

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AGENDA**

**University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus  
Willson Hall, Ridgetown, Ontario  
February 19, 2015  
2:00 pm**

- 1. Adoption of Agenda**
- 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof**
- 3. Minutes of the November 27, 2014 Meeting (Previously circulated)**
- 4. Business Arising From the Minutes**
- 5. Committee Meetings**

(a) Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee Meeting & Hearing Minutes, January 27, 2015

**RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes for the Personnel & Finance / Executive Committee Meeting for January 27, 2015 be received for information.**

**6. Correspondence**

(a) Governments of Canada and Ontario sign new Great Lakes Agreement

**RECOMMENDATION: That correspondence item 6 (a) be received for information.**

**7. Business for Approval**

- (a) Auditors Report and Financial Statements
- (b) Annual Report

**8. Election of Officers**

- (a) Chair
- (b) Vice-Chair
- (c) Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee (3 members to be elected, + Chair & Vice-Chair)
- (d) Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum Advisory Committee (3 members to be elected)
- (e) Ice Management Committee (2 from Chatham-Kent, member from Lakeshore, + Chair & Vice-Chair)
- (f) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (3 members to be nominated)

**9. Business for Information**

- (a) Water Related Issues, Initiatives & Activities – Staff Report
  - i. Flood Control
  - ii. Watershed Monitoring
  - iii. Watershed Planning
- (b) Applications for Permission under Ontario Regulation 152/06 (CA Act) – Staff Report
- (c) Conservation Services – Staff Report
- (d) Conservation Areas – Staff Report
- (e) Community Relations – Staff Report
- (f) Conservation Authority Education – Staff Report
- (g) GM's Report – Strategic Plan

**RECOMMENDATION: That agenda items 9 (a) through to 9 (g) be received for information.**

**10. Business for Approval**

- (a) Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund – Wetland Projects
- (b) 2015 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Budget
- (c) Appointment of Auditor
- (d) Appointment of Bank
- (e) Appointment of Solicitor
- (f) Authorization to Borrow

**11. 2015 Meeting Schedule**

**Thursday, April 23, 2015 – 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, June 25, 2015 – 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**  
(Tentative Eastern Watershed Tour 9:00 am to 2:00 pm)

**Thursday, August 27, 2015 – 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, October 22, 2015 – 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, December 17, 2015 – 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, February 18, 2016 – 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Willson Hall, Ridgetown Campus,  
University of Guelph**

**Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority**

**Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

A meeting of the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Authority's Administration Building at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, Ontario at the hour of 2:00 PM. A roll call was held with the following committee members present: J. Kavelaars, S. Caveney & I. Fleck.

Also present were the following staff members: Don Pearson, Jessica Schnaithmann & Valerie Towsley.

Vice-Chair John Kavelaars called the meeting of the Personnel & Finance Committee to order at 2:00 pm. He requested the members to disclose any conflicts of interest. None were declared.

1. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee sit as a Hearing Board.

CARRIED

1. CA Application No. 111-2014 – Pinsonneault File

The applicant, Mr. Al Pinsonneault, was in attendance for the hearing. Jessica Schnaithmann, Regulations & Planning Technician provided the Committee with updated information regarding this permit. The proponent provided information regarding the project as submitted.

The Hearing Board had numerous questions for staff and the applicant regarding the proposal.

**The Chair requested that Mr. Pinsonneault leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.**

2. S. Caveney – I. Fleck

Moved that the Hearing Board meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

3. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that the Hearing Board move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

4. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that the revised application be approved subject to the applicant obtaining engineered designed footings to be located below the 3:1 stable slope allowance, that no new additions or other structures closer to the watercourse will be considered for approval, and that new drawings are to be submitted to this office showing the removal of the extended covered porch from the plans.

CARRIED

2. CA Application No. 216-2014 – Gagnier File

The applicants, Ms. J. Gagnier and Mr. R. Newstead, as well as Mr. J. Medeiros from WinMar Construction and Mr. R. Donais, neighbour to Ms. Gagnier and Mr. Newstead were present for the hearing. Jessica Schnaithmann, Regulations & Planning Technician provided the Committee with a Power Point Presentation and information regarding this permit submission. The proponents, contractor and neighbour provided information regarding the project as submitted.

The Hearing Board had numerous questions for staff and the applicants regarding the proposal.

**The Chair requested that Ms. Gagnier, Mr. Newstead, Mr. Medeiros , and Mr. Donais leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.**

5. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that the Hearing Board meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

6. S. Caveney – I. Fleck

Moved that the Hearing Board move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

7. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that the request to lower the minimum opening requirement of 177.4 metres due to hardship situation be approved on condition that the minimum opening into the structure meet the Lake St. Clair flood elevation of 176.8 metres for the lowest openings into the structure, and that this lower elevation be registered on title for full disclosure to future owners of this residence of the reasoning behind the reduced minimum opening requirement.

CARRIED

3. CA Application No. 87-2013 – Drexler File

The applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Drexler were present for this hearing. Jessica Schnaithmann, Regulations & Planning Technician provided the Committee with a Power Point Presentation and information regarding this permit submission. The proponents, contractor and neighbour provided information regarding the project as submitted.

The Hearing Board had numerous questions for staff and the applicants regarding the proposal.

**The Chair requested that Mr. and Mrs. Drexler leave the meeting in order that the Hearing Board could meet in camera.**

8. S. Caveney – I. Fleck

Moved that the Hearing Board meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

9. S. Caveney – I. Fleck

Moved that the Hearing Board move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

10. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that the extension of the roofline for two covered patios, 1.86 m and 3.38 m closer to the shoreline protection works, along with the corresponding support posts, not be approved by the Hearing Committee due to concerns with encroachment issues closer to Lake Erie than the original plans that were submitted and approved by the Committee.

CARRIED

11. S. Caveney – I. Fleck

Moved that the Hearing Board sit as the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee.

CARRIED

4. Economic Adjustment

Mr. D. Pearson provided a brief report on the economic adjustment.

12. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that, subject to approval of the 2015 Budget on February 19, 2015, an economic adjustment of 2% be applied to the wage grid effective March 1, 2015.

CARRIED

5. Policy Updates – Section II, Purchasing Policies 2015

Mr. D. Pearson provided the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee with a brief update on the rewriting of Section II of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Purchasing Policies for 2015.

6. Other Business

None.


13. I. Fleck – S. Caveney

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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**John Kavelaars**  
**Vice Chair**



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**Don Pearson**  
**General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer**



**News Release**

For Immediate Release

**Governments of Canada and Ontario sign new Great Lakes Agreement**

December 19, 2014 – Toronto, Ontario

The governments of Canada and Ontario have renewed their commitment to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes by signing the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA), 2014.

The five-year agreement commits Canada and Ontario to:

- Take action to address algal blooms, including blue-green algae
- Complete actions to clean up historical Areas of Concern including the Niagara River, Nipigon Bay, Peninsula Harbour, the Bay of Quinte and the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall)
- Help prevent aquatic invasive species from entering the lakes
- Protect the lakes from harmful pollutants
- Conserve important fish and wildlife habitats
- Strengthen collaboration with the Great Lakes community

The Great Lakes are vitally important. They are home to many unique ecosystems and species. The Great Lakes also provide us with drinking water, recreation, energy, transportation, and enhance our quality of life. The 2014 COA is the result of negotiations between Canada and Ontario and engagement with the Great Lakes community.

Both governments look forward to continuing to work with the Great Lakes community to protect the Great Lakes, including First Nations and Métis, municipal governments, conservation authorities, non-government organizations, the scientific community, industrial, agricultural, recreational and tourism sectors, and members of the public.

**Quick Facts**

- The Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA) builds on a long history of environmental cooperation between Canada and Ontario and is the eighth of its kind since 1971.
- COA establishes shared Great Lakes priorities among eight federal departments and three Ontario ministries.
- COA identifies time-bounded measurable goals, results and commitments and strengthens cooperation.
- The Great Lakes play a vital role in the physical, social, and economic life of Canada, and support almost 40 per cent of Canada's economic activity.
- The Great Lakes directly provide drinking water to more than 10 million Ontario residents.

## Quotes

"The Government of Canada is committed to protecting our rich natural heritage. Ensuring the continued health of the Great Lakes is a priority for our Government and collaboration with the province will be important. Through this renewed partnership, our Government is taking action to restore and conserve Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health for the benefit of all Canadians."

– The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council

"The Great Lakes are vitally important to the people of Ontario. Our vision is a healthy Great Lakes for a stronger Ontario—Great Lakes that continue to be drinkable, swimmable and fishable. This agreement will help us implement Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy."

– Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

## Associated Links

[Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, 2014](#)  
[Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#)  
[Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy](#)

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## Contacts

Ted Laking  
Director of Communications  
Minister's Office  
Environment Canada  
819-997-1441

Media Relations  
Environment Canada  
819-934-8008

[Environment Canada's Facebook page](#)  
[Environment Canada's Twitter page](#)

Lucas Malinowski  
Minister's Office  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
416-212-7307

Kate Jordan  
Communications Branch  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
416-314-6666

[Environment Ontario's Facebook page](#)  
[Environment Ontario's Twitter page](#)



Item 7(a)

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY**  
**CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

DRAFT

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**DECEMBER 31, 2014**

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Independent Auditors' Report

- 1- Statement of Financial Position
- 2- Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus
- 3- Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets
- 4- Statement of Cash Flows
- 5- Notes to Financial Statements
- 6- Schedule of Expenses
- 7- Municipal Levy for 2014

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2014 and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority as at December 31, 2014 and the results of its operations and accumulated surplus, change in financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

CHATHAM, Ontario  
February 13, 2015

JOHNSON FEDUK KING  
Chartered Accountants.  
Licensed Public Accountants

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**(Established under The Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**As at December 31, 2014**

**ASSETS**

	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
<b><u>FINANCIAL ASSETS:</u></b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,102,200	\$ 1,219,284
Accounts receivable		
- Municipalities	10,937	
- Other	238,766	68,353
Prepaid expenses	<u>12,010</u>	<u>          </u>
	1,363,913	1,287,637
<b><u>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES:</u></b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	129,957	42,712
Deferred revenue (Note 2)	<u>194,334</u>	<u>62,924</u>
	<u>324,291</u>	<u>105,636</u>
<b><u>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS:</u></b>	1,039,622	1,182,001
<b><u>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS:</u></b>		
Tangible capital assets (Note 9)	<u>4,907,823</u>	<u>5,035,740</u>
<b><u>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS:</u></b>	<u>\$ 5,947,445</u>	<u>\$ 6,217,741</u>

**APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice-Chair

"THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT"

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

	2014 BUDGET (Unaudited)	2014 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL
<b><u>REVENUE:</u></b>			
Provincial Government grants	\$ 251,733	\$ 228,014	\$ 229,317
Municipal levies			
- matching	506,714	493,529	562,764
- non-matching	<u>628,272</u>	<u>628,272</u>	<u>507,135</u>
	1,134,986	1,121,801	1,069,899
Direct benefiting	<u>280,785</u>	<u>413,450</u>	<u>230,768</u>
	<u>1,415,771</u>	<u>1,535,251</u>	<u>1,300,667</u>
	1,667,504	1,763,265	1,529,984
<b><u>OTHER REVENUE:</u></b>			
Government grants - special projects (Note 8)	100,000	23,238	18,935
Other revenue (Note 10)	<u>508,146</u>	<u>501,531</u>	<u>639,232</u>
	<u>608,146</u>	<u>524,769</u>	<u>658,167</u>
	2,275,650	2,288,034	2,188,151
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> (Schedule 6)			
Aerial photography	11,000		
Source protection	25,000	40,351	44,583
Generic regulations	72,000	73,132	70,868
Provincial groundwater monitoring	12,000	14,246	12,000
Flood control structures	277,320	193,084	189,348
Flood forecasting and warning	248,935	176,808	134,382
Regulations and plan review	77,498	34,417	134
Conservation services - forestry	336,179	685,281	398,819
Maintenance and other non-eligible	<u>1,058,052</u>	<u>1,104,995</u>	<u>1,058,415</u>
	2,117,984	2,322,314	1,908,549
Special projects (Note 8)	100,000	16,682	18,935
Other expenses (Note 11)	<u>67,666</u>	<u>61,236</u>	<u>154,226</u>
	<u>2,285,650</u>	<u>2,400,232</u>	<u>2,081,710</u>
<b><u>ANNUAL (DEFICIT) SURPLUS BEFORE AMORTIZATION: \$</u></b> <u>(10,000)</u>		(112,198)	106,441
Less: Amortization		<u>158,098</u>	<u>158,730</u>
<b><u>ANNUAL (DEFICIT):</u></b>		(270,296)	(52,289)
<b><u>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR:</u></b>		6,217,741	6,270,030
<b><u>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR:</u></b>		<u>\$5,947,445</u>	<u>\$6,217,741</u>

"THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT"

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Annual (deficit)	\$ (270,296)	\$ (52,289)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(30,181)	(54,161)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	158,098	158,730
Proceeds on disposition of tangible capital assets	626	
Gain on disposition of tangible capital assets	<u>(626)</u>	<u>          </u>
Change in net financial assets	(142,379)	52,280
Net financial assets, beginning of year	<u>1,182,001</u>	<u>1,129,721</u>
Net financial assets, end of year	<u>\$ 1,039,622</u>	<u>\$ 1,182,001</u>

DRAFT

"THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT"

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b><u>CASH PROVIDED FROM (USED IN):</u></b>		
<b><u>OPERATING TRANSACTIONS:</u></b>		
Annual (deficit)	\$ (270,296)	\$ (52,289)
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	158,098	158,730
(Gain) on disposal of tangible capital assets	<u>(626)</u>	<u>          </u>
	(112,824)	106,441
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	(181,350)	(22,880)
Prepaid expense	(12,010)	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	87,245	20,577
Deferred revenue	<u>131,410</u>	<u>(4,369)</u>
	(87,529)	99,769
<b><u>CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS:</u></b>		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(30,181)	(54,161)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	<u>626</u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>(29,555)</u>	<u>(54,161)</u>
<b><u>(DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS DURING THE YEAR:</u></b>	(117,084)	45,608
<b><u>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR:</u></b>	<u>1,219,284</u>	<u>1,173,676</u>
<b><u>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR:</u></b>	<u>\$ 1,102,200</u>	<u>\$ 1,219,284</u>

"THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT"

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is established under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, and undertakes a program designed to further the conservation, preservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals.

1.) **Significant Accounting Policies:**

The financial statements of the Authority are prepared by management in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for organizations operating in the local government sector as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Authority are as follows:

a.) **Cash and Cash Equivalents:** The Authority considers deposits in banks, certificates of deposit and short-term investments with original maturities of 90 days or less as cash and cash equivalents.

b.) **Reserves:** Reserves for future expenditures and contingencies are established as required at the discretion of the members of the Authority. Increases or decreases in these reserves are made by appropriations to or from operations upon approval of the Board of Directors.

c.) **Government Transfers:** Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenue in the period in which events giving rise to transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

d.) **Basis of Accounting:** Revenues and expenses are recorded on the accrual basis, they are reflected in the accounts in the year in which they have been earned and incurred, respectively, whether or not such transactions have been settled by the receipt or payment of money.

e.) **Deferred Revenue:** The Authority receives certain amounts which may only be used to complete specific work. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the fiscal period that the related expenditures are incurred or services performed.

f.) **Tangible Capital Assets:** Tangible capital assets are significant economic resources managed by the Authority and are a key component in the long term delivery of the Authority's programs. Tangible capital assets include all land purchases and acquisitions for the following: buildings, dams and related structures, furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and computers.

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. The cost of a tangible capital asset includes the purchase price of the asset and all other costs incurred to make the asset available for use.

The Authority records donated tangible capital assets at fair value at the date of contribution when fair value can reasonably be estimated. When a fair value cannot be determined, the tangible capital asset is recorded at a nominal value.



**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**1.) **Significant Accounting Policies Cont'd:**f.) **Tangible Capital Assets Cont'd:**

**Tangible Capital Assets - Amortization:** Tangible capital assets are amortized annually on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset.

Land and land improvements		not amortized
Buildings, dams, and related structures	10 to 50 years	straight line
Furniture and fixtures	7 to 20 years	straight line
Machinery and equipment	3 to 20 years	straight line
Motor vehicles	3 to 6 years	straight line
Computers	3 years	straight line

g.) **Use of Estimates:** The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future. Estimated life of capital assets is the most significant item that involves the use of estimates.

2.) **Deferred Revenue:**

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority receives certain amounts, principally from other public sector bodies, which may only be used in the conduct of certain programs or completion of specific work. These amounts are carried as deferred and recognized as revenue in the year the related expenditures are incurred or services performed.

	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 62,924	\$ 67,293
<u>Less:</u> Amount recognized as revenue in the year	(62,924)	(67,293)
<u>Add:</u> Amount received related to future periods	<u>194,334</u>	<u>62,924</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 194,334</u>	<u>\$ 62,924</u>

3.) **Accumulated Surplus:**

Surplus:		
Invested in tangible property and equipment	\$ 4,907,823	\$ 5,035,740
Reserves	474,691	497,210
Other	<u>564,931</u>	<u>684,791</u>
	<u>\$ 5,947,445</u>	<u>\$ 6,217,741</u>

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**4.) **Reserves:**

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority sets up internal reserves for operation, capital replacement, legal and other items in order to ensure funds are available to finance shortfalls. These reserves are replenished from operating surplus as directed by the board of directors.

	<u>BALANCE BEGINNING OF YEAR</u>	<u>FROM SURPLUS</u>	<u>TO SURPLUS</u>	<u>BALANCE END OF YEAR</u>
Reserve for vehicle and equipment acquisitions	\$ 38,390	\$	\$	\$ 38,390
Reserve for Ska-Nah-Doht Village maintenance	9,700	2,129	816	11,013
Reserve for capital and maintenance projects on authority lands and structures	152,240	6,367		158,607
Reserve for Provincially eligible and mandated projects	50,203	6,367	36,566	20,004
Reserve for insurance deductibles	30,000			30,000
Reserve for restructuring	<u>216,677</u>			<u>216,677</u>
	<u>\$ 497,210</u>	<u>\$ 14,863</u>	<u>\$ 37,382</u>	<u>\$ 474,691</u>

5.) **Credit Facility:**

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has a \$300,000 revolving demand loan with TD Bank that bears interest at the rate of prime. At year end, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority had \$300,000 of this operating loan available. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has provided a general security agreement covering all assets as security and is subject to a financial reporting covenant at September 2015. Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority was in compliance with this reporting covenant.

6.) **Financial Instruments:**

The Authority's financial instruments include cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and deferred revenue.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Authority is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial statements. The fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value, unless otherwise noted.

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D****For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**7.) **Ska-Nah-Doht Village:**

Revenue and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 are comprised of the following:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b><u>Revenue:</u></b>		
Gate receipts	\$ 55,676	\$ 55,255
Grants	22,992	22,992
Donations	<u>4,295</u>	<u>5,838</u>
	82,963	84,085
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>		
Salaries and wages	159,661	146,485
Administration	1,054	1,251
Maintenance	3,312	10,301
Events and activities	2,522	2,039
Advertising	640	1,256
Materials, supplies, taxes, insurance and utilities	8,639	13,822
Administration overhead	<u>50,084</u>	<u>47,786</u>
	<u>225,912</u>	<u>222,940</u>
<b><u>Excess of (expenses over revenue) to be funded by other sources:</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (142,949)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (138,855)</u></b>

8.) **Special Projects:****Employment Programs:**

The Authority has included in special projects revenue and expenses people working under various Employment Programs with a fair value of \$NIL (\$9,081 in 2013).

9.) **Tangible Capital Assets:**

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Balance December 31 2013</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Balance December 31 2014</u>
Land	\$ 1,730,124	\$	\$	\$ 1,730,124
Buildings, dams and related structures	6,808,915			6,808,915
Furniture and fixtures	31,288			31,288
Machinery and equipment	456,743	29,682		486,425
Motor vehicles	527,820		41,504	486,316
Computers	<u>86,566</u>	<u>953</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>87,519</u>
	<u>\$ 9,641,456</u>	<u>\$ 30,635</u>	<u>\$ 41,504</u>	<u>\$ 9,630,587</u>

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'D**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**9.) **Tangible Capital Assets Cont'd:**

	<b>Balance December 31 2013</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Disposals</b>	<b>Balance December 31 2014</b>
<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>				
Land	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buildings, dams and related structures	3,625,672	131,924		3,757,596
Furniture and fixtures	20,898	1,211		22,109
Machinery and equipment	404,360	6,095		410,455
Motor vehicles	475,186	14,982	41,050	449,118
Computers	79,600	3,886		83,486
	<u>\$ 4,605,716</u>	<u>\$ 158,098</u>	<u>\$ 41,050</u>	<u>\$ 4,722,764</u>
	<b>Balance December 31 2012</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Disposals</b>	<b>Balance December 31 2013</b>
Cost				
Land	\$ 1,730,124	\$	\$	\$ 1,730,124
Buildings, dams and related structures	6,808,915			6,808,915
Furniture and fixtures	23,737	7,551		31,288
Machinery and equipment	446,995	9,748		456,743
Motor vehicles	501,152	26,668		527,820
Computers	76,372	10,194		86,566
	<u>\$ 9,587,295</u>	<u>\$ 54,161</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 9,641,456</u>
	<b>Balance December 31 2012</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Disposals</b>	<b>Balance December 31 2013</b>
<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>				
Land	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buildings, dams and related structures	3,493,748	131,924		3,625,672
Furniture and fixtures	19,687	1,211		20,898
Machinery and equipment	399,369	4,991		404,360
Motor vehicles	458,151	17,035		475,186
Computers	76,031	3,569		79,600
	<u>\$ 4,446,986</u>	<u>\$ 158,730</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 4,605,716</u>
<u>Net Book Value</u>			<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Land			\$ 1,730,124	\$ 1,730,124
Buildings, dams and related structures			3,051,319	3,183,243
Furniture and fixtures			9,179	10,390
Machinery and equipment			75,970	52,383
Motor vehicles			37,198	52,634
Computers			4,033	6,966
			<u>\$ 4,907,823</u>	<u>\$ 5,035,740</u>

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITYNOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONT'DFor the Year Ended December 31, 201410.) Other Revenue:

Other revenue is comprised of the following:

	2014 BUDGET (Unaudited)	2014 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL
Miscellaneous	\$	\$ 327	\$
Gas and oil royalties		12,733	12,611
Stewardship programs	11,666	152,822	270,456
Union Gas Centennial Project	16,000	18,927	11,739
Conservation area revenue	273,000	166,195	190,844
Rental recoveries	40,000	48,428	29,047
Ska-Nah-Doht Village (Note 7)	126,000	82,963	84,085
Foundation revenue	41,480	6,707	29,029
Gain on tangible capital asset disposal		626	
Interest	—	11,803	11,421
	<u>\$ 508,146</u>	<u>\$ 501,531</u>	<u>\$ 639,232</u>

11.) Other Expenses:

Other expenses is comprised of the following:

	2014 BUDGET (Unaudited)	2014 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL
Stewardship programs	\$ 11,666	\$ 21,898	\$ 53,484
Union Gas Centennial Project	16,000	18,927	11,739
Foundation project expenses		2,802	3,922
Administration building roof replacement			26,865
Administration building deck replacement	10,000	16,231	
Thames mouth debris removal	20,000	1,378	14,501
Indian McGregor Creek / Rivard Dam work	10,000	—	43,715
	<u>\$ 67,666</u>	<u>\$ 61,236</u>	<u>\$ 154,226</u>

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL</u></b>
<b><u>AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY:</u></b>	\$ 11,000	\$	\$
<b><u>SOURCE PROTECTION:</u></b>			
Wages and benefits	25,000	36,686	44,251
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	<u>          </u>	<u>3,665</u>	<u>332</u>
	25,000	40,351	44,583
<b><u>GENERIC REGULATIONS:</u></b>			
Wages and benefits	72,000	72,020	69,827
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	<u>          </u>	<u>1,112</u>	<u>1,041</u>
	72,000	73,132	70,868
<b><u>PROVINCIAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING:</u></b>			
Wages and benefits	12,000	10,577	7,955
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	<u>          </u>	<u>3,669</u>	<u>4,045</u>
	12,000	14,246	12,000
<b><u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES:</u></b>			
Wages and benefits	157,320	139,551	119,367
Administration overhead	32,000	31,200	27,600
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	<u>88,000</u>	<u>22,333</u>	<u>42,381</u>
	277,320	193,084	189,348
<b><u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING:</u></b>			
Wages and benefits	160,935	130,404	91,480
Administration overhead	28,000	28,700	25,200
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	<u>60,000</u>	<u>17,704</u>	<u>17,702</u>
	248,935	176,808	134,382
<b><u>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW:</u></b>			
Wages and benefits	59,498	36,629	20,213
Administration overhead	8,000	10,100	7,200
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	<u>10,000</u>	<u>36,928</u>	<u>4,960</u>
	77,498	83,657	32,373
Less: Direct benefit recovery	<u>          </u>	<u>49,240</u>	<u>32,239</u>
	77,498	34,417	134
<b><u>CONSERVATION SERVICES - FORESTRY:</u></b>			
Wages and benefits	224,179	185,399	162,446
Administration overhead	38,000	44,071	40,241
Travel, materials, taxes, insurance, and utilities	<u>74,000</u>	<u>455,811</u>	<u>196,132</u>
	336,179	685,281	398,819

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES CONT'D**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2014**

	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL</u></b>
<b><u>MAINTENANCE AND OTHER NON-ELIGIBLE:</u></b>			
Conservation area maintenance	\$ 496,868	\$ 535,943	\$ 474,605
Vehicle and equipment	40,000	77,743	97,493
Community relations	160,965	168,007	166,857
Conservation education	115,415	97,390	96,520
Ska-Nah-Doht Village	<u>244,804</u>	<u>225,912</u>	<u>222,940</u>
	<u>1,058,052</u>	<u>1,104,995</u>	<u>1,058,415</u>
	<u>\$ 2,117,984</u>	<u>\$ 2,322,314</u>	<u>\$ 1,908,549</u>

DRAFT

"THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS SCHEDULE"

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****MUNICIPAL LEVY FOR 2014****From information supplied by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>CURRENT VALUE ASSESSMENT IN THE WATERSHED IN 000'S</b>	<b>% OF LEVY</b>	<b>MATCHING LEVY 2014</b>	<b>NON MATCHING LEVY 2014</b>
<b><u>GENERAL:</u></b>				
Chatham-Kent	\$ 7,044,352	58.48	\$ 92,284	\$ 367,404
City of London	1,373,549	11.40	17,994	71,639
Dutton/Dunwich	400,359	3.32	5,245	20,881
Strathroy-Caradoc	688,267	5.71	9,016	35,897
Middlesex Centre	186,326	1.55	2,441	9,718
Southwest-Middlesex	348,542	2.89	4,566	18,178
Town of Leamington	290,297	2.41	3,803	15,141
Southwold	151,179	1.26	1,980	7,885
Town of Lakeshore	1,033,855	8.58	13,544	53,921
West Elgin	529,338	4.40	6,934	27,608
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,046,064</u></b>	<b><u>100.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 157,807</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 628,272</u></b>

**SPECIAL:**

Chatham-Kent	\$ 317,277
City of London	8,274
Dutton/Dunwich	2,412
Strathroy-Caradoc	4,146
Middlesex Centre	1,122
Southwest-Middlesex	2,099
Town of Leamington	1,749
Southwold	911
Town of Lakeshore	7,728
West Elgin	3,189
	<b><u>\$ 348,907</u></b>



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority



*“protecting and enhancing the environment”*



# Message from the Chair



*Brian W. King*

**Brian King**  
Chair LTVCA

Over the past 14 years, I have had the privilege of serving as a Director on the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Board, representing the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. I have witnessed the evolution of many programs and services to best serve our communities. As Chair for ten of those years, I recognize and thank the Directors of our Board and Committees for their support, commitment and meeting contributions. Their knowledge reaches beyond political boundaries, benefiting the entire Lower Thames region. I encourage the new Chair, with the support of our 10 member municipalities, to welcome change, and to continue to embrace new conservation strategies.

I am pleased to offer this annual report, which provides a snapshot of our work made possible through valuable community and government partnerships. 2014 was a very productive year, with a focus on collaboration and coordinated approaches to watershed management. The LTVCA took great strides towards achieving its goal

of protecting and enhancing our watershed and region's environment. We are grateful to have leveraged nearly \$850,000 of funding for environmental projects and services, over and above our annual budget. These dollars, coupled with 900 volunteers donating 2,600 hours of their time, enabled our small team of dedicated staff to deliver a strong and vibrant program. We must continue our work together, using sound stewardship practices to meet challenges presented by climate change, especially in the western Lake Erie basin.

At year-end, a strategic review of our program and operations was underway, engaging all staff, the Board of Directors and key partners. This process will determine the future direction of the Conservation Authority's watershed stewardship and environmental protection. Connecting with our watershed community will help us continue to make wise decisions to protect life and property, protect and restore habitat, research and monitor watershed resources and provide opportunities to enjoy, learn and respect the environment today and in the future.

# General Manager's Remarks



*Don Pearson*

**Don Pearson**  
General Manager LTVCA

It is always gratifying to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year as highlighted within these pages. Although relatively few in number, given the size of our area of jurisdiction, the issues, and the scope of our programs, our team of dedicated staff continue to rise to the challenge.

A number of programs were initiated or advanced including our Benthic Monitoring Program; an enhanced Greening Partnership; and a nutrient management program that will assist efforts to reduce phosphorus loading to Lake Erie. A Drinking Water Source Protection Plan was submitted at year end for provincial review and approval, bringing a complex and lengthy process to an important milestone. Another milestone was the retirement of two long-term employees, Sharlet Piggott and Sandy Maynard. Their contributions are

recognized and appreciated and we wish them both well in their retirement.

Late in 2014, the LTVCA initiated a Strategic Planning Process, which will assist in our understanding of how to best meet the challenges of the future, increasing our organizational capacity within the realistic fiscal limits of our funding partners. This process is timely, given that our Board of 12 Directors will in 2015 consist of seven new members! Coupled with new staff additions in 2014, this pool of new perspectives, ideas and talent, engaged in this important critical thinking process, will be key in reaching new levels of achievement.

I would like to express appreciation to all outgoing members of the Board as well as staff, who have been both a pleasure to work with and dedicated in their service.

# Our Vision ~ Protecting and enhancing the environment



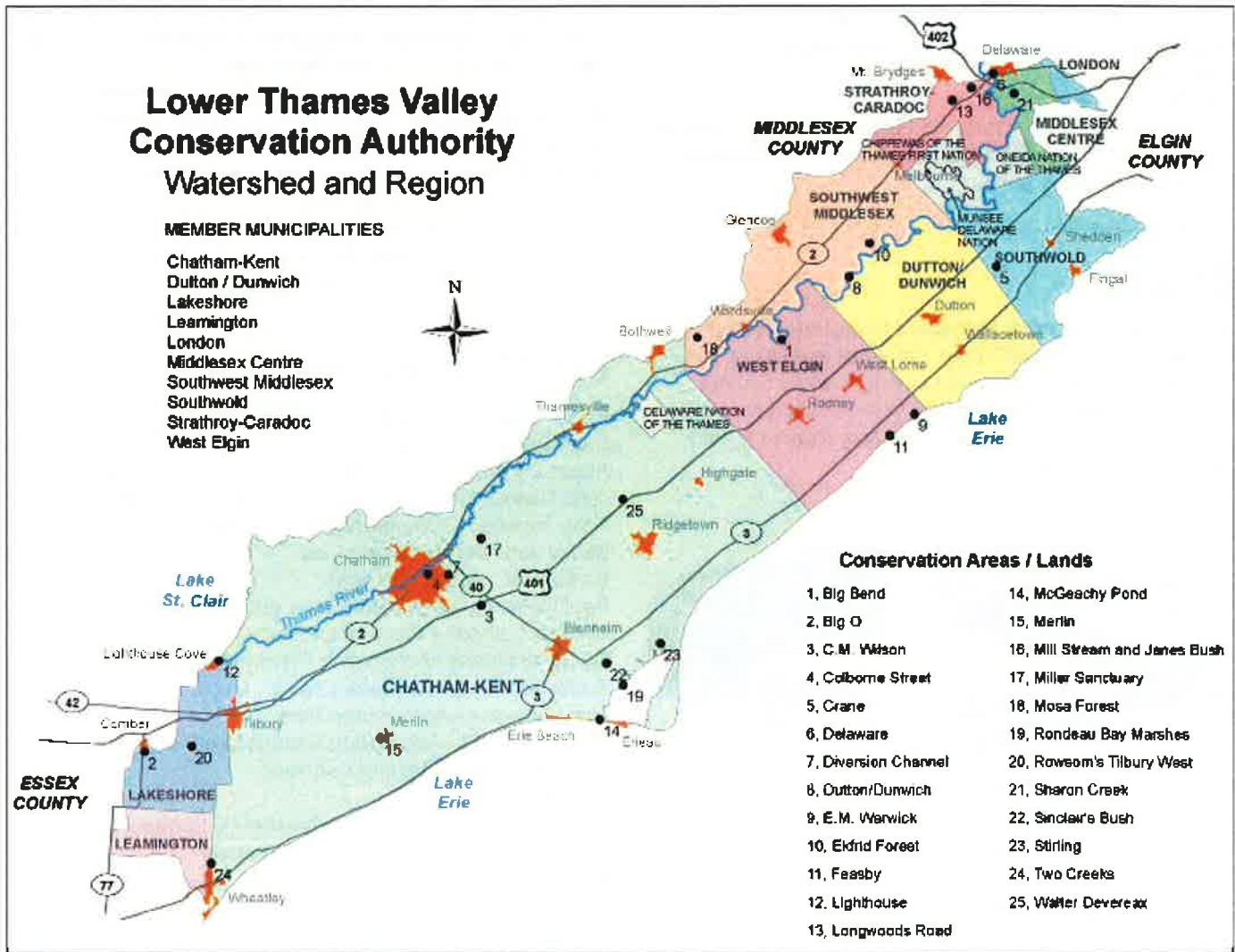
*"The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is a watershed-based partner, working with the local community, providing services and information to efficiently protect and enhance the environment for present and future generations."*



The LTVCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in the Province of Ontario. Member of Conservation Ontario.

## Our Objectives are ...

- Protecting Life & Property
- Protecting & Restoring Habitat
- Research & Monitoring
- Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect
- Partnering with the Local Community



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 and is home to over 120,000 people.



# Board & Staff Directory

## LTVCA Directors

**Brian King (Chair)** - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

John Kavelaars (Vice-Chair) - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

Albert Bannister - Municipality of Middlesex Centre

Michael Bondy - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Stanley Caveney - City of London

Ron Doane - Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

Ian Fleck - Municipality of Dutton / Dunwich

Grant Jones - Township of Southwold

Linda McKinlay - Town of Lakeshore

Norm Miller - Municipality of West Elgin

Steve Pinsonneault - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Charlie Wright - Municipality of Leamington

### Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee

Ron Watts - Chair

Don Fairbairn - Vice-chair

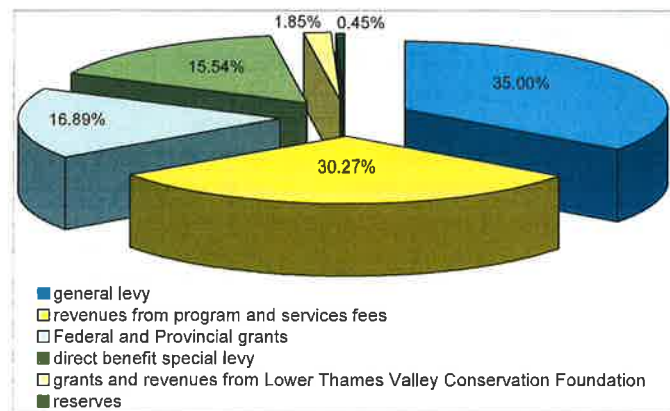
Brian King, John Kavelaars, Ron Doane, Stanley Caveney,

Grant Jones, Glenn Stott, Stan Lidster, Conrad Wodrich,

Darcy Fallon, Don Pearson

## Budget

Don Pearson - General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer, directed the administration and financial aspects of the LTVCA, with support from Accounting Clerks - Sharlet Piggott and Sandy Maynard who both retired during the year being, capably succeeded by Mary Pearson, Kally Casier and Todd Casier.



The LTVCA's budget of \$2,245,649 received approval in February.

## LTVCA Full-time Staff

**Don Pearson - General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer**

Stephanie Allison - GIS / Communications

Lindsay Bennett - Land Stewardship Technician

Mike Bутtenham - Agricultural Specialist

Kally Casier - Accounting Clerk

Todd Casier - Financial Specialist

Bonnie Carey - Community Relations Coordinator

Bruce Clark - Construction & Maintenance Technician

Jerry DeZwart - Conservation Education Technician

Russ Dysarz - Western District Supervisor

David Little - Eastern District Supervisor

Karen Mattila - Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum Curator

Rose Nicholas - Ska-Nah-Doht Village Education Technician

Jessica Schnaithmann - Regulation & Planning Technician

Valerie Towsley - Resource Technician

Greg VanEvery - Environmental Technical Assistant

Randall VanWagner - Environmental Project Coordinator

Agnes Vriends - Clerk / Secretary

Jason Wintermute - Water Management Supervisor / GIS Specialist

Chris Tasker - Source Protection Manager of the Thames, Sydenham & Region Source Protection Region

## LTVCA Contract Staff

Brian Armstrong - Gatehouse/Security

Brain Boland - Security

Alexis Castrogiovanni - Community Activities Coordinator

Julia Castrogiovanni - Exhibition Design Assistant

Kelly Johnson - Community Trees Initiative Coordinator

Becky Johnstone - Gatehouse

Codie Kish - Visitor Services

Paul Kominek - Assistant Water and Resources Tech

Michael Latham - General Labourer

Sandy Maynard - Accounting Clerk (retired)

Buddy Morrison - General Labour / Security

Mary Pearson - Accounting Clerk

Sharlet Piggott - Accounting Clerk (retired)

Gary Reissner - General Labourer

Lindsay Swackhammer - Assistant Water Resources Technician / GIS Assistant

Blake Sykes - General Labour / Security

Brooke Williams - Visitor Services / Heritage Guide



The Thames River celebrated its fourteenth year as a Canadian Heritage River. Thousands of volunteers cleaned up hundreds of kilometres along the river during the fifteenth Annual Thames River Clean-up in April.

# Protecting Life & Property

## Water Management

The water management and technical services program provides science-based support for land and water resources management, including natural heritage programs, as well as technical expertise to forecast, control and monitor floods and erosion to protect life and property. Jason Wintermute is the Water Management Supervisor,

### Flood Control

There was a greater potential for flooding in 2014, but the weather seemed to always turn favourable. The winter was unusually cold and snowy with a greater depth of snow and ice on the Thames River, than had been seen in several years. The risk of ice jams was elevated and the LTVCA and member municipalities were preparing for such a situation. However, there was a very orderly spring thaw. Three melt events occurred on January 15th, March 22nd and April 5th, each producing flows of approximately 350 m<sup>3</sup>/s on the Thames River, barely meeting the threshold for issuing advisories.

A series of smaller rain events together with thunderstorms led to flooding on the region's smaller watercourses and the Indian-McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated on May 15th and 16th. The largest flow event of the year for the Thames River occurred in late November, peaking at 400 m<sup>3</sup>/s on November 26th in Dutton-Dunwich and November 27th in Thamesville. Flooding from this event was restricted to the low-lying river flats adjacent to the Thames River. In total, there were 19 flood advisories issued throughout the year.



*The winter was unusually cold and snowy with a greater depth of snow and ice on the Thames River. The risk of ice jams was elevated and the LTVCA and member municipalities were preparing for such a situation. The Conservation Authority took snow and ice measurements in February, which provided vital information to help prepare municipalities.*



*An April 14th runoff event flooded low lying areas in Chatham along the McGregor Creek.*

### Provincial Grant Funding for Capital Maintenance & Flood Forecasting

The LTVCA receives annual funding from the province for the operation, routine minor and preventative maintenance of flood and erosion control projects, flood forecasting and warning, chronic ice management, legal costs for ongoing joint LTVCA /Provincial capital projects, watershed management and related administration.

### Great Lakes Levels

Lake St. Clair water levels began the year 10-15 cm below the long-term normal for January. Water levels climbed rapidly during the spring, with September levels 15-20 cm above the long-term normal. Lake Erie water levels began the year approximately at the long-term normal for January. Levels generally followed the seasonal trends, rising to 10 cm above the long-term normal in July and ending the year 15 cm above the long-term normal. One advisory was issued on December 24th for the Lake Erie communities of Erie Shores Drive, Erie Beach and Erieau. High winds up to 60 km/hr gusting to 100 km/hr had potential to create storm surge waves in excess of 2.0 m height with the potential to cause localized flooding and erosion. No damage was reported to the LTVCA.



## Provincial Water Monitoring

The LTVCA partners with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment on the Provincial Groundwater and the Provincial (Stream) Water Quality Monitoring Programs. This program assists in environmental reporting, decision-making, and program implementation by the Conservation Authority, member municipalities and the province.

Groundwater monitoring is conducted at nine wells throughout the watershed with the use of water level loggers and supplemental rain and barometric pressure loggers. The wells are sampled every fall for water quality. The LTVCA maintains the instrumentation, samples the wells, and undertakes data corrections.

Stream water quality sampling is conducted at 11 locations throughout the watershed. The Conservation Authority samples monthly in the spring, summer and fall for general water chemistry. Since biological analyses are not part of the provincial program, the LTVCA tests for e-coli at the same sites. Currently, the program is supplemented with pesticide monitoring at three sites.

### Ontario Low Water Response Program

The LTVCA participates in a provincial program that monitors watershed conditions to determine if the area is in a low water (drought) situation. It was wet enough during the year that Low Water Conditions did not need to be declared and the local low water response team was not required to meet. Regular reporting of watershed conditions was still communicated by email.

## Thames River Clearwater Revival

This multi-year endeavour focuses on the completion of a Watershed Strategy, leading to an updated Water Management Plan as priority. This project is expected to run through to December 2016. Partners include Environment Canada, First Nations communities, provincial ministries, the Upper Thames River and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities and the City of London. New funding sources are being sought to carry out studies and projects linked to the creation of the Water Management Plan. The LTVCA provides membership on the Steering and Technical Committees and the Communications Working Group, supplying data, technical advice, and peer review.

A Technical Symposium was held December 2nd and 3rd at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority's Watershed Conservation Centre in London. Topics included: First Nations Traditional Ecological Knowledge; Thames River Water Quality Assessment; Agricultural Best Management Practices for Increased Flows and Climate Change; Rural Landowner Behaviors and Attitudes; Low Impact Development; Water Quantity Management Issues Related to Flooding and Climate Change; Merging Rain Gauge and Weather Radar Data to Estimate Precipitation; Upper Thames River Stream Flow Statistics; Digital Elevation Mapping; Hydraulic Modeling using GIS, Digital Elevation Mapping and Survey Data.

## Land Use Planning & Regulations



### Municipal Plan Input & Review Under the Conservation Authorities Act

The land use planning and regulations program provides environmental planning expertise to guide municipal and other land-use planning decisions on a watershed basis, consistent with current applicable Federal and Provincial legislation and policies, and Conservation Authority and municipal planning policy. Valerie Towsley, Jason Wintermute and Jessica Schnaithmann are the staff responsible for administering the land use planning and regulations program.

*Lake water breaches the end of a steel wall with water going under a back deck leaving the septic tank exposed. This is due to neighbouring jetties preventing sediment from naturally transporting down drift.*

At right are the municipal plan reviews summaries for the year. Plan input and review is one of the ways the Conservation Authority monitors development and achieves its objectives. The input the LTVCA has on new development near or in natural hazard areas like flood plains and steep slopes ensures identification of potential hazards before complications arise.

Official Plans			1		1							1
Official Plan Amendments	5			4	2	1						
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws			1									1
Zoning Bylaw Amendments	53	2	4			2	10	9	1			9
Severances	60	4	4	3			6	10	1			9
Minor Variances	25	1	1			1	1	3	4			3
Plans of Subdivision	2											1
Property Clearances	30	1	6	3			1		2			4
Drainage Reports & Maintenance	60	21	7	2			5	10	11			
General Property Inquiries	510	51	73	5	1	14	21	10	23	85		57
<b>TOTAL SERVICES PER MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>112</b>		<b>58</b>
<b>SERVICES</b>												
<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>Chatham-Kent</b>	<b>Southwest Essex</b>	<b>Lakeshore</b>	<b>Leamington</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Middlesex Centre</b>	<b>Southwest Middlesex</b>	<b>Southwold</b>	<b>Strathroy-Caradoc</b>	<b>West Elgin</b>		<b>Counties - General Inquiries</b>

## Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation

The LTVCA reviewed 233 applications under the Regulation, a slight decrease of 25 permits from 2013. Landowners submitted 112 applications, seven of which were for habitat projects through the Elgin Clean Water Program. Five submissions were received from Union Gas for directional drills and 116 were for engineers' reports and maintenance work on municipal drains across the watershed. Nine applications went before the Hearings Committee, two being approved with conditions, and four being denied.

## Drainage Superintendents Association

The LTVCA is a long-standing associate member of the Chatham-Kent-Essex Chapter of the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario. The watershed consists of highly drained agricultural lands and is managed under both the Drainage Act and the LTVCA's regulations. Cooperation and good relationships with our region's Drainage Superintendents are extremely important.

## Elgin County Shoreline Study

Four Conservation Authorities formed a collaborative with the County of Elgin and the Municipalities of Dutton/Dunwich, West Elgin, Central Elgin and Bayham, and the Townships of Southwold and Malahide to create a Shoreline Management Plan with a consistent approach across the entire shoreline of Elgin County. The plan will incorporate current mapping and technical standards for flooding, wave uprush, erosion and dynamic beaches. It will examine the hazards and protection along the shoreline, providing recommendations for sustainable development of the shoreline ecosystems and land uses. The study will be finalized in early 2015.



Lake Erie bluff erosion continues to present challenges to landowners and municipalities.



# Protecting & Restoring Habitat

## Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

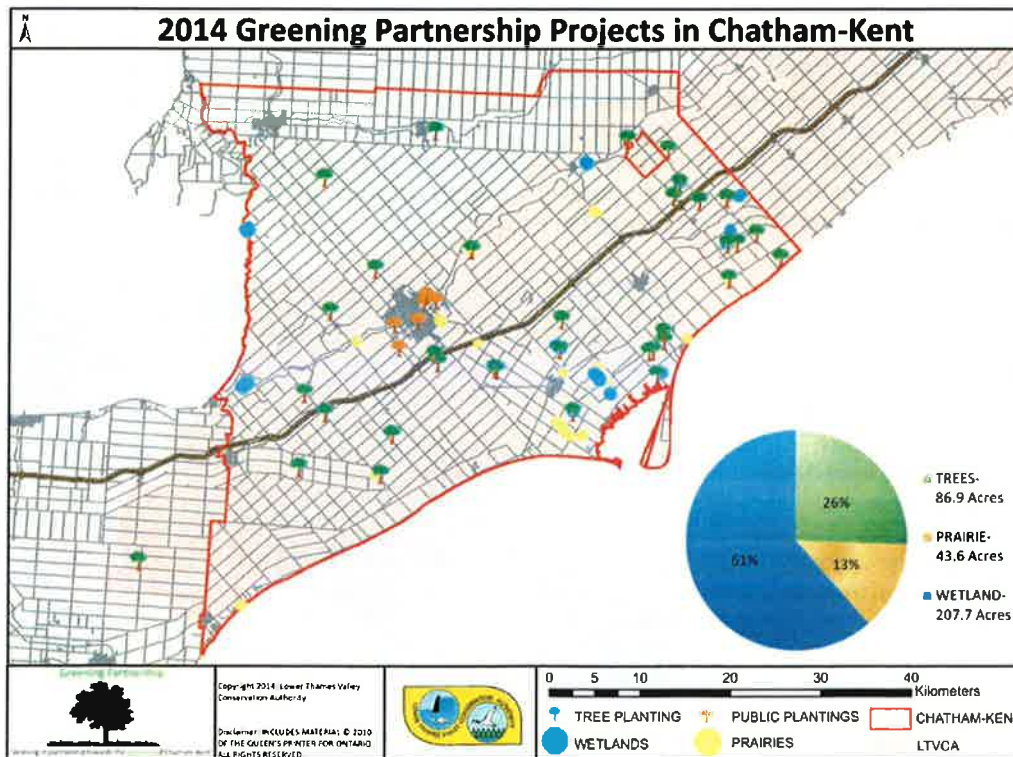
### Chatham-Kent Greening Partnership

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent recognizes that a 'greening' effort is needed to address environmental concerns. A partnership formed with the LTVCA provides municipal funding to support four positions at LTVCA - Randall Van Wagner, Greg Van Every, Lindsay Bennett and Stephanie Allison. Program staff apply for tree planting grants, and funding for wetland creation and tallgrass prairie projects in an effort to restore habitat as well as educate and build awareness about the importance of a healthy environment.

The Greening Partnership has a proven track record of providing three dollars towards restoration for every dollar invested by Chatham-Kent. Nearly \$800,000 in grants were generated for environmental restoration from various sources including: the Ontario Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Natural Resources; and Environment and Climate Change; Ontario Power Generation; Canada Ontario Agreement; Trees Ontario; World Wildlife Fund and Great Lakes Guardian Fund. Over 87 acres (35 ha) were reforested, 44 acres (18 ha) of prairie were planted and over 207 acres (84 ha) of wetlands were restored. Across the entire watershed, 69,036 trees were planted.



The Curran family of Thamesville understands the importance of habitat restoration and agreed to have 25 acres (10 ha) of their land converted to wetlands. The Curran Family attended a wetland dedication event with representatives from Ducks Unlimited, Union Gas and The Municipality of Chatham-Kent.



### Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy (NHIS)

The purpose of the NHIS is to identify how the Municipality of Chatham-Kent will work with all sectors of the community to maintain and enhance the natural heritage system within the municipality, and manage collectively, the greater ecological goods and services that are a benefit to all members of society. Through this strategy, two new positions were hired for the Greening Partnership this year: a Land Stewardship Technician and a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) /Communications Technician.



### In the Community

The Greening Partnership must be active in engaging the community for the NHIS to succeed.

**Friends of Rowsom's** – The 2nd Annual Friends of Rowsom Conservation Area cleanup was held on October 25th. Over the last three years, \$30,000 has been spent for the improvement of this property. **Tomorrow's Greener Schools ...Today** – This fall the Greening Partnership

joined the Chatham-Kent Health Unit for the schoolyard tree planting initiative at seven schools in the area. A total of 51 trees were planted at these schools, which will provide various health and environmental benefits. **The Community Trees Initiative** - An outdoor classroom project was initiated with the Merlin Public School, which received funding from many sources including the Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds grant. The classroom will tie into the recently created new trail at the Merlin Conservation Area property to the south.



*Many thanks to the Friends of Rowsom Conservation Area volunteers. Fifteen people from the Comber area came out to plant trees, work on the new trail and pick up litter.*

## Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

Through an OMAFRA grant, research projects in the LTVCA will help government officials and conservation staff to improve their understanding of the movement of nutrients and soil across the landscape and ultimately into our waterways. Michael Battenham was hired through this program and is our new Agricultural Specialist. His role is to foster improved relations with our agricultural community and assist landowners with Best Management Practices to mitigate phosphorus impacts within Lake Erie.

## Benthic Monitoring Program

The LTVCA Benthic Monitoring Program was initiated in 2014. Ten different streams across the watershed were sampled for benthic macroinvertebrates. With help from our summer students, samples were collected throughout late May until the middle of June and preserved in ethanol until the organisms could be identified. Benthic results were consistent but disappointing - nine out of 10 of locations placed an FBI Index - (Family Biotic Index) of Fairly Poor or worse. These results mean that nine out of 10 of our streams are rated as having substantial pollution likely (5.76-6.5); very substantial pollution likely (6.51-7.25); and severe pollution likely (7.26-10).

Future benthic sampling will help to better understand the results seen in 2014 and assist water management and stewardship staff to target future water quality sampling and stewardship projects in areas with a poor FBI.

Stream Name	FBI score	FBI Index
<b>Fleming Creek</b>	6.629508	Fairly Poor
<b>Thames Trib</b>	7.166113	Poor
<b>Pain Drain</b>	7.625323	Very Poor
<b>McGregor Creek</b>	6.134831	Fairly Poor
<b>Saddington Drain</b>	6.953795	Poor
<b>Hendry Drain</b>	5.28808	Fair
<b>McLean Drain</b>	7.71012	Very Poor
<b>Big Creek</b>	6.13738	Fairly Poor
<b>Roe Drain</b>	7.5276	Very Poor
<b>Bennet Drain</b>	5.795527	Fairly Poor

## Conservation Scholarships and Awards

The LTVCA continued to support a variety of local scholarships and awards including a 27-year commitment to the Ridgetown Campus of the University of Guelph's environmental program. An award of \$500 for **Academic Proficiency** in the **Environmental Management** diploma program is given to the student with the highest academic standing. Craig Curragh was presented the award by LTVCA General Manager Don Pearson. **The Greening Partnership Environmental Award** applauds environmental achievements in Chatham-Kent. This year's recipients were Jason Segren and Chris Stewart (landowners), Scribendi (business) and Chatham Kent Secondary School - Environment Club.

## Elgin Clean Water Project

The Elgin Clean Water Project (ECWP) is a cooperative program between the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek, Long Point Region and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities. ECWP assists landowners with projects, which improve and protect water quality in Elgin County. Landowners undertake stewardship practices to benefit the entire County and beyond. Three landowners from the LTVCA watershed received funding for four projects through the ECWP.



UPPER THAMES RIVER  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region

### Drinking Water Source Protection

*The purpose of the provincial Clean Water Act (CWA) (2006) is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water. Protecting water at the source - municipal wells and water intakes - is the first barrier in a multi-barrier approach to providing a safe, clean supply of water. The Act is part of the government's commitment to protecting and enhancing human health and the environment, while implementing the Walkerton Inquiry recommendations.*

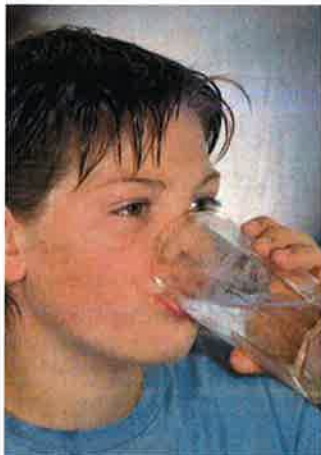


Photo by Eileen Lewington

*The Upper Thames River, Lower Thames Valley and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities partnered together to form the Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region and are working with municipalities, stakeholders and the public to develop a Source Protection Plan to protect drinking water, while taking into account the needs of our communities. The Source Protection Committee is appointed under the Clean Water Act, 2006, representing municipal, business, general public and interest group sectors in the region. The Committee is responsible for guiding the development of the Source Protection Plan.*

### Highlights of the Year

Two years ago, the Source Protection Authority submitted the Proposed Source Protection Plan to the Minister of Environment for approval. Since that time, the Source Protection Committee and staff updated technical work in the Assessment Reports and amended the Source Protection Plan to reflect the additional technical work. Public open houses were held in the areas affected by updates in September 2014 (Wheatley).

The Updated Assessment Reports along with the Amended Proposed Source Protection Plan were provided for public consultation at each of the Conservation Authority offices in January 2015. The Source Protection Committee will submit the updated Assessment Report to the Source Protection Authority with any comments received during the consultation; after which the Updated Assessment Reports will be submitted to the Minister.

It is anticipated that a Source Protection Plan for the Thames-Sydenham and Region will be approved in 2015.



# Providing Opportunities to Enjoy, Learn & Respect

## Conservation Lands

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has protected environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands, culturally unique features and significant biological, ecological, and scenic qualities through its conservation lands program. Nearly 690 ha of conservation lands have been preserved at 25 locations for public use in the watershed and region. The LTVCA promotes its objectives through recreational and educational opportunities in the Conservation Areas - places to actively experience the natural world and increase environmental awareness through interpretive signage and special events.

Russ Dysarz and David Little - Western and Eastern District Supervisors respectively, and Bruce Clark - Construction and Maintenance Technician, are responsible for the maintenance of these sites. The LTVCA's Staff Safety Committee tours the conservation lands regularly to assess the properties' safety for public use. Additionally, it is the Conservation Authority's policy, to ensure conservation area facilities and programs are as accessible for everyone's enjoyment.

Conservation Area development and maintenance of facilities is enhanced by annual donations of money and volunteer time from local individuals, companies, conservation clubs and organizations. The LTVCA is grateful to all donors.

This year witnessed many improvements to our conservation areas. New pay and display machines at C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Area entrances were installed to improve efficient collection of fees and were generally accepted by park users.

In the western half of the watershed, **Big "O"** received a new kiosk sign and birders' log book. **Merlin** also saw a kiosk sign, benches and a trail completed. **Rowsom's Tilbury West's** fence line was replaced and lots of help came from a local 'Friends of' group and Stewardship Rangers to mulch trails, paint signs and install benches. At **Rondeau Bay Marshes**, the parking lot was extended with a new sign. **C.M. Wilson** saw a new roof for the rental home, washrooms painted and a new hydro line to the campground installed. With 13,841 campers and day users, this area provides a unique escape to nature right in Chatham-Kent's back yard! At **McGeachy Pond**, a new pathway was completed by the South Kent Trails group, along with several new benches along the way.

In the eastern conservation areas **Longwoods Road** welcomed nearly 17,000 visitors to its beautiful, natural surroundings and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. Construction of the interpretive kiosk building for the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail neared completion with the installation of stained glass windows and wheelchair ramps. Ska-Nah-Doht Village underwent major renovations including the removal of bark and wire from a longhouse, construction on the palisade, and signage removal. The dismantling of the lookout tower at **E.M. Warwick** improved safety and bridge repairs were completed. This day use area and camp equipped with cabins and a mess hall, provided unique lakeside facilities for over 1,744 people. At **Sharon Creek**, the outdoor amphitheatre was fixed and a volunteer event to cut the sumac in the tallgrass prairie was held for next year's prescribed burn. Trees were planted at the **Mosa Forest** in preparation for the annual memorial forest service. Over 2,500 people, who preferred the solitude of the Thames River location, enjoyed camping at **Big Bend**.



# Conservation Education

The Conservation Education program provides Ontario Curriculum based, conservation area elementary and secondary field trip and in-class programs to students and the community. Staff work with stewardship partners, service clubs, post-secondary schools, volunteers and the public to foster an understanding and appreciation of our renewable natural resources. Jerry DeZwart is the Conservation Education Technician.

## In the Community

**Scout and Guide** groups achieve badges while enjoying weekend camp experiences! Over 50 outdoor programs range from geocaching to bird watching. Workshops for Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Pathfinders and Venturers attracted 160 youth.

Concerned community groups are a great benefit to our forests. The Strathroy Horticultural Society and local secondary schools helped out our native plants and forests at a **Carolinian Native Garden Planting Event** at Longwoods Road Conservation Area's Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail. A **Planting Native Plants Presentation** held at Brenair Farms highlighted ecological threats posed by non-native species and the benefits of native garden alternatives.



Pre-school, elementary, secondary and post-secondary programs are offered year-round to students at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

## School Programs

**School field trips** to conservation areas make ideal outdoor classroom experiences. Students and teachers remark on the great benefit from 'beyond the blackboard' learning opportunities like the 26 programs offered at Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas. Environmental studies reached 1,333 students and 249 adult supervisors at Longwoods Road over the past year. The Ontario Trails Council is recognized for its support of 13 programs offered to 216 of these students.

**Classroom programs** are also provided to those schools challenged by bussing costs. A popular program is the grade 2 - *River and Creek Safety Program*, which was taught to 286 children. The LTVCA works with area service clubs to provide water safety education to those most vulnerable to the dangers of seasonal melt waters. The Delaware Lions and Lioness Clubs, Royal Canadian Legion Branches 598 and 251, Glencoe District Lions Club, Rodney Lions Club, and Optimist Club of West Lorne are greatly appreciated for funding the program over 13 years.

The following classroom programs are designed to help students visualize and internalize challenges facing their natural world and encourage students to respect and offer the environment a helping hand. *The Protecting Our Drinking Water Program* was completed this year with 113 grade 8 and 11 students participating, thanks to funding from an RBC Blue Water grant. *The Biodiversity and You! Program* also concluded, having instilled the importance of lifeform diversity to 49 grade 6 students.

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## Chatham-Kent & Lambton Childrens' Water Festival

This free, three day autumn event, geared to Ontario curriculum guidelines regarding water use and stewardship, was resumed in 2014 after a one-year hiatus in 2013. A total of 653 grades 4 and 5 students and 130 teachers/parent volunteers from 33 schools were able to attend. Unfortunately, attendance was impacted by two days of bus cancellations due to severe morning fog. LTVCA staff also assisted at two other festivals - the Elgin - St. Thomas Children's Water Festival held in St. Thomas in May and the Carolinian Forest Festival in September, held at Catfish Creek CA's Springwater Conservation Area.



# Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum



## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

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

Village Curator - Karen Mattila managed the \$244,806 Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum budget. Rose Nicholas - Village Education Technician conducted programs, events and directed inventory for the Turtle Trail Gift Shop. The Curator and Advisory committee members successfully defended the museum's right to remain in the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) program by creating new Vision and Mission Statements, Values and a Five Year Strategic Plan. We graciously acknowledge the \$22,992 in financial support from the Ministry of Culture through CMOG.

## Summer Student Grants

We received three grants with one position each; Young Canada Works in Heritage (YCW), Canada Summer Jobs and Summer Experience Program. The students worked together promoting the LTVCA and Longwoods' events within the community. Thanks to LTVC Foundation for their financial support of the students.



MP Bev Shipley visits with two of our summer students at the Annual Longwoods Volunteer Picnic in July.

## Education Programs

As part of its Mission to educate about the past, Ska-Nah-Doht's education programs attracted 3,197 students and 642 adult supervisors. In addition, 296 public tour and workshop participants enjoyed the interactive museum.

## Turtle Trail Gift Shop Has Best Year!

Schools play a central role in creating larger sales for the Turtle Trail Gift Shop. June is the busiest time of the year and the most financially successful month with 34% of the total annual sales of \$13,800. Participating in community events contributed as well, including Western and Fanshawe Pow Wow, Canada Day and London's largest festival - "Sunfest". The Ska-Nah-Doht Building Fund profited with \$1,980 in sales generated at these events.

## Fall Filming Fetches \$2,000



Two film crews worked on historical pieces at Ska-Nah-Doht. In October, one shoot recreated the Pontiac Rebellion of the 1700's. Later, the French School Board created YouTube vignettes to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Champlain landing in the New World. With 63 hectares, we are an adaptable location!

# Partnering with the Local Community

## Community Relations

Communication efforts enhance awareness and understanding of the goals and programs of the LTVCA for our target audiences, enabling them to support and enjoy our facilities and services. Through accurate, consistent and clear messaging, staff expand the range of the target audiences whenever possible. Bonnie Carey - Community Relations Coordinator is assisted by Agnes Vriends - Clerk - Secretary on many communications projects.

Community Relations activities inform our primary audiences - LTVCA Board and Committee members, Councillors and staff from member municipalities, Government agencies, and our own staff about the Conservation Authority's programs and services. Watershed residents, media, users of LTVCA facilities and services, partners including the LTVCA Foundation, and potential partners, are additional vital audiences.

Through regular updates of our social media, and production of literature, our goals and objectives are broadcast across the watershed. Special events and tours are hosted



*The annual Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival was held at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area in October.*



*The August 28 Watershed West bus tour showcased properties and projects to LTVCA Directors and guests.*

throughout the watershed. Staff initiate and assist with other local environmental projects such as children's festivals, and design and arrange and create displays for fairs and conferences.

Fostering partnerships and collaboration with organizations, volunteers and other stakeholders are priority, and help to further the conservation of our watershed resources. Meeting facilitation, fund-raising with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation, supervising employment programs, and contributing on conservation committees and working groups, are additional activities which help the LTVCA meet its objectives.

As well, communications staff work on many projects for the Thames, Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region, including advertising, and organizing and supporting meetings as per the Clean Water Act.

### Highlights of the Year

It was a busy year with lots of projects and activities, beginning with the writing of the LTVCA's annual report and creating a presentation for the Annual General Meeting. An E-bulletin was also produced. The decision was made to have our website redesigned as a new content management site which entailed working closely with an Information Technologist for picture / text selection and layout. The website will be 'live' in the spring of 2015. Throughout the spring and fall, assistance was provided in the delivery of conservation education programs, including lending a hand to two neighbouring Conservation Authority's children's festivals. Over the summer months, staff assisted with the planning of a west end watershed bus tour for our Directors, where projects and properties were toured in August. The annual Longwoods volunteer picnic was also held. In the fall, time was spent preparing for and operating the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival. As well, four memorial forest dedication services were planned and held across the watershed. At year-end, preparations for public consultation meetings for the Source Water Protection Program were undertaken and new conservation area advertisements for county tourist organizations were designed. Throughout the year, daily updates to our website and Facebook pages were made, media releases were issued, special conservation area events were planned, reports were prepared for our Board of Directors' meetings and staff publications were reviewed.



# Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

## Highlights of the Year



The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, to raise funds towards the wise management of our renewable natural resources. Since 1995, the Foundation has raised over \$675,000 for natural and cultural heritage conservation. Thousands of dollars were raised throughout the year for conservation projects.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation assists volunteer organizations with their fund raising efforts and manages the Sharon Creek Trust Fund, initiated by the Friends of Sharon Creek. The Foundation supports special projects and events like the annual Moonlight Winter Family Hike, the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail and the William Erickson Bursary. Through the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program, the Conservation Authority has planted thousands of trees across the lower Thames region. The Foundation submits funding applications to

corporations, government agencies, service clubs and other philanthropic organizations to undertake projects and programs, which assist the LTVCA and watershed region.

The Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, federally registered charity, governed by a Board of Directors. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.

The Foundation helped fund and support several Conservation Authority and watershed initiatives:

- *Tastes of Fall Event at Ska-Nah-Doht Village*
- *Nearly 400 memorial trees from 2013*
- *13 large stock trees for memorial forest dedication services*
- *Support for student grants*
- *Tallgrass Prairie Seed for Sharon Creek Tallgrass Prairie*
- *Volunteers for Moonlight Winter Family Hike event, 4 memorial forest dedication services and maintenance of the Sharon Creek Tallgrass Prairie*

## Carey Carolinian Arboretum & Trail

Facilitated through the Foundation, a \$26,000 gift in 2008 from Dr. Lewis Carey, was used the following year by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority for an educational "Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail" project at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Dr. Carey passed away in November of 2009. Large stock Carolinian trees were planted and interpretive signage installed. An official opening and recognition ceremony was held in 2010.

The final phase of this project began in 2012, with the start of the Carolinian information kiosk construction. The kiosk now nears completion with stained glass windows, exterior panelling and wheelchair ramps for accessibility. Four surrounding native gardens were planted in June. The Carolinian Canada information panels will be created, along with donor recognition panels and exhibited in the kiosk.

Both the Conservation Foundation and Conservation Authority realize this project as an educational tool. Dr. Carey's wish to reflect the connection between First Nations peoples and the Carolinian forest came to fruition, as Longwoods highlights both native and natural history.



*Nearly 1,000 family and friends of loved ones attended the McKinlay Woodlands Memorial Forest Dedication Service held in September at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area - one of four annual services.*

## LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8  
Tel: 519-354-7310 Fax: 519-352-3435  
Email: [info@ltvca.ca](mailto:info@ltvca.ca)



[www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)





## BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION - ITEM 9 (A)

### Re: Water Related Issues, Initiatives & Activities

#### i. Flood Control

Since the last Board meeting, there have been no high water events on either the Thames River or McGregor Creek. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, an advisory was issued for the communities of Erie Beach, Erie Shore Drive and Erieau in relation to shoreline flooding along Lake Erie. While flooding was not expected in this jurisdiction, neighbouring Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Environment Canada had issued related advisories. With staff unavailable due to the holidays it seemed prudent send out a message clarifying the local situation.

Depth soundings are taken at the mouth of the Thames River, along the marked navigation channel, every year in late October or early November. The information is used to assess the risk of ice jam related flooding. This year soundings were taken on December 5<sup>th</sup>. There is always a shallow spot within the channel where the sandbar forms. This year, the shallowest depth observed in the navigation channel was 6 feet which is roughly an additional foot of depth over previous years. This seems to be a result of a rise in Lake St. Clair water levels.

When the ice on the Thames River reaches a sufficient thickness, measurements are taken to help assess the risk of ice jam related flooding. Measurements were taken on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Ice thickness measurements were measured to be 30 cm at the mouth at Lighthouse Cove, 28 cm at the boat launch at Jeanette's Creek, and 33 cm at Thames Grove park in Chatham. These measurements are pretty much the same as last year.

Responsibility for ice management as it relates to ice jam related flooding has been designated to the Ice Management Committee.

#### ii. Watershed Monitoring

Since 2001, the LTVCA has partnered with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in the delivery of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network program. The program monitors ambient groundwater quality and water levels throughout the province. Over the years, the LTVCA has monitored 13 groundwater wells, but is currently only monitoring 9. Six of those wells were on telemetry systems where the MOECC could dial into the gauge via a cellphone network and download the gauges directly rather than having to have LTVCA staff drive out to the location to manually download the data. As of September, the telemetry system is no longer operational due to changes in the Bell Canada cellular phone network. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the MOECC provided three GOES satellite based telemetry systems. Staff are looking to have these systems installed by the March 31<sup>st</sup> provincial fiscal year end. The remaining 6 stations will still require manual downloading every 2 or 3 months.

#### iii. Watershed Planning

Since October 2012, LTVCA staff has been assisting with an updated natural heritage study for Middlesex County. The final draft of the Middlesex Natural Heritage System Study was completed on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Middlesex County Council passed a resolution on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 that

the study be endorsed in principle and be used as the basis for public and stakeholder consultation. The MNHSS will provide the base science to support natural heritage planning within Middlesex County. However, it still needs to be brought into the County Official Plan through a public amendment process.

Since late 2008, the LTVCA has been participating in a collaboration known as the Thames River Clearwater Revival. The collaboration includes the two Thames River Conservation Authorities, together with various federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations representation. The current focus of the collaboration is a Watershed Strategy, for which an updated Water Management Plan is one of the first components. Work on the Water Management Plan is expected to run through to December 2016.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Thames River Clearwater Revival hosted a Technical Symposium at the UTRCA Watershed Conservation Centre in London to showcase the technical work that had been completed with Showcasing Water Innovations (SWI) funding. There were approximately 75 people in attendance.

The Clearwater Revival has recently received a grant of \$90,000 from the MOECC for improvements to data management. Of these funds \$8,000 are allocated to First Nations engagement. LTVCA will directly benefit from \$15,000 of this grant being put towards its purchase of the WISKI data management system and towards a gap analysis report on the LTVCA's water quality monitoring program. Freshwater Research, which previously conducted a study on Thames River water quality and nutrient loadings with the SWI funding, will be working on the gap analysis report which is expected to be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> That the report be received for information; and that Authority staff monitor conditions, and if warranted, a meeting of the Ice Management Committee be called by the Chair to determine possible alternatives.</p>
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BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION - ITEM 9 (B)

Re: Applications for permission under Ontario Regulation 152/06 (CA Act)

APP#	APPLICANT	LOT	CON/PLAN	TOWN/CITY	MUNICIPALITY	APPLICATION TYPE	DECISION
<b>2013 Files</b>							
148-2013	Hillis, Bradley & Margret	Pt 9-10	14	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: December 2, 2014
174-2013	Kopriva, Dave	Pt 13	14	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: December 2, 2014
<b>2014 Files</b>							
163-2014	Parcells, Jeffrey & Norbert Madison Jr.	7, 8 & 9	18 & 2	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 18, 2014
177-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	62, 66	NTR	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 4, 2014
178-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	6	8	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 4, 2014
179-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	68, 71	NTR	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 4, 2014
180-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	1, 3	7, 5	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 4, 2014
181-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	55, 56	NTR	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 4, 2014
182-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	18, 17	11	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 4, 2014
183-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	10, 9	TLR	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 5, 2014
184-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	3	9, 10	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 4, 2014
185-2014	Town of Lakeshore c/o Blaise Chevallier	21	9	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: November 5, 2014
186-2014	Union Gas c/o J. R. Cowan	19	1	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: November 6, 2014
187-2014	Knipfel, Jeff & Sonya	Pt 35	338, 433, 421	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 6, 2014
188-2014	Steel, Cameron & Cheryl	Blk Court House	109	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: November 6, 2014
189-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Dawn F	Pt 23	13	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 1, 2014
190-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Dawn F	Pt 23	11	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 1, 2014
191-2014	Municipality of West Elgin c/o Norma L. Bty	14, 15	1	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: December 1, 2014
192-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	3, 4	8, 9	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 14, 2014
193-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	9, 11	TLR	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: November 14, 2014
194-2014	Gaspar, Paulo	22	2	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: December 1, 2014
195-2014	Long, Charles	Pt A & B	9	Dunwich	Dutton/Dunwich	Construction	Granted: December 19, 2014
196-2014	Jeanes, Darren & Karen	18	1620	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: December 18, 2014
197-2014	Shanks, Scott	Pt 192	24R4620 Part 1	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: December 1, 2014
198-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Ann Fo	Pt 24	3 LES	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 19, 2014
199-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Dawn F	11 & 12	13	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 19, 2014
200-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Dawn F	N 12 11	11	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 4, 2014
201-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Dawn F	W Pt 2	9	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 4, 2014

APP#	APPLICANT	LOT	CON/PLAN	TOWN/CITY	MUNICIPALITY	APPLICATION TYPE	DECISION
202-2014	Le Cuniff Farms Limited c/o Rene Le Cuniff	19	2	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: November 28, 2014
203-2014	Municipality of Middlesex Centre	Pt 7 & 8	D	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Alteration	Granted: November 26, 2014
204-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Tim Olik	2	Front	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 4, 2014
205-2014	Municipality of Southwold c/o Brent Clutte	28	NTRE	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 5, 2014
206-2014	Municipality of Southwold c/o Brent Clutte	29	SEBTR	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 5, 2014
207-2014	Municipality of Southwold c/o Brent Clutte	21	NEBTR	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 5, 2014
208-2014	Municipality of Southwold c/o Brent Clutte	18	2,3	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 5, 2014
209-2014	Municipality of Southwold c/o Brent Clutte	18, 19, 20	3	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 5, 2014
210-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Steve F	11	5	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 8, 2014
211-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Steve F	10	A	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 8, 2014
212-2014	Town of Lakeshore c/o Blaise Chevalier	4 & 5	10	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: December 8, 2014
213-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	14, 15, & 17	2, 3, & 5	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 8, 2014
214-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	13 & 14	5 & 6	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 8, 2014
215-2014	Keller, Fred & Katie Spicer	13	SENBTR	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 10, 2014
217-2014	Municipality of Southwold c/o Brent Clutte	2, 3 & 4	2 & 3	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 10, 2014
218-2014	Municipality of Southwold c/o Brent Clutte	1	3	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: December 10, 2014
219-2014	Town of Lakeshore c/o Blaise Chevalier	18	1	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: December 10, 2014
220-2014	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	12 & 15	10 & 12	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: December 19, 2014
221-2014	Municipality of Leamington c/o Lu-Ann B.	8 & 12	8	Mersea	Leamington	Alteration	Granted: December 19, 2014
222-2014	Foster Laura & David Tompkins	27	624	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: January 5, 2015
225-2014	Browning, John	233, 234, 235	1624	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: February 3, 2015
226-2014	Cruikshank, Mark	17	1	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: February 3, 2015
<b>2015 Files</b>							
1-2015	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	7	6	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: January 6, 2015
2-2015	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete M	16	9	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: January 6, 2016
3-2015	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Mike Dk	319	420	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: January 14, 2015
4-2015	Town of Lakeshore c/o Blaise Chevalier	13	3,4	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: January 22, 2015
5-2015	Union Gas c/o Michelle Landuyt	9	9	Ridgetown	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: January 14, 2015
8-2015	County of Essex c/o James Bryant	18	1	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: January 15, 2015
9-2015	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o David C	6, 7	4	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: January 15, 2015

APP#	APPLICANT	LOT	CON/PLAN	TOWN/CITY	MUNICIPALITY	APPLICATION TYPE	DECISION
10-2015	Hands, Deborah E.	4	4	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: January 22, 2015
11-2015	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Pete Mach	4, 5	6, 7, 8	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: February 3, 2015
12-2015	Groenewegen, John	5, 6	1	Dunwich	Dutton/Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: February 4, 2015
13-2015	McGuire, Robin & Patricia	37	1648	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: February 4, 2015

**Recommendation:** That applications: 148-2013, 174-2013, 163-2014, 177-2014 to 215-2014, 217-2014 to 222-2014, 225-2014, 226-2014, 1-2015 to 9-2015, and 10-2015 to 13-2015 be ratified.

**Re: Conservation Services**

Greening Partnership staff hosted an open house at the LTVCA administration office on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Over 40 landowners were in attendance where they learned about the program, grants and discussed upcoming projects. An article was written in the Chatham Daily News as well as a radio interview covering the event. To promote this event and the program, over 500 mail outs were sent to landowners owning between 5-20 acres.

Over \$100,000 in grants are being used to hire contractors to excavate wetlands on private lands. As of January 5, 2015, 7 out of 10 projects have been completed. These projects will be planted in the upcoming spring season through other grant programs such as Ontario Power Generation and Trees Ontario. Staff have regularly been conducting site visits with landowners to plan for these spring plantings.

Greening Partnership staff are partnering with the Rondeau Bay Working Group. This group consists of Ducks Unlimited, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and Chatham-Kent Drainage with a common goal of controlling erosion, implementing wetlands, buffer strips and tree plantings in the Rondeau Bay Watershed.

Staff attended several events including the South West Ag Conference, The Chatham Farm Show and the Southwest Drainage Conference, Thames River Symposium, The Michigan Stewardship Network and the Carolinian Canada Conservation Action Plan for the Lower Thames River.

**OMAFRA-** staff have applied for the Loblaw's Water Fund to assist with funding the Authority's Benthic Program. 2015 will be the second year of the benthic program here at the LTVCA and the intent is that this grant will expand on the current data. Furthermore, staff are in the process of applying for the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund where staff have targeted key sub-watersheds in Rondeau Bay for the focus of stewardship work.

At the Chatham Farm show in January staff was asked to speak about the phosphorous loading of Lake Erie, and a presentation was given to over 30 attendees entitled: "Keeping nutrients where applied and available to the crop."

Staff continues to participate and be involved in various agricultural grassroots organizations including the Kent Federation of Agriculture, the Chatham-Kent Christian Farmers and the Grain Farmers of Ontario meetings.

Re: Conservation Areas

Eastern District

**EM Warwick Conservation Area** – windows on the mess hall and a door to one of the cabins are being repaired/replaced due to vandalism.

Western District

**CM Wilson Conservation Area** – window replacement underway in the rented residential structure within the park due to age related deterioration; half of roof replaced.

**Two Creeks Conservation Area** – an engineer's report for the maintenance/repair of the Two Creeks Drain was undertaken several years ago due to the dead and dying standing ash trees along the drain which were causing blockages once they fell. The contractor is currently clearing the deadfalls out of the stream length through the conservation area. Unfortunately to gain access to the drain with the equipment, a large swath beside the creek had to be cleared of trees and shrubs. Staff will assess the site in the spring to see what restoration efforts can be directed to the disturbed areas.

**Big 'O', Merlin & McGeachy's Pond Conservation Area** – three signs have been purchased with the new design layout for these three CA's.

2014 VISITATION / CAMPING NOV.1 – DEC.31

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – **1,279 people** (2013 – 1,253)  
**NEW** Pay and Display Permits (cars) Nov.1 – Dec.31, 2014 **127 vehicles**

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – **127 people** (2013 – 285)

Big Bend Conservation Area – **620 people** (2013 – 479)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – **113 people** (2013 – 60)  
**NEW** Pay and Display Permits (permits) Nov.1 – Dec.31, 2014 **39 vehicles**

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2014 Total Year Visitation/Camping

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – **16,822 people** (2013 – 15,066)  
**(includes NEW Pay and Display Permits in 2014 - 955 vehicles (June – December only))**

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – **1,744 people** (2013 – 2,764)

Big Bend Conservation Area – **2,055 people** (2013 – 3,987)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – **13,962 people** (2013 – 8,673)  
**(includes NEW Pay and Display Permits in 2014 - 264 vehicles (June – December only))**

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**2015 JAN.1 – JAN.31 VISITATION / CAMPING**

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – **366 people** (2014 – 205)  
**NEW Pay and Display Permits (cars) Jan.1 – Jan.31, 2015 61 vehicles** (*note machine not working Jan.26 – Feb. 11*)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – **0 people** (2014 – 70)

Big Bend Conservation Area – **0 people** (2014 – 0)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – **0 people** (2014 – 0)  
**NEW Pay and Display Permits (permits) Jan.1 – Jan.31, 2014 no information**



**Re: Community Relations**

- Media releases are written as needed for Conservation Authority programs and services. They are emailed to local print and radio media, watershed politicians, LTVCA and LTVCF Directors, member municipalities of the LTVCA, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee, LTVCA staff, neighbouring Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario. They are also posted on the Conservation Authority's website and Facebook page. Since November, 2 media releases were issued: one for the annual Moonlight Winter Family Hike and the other for Weekend Snowshoeing at Longwoods.
- Resource Centre displays and travelling exhibits are created to update programs and information as well.
- Advertisements have been taken out in the tourist guides for Chatham-Kent, Middlesex and Elgin for C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- Presentations are given to community groups upon request. Support is provided to staff for official openings, funder recognition ceremonies and community events upon request.
- Committees: Staff attended meetings of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region's communications team as they develop communication products for the Source Protection Plan development. As well, staff attended the Source Protection Committee meetings. A Source Protection public consultation event was held at the LTVCA Administration Building on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff participate on planning committees which meet regularly for the Children's Water Festivals - St. Thomas and Elgin and Chatham-Kent and Lambton. Staff took part in a conference call meeting of the Communications Committee for the Thames River Clearwater Revival on January 20.
- The LTVCA's website and Facebook pages are updated daily with current/relevant Conservation Authority information and events. The website address is [www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca). We encourage you to "Like Us On Facebook" as well! Daily updates highlighting LTVCA projects and events and current conservation events relating to the watershed are posted. Share with your Friends!

The redesigning of the LTVCA's website is underway and should be completed in the next month. We have engaged the services of Chris Durand of Durand Webs. He has designed several neighbouring Conservation Authority websites. This new site uses a content management system which is easy to maintain. It features site automation so that events change as event dates go by, it is mobile friendly and addresses accessibility concerns. It will also have analytics for visitor tracking so that we can tell what pages are viewed etc. Staff will have the ability to manage content on the webpages pertaining to their own programs/departments as information changes. It is hoped that we will have a preview at the meeting.

- A Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation Directors' Meeting took place on December 10, 2014 and January 27, 2015 at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

- The local watershed media contacts (daily and weekly print, television and radio stations) database update is ongoing.
- The LTVCA's 2014 Annual Report was produced in 2 formats. The first is a 14 page product with detailed information about the Conservation Authority's projects and services last year. This Report has been included in the agenda package and will also be posted on our website under publications. It is a reference frequently used by staff as a history of what went on during the year, and as a tool for training new staff. It is also a useful guide for Directors wishing to know more about the programs, services and structure of the Conservation Authority.

In addition, a Summary Annual Report 2014 was produced. This condensed version will be handed out at the meeting and distributed to our municipalities and key watershed partners.

A PowerPoint presentation will be shown at the meeting, highlighting the LTVCA's activities in 2014.

- A new Longwoods Road Conservation Area brochure was produced along with the Longwoods Events Calendar for 2015. These will be distributed at the meeting. Please note our upcoming events!
- On February 7, the annual Moonlight Winter Family Hike was held at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. This is a pre-registration only event and is co-sponsored by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation Directors with the Longwoods staff. The event is very popular with all ages and has been running for over 15 years. Over 100 people ranging in age from toddlers to seniors enjoyed one of 4 hikes, one of 3 of Lynn Eve's presentations from the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation, George Wickham's world renowned bird carvings, owl crafts, homemade chili and a hotdog over a bonfire. Screech and Great Horned Owls were heard outside and Lynn brought along a live Screech Owl and American Kestrel for indoor viewing.



Media Release  
For Immediate Release  
January 10, 2015

***Do You Give a Hoot?***  
**Longwoods' Moonlight Winter Hike**



Owls are the focus of the Moonlight Winter Family Hike event at Longwoods Road Conservation Area, Saturday February 7. **Pre-registration is mandatory.** Admission is: adults \$10.00, youth 6-17 \$5.00, plus HST, and under 6 free.

**Outdoors** - Enjoy a half hour guided moonlit hike through the woods in search of owls. Hikes are at 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, and 8:30 p.m. **To pre-register call Agnes at 519-264-2420** Monday-Friday between 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. A bonfire will be blazing for a warm-up, with hot dogs roasting for the kids. Dress for the weather! No dogs and/or cross-country skis please.

**Indoors** - Come before your hike or stay after to enjoy activities inside the Resource Centre: ●At 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30, Lynn Eves will present from Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation ●Master Carver George Wickham will display wonderful creations and demonstrate wildlife woodcarving. ●Have a bowl of chili and a hot drink (Bring bowls, mugs, spoons). ●Take part in kids' owl crafts. ●Watch an owl dvd . ●View displays. ●Check-out an owl pellet.

Longwoods is located at 8348 Longwoods Road (Middlesex Rd. 2) - 6.5 km west of Delaware or 10 km east of Melbourne. Hosted by **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation** in partnership with the **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority**.

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**To Pre-register and for further information call:**

Agnes Vriends – Clerk/Secretary  
Longwoods Road Conservation Area  
**519-264-2420**  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Media Release  
For Immediate Release  
December 11, 2014

*"Slap On the Snowshoes and Away You Go!"*

## Longwoods Offers Snowshoe Rental Sunday Afternoons



Longwoods Road Conservation Area will be offering Sunday afternoon snowshoe rental beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>! The smell of a wood fire attracts you to the heritage log cabin where inside, around the woodstove, hang dozens of wood and rawhide traditional style snowshoes. Friends and family are invited to try out snowshoeing, one of the oldest forms of winter travel!

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority staff will be on hand to teach you all you will need to know to enjoy an afternoon of fun at Longwoods. Learn about the history of snowshoeing, the different styles, and most of all, enjoy a quick outdoor lesson. Wear low or no healed winter boots and dress for an hour or two of outdoor fun! We have lots of woodland trails, or explore the Ska-Nah-Doht Village!

Snowshoe rentals will be available when conditions are suitable - a base of at least 10 cm (4 inches) of snow and no ice is ideal. Check our Facebook page for updates. The cabin will be open for rentals at noon and the last rentals will go out no later than 3:30 p.m. All snowshoes must be returned to the cabin by 4:15 p.m. and cannot leave the park.

We have many different sizes of snowshoes from which to choose – little ones for youngsters around 4 years old, through to big ones for adults over 175 lbs. There is a limited number available so come early to avoid disappointment. The rental fee per pair is \$6 including hst (cash or debit only). Staff will request to hold your driver's license as a deposit on the snowshoes until they are returned. Visitors are welcome to bring their own snowshoes as well. There is no cross-country ski rental on site.

Longwoods Road Conservation Area will be open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. until sunset daily (roads and weather permitting). Admission to the park is at the Pay and Display machine at the entrance - coin or credit card only. There is a charge of \$4 per vehicle over the winter months. Alternatively, purchase a Season's Day Use Pass for \$60. It is good for day use at Longwoods Road, Big Bend and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas through 2015. Longwoods is located at 8348 Longwoods Road (Middlesex County Rd. 2) southwest of Mount Brydges (6.5 km west of Delaware or 10 km east of Melbourne).

-30-

Contact us for more information:

Tel: 519-264-2420

Email: [info@ltvca.ca](mailto:info@ltvca.ca)

Web: [www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)



Like us on Facebook

Re: Conservation Authority Education

Total Conservation Education attendance for 2014 – 2,140 (includes adult supervisors, field trips, classroom programs) (2013 – 2,236)

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Conservation Youth Group Workshops

Workshops are performed at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and LTVCA outreach locations to youth and leaders. There were no participants between November 1 – December 31, 2014. (2013 – 0) Youth groups work towards badges for various outdoor activities.

Total number from January 1 – January 31, 2015 – 0 (2014 – 0)

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Conservation Field Trips for Students

Total number from November 1 – December 31, 2014, 166 elementary and secondary students accompanied by 17 adult supervisors, participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area (Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc) (2013 – 117 students and 23 adults). The Ontario Trails Council donated \$2,000 in 2014 to support the above programs.

Total number from January 1 – January 31, 2015 – 0 (2014 – 2 adults and 33 students)

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Conservation Classroom Programs and Outreach

The “River and Creek Safety Program” was jointly presented by LTVCA staff (offered to schools East of Chatham-Kent) and the Chatham-Kent Safety Village (teaching the program to schools within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent). This outreach program is for schools in West-Elgin, Dutton-Dunwich, Southwest Middlesex, Middlesex Centre, Strathroy-Caradoc and Southwold and is performed by LTVCA staff. It is supported by local service club donations. In 2014 - 286 students from 13 classes and 22 adults received the program. (2013 – 252 students, 14 classes, 22 adults). It will be offered again in 2015.

Union Gas funding supported the “Biodiversity and You! Program”. A generous grant from Union Gas in 2011 enabled the development of this program which addresses grade six curriculum requirements. The program ended in 2014 however is available on the LTVCA website for teachers to download. In 2014 - 2 classes with 49 students participated. (2013 – 13 classes, 320 students and 23 adults)

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Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children’s Water Festival

Plans are in the works for the 8<sup>th</sup> Water Festival which is held each year at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. This year’s festival will be Sept. 29, 30 and Oct.1 with a weather date on Oct.2.

The seventh annual Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children’s Water Festival was successfully held Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, Chatham. ***An unfortunate 2 days of bus cancellation due to fog did not allow the festival to run on Day 2 and 3.***

High school students from Chatham-Kent volunteered to help facilitate the 42 interactive water-related centres and multi-media displays by assisting agency staff, ground and surface water experts and other adult volunteers. All Activities were linked to the Ontario School Curriculum in ways that helped students achieve the desired expectations in Science and Technology, Social Studies, Environment, Mathematics and Physical Education. Events and Activities were geared to the Grade 4 student level. The Festival was designed to be hands-on and experiential in order to enhance and personalize learning. One of the goals of attending the Festival is to take the knowledge and newfound respect for water back to their homes, schools and communities.

Volunteers came from a diversity of backgrounds including members of the community and local organizations, provincial agency staff and municipal representatives. The majority of volunteer assistance came from High School students recruited from five local high schools including Blenheim High School, Chatham-Kent Secondary School, Ursuline College, John McGregor Secondary School and École secondaire de Pain Court.

#### **2014 Festival Highlights**

- Over **650** elementary students attended the Festival along with **130** teachers and parent volunteers
- **33** schools from three school boards along with a group of home schooled children attended over the three-day Festival period
- Over **100** local organizations and individuals partnered to make the Festival a success
- Over **150** volunteers helped each day
- 42 Activities based on five water related themes were showcased at the Festival
- Close to **\$34,000.00** in cash sponsorships were raised for the Festival
- Nearly **\$21,000.<sup>00</sup>** of in-kind donations and volunteer time was provided by Chatham-Kent & Lambton supporters

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#### **Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum**

**Total school program attendance for 2014 – 3,839 (includes adult supervisors, field trips, class-room programs) (2013 – 4,155)**

Total number from November 1 – December 31, 2014, **755** students accompanied by **115** adult supervisors attended programs. (2013 – 837 students and 71 adults).

Total number from January 1 – January 31, 2015 – **216** (2014 – 28)

In addition, there were 18 public tour / youth group workshop participants and leaders Nov.1 – Dec.31, 2014. (2013 – 0) There have been no participants Jan.1 – Jan. 31, 2015.

**Re: GM's Report – Strategic Plan**

As a thorough overview of the events of 2014 has been presented through the Annual Report, various staff reports, and the Financial Statements, this report will shift focus toward the future and in particular, to the development of a Strategic Plan for the Authority. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to guide the design, financing and delivery of our programs and services over the next five years. In this way, the Authority can match the needs of the watershed to the skills of its human resources and the available financial capacity of its members and funding partners.

By way of background, late in 2014 the Personnel and Finance Committee authorized the award of a contract to Kayak Consulting to lead the Conservation Authority through a process that would engage staff, members, government agencies, community partners and volunteers in helping to define a renewed shared vision; mission statement; and value proposition; enabling the development of new strategic directions for the Authority. This five phase process began in November 2014 with a “situational analysis” in which the staff leadership team worked with the consultant to develop questions pertaining to the organization’s processes, organizational capacity, priorities, customers, challenges and opportunities.

The eSurvey was conducted throughout December, closing in early January 2015, with more than 75 surveys completed. The consultant undertook a number of analyses of the responses and made a preliminary report to staff. Additional analysis was requested and provided, the results of which will be key to the next phase. Phase 2 involves a Strategic Direction Session with the LTVCA Board and the staff leadership team, requiring approximately 3 hours of intensive, facilitated discussion. It is proposed to conduct this session on one of March 5, 12, or 13, ideally from 9 am until noon; alternately during the afternoon, depending upon availability of the greatest number of Board members. As this phase is a foundational piece for the next step in the process, it is most critical to engage as many members of the Board as possible. We would like to establish the date during the Annual General Meeting to keep the process moving forward.

Following this important meeting, a broader engagement with Authority staff will be undertaken to review and affirm the situational analysis, vision, mission, and value proposition; and review current programs through this lens. This critical review will identify where we are now; where we hope to be in five years; and what needs to change to allow us to get there. The development of four or five Strategic Themes to guide the organizational budget and resources for the next five years will emerge from this phase.

The fourth phase will produce Strategic Objectives, Measures and assign responsibility to specific staff, and develop a process for review and communications. Phase five consists of the Final Strategy Report.

**RECOMMENDATION:- that the Board meet on March 5, 12, or 13 at 9:00 am at the LTVCA Administration Building to participate in a strategic planning session along with the staff leadership team.**





**BUSINESS FOR APPROVAL – ITEM 10 (A)**

**Re: Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund – Wetlands Project**

Greening partnership staff are currently implementing 10 wetland projects on private land. To supplement this activity an additional grant has been approved through the Ministry of Environment (MOE) - Great Lakes Guardian Fund, in the amount of **\$25,000**. Conservation Authorities are required to provide a copy of their Board's resolution authorizing the Conservation Authority to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Province of Ontario.

**RECOMMENDATION:- that the Board authorize the LTVCA to enter into the Grant Funding Agreement to receive the \$25,000 for additional wetland work in Chatham-Kent.**

**Re: 2015 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Budget**

The preliminary 2015 budget was presented and approved at the November 27, 2014 meeting of the Board of Directors. The overall budget of \$2,784,687 shows significant growth in comparison to the 2014 budget of \$2,245,650; however this is accounted for in three main areas. First, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, as a major part of its Natural Heritage Implementation Plan, authorized a substantial increase in its financial contribution to the Greening Project, which is reflected in the near doubling of the program budget. The second major increase will support much needed upgrades to the Administrative Headquarters, begun in 2013 and continuing through 2015 until the building is substantially refurbished. The third large increase is under Conservation Services, reflecting increased investment by the provincial government in agricultural stewardship activities including forestry, soil conservation, demonstration and monitoring.

While the overall budget shows an increase of \$539,000 or 24% over 2014, the impact on the General Levy to the member municipalities is a more modest 5.11% or \$40,173. This is due to the significant increase in the financial contribution of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent; a substantial draw on reserves to fund the Administration Building upgrades; and the contribution of the Province of Ontario to agricultural phosphorus management initiatives. The municipal portion of the budget, while greater than in 2014, has declined as a percentage of overall expenditures from 52.8% to 47.8%. The ability to leverage new revenues is directly attributable to the municipal investment necessary to sustain a diverse, core program of experienced staff.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 139/96, the non-matching levy must be approved by a recorded, “weighted” vote of the Authority. For the non-matching levy, votes are weighted in proportion to each municipality's share of the total Current Value Assessment (CVA), and approval requires that votes equal to or greater than 51% of the CVA be cast in favour of the levy. The "Non-Matching" levy for 2015 is \$658,445 as shown in column 6 on page 1 of the attached budget, compared to \$628,272 in 2014.

The remaining levy is voted on normally, that is one member, one vote, and consists of \$167,807 matching and \$498,000 direct special benefit levy, as shown in columns 4 and 5 on page 1. The increase of \$149,083 over the 2014 value of \$348,907 for the direct special benefit levy is directly attributable to the expansion of the Chatham-Kent Greening Project, resulting from the Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy approved by Council in 2014.

As of this date, no municipality has advised the Authority of its objection to its share of the non-matching levy or special benefiting levy. It is therefore recommended that the 2015 budget and levy be approved as presented.

**RECOMMENDATION:-**

**“That the 2015 budget in the amount of \$2,784,687 be approved, and that the matching municipal levy of \$167,807 and the special benefit share of \$498,000 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the details provided on page 33 of the attached budget”; and**

**“That the non-matching levy totaling \$658,445 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the details provided on page 33 of the attached budget, pursuant to O.Reg. 139/96.”**

**2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**  
**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S**

PG. NO.	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2015 GRANTS	DIRECT			NON		FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
				MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES			
2	238,320	240,217	73,935	46,282	120,000					
2	25,000	31,536	7,865	7,865			15,806			
2	248,935	249,217	70,788	98,441			79,989			
3	77,498	142,681	10,500	10,500			61,681	60,000		
3	14,000	14,000	4,719	4,719			4,562			
3	166,338	274,636	100,000					159,636	15,000	
4	496,868	520,246	40,000				182,246	272,000	26,000	
4	160,965	165,000	10,000				155,000			
5	115,415	119,509	4,000				53,509	57,000	5,000	
5	244,804	249,645	22,992				90,653	126,000	10,000	
6	12,000	14,000				14,000				
6	169,841	350,000	0			320,000		30,000		
6	11,000	11,000	5,500			5,500				
6	10,000	10,000	5,000			5,000				
6	25,000	25,000	25,000							
6	72,000	27,000	13,500			13,500				
6	11,666	15,000	15,000							
6	16,000	6,000	6,000							
6	10,000	200,000								185,000
6	20,000	20,000				20,000				
6	100,000	100,000	100,000							
	2,245,650	2,784,687	514,799	167,807	498,000	658,445	704,636	56,000	185,000	

**2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**  
**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S

	2014	2015	2015	2015	DIRECT	NON	FOUNDATION
	BUDGET	BUDGET	GRANTS	MATCHING	SPECIAL	MATCHING	GRANTS &
				GENERAL	BENEFIT	GENERAL	REVENUES
				LEVY	LEVY	LEVY	RESERVES
<b>FLOOD CONTROL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE</b>							
<u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>							
WAGES AND BENEFITS	157,320	126,000					
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	27,000	33,217					
OPERATIONS	24,000	31,000					
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	20,000	30,000					
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	10,000	20,000					
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	238,320	240,217	73,935	46,282	120,000		
					(CHATHAM-KENT)		
<u>EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>							
WAGES AND BENEFITS		21,000					
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	3,000	5,536					
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	22,000	5,000					
TOTAL EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	25,000	31,536	7,865	7,865		15,806	
<u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING</u>							
WAGES AND BENEFITS	160,935	126,000					
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	28,000	33,217					
DATA COLLECTIONS	21,000	32,000					
FLOOD FORECASTING	5,000	10,000					
COMMUNICATIONS	8,000	12,000					
OPERATIONS CENTRE (RENT)	16,000	21,000					
FLOOD RESPONSE AND MONITORING	10,000	15,000					
TOTAL FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	248,935	249,217	70,788	98,441		79,989	

**2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**  
**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**FUNDING SOURCES**

	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2015 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	GENERAL REVENUES	RESERVES
<b>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW</b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	59,498	105,000							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	8,000	27,681							
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	10,000	10,000							
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	77,498	142,681	10,500	10,500		61,681		60,000	
<b>TECHNICAL STUDIES</b>									
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	2,000	0							
GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)- DATA MANAGEMENT	12,000	14,000							
TOTAL TECHNICAL STUDIES	14,000	14,000	4,719	4,719		4,562			
<b>CONSERVATION SERVICES</b>									
FORESTRY, PHOSPHORUS									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	54,338	120,000							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	38,000	31,636							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	74,000	123,000							
TOTAL CONS. SERVICES	166,338	274,636	100,000					159,636	15,000



**2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**FUNDING SOURCES**

	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2015 GRANTS	DIRECT			NON		FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
				MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES			
<u>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</u>										
WAGES AND BENEFITS	257,668	257,390								
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	100,000	67,856								
OPERATING:										
PROPERTY-MATERIALS	49,000	98,000								
-SERVICES	11,500	12,000								
-TELEPHONE	6,000	6,000								
-HYDRO	24,500	27,000								
-TAXES	29,000	32,000								
-INSURANCE	15,000	15,000								
-WATER	1,200	1,500								
-HEAT	3,000	3,500								
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	496,868	520,246	40,000			182,246	272,000	26,000		
								Includes 1000 Friends of Shaaron Creek		
<u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</u>										
WAGES AND BENEFITS	102,465	100,000								
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	36,000	36,000								
OPERATING:										
PROPERTY - RESOURCE CENTRE	4,500	10,000								
-TELEPHONE, EQUIPMENT, POSTAGE, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, EXPENSES, ETC.	18,000	19,000								
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS	160,965	165,000	10,000			0	155,000	0	0	0

**2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S**

	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2015 GRANTS	DIRECT			NON		FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
				MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	GENERAL REVENUES		
<u>CONSERVATION EDUCATION</u>										
WAGES AND BENEFITS	71,415	74,000								
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	25,000	19,509								
OPERATING:										
PROPERTY - RESOURCE CENTRE	4,500	10,000								
-TELEPHONE, EQUIPMENT, POSTAGE, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, EXPENSES, ETC.	14,500	16,000								
<b>TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION</b>	<b>115,415</b>	<b>119,509</b>	<b>4,000</b>				<b>53,509</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	
<u>SKA-MAH-DOHT VILLAGE</u>										
WAGES AND BENEFITS	149,040	139,000								
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	55,264	36,645								
OPERATING:										
PROPERTY-RESOURCE CENTRE	11,000	41,000								
-INSURANCE, MAINTENANCE, EXHIBITS, EVENTS, ADVERTISING, ETC.	21,000	23,000								
-TELEPHONE, EQUIPMENT, POSTAGE, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, EXPENSES, ETC.	8,500	10,000								
<b>TOTAL IROQUOIAN VILLAGE</b>	<b>244,804</b>	<b>249,645</b>	<b>22,992</b>				<b>90,653</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	

**2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
FUNDING SOURCES**

	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2015 GRANTS	MATCHING			DIRECT		NON		FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
				GENERAL	LEVY	LEVY	SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES		
<b>OTHER PROGRAMS</b>												
PROVINCIAL GROUNDWATER MGT. PROGRAM	12,000	14,000					14,000					
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	169,841	350,000					320,000			30,000		
							(Chatham-Kent)					
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT	11,000	11,000	5,500			5,500						
			(Provincial Reserve)									
MCGREGOR CREEK-RIVARD DAM REPAIRS	10,000	10,000	5,000			5,000						
WATERSHED PLANNING-SOURCE PROTECTION	25,000	25,000	25,000									
TECHNICAL STUDIES-GENERIC REGULATIONS	72,000	27,000	13,500			13,500						
			(Provincial Reserve)									
COMMUNITY TREES INITIATIVE	11,666	15,000	15,000									
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	16,000	6,000	6,000									
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING REPAIRS/UPGRADES	10,000	200,000										
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	20,000	20,000							15,000			105,000
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FEDPROV)	100,000	100,000	100,000				20,000					

## LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

### Levy for 2014 using Modified CVA

	Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)	% of Levy	Direct Special Benefit Levy 2015	Non-Matching Levy 2015	Matching Levy 2015	Total Municipal Levy 2015 using CVA (Exc. DB Levy)	\$ Change from 2014 Levy using CVA	Total Municipal Levy 2014 using CVA (Exc. DB Levy)	% Change from 2014
Chatham-Kent	7,100,281,478	58.4597%	475,107	384,925	98,099	483,025	23,338	459,687	5.08%
City of London	1,388,926,112	11.4356%	5,889	75,297	19,190	94,487	4,855	89,632	5.42%
Dutton/Durwich	401,014,973	3.3017%	1,700	21,740	5,541	27,281	1,155	26,126	4.42%
West Elgin	526,807,812	4.3374%	2,234	28,560	7,279	35,838	1,295	34,543	3.75%
Stratroy-Caradoc	694,521,335	5.7183%	2,945	37,652	9,596	47,248	2,334	44,914	5.20%
Middlesex Centre	188,636,672	1.5531%	800	10,226	2,606	12,833	674	12,159	5.54%
Southwest-Middlesex	350,017,242	2.8818%	1,484	18,975	4,836	23,811	1,067	22,744	4.69%
Town of Leamington	290,525,298	2.3920%	1,232	15,750	4,014	19,764	820	18,944	4.33%
Southwold	151,838,176	1.2501%	644	8,232	2,098	10,329	464	9,865	4.71%
Town of Lakeshore	1,053,032,827	8.6701%	5,965	57,088	14,549	71,637	4,172	67,465	6.18%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,145,601,925</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$498,000</b>	<b>\$658,445</b>	<b>\$167,807</b>	<b>\$826,252</b>	<b>\$40,173</b>	<b>\$786,079</b>	<b>5.11%</b>

**BUSINESS FOR APPROVAL – ITEM 10 (C)**

Re: Appointment of Auditor

**That the firm of Johnson, Feduk, King Chartered Accountants be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority’s auditor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2016.**

**BUSINESS FOR APPROVAL – ITEM 10 (D)**

Re: Appointment of Bank

**That the Toronto Dominion Bank be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority’s bank until the next Annual Meeting in February 2016.”**

**BUSINESS FOR APPROVAL – ITEM 10 (E)**

Re: Appointment of Solicitor

**That Mr. James D. Wickett be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority’s solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2016.**

**BUSINESS FOR APPROVAL – ITEM 10 (F)**

Re: Authorization to Borrow

**That the Authority Chair or Vice-Chair and the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to borrow from the Toronto Dominion Bank a sum not to exceed \$300,000 for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and self-generated revenues.**