

A child in a red jacket and pink hat is running away from the camera across a grassy field. In the background, there is a large, leafless tree and a wide river or estuary under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

**Lower Thames Valley  
Conservation Authority**  
**2016 Highlights**

*Our values, programs, trends & challenges*

# ABOUT US



- **Our Vision**

The LTVCA...for a balanced & healthy watershed

- **Our Mission**

Leading by example in environmental protection in partnership with the community

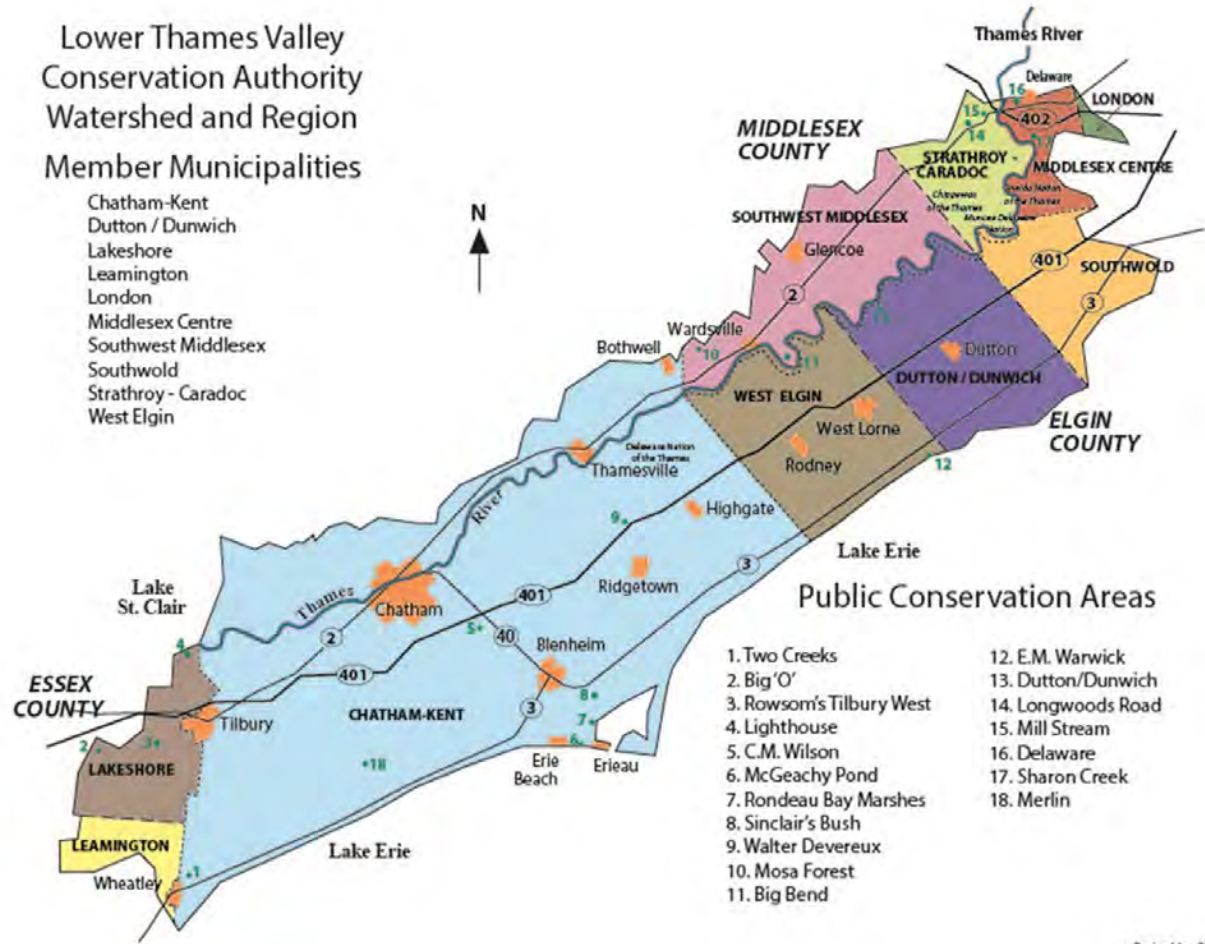
- **Our Core Values**

Respect, integrity, commitment, objectivity, & collaboration



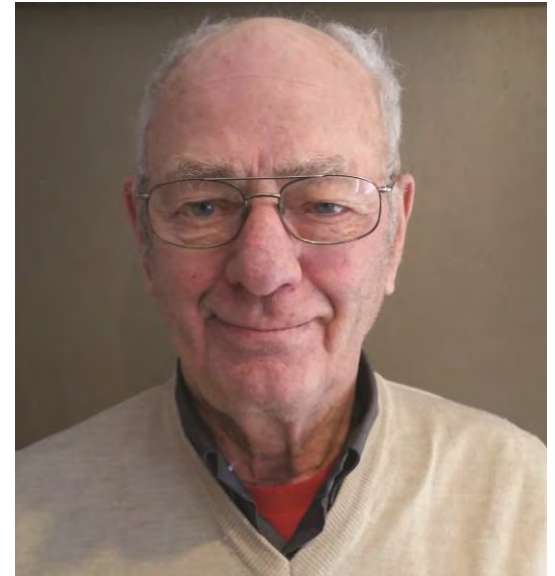
# OUR AREA OF JURISDICTION

- The Conservation Authority's area of jurisdiction lies over the watersheds of all streams, which drain into the Thames River from the Village of Delaware, to Lake St. Clair
- Southern boundary has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams which drain into Lake Erie, from the Talbot Creek watershed in the east, to the Two Creeks watershed in the west
- Total area covers over 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) in southwestern Ontario & is home to over 120,000 people



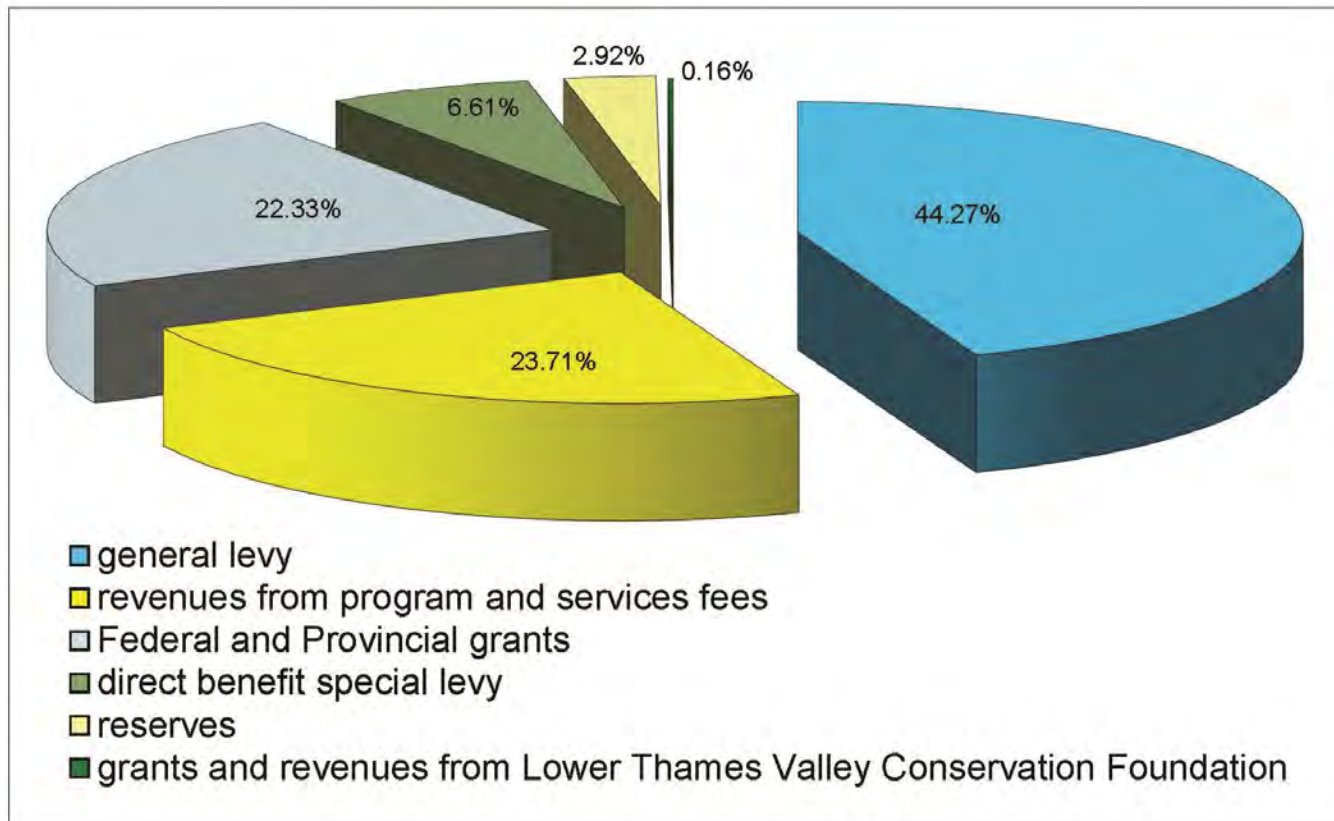
# OUR DIRECTORS & MUNICIPALITIES

- **John Kavelaars (Chair) - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex**
- Linda McKinlay (Vice-Chair) - Town of Lakeshore
- Gayle Bogart – Township of Southwold
- Stanley Caveney – City of London
- Ron Doane – Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Leon Leclair – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Hilda MacDonald – Municipality of Leamington
- Dan McKillop – Municipality of Dutton Dunwich
- Steve Pinsonneault – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Michelle Smibert – Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Trevor Thompson – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Jonathan Wolf – Municipality of West Elgin



*John Kavelaars – Chair*

# \$ BUDGET \$



- Budget of \$3,026,022 received final approval at February Annual General Meeting

# LTVCA STAFF



*Don Pearson –  
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer*



- 24 full-time
- 19 seasonal/part-time

# Administration Building Renos

- energy & storm water conservation measures were completed inside & out
- celebrated at our Open House on June 30



# PRIORITIES

- Protecting life & property
- Protecting drinking water sources
- Enhancing watershed health
- Stepping into nature
- Partnering with the community





# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

Conservation Authorities are on the front lines of the **Provincial Flood Forecasting & Warning Program**, & undertake floodplain mapping; modeling; monitor streamflow, rainfall & snowpacks; issue warnings; acquire floodplain lands & flood vulnerable structures; & operate dams, dykes, channels & erosion control structures.



*Feb 2 2016*

# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

- **Flood Forecasting & Warning**
  - fairly mild winter with 11 flood advisories issued throughout the year
  - Indian/McGregor Creek Diversion Channel operated 4 times



*McGregor Creek Dam & Pumping Station - Chatham*

# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

- **Watershed in low water condition at year-end**
  - triggered if there is between 60% & 80% of the long term average rainfall over the last 3 or 18 month period, or if river flows are between 50% & 70% of the lowest average summer month flow



# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

- **Binational Phosphorus Reduction Targets for Lake Erie**
  - Thames River identified as a priority watershed that needs to see a 40% reduction in dissolved phosphorus & total spring loadings
  - LTVCA engaged in consultation & early actions to assist in developing the Domestic Action Plan, collecting required research & reducing phosphorous loadings



# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

- **Provincial water quality monitoring sites**
  - monitoring conducted at nine groundwater wells & 11 stream (surface) water locations for water quality indicators - dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature & nutrients with analyses such as e-coli, metals & pesticides at select locations
  - results used towards grades reported in the Watershed Report Card



# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

- **Thames River Clearwater Revival**
  - multi-agency partnership to improve the Thames
  - drafting of a Water Management Plan is underway
  - water quality recommendations compiled for release in early 2017
  - CA continues to be involved in supporting the Antler River Guardians from the 4 Directions: First Nation Youth Stewardship Program



# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Land Use Planning & Regulations

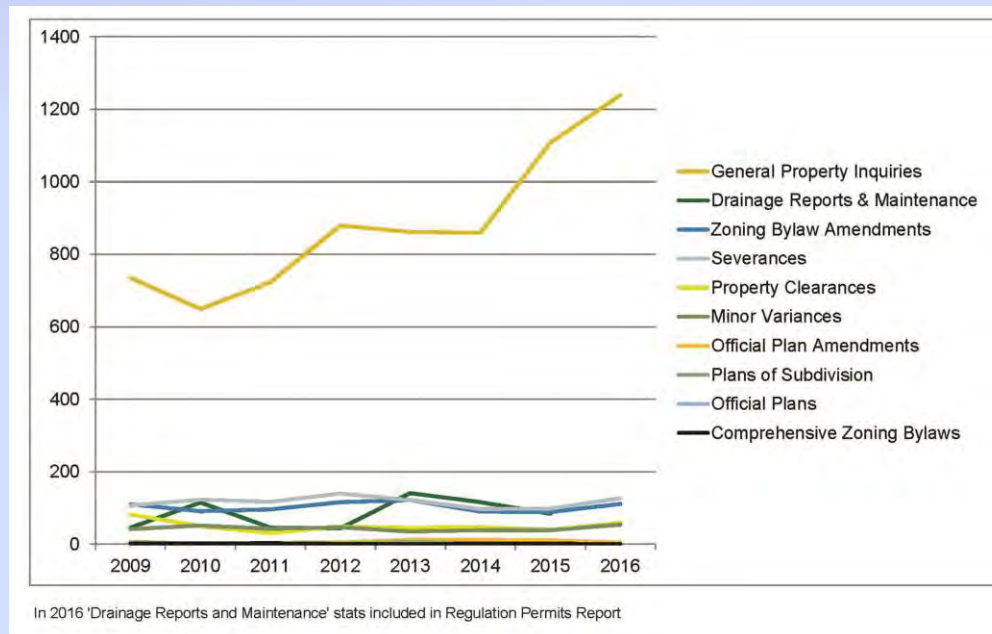
To maintain the vitality of our watersheds & protect peoples' lives and property from flooding & erosion, Conservation Authorities administer the **Conservation Authorities Act & its regulations**.



# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Land Use Planning & Regulations

- **1,864 regulatory & municipal plan review services**
- **Municipal Plan Input & Review**
  - 268 applications under Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation (Section 28)
  - reviewed 357 municipal planning applications & 1,239 general inquiries





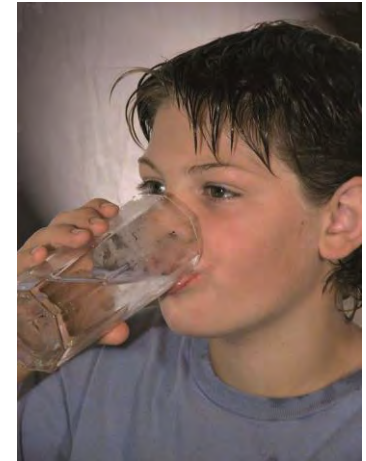
# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Land Use Planning & Regulations

- **Planning & Regulations Policies**
  - in place since the new Regulation in 2006, with the Operational Guidelines updated in 2012
  - significant changes in how the Regulation has been implemented since 2006 including an amendment to the Regulation in 2013
  - Draft Policies were completed mid-2016 & available on our website & at the Administration Office
  - four public open houses were held across the watershed over the summer
  - editing the Draft Policies to address initial comments will carry into the new year



The purpose of the provincial Clean Water Act (CWA) 2006 is to protect existing & future sources of drinking water. Protecting water at the source – municipal wells & water intakes – is the first barrier in a multi-barrier approach to providing safe, clean supply of water.



## Highlights of the Year

- Source Protection Plan approved & is in the implementation stage
- municipalities trained staff or contracted our **Risk Management Services**
- we welcome our new Project Coordinator **Jenna Allain**
- Source Protection Committee reduced & change of Chair
- the Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (MOECC) is revising the Technical Rules for Assessment Reports of surface water intakes, allowing more flexibility to adopt technical approaches that reflect local characteristics & concerns of drinking water systems
- to help with annual reporting the MOECC is working on reporting requirements & standardized forms

# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

The responsible care of our natural resources on a watershed basis is essential to balancing human & economic needs against the needs of our natural environment. Conservation Authorities have a long history working with landowners in the planning & delivery of watershed stewardship initiatives. Staff provide opportunities for local projects, which protect & restore species & habitats, encourage a sense of ownership of environmental rehabilitation efforts, & protect our water resources.



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Chatham-Kent Greening Partnership**
  - \$922,000 in grants
  - Nearly 375 acres (152 hectares) were naturally restored



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Invasive Species Control**
  - 104 acres (42 hectares) of *Phragmites Australis* were targeted



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Tallgrass Prairie**
  - 36 acres (15 hectares) planted



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy**
  - identifies how Chatham-Kent will work with the community to maintain & enhance natural heritage
  - nearly \$1.3 million leveraged from funders to enhance agricultural, water quality monitoring & species at risk programs of value to this municipality

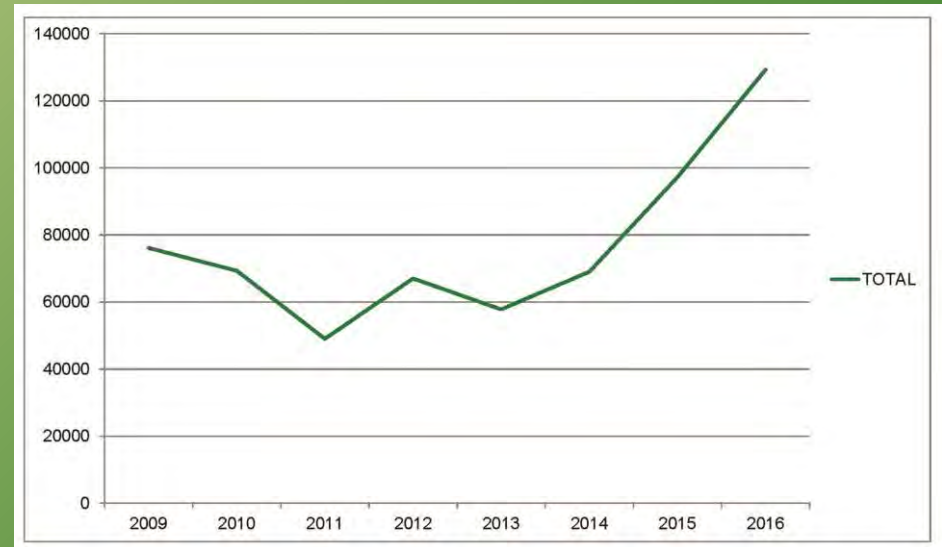


# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Tree Planting**

- 151 acres (61 hectares) reforested
- 128,000 trees planted





# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative**

Improving soil health, water quality & pollinator health

- *Jeannettes Creek Agricultural Phosphorous Reduction & Monitoring* - Eight tile drainage plots at two edge sites were constructed for monitoring. The program generated \$60,000 in grants to farmers in the study area.
- *McGregor Creek Subwatershed Education & Outreach* - web page, brochures, & presentation to Ridgetown College students were produced
- *Elgin County Watersheds Education & Outreach* – promoting best management practices for soil health & water quality



*Supported by Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association. Funding from OMAFRA & Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada through Growing Forward 2*



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Benthic Monitoring**

- sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates (*insects, worms & crustaceans that live at the bottom of the stream*) continued with a new partnership with the Biology Department at the University of Windsor
- sampling helps us to better understand where to target stewardship projects in areas of greatest need



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Species at Risk (SAR)**

- agreement with the Department of Fisheries & Oceans & Environment & Climate Change Canada to target aquatic SAR in watershed
- projects on municipal drains establish wetland & riparian vegetation to improve water quality & habitat for aquatic & terrestrial species



*Hydroseeding a  
steep bank  
along a drain*

# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **The Elgin Clean Water Project**

- a cooperative program between the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek, Long Point Region & Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities
- assists landowners with projects to improve & protect water quality in Elgin County
- five landowners in LTVCA watershed received funding for seven projects



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Watershed Awards**

- Greening Partnership
- University of Guelph – Ridgetown Campus – Environmental Management



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Wetlands**
  - over 54 acres (22 hectares) created



*Stewardship programs & services to expand in the eastern watershed in 2017*

# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

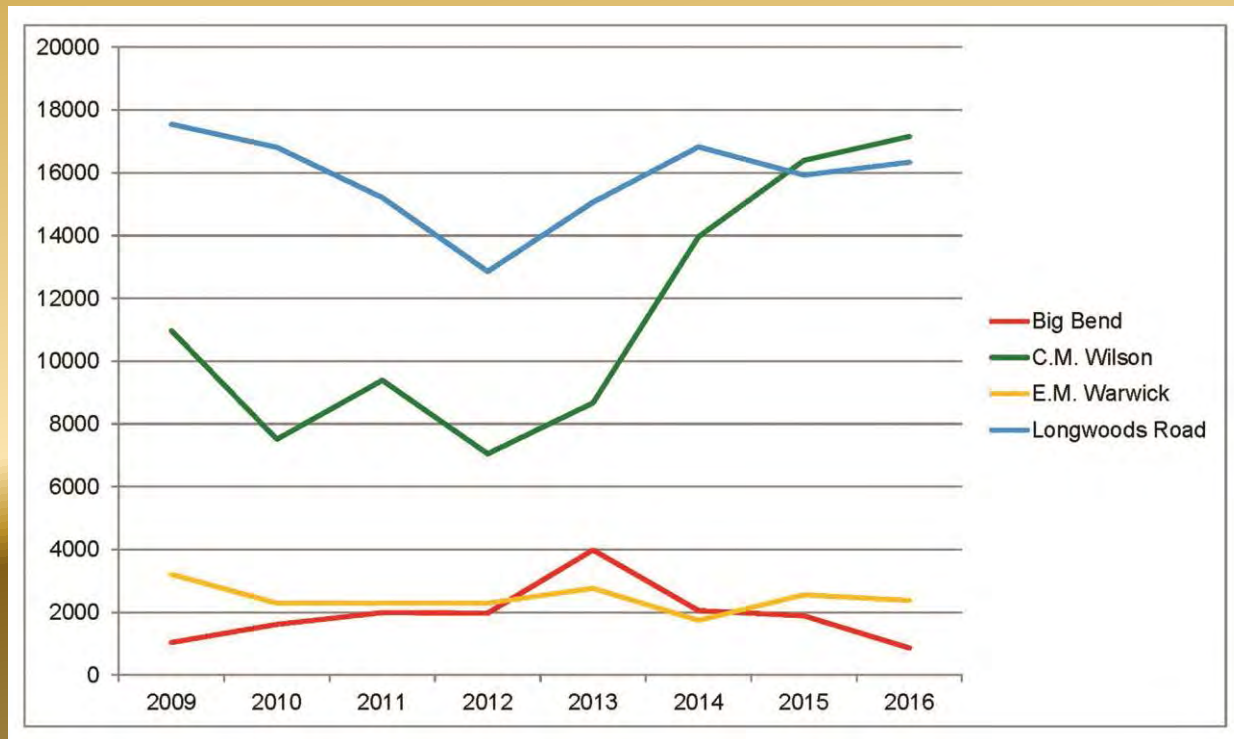
- **270 Conservation Areas in Ontario!**
- **LTVCA has 1,582 acres (640 hectares)** of protected wetlands, forests, tallgrass prairies, lakefront & habitat restoration sites
  - of these, 18 are publicly accessible conservation areas - 1,144 acres (463 hectares)
- Safety Committee regularly inspects
- two land donations totalling 80 hectares



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

- 14,210 campers in 4 campgrounds
- C.M. Wilson - 17,156 visitors
- Longwoods Road - 16,350 visitors





# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

- **“Traverse the Thames “**
  - an awareness & appreciation campaign for the Thames River by local filmmaker Mark Drewe
  - Mark & three other Londoners planned an eight-day 287 km canoe & kayak trip down the Thames during an awareness campaign & five-episode Rogers TV series
  - sponsored by UTRCA, LTVCA & several other outdoor organizations & businesses



*Big Bend Conservation Area drone clip*

# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

- the Municipal Enforcement Unit (MEU) patrolled problem areas like Skunk Misery to reduce infractions on area regulations



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

- new entrance signs at some conservation areas



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*



- dismantling C.M. Wilson Conservation Area's boardwalk to create an earthen berm for a safe, naturalized shoreline
- special thanks to the **Wheatley Two Creeks Association** for their tremendous achievements with upgrades and stewardship at Two Creeks Conservation Area!

# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Education Programs

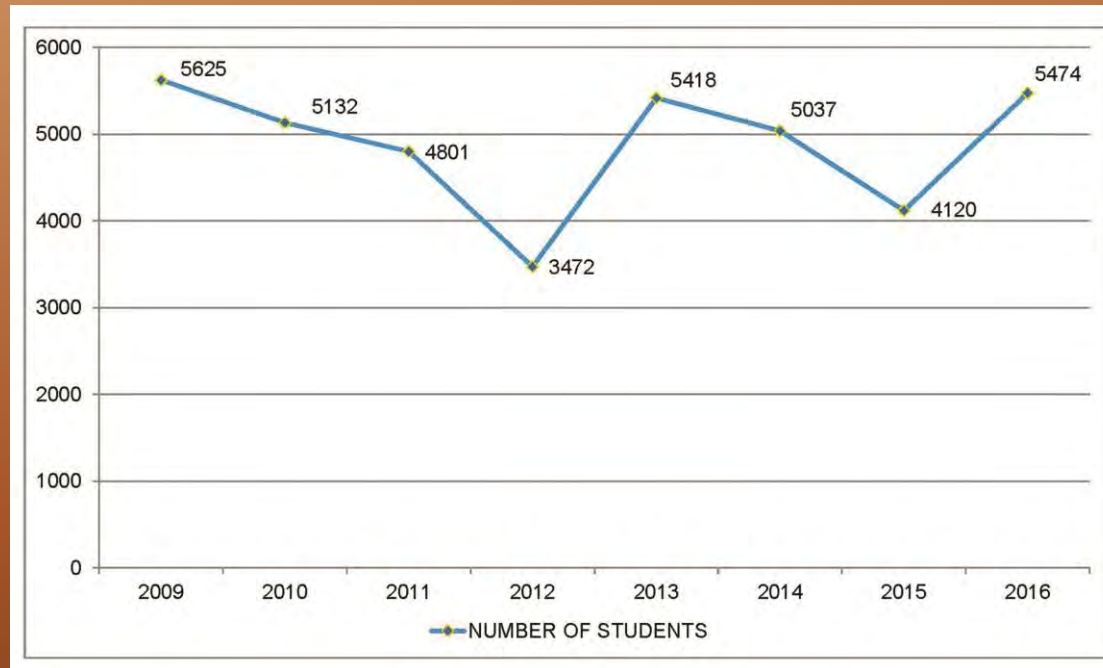
- **in Ontario over 410,000 students** participate annually in CA outdoor education programs which meet curriculum expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education
- we teach children about local & global environmental issues, explore linkages between human activity & natural environment, & instill a greater appreciation & understanding of nature



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Education Programs

- Longwoods, C.M. Wilson, Ska-Nah-Doht Village, Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival, inclass programs
- 8,000 children received education programming with LTVCA (including Water Festival)



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Education Programs - *Conservation*

- the Conservation Education program operates from Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- School field trips 1,691 students



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Education Programs - *Conservation*

- participate in community expo's & fairs including **Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival** at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area
- 2,700 grade 4-5 students, volunteers & partners over 3 day festival





# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Education Programs - *Conservation*

- River & Creek Safety Program sponsored by local service clubs
- 279 grade 2's



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Native Studies at Ska-Nah-Doht Village



### OUR MISSION

- Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum continues to be a community leader, to educate about the past, collect & preserve local history, & faithfully interpret the Haudenosaunee - People of the Longhouse

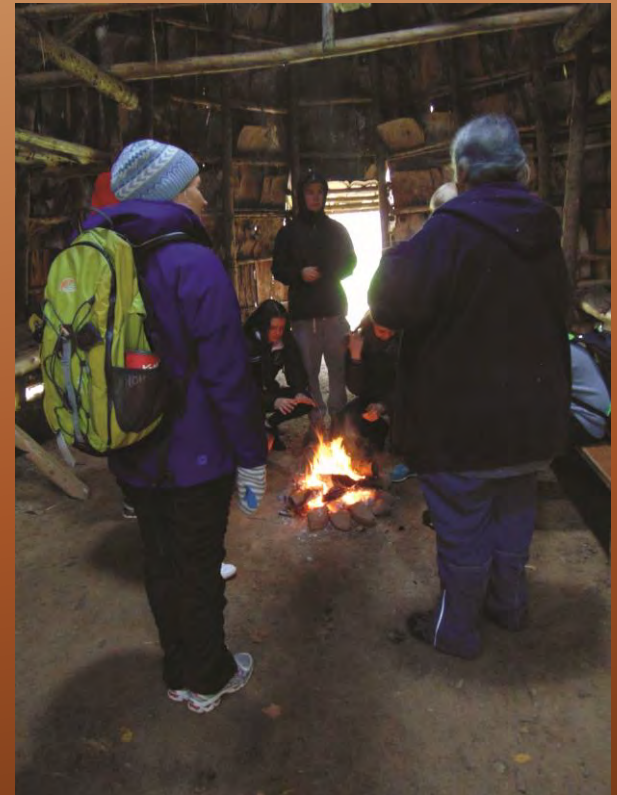
### OUR VISION

- Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum is an interactive museum that engages the public in the preservation & presentation of the past through experiences on-site & in the community

# STEPPING INTO NATURE

## Native Studies at Ska-Nah-Doht Village

- our Ontario Curriculum based education programs attracted 3,575 students



# SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

*“Traverse the Thames” – Mark Drewe*



# SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

- Ska-Nah-Doht Village welcomes tourists from over 24 countries around the world
- The Turtle Trail Gift Shop
- summer student grants – Young Canada Works, Canada Summer Jobs
- \$22,992 from the Ministry of Culture through the Community Museum Operating Grant



# SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

- Phase 1 of the Heritage Build project started
- Phase 2 will continue in 2017 featuring a new longhouse & fall celebration
- thanks to GreenLane Community Fund & Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for financial support to Project
- they were key to our success in receiving a Canada 150 grant



# SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

- **Special Events**
  - Artifact Day & Tastes of Fall



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Communications enhance awareness & understanding of the goals & programs of the LTVCA for our target audiences, enabling them to support & enjoy our facilities & services. We use social media, literature, advertising, media releases, special events, watershed tours, festivals, & displays to relay our messaging.

- Directors & Committee members
- Councillors / staff from member municipalities
- Government agencies
- CA staff
- Watershed residents
- Media
- CA visitors
- Project partners...





# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- **Highlights**

- “Go Wild Grow Wild” expo in London & other displays
- Administration Building’s Open House
- Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children’s Water Festival
- special events in conservation areas



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Syrian refugee families from London were thrilled to learn how to canoe during “paddle day” at Sharon Creek Conservation Area



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Season's Greetings event at Longwoods

*Bar H Belgian Horse Team and "Imagine That" acapella quartet*



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- LTVCA hosted 26 public events in our conservation areas throughout the watershed



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Thanks to the **710 awesome volunteers** who gave **5,500 hours** of their time in 2016!



*Some Water Festival Volunteers  
Jim Blake photographer*

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Thanks to the **42 funding partners that provided \$2.1 M** for watershed conservation!

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
Canada Summer Jobs  
Canadian Museums Association  
Captain Garnet Brackin IODE  
Chatham Sunrise Rotary  
Chatham-Kent Community Fund  
Chatham-Kent Community Foundation  
Chatham-Kent Community Partnership Fund  
Courey, Paul  
Department of Fisheries & Oceans  
East Lake St. Clair Wind LP  
Eco Action - Environment Canada  
Environment & Climate Change Canada  
Erieau Wind LP  
Forest Ontario  
Friends of St. Clair River  
Glencoe District Lions Club  
Goodwill Career Focus  
Greenland Community Fund  
Habitat Stewardship Program through ERCA  
Katzman Real Estate



Kiwanis Club of Chatham Kent  
Lions Club of Rodney  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation  
Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food & Rural Affairs  
Ontario Power Generation  
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association  
Optimist Club of West Lorne  
Point-aux Roches Wind LP  
RBC Blue water project  
Royal Canadian Legion Caradoc Branch 251  
Skakel, John  
St. Clair Wind  
Stewardship Kent  
TD Friends of the Environment Fund  
Union Gas  
Wallaceburg Advisory Team for Cleaner Habitat  
Wheatley Two Creeks Association  
Wildlife Habitat Canada

# CONTACT US!

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**Please view our complete annual report on our website. Thank You!**

