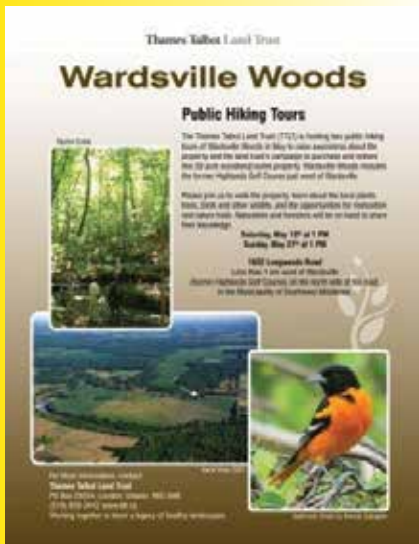
Tilbury Northside Memorial Forest

Tilbury Northside Park
Tilbury, On
(supported by the *Tilbury and
District Horticultural Society*)

Secord & Smith Memorial Forest

Merlin Conservation Area
Merlin, On
(supported by
*Secord & Smith Funeral Home Ltd.
in Merlin*)

Supporting Conservation



In 2012, the Foundation made a donation of \$7,500 to the Thames Talbot Land Trust towards the campaign to restore the Wardsville Woods property. This 50 acre parcel includes the former Highlands Golf course just west of Wardsville. A portion of this donation was made possible through a generous bequest from the late Audrey Cobban to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.



Fifty percent (\$7,500) of the memorial forest donations received by our Foundation in 2012 was turned over to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority to pay for the trees, their planting and maintenance. In addition, \$1,192 from the Foundation purchased 13 large stock trees for the dedication services.

Over the past year, the Foundation invited service clubs, local businesses, charitable foundations and private citizens to become “partners in conservation” to support and improve conservation lands and facilities of the LTVCA. This is an opportunity for sponsors to have their name in publications and on signs, receive media attention, and to receive a tax receipt, all in recognition of their support. The Foundation can apply for Government grants and corporate sponsorship on behalf of the Conservation Authority. This special funding supports summer students and helps to purchase equipment not covered through the LTVCA’s budget, but needed to operate programs in the conservation areas. A trail sponsorship program at Longwoods Road Conservation Area also raises money for the upkeep of the wheelchair accessible nature trails.

In 2012, the Foundation made a donation of \$7,500 to the Thames Talbot Land Trust towards the campaign to restore the Wardsville Woods property. A portion of this donation was made possible through a bequest from the late Audrey Cobban. Mrs. Cobban had been a resident of the nursing home in Wardsville.

Summer Students and Events



The Foundation supported the hiring of Ska-Nah-Doht Village’s summer student Briana Mazzilli at Longwoods Road Conservation Area in 2012. Yuri Karpov was also hired with Foundation funding to work at Longwoods.

Each year, the Foundation assists the Conservation Authority with funding to help support the employment of summer students and offset the costs of hosting public events. In 2012, \$3,299 of funding was provided for the summer student wages at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. As well, \$350 was given to support the annual event “Tastes of Fall” at the Conservation Area.

William Kingsley Erickson Bursary



Cori Charlton volunteered for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority during her college co-op. She taught the “Protecting Our Drinking Water” program to students living near municipal drinking water wells.

Graduating secondary school students from schools located in Ontario, within the jurisdiction of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority are eligible for this \$500 bursary. Candidates must be a graduating student, who will be pursuing post-secondary education in the field of environmental/conservation studies at an accredited institution.

In 2012, the WKE Bursary was awarded to Cori Charlton from the Municipality of Middlesex Centre.

Supporting Education

The Conservation and Ska-Nah-Doht education programs at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, are unique to our watershed and benefit from “partners in conservation” to be preserved for all to enjoy. Annually, over 7,000 students participate in these programs. Donations from service clubs, foundations, corporations and individuals, help maintain trails, facilities and programs at Longwoods.

Carey Carolinian Arboretum & Trail

Facilitated through the Foundation, a \$26,000 gift in 2008 from a private donor - Dr. Lewis Carey, was used by the LTVCA for an educational “Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail” project at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Dr. Carey had dedicated the arboretum and trail in memory of his wife - Dr. Beverly Carey. Dr. Lewis Carey passed away in November of 2009.

Over the past four years, large stock Carolinian trees were purchased and planted with their signage including Kentucky Coffee, Cucumber Magnolia, Flowering Dogwood, PawPaw, and Slippery Elm as part of the Carolinian Arboretum. The final phase of the project will begin next year, with the construction of a Carolinian information kiosk, native species garden landscaping, a new park sign and an official opening. This was enabled through a generous grant in 2012 of \$11,950 from Greenlane Community Trust as well as other private donations.

Both the Conservation Foundation and Conservation Authority realize the importance of creating a Carolinian arboretum and trail system as an educational tool for this unique habitat. Dr. Carey’s wish for messaging to reflect the connection between First Nations peoples and the natural surroundings of a Carolinian forest came to fruition, as Longwoods highlights both native and natural history.



Three years ago in the spring of 2009 this Tulip Tree (right) was planted. It was 3.5 m tall. All the arboretum trees are thriving as is the same Tulip Tree (left - dedicated to Dr. Carey) which is now over 8.5 m high.



2012 Carey Carolinian Arboretum & Trail Donations \$14,950

Thank you to the following Supporters
Greenlane Community Fund - Fingal
Dr. Mark Carey - Vancouver
Richard Carey - Mount Brydges
Dr. Gerhard Jonathon Romsa - London



Education Programs of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Conservation Education

- **Conservation Area Field Trips**
Longwoods Road
C.M. Wilson
- **Classroom Outreach Programs**



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

- **Native Studies Programs**
Longwoods Road Conservation Area



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is located in Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Curriculum based native studies programs attract thousands of students, teachers and chaperones annually. In the summer months, tourists from around the world explore the longhouses inside the palisade.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

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The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity - Number 898198171 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued for all donations. Donations for education and conservation projects are generously recognized and wisely used for activities in the local area.