



POST SEASON REPORT

This is the seventh year for the Greening Partnership. Community relationships continue to *grow*. Each year we create more projects, funding opportunities, and milestones.

TREES



Greening Partnership large stock trees at the CK Horticulture facility on Grand Avenue

Over the past seven years we have raised over \$1.2 million, planted approximately 470,000 tree seedlings, restored nearly 400 acres/160 hectares, and planted over 8000 large stock trees in public parks throughout Chatham-Kent.

During the spring of 2013 we have planted approximately 65 000 trees with the help of land-owners, community groups, and local schools.



Landowner receives Greening Partnership Award for 19 000 seedlings planted near Thamesville

PRAIRIE AND BUFFERS

Greening Partnership greenhouse and the plugs were then planted by the local Merlin public school, LTVCA staff, and community.



Tall grass prairie restoration in full bloom

ROL-LAND FARMS-The local mushroom farm is involved with the Greening Partnership to mitigate phosphorous run off in the Rondeau Bay. 1000 meters of tall grass prairie buffers are being installed along with a series of catchment ponds. Overall project costs were approximately \$30 000.



Thames Grove tall grass prairie restoration planted by Scribendi (above).

SCRIBENDI-It is the sixth year Scribendi Editing has supported the Greening Partnership. This year the Scribendi Prairie was planted at Thames Grove Conservation Area. Thirty species of native grasses and forbs were planted. No mow signs were placed on the perimeter of the site.

Parry Landing Prairie on the Thames River (below)

MERLIN-The Merlin Prairie was established last year but continues to be enhanced. Armour stone was placed to create a perimeter and 15 species of tall grass and forbs were grown in the



COMMUNITY TREES INITIATIVE

This program is gaining momentum with the addition of Union Gas as a partner. The list of partners is growing to include The



Volunteers planting tree seeds at the Greening Partnership Greenhouse

Municipality of Chatham Kent, Stewardship Kent, Union Gas, along with 15 local schools. The students make it happen! Events are generally held at a school greenhouse or our very own Greening Partnership greenhouse.



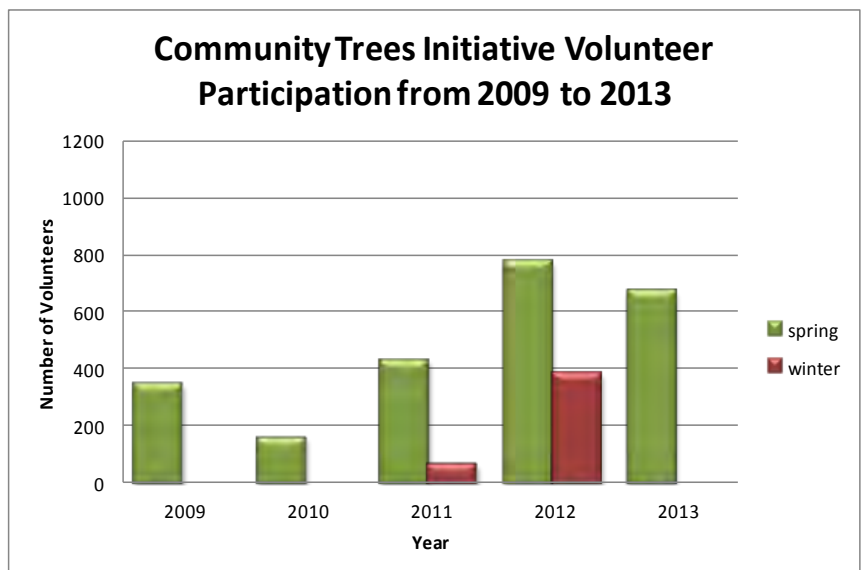
JOHN MCGREGOR S.S. volunteers after a spring planting event

This year we have hosted over 160 events. These events include everything in the seed to tree process from introductory lectures and presentations, seed collections, seeding, to planting on restoration sites. This year alone we've engaged over 600 volunteers.

Current projects and partnerships include the Chatham-Kent Health Unit school ground greening initiative called "Tomorrow's Greener Schools Today". The C-K Health Unit received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the initiative through TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Updates and current events of the Community Trees Initiative can be seen at

<http://forestsforourfuture.blogspot.ca/>.

Originally the CTI program was focused on trees, however, in the past two years we've diversified into two other areas of restoration plants such as prairie and wetland species giving us a well rounded and more dynamic program.



WETLANDS

This year we had several wetland restorations resulting from partnerships with Ducks Unlimited, Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program, Stewardship Kent, and rural landowners. The total area of wetland restoration was 13 acres/5.3 hectares.



Excavations being completed at the Zubler wetland restoration project on Kenesserie Rd. East Kent.

ROWSOM TILBURY WEST C.A.-This new wetland restoration was excavated and contoured in spring 2013. The objective here was to restore an old oxbow on Big Creek by holding back some of the high waters from the wet seasons (spring/fall). A series of features were installed including an Agri-drain to control water elevations and avoid flooding adjacent fields. The project created a forest understory wetland which is ideal habitat for the prothonotary warbler, a species at risk. Excavated materials were bermed and combined with remaining ash deadfall to create Eastern Fox Snake hibernaculum struc-

tures to appease this species at risk.

DIVERSION CHANNEL-This wetland restoration consisted of two separate ponds with an irregular shoreline for maximum riparian area. Depth was limited to approximately four feet. Over 30 species of wetland plants were planted with the help of partners from Union Gas.

ZUBLER-Rudy Zubler is a dairy farmer in East Kent and respects nature. He recently purchased 50 acres, of which, 15 acres was marginal, low, and originally a wetland. Rudy decided to restore it to its original state. Two ponds were created in the lowest areas. Within the ponds are turtle hibernation structures. The surrounding berms were planted with a selection of wildlife shrubs



Recent wetlands completed at the Thames River Diversion Channel on Creek Rd.

and trees. Near the waters edge tall grass prairie species were seeded in. A hibernaculum also doubles as a viewing mound to complement the property.

TD GREENSTREETS CANADA



During the winter of 2013 we were successful in acquiring \$15 000 for a gateway greening proposal from TD Greenstreets Canada. Eight communities in Chatham-Kent will receive trees to “green up” entrances to their community.

LOOKING AHEAD

In continuing efforts to control phosphorous in Lake Erie/Rondeau Bay, OMAF (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food) funding (\$113 000) will provide support to those projects which mitigate nutrient loading of our source water. This is another step to extend Greening Partnerships beyond natural restoration into areas such as water quality sampling equipment, benthic studies, and soil analysis kits for landowners.

Other partnerships already in place for 2014 include:

STEWARDSHIP KENT \$70 000

TD FEF TRAINING \$1000

UNION GAS \$2000

OPG \$30 000

TREES ONTARIO \$60 000

OPERATIONS

Equipment upgrades were much needed and welcomed. Last year, grants were acquired to purchase a Kubota R900 and trailer. We have equipped the Kubota with a spray tank, boom, and wand. This enhances our annual tree program by offering better service and higher survival rates. A new truck was acquired to haul trailer with our Kubota spray unit .



Working in partnership toward the greening of Chatham-Kent



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Everyday is Earth Day for the GREENING PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERS

Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario

Essex Stewardship Council

Ducks Unlimited

Farm Credit Canada

Elgin Stewardship Council

Blenheim Rotary Club

Chatham Kent Community Foundation

Community Partnership Fund

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Dillon Consulting Ltd.

Environment Canada

Kent Federation of Agriculture

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

McGeachy Charitable Foundation

Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario Power Generation

Rotary Club of Chatham

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 598

Scribendi Editing

TD Community Giving

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation - Lambton/Kent Chapter

Tilbury Lions Club

Trees Ontario Foundation

Union Gas, a Spectra Energy Company

Ursuline Sisters

Vancouver Foundation

Wheatley Two Creeks Association

Winners Merchants International LP

Chatham Daily News

Chatham This Week

Sun Media News

Blenheim News Tribune

The Ridgeway Independent

National Wild Turkey Federation