



You and a Guest are Invited to attend the

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Watershed East Bus Tour

Thursday, June 25, 2015

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Buses depart 8:30 a.m. sharp (return at 12:30 p.m.) from Longwoods Road Conservation Area southwest of Mount Brydges. Tour booklets available on the bus. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Mid-morning refreshments and 12:30 p.m. lunch provided (please advise by June 22nd of any special dietary considerations)

RSVP by June 22nd to ensure your bus seats and lunch

Email: Agnes.Vriends@ltvca.ca or call Agnes: 519-264-2420

Tour areas of Strathroy-Caradoc, Middlesex Centre, Southwold,

Dutton/Dunwich, West Elgin, Southwest Middlesex and visit:

- habitat restoration sites and local conservation projects
- conservation properties: Longwoods Road / Ska-Nah-Doht Village, Big Bend, E.M. Warwick, Crane, Delaware, Sharon Creek, Dutton/Dunwich, Mill Stream, Mosa Forest (Skunk's Misery)
- the Thames - A Canadian Heritage River and some unique natural and cultural history gems
- the beautiful north shore of Lake Erie
- colleagues, community partners and Conservation Authority staff

Learn about:

- local conservation and environmental issues and concerns
- progress in environmental protection and local conservation groups
- neighbouring communities and landscapes
- the Carolinian Life Zone

The Thames - a Canadian Heritage River

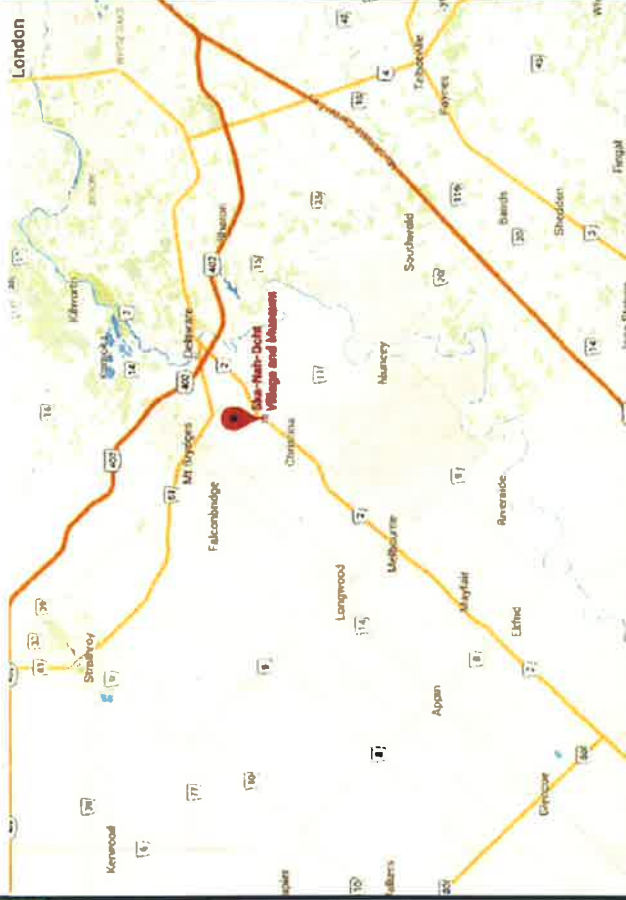
Directions to Longwoods Road Conservation Area

8348 Longwoods Road (Middlesex County Road 2)
Located 6.5 km west of Delaware or
10 km east of Melbourne

Meet at 8:15 a.m. sharp in Longwoods Road Conservation Area parking lot

From London take 401 west, take 402 exit towards Sarnia. Follow to Exit 86 (Delaware/Melbourne). Turn west onto Longwoods Road and travel 5 km to park entrance.



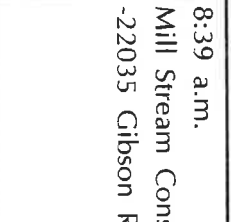



From Chatham take 401 east to Exit 157 (Iona Station/Melbourne). Take Melbourne Road (County Road 14) north to Melbourne. Turn east at onto Longwoods Road and travel 10 km east to park entrance.




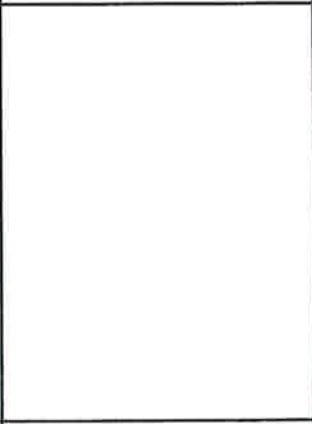











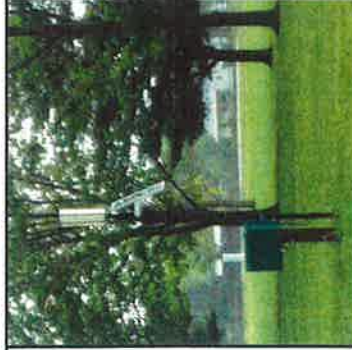






Welcome Aboard the
Watershed East Bus Tour!



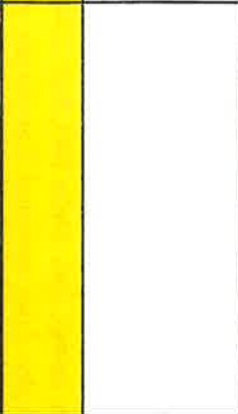
Thursday June 25, 2015





TIME and LOCATION	ILLUSTRATION	TOPIC / FEATURE
<p>1. 8:30 a.m. Middlesex County - Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc Longwoods Road Conservation Area -8348 Longwoods Road</p> 		<p>Welcome to the LTVCA's Watershed East Bus Tour!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Conservation Authority's area of jurisdiction lies over the watersheds of all streams, which drain into the Thames River from the Village of Delaware, to Lake St. Clair. Southern boundary has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams which drain into Lake Erie, from the Talbot Creek watershed in the east, to the Two Creeks watershed in the west. Total area covers over 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) in southwestern Ontario and is home to over 120,000 people.</p> <p>Ten member municipalities appoint representatives to a Board of Directors.</p>
<p>2. 8:39 a.m. Mill Stream Conservation Area -22035 Gibson Road</p> 		<p>Mill Stream Conservation Area - 10 hectare property acquired in 1963; toboggan hill, picnic shelter, limited nature trail for fishing along the Mill Stream, hiking, and birdwatching; Carolinian Forest and ravine system habitat supports abundant wildlife and is a natural corridor link to Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Janes Bush; located on the Caradoc Sand Plain.</p>
<p>3. 8:44 a.m. Hwy. 81 beside Thames River</p>		<p>Thames River bank failure - Watershed boundary adjustment between UTRCA and LTVCA</p>
<p>4. 8:47 p.m. Municipality of Middlesex Centre Village of Delaware - Longwoods Road</p> 		<p>Middlesex Grassroutes - follow signs to point to highlights - taste of local food, culture, heritage and natural sites (brochure available at lunch)</p> <p>Delaware Conservation Area - 3 hectare property acquired in 1962; 2695 Gideon Drive; located on the floodplain of the Thames River; subject to flooding; fishing hot spot during pickerel season; canoe access; sixty car parking lot.</p>






<p>5. 8:57 a.m. Sharon Creek Conservation Area -4212 Springer Road</p>		<p>Sharon Creek Conservation Area - 48.5 hectare park acquired in 1966 in connection with the construction of the Sharon Creek dam and reservoir; 35.6 hectares of water and 12.9 hectares of forest, grassland, wooded ravines; a small wetland and a tallgrass prairie; picnicking, birdwatching, hiking, fishing for bass, pike and walleye; canoeing/kayaking; London Canoe Club uses the facility.</p>
<p>9:10 a.m. Sharon Creek Dam at Sharon Creek Conservation Area -Springer Road</p>		<p>Sharon Creek Dam - Springer Lake Reservoir and Morning Glory Spillway - named after Daniel Springer, an early Delaware settler; the dam is an earthen dam with a morning-glory spillway with a capacity for a 1 in 10 year regional storm; another spillway accommodates extra water capacities assuring the dam remains intact; spillways have a capacity for a 1 in a 100 year storm; Sharon Creek Dam was built primarily to raise the ground-water levels and provide a municipal water supply for the region of Delaware; dam and reservoir can also be used for flood control, but this is not the main purpose.</p>
<p>9:12 a.m. Thames Valley Trail - Springer Road</p> 		<p>Thames Valley Trail and link to the Elgin Trail system Oneida and Muncie Delaware - local First Nations Communities</p>
<p>9:30 a.m. Elgin County - Southwold Township Elgin Clean Water Program - Emons project - 4th Line</p> 		<p>Elgin Clean Water Program is a cooperative program between the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek, Long Point Region and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities to assist landowners with projects to improve and protect water quality in Elgin County.</p> <p>The Sarah Emons Wetland Pond Creation Although this project is small, it is the sort of project we could initiate on every farm which would completely change the way our landscape functions in terms of hydrology (flooding/groundwater recharge/nutrient management) and biodiversity. These projects improve resiliency in our communities and across the landscape and are an important part of sustainable living. - Sarah Emons</p>

<p>7. 9:36 a.m. Southwold and Dutton/ Dunwich divide Crane Conservation Area -10588 Iona Road</p>		<p>Crane Conservation Area - 3 hectare property donated in 1976; Dr. James Wellington Crane planted between 85 and 90 different tree species; changed hands many times - 1955 - UWO, Elgin County, LTVCA; proposal in 1978 suggested site be used as a mini-arboretum/picnic area.</p>
<p>8. 9:43 a.m. Talbot Creek - Iona Road</p>		<p>Our furthest east subwatershed. Benthic Monitoring Program - initiated in 2014; helps determine the quality of water in streams within the watershed by collecting small organisms (Benthic Macroinvertebrates) from the streams sediment; small bugs act as indicators of water quality; some can tolerate pollution while others disappear as pollution increases; information collected is used to inform various studies and reports including Watershed Report Cards; after the samples have been collected, the organisms are identified and a water quality rating is determined using the Family Biotic Index which assigns a number to a family of benthic macroinvertebrates, based on their tolerance to organic pollution.</p>
<p>9. 9:46 a.m. Southwold Earthworks -Iona Road</p>		<p>Southwold Earthworks - Parks Canada National Historic Site</p>
<p>10. 9:49 a.m. Municipality of Dutton/ Dunwich Camp Timkins -32242 Erin Line  Municipality of Dutton Dunwich</p>		<p>Camp Timkins - Elgin District Scout Reserve - Elgin Stewardship cost-sharing project</p>

<p>11. 9:50 a.m. VanBrenk Fruit Farms Inc. -31760 Erin Line</p>		<p>Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) Water quality monitoring is conducted at nine groundwater wells and 11 stream (surface) water locations in our watershed for standard water quality indicators such as dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature and nutrients with supplementary analyses such as e-coli, metals and pesticides at select locations; results form the basis for the water quality grades reported in the Watershed Report Card; staff also monitor watershed conditions to determine if the area is in a low water (drought) situation.</p>
<p>12. 9:55 a.m. Van Raay Project - Willey Road</p>		<p>Van Raay Elgin Clean Water Project - wetland/water retention ponds</p>
<p>9:56 a.m. Municipality of West Elgin -Talbot Trail</p> 		<p>Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan - 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; 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.</p>
<p>13. 10:06 a.m. E.M. Warwick Conservation Area -26135 Warwick Line</p>		<p>E.M. Warwick Conservation Area - 14 hectare property was acquired in 1974; named after the owner who donated the site to the Rotary Club in 1956; was operated as a youth camp; has main hall, four cabins, nature trails; located on the north shore of Lake Erie; wooded Carolinian forests and ravines, streams and open space support abundant wildlife.</p>
<p>14. 10:25 a.m. Graham Road</p>		<p>Elgin Water Treatment Plant Elgin Water Intake and Drinking Water Source Protection</p>
<p>15. 10:27 a.m. Gray Line</p>		<p>Estate residential development along eroding bluffs</p>

<p>16. 10:29 a.m. Feasby Conservation Area -24745 Gray Line</p>		<p>Feasby Conservation Area - 7.88 hectare property acquired in 2001; named after the owner who donated the site; on the north shore of Lake Erie; is managed forest with no trails or entrance; wooded Carolinian forests, fields, and a coniferous plantation support abundant wildlife.</p>
<p>17. 10:30 a.m. Gray Line</p>		<p>Bento Property - private landowner conversion of majority of his property into habitat/wetland retention ponds - Provincially Significant Wetland/Woodlot, Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan - lakeshore residential designation of lots along the lake Trans Canada Trail - West Elgin 20.81 km; Dutton/Dunwich 25.29 km; Southwold 19.59 km; walking/hiking, cycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling.</p>
<p>18. 10:38 a.m. Port Glasgow Yacht Club and Marina -8536 Havens Lake Road</p>		<p>Discussion of proposed development, sewage treatment, beach access, wetland creation, municipal sand dredging, marinas proposed replacement of the boat slips</p>
<p>30 MINUTES OFF THE BUS</p>		
<p>19. 11:08 a.m.</p>		<p>Refreshments courtesy of the Port Glasgow Yacht Club! Rest Stop.</p>
<p>11:22 a.m. Johnston Line</p>		<p>Discuss gas wells north of the 401 on Fleming Creek</p>
<p>11:23 a.m. Johnston Line</p>		<p>Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)</p>
<p>11:26 a.m. County divide between Elgin and Chatham-Kent</p>		<p>Johnston Bros. gravel pits - gravel ridge</p>






<p>22. 11:28 a.m. Middlesex County - Municipality of Southwest Middlesex</p> <p>Thames River - Clachan Road</p>  		<p>The Thames - A Canadian Heritage River - The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canadas national river conservation program; promotes, protects and enhances Canadas river heritage, and ensures that Canadas leading rivers are sustainably managed.</p> <p>Thames River - Canadas Deep South - Designated 2000 - flows 273 km through southern Ontario; flanked by rich Carolinian forest; wildlife and fish species include many that are rarely found elsewhere in Canada, such as the eastern spiny softshell turtle, queen snake, southern flying squirrel, and Virginia opossum; rich cultural heritage of the Thames is home to people for over 11,000 years; wars have been fought here, and commercial farming in Canada had its roots here; from a recreational viewpoint the Thames is also a most diverse watershed.</p>
<p>23. 11:35 a.m. Sassafras Road Thames Talbot Land Trust</p>		<p>Thames Talbot Land Trust - Bebensee Tract</p> <p>Skunks Misery/Mosa Forest Provincially Significant Wetland and Woodlot</p> <p>The Mosa Forest, locally known as Skunks Misery, is one of the larger wooded sites in the Province west of London; total area of 500 hectares; is an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, a Provincially Significant Wetland and a designated Carolinian Canada Site; Middlesex County owns the majority of the forest block, the LTVCA owns 121.3 hectares, with the remainder in private ownership; LTVCA purchased the land in three parcels - two 40.5 hectare parcels known as the Beattie Tract in 1964 and remaining 40.3 hectare parcel known as the Fennell Tract in 1988; with the assistance of the Ontario Heritage Trust. Public access is restricted to designated trails; to preserve the natural heritage features of this significant and sensitive woodlot, access beyond the trails to the remainder of the Conservation Authority forest is subject to prior approval from the LTVCA; no motorized vehicles (ATV, 4-wheel drive, jeep, etc.) are allowed within the property beyond designated parking areas, as vehicles can cause serious damage to tree root systems and other vegetation.</p>
<p>11:40 a.m. Middlesex County Road 14</p>		<p>Drainage ditch/tile, garbage, vandalism</p>

<p>11:41 a.m. Badder Memorial Forest - Middlesex County Road 14</p> 		<p>Memorial Forest Program - In partnership with the LTVCA and McKinlay and Badder Funeral Homes, friends and families dedicate trees to loved ones who have passed away by contacting the Foundation, requesting a tree donation card and making a \$40 donation for each tree; next of kin receive a certificate and an invitation to an annual memorial forest dedication service; 7 memorial forests in watershed; well over 10,000 memorial trees have been planted through this program; 4 annual dedication services held.</p>
<p>11:42 a.m. Wardsville - Longwoods Road Thames Talbot Land Trust</p> 		<p>Barn Quilt Trail - Barn quilt trails use colourful, decorative murals based on quilt block designs as markers to signal historical and other points of interest; are painted on an eight foot square wooden frame hung on the side of a barn or farm building or set on free standing posts; all of the trails are accessible by car or bicycle; LTVCA sponsored a Thames River and Lighthouse quilt block yet to be hung; also one located at the entrance of Longwoods Road Conservation Area.</p>
<p>11:44 a.m. Big Bend Conservation Area -21239 Big Bend Road</p>		<p>Big Bend Conservation Area - 16 hectare property was acquired in 1964; also a 20 hectare field leased out on an annual basis as agricultural land; an archaeological site located here; a boat launch, memorial forest, picnic shelter, group and family camping, hiking, fishing for yellow perch and pickerel; a serviced washroom building with showers; an effective use of floodplain lands; Carolinian Life Zone trees; one of the largest meanders of the Thames River.</p>
<p>11:56 a.m. Longwoods Road</p>		<p>Newbiggen Creek and Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)</p>

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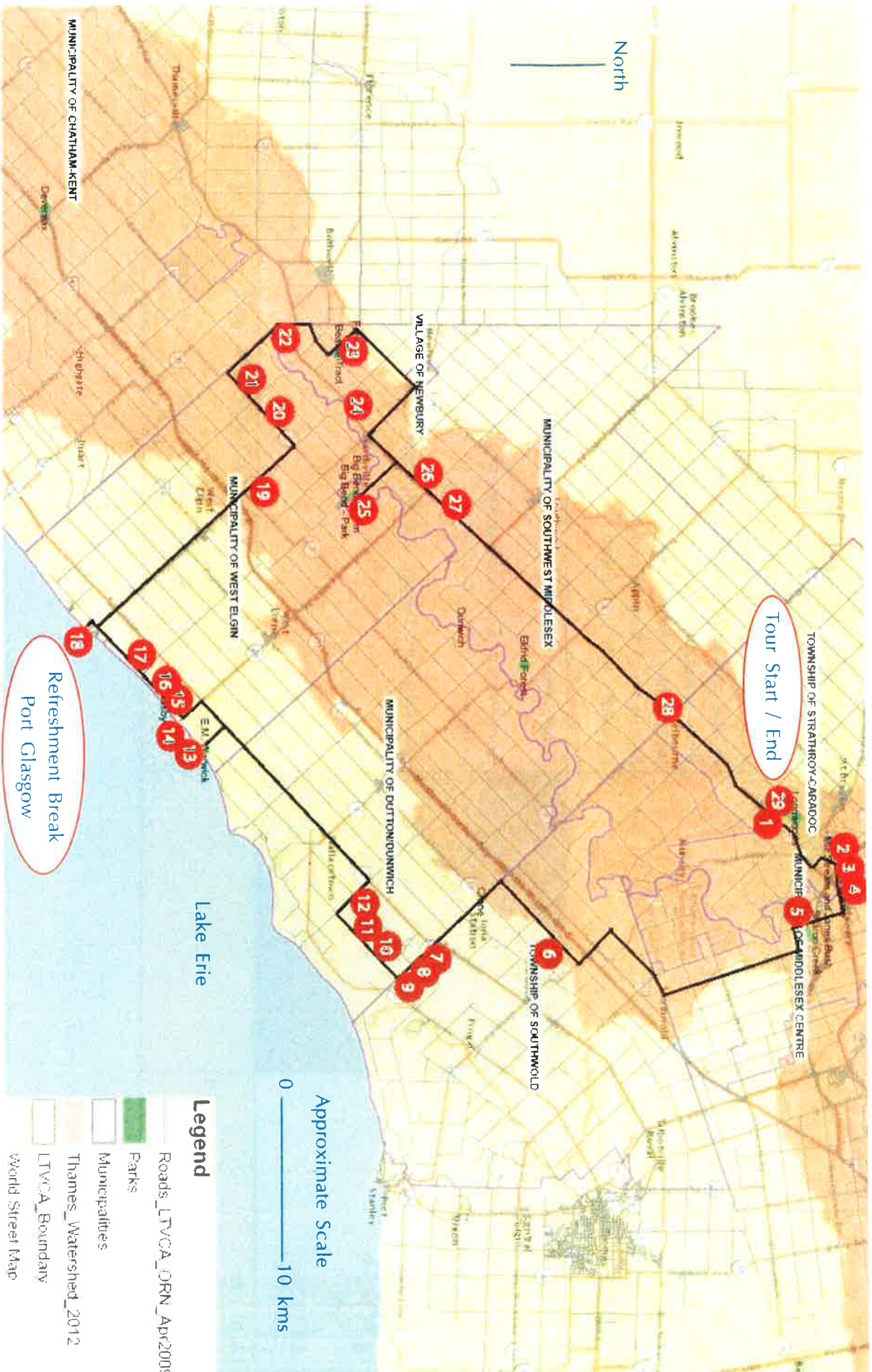
25.

26.

<p>27. 11:59 a.m. Longwoods Road</p>		<p>Cairn - Battle of Longwoods</p>
<p>28. 12:11 p.m. Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc Village of Melbourne -Longwoods Road</p> 		<p>Chippewas First Nation</p> <p>Thames River Clearwater Revival - is a partnership initiative that aims to improve the health of the Thames River, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie; first step is to develop a Water Management Plan that focuses on issues related to water quantity and water quality; the broader Thames Revival will consider all the interactions of land, water, plants, animals and people in the Thames River watershed; key goal of the Thames Revival is to encourage the active participation from First Nations who have traditional stewardship and spiritual ties to the Thames River and can provide valuable expertise and knowledge for the work that lies ahead.</p>
<p>29. 12:17 p.m. Longwoods Road Conservation Area - 8348 Longwoods Road (County Road 2)</p> 		<p>Longwoods Road Conservation Area (detailed brochure available at lunch)</p> <p>Conservation Education programs, nature trails, Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail</p> <p>Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum</p>
<p>12:20 p.m. Parking lot - Longwoods Road Conservation Area - 8348 Longwoods Road</p> <p>Thanks for joining us on the Watershed East Tour! Lunch is served! Wagon ride park tour and Directors meeting to follow.</p>		

LTVCA Watershed East Bus Tour Route

Thursday June 25, 2015



LTVCA Watershed West Tour Directions/Speakers' Notes June 25, 2015 - Don can add to any of the following

TIME	DRIVING DIRECTIONS	TOPICS, SPEAKERS AND SPEAKERS' NOTES
1. 8:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bus leaves Longwoods Road Conservation Area parking lot towards Longwoods Road (hwy.2) - turn left (east) at park entrance and drive to Gibson Road - turn left (north) onto Gibson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agnes/Bonnie - nametags, tour books - welcome by John Kavelaars and Don Pearson - Middlesex County - Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc (Ron Doane to speak at the end of the tour) - welcome special guests, Directors and staff - discuss overview of the tour - planned rest stop - time of return for lunch
2. 8:39 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slow drive past Mill Stream Conservation area to Hwy. 81 (Adelaide) - turn right onto Adelaide/hwy.81 (might have long wait at bridge - make up the time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bonnie to speak about Mill Stream Conservation Area
3. 8:44 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pull over at bank failure for 5 minutes - continue on to Longwoods Road (hwy.2) and turn left (east) onto hwy.2 (might have long wait at bridge - make up the time) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jason/Don - to speak about bank failure, house removed, CA watershed boundary adjustment between UTRCA and LTVCA
4. 8:47 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drive slow past Delaware Conservation Area and through Delaware - turn right (south) at top of hill onto Springer Road towards Sharon Creek CA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Middlesex County - Municipality of Middlesex Centre - Director Michelle Smibert to say a few words? - Bonnie/Don - talk about Delaware Conservation Area as we drive by it
5. 8:57 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drive through gate at Sharon Creek CA - turn around above the amphitheatre (approximately 10 minutes but this can be shortened if we are behind in time) - leave park and turn left onto Springer Road (south) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael to be there to open gate and close gate - Bonnie - general overview Sharon Creek CA - tallgrass prairie, partnerships - London Canoe Club, FOSSC, memorial forest, - Randall/Greg - prairie maintenance- - Don - issues - rope swings and vandalism

9:10 a.m.	- brief stop at morning glory spillway -drive slow to Thames Valley Trail sign on right	- Jason - talk about Springer Lake reservoir, morning glory spillway
9:12 a.m.	-brief stop to see part of the Thames Valley Trail -continue on to Sharon Road and turn left (east) -turn right (south) onto Carriage Road -right (west) onto Southdale Drive -turn right (west) onto 2nd Line (second road south) -turn left (south) onto Union Road (County Rd 20) -over 401, turn right (west) onto 4th Line	- Bonnie/Stan Caveney? - to speak about the Thames Valley Trail and link to the Elgin Trail - Karen to speak about local First Nations Communities - Oneida and Muncey - entering Elgin County - Southwold Township - Director Gayle Bogart?
6. 9:30 a.m.	- drive slowly past Emons project on left -turn left (south) onto Iona Road	- Val - overview of the Elgin Clean Water Program, Sarah Emons wetland pond creation -testimonial
7. 9:36 a.m.	-cross over Talbot Trail (hwy.3)	- township divide between Southwold and Dutton/Dunwich - Bonnie to speak about Crane Conservation Area - Dr. Crane and arboretum - Don to comment
8. 9:43 a.m.	-cross over the Talbot Creek	- Don to comment on furthest east subwatershed - Jess to speak about benthic sampling at this site
9. 9:46 a.m.	- drive by Southwold Earthworks on left -turn right (west) onto Erin Line	- Karen to speak about the Southwold Earthworks - entering Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich - Director Dan McKillop?

get off bus refreshments and / or tour

staff or guest speaking

change in municipality

10.	9:49 a.m.	-continue on Erin Line west	- drive by Camp Timkins - Val - speak about project funding through LTVCA to help offset costs of constructing ponds for water retention (Elgin Stewardship cost-share) - Jason - speak about ground water monitoring station on the right at the Van Brenk Orchards (they sell 300k trees across Canada)
11.	9:50 a.m.	-continue on Erin Line west -turn right (north) onto Willey Road	- Val - to speak about the Van Raay Elgin Clean Water Project on the right - wetland/water retention ponds - entering Municipality of West Elgin - Director Jonathon Wolfe?? - Jason/Don/Val speak about the Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan being undertaken by the County, Municipalities and the 4 CA's
12.	9:55 a.m.	-head north on Willey Road	- Val - to speak about the Van Raay Elgin Clean Water Project on the right - wetland/water retention ponds - entering Municipality of West Elgin - Director Jonathon Wolfe?? - Jason/Don/Val speak about the Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan being undertaken by the County, Municipalities and the 4 CA's
13.	10:06 a.m.	-turn left onto Talbot Trail -continue towards E.M. Warwick CA -turn left onto McKillop Side Road	-open gate - Bonnie to speak on E.M. Warwick Conservation Area - Don - comments
14.	10:16 a.m.	-leave E.M. Warwick CA and turn right (north) onto McKillop Side Road -turn left (west) onto Talbot Trail -turn left (south) onto Graham Road	- Jason/Don - to speak -about Elgin Water treatment plant as we drive by - Jason/Don - to speak about Elgin Water Intake issues and source water protection
15.	10:27 a.m.	-drive to end of Graham Road and turn bus around -turn left (west) onto Gray Line	- Val to speak about estate residential development along eroding bluffs

get off bus refreshments and / or tour

staff or guest speaking

change in municipality

16.	10:29 a.m.	-continue on Gray Line	- Bonnie to speak about Feasby - Don - comments
17.	10:30 a.m.	-continue on Gray Line	- Val to speak about Bento property - private landowner conversion of majority of his property into habitat/wetland retention ponds - talk about the Provincially Significant Wetland/Woodlot topic, maybe continuation of ECSMP, Lakeshore Residential designation of these lots along the lake - Stan Caveney to speak about TLLT property?? - Bonnie to speak about Trans Canada Trail
18.	10:38 a.m.	-enter Port Glasgow -cross road and turn left (south) onto Haven's Lake Road to marina	- Valerie/Jason to discuss proposed development, sewage treatment, beach access, wetland creation, municipal sand dredging, marina's proposed replacement of the boat slips
			- coffee, timbits, washroom break
19.	11:08 a.m.	-leave marina and turn right (east) onto Gray Line -turn left (north) onto Furnival Road	- someone to talk about the gas wells north of the 401 on Fleming Creek
20.	11:22 a.m.	-turn left (west) onto Johnston Line	- Jess/Jason to speak about Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program
21.	11:23 a.m.	-continue on Johnston Line	-Johnston Bros. gravel pits - someone to talk about the gravel ridge left behind after the last glaciation retreat, area of high sand and gravel deposits (watershed dividing line??)
			- County divide between Elgin and Chatham-Kent
22.	11:26 a.m.	-turn right (north) onto Clachan Road	
	11:28 a.m.	- cross the Thames River	- Bonnie/Don talk about the Thames - A Canadian Heritage River - crossing into Middlesex County and entering the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex - Chair John Kavelaars to speak?

get off bus refreshments and / or tour

staff or guest speaking

change in municipality

11:31 a.m.	-turn right (east) on Trillium Drive	
11:35 a.m.	-turn left (north) onto Sassafras Road	- Stan to talk about the Thames Talbot Land Trust Bebensee Tract, start of Skunk's Misery/Mosa Forest Provincially Significant Wetland and Woodlot
11:40 a.m.	-turn right (east) onto County Road 14	- Val - to speak about the drainage ditch/tile, garbage, vandalism
11:41 a.m.	-continue on Cty.Rd.14 and drive by the Badder Memorial Forest	- Bonnie - to speak about the memorial forest program
11:42 a.m.	-drive by Middlesex County Forest -turn right (south) onto Dogwood Road -turn left (east) onto Longwoods Road towards Wardsville	- Stan to speak about Wardsville Woods and the TTLT
11:44 a.m.	-turn right (south) onto Big Bend Road	- Karen to speak about the Barn Quilt Trail - handout booklets? - <i>we can hang the Longwoods Barn Quilt up in the pavilion during lunch</i> - Karen to speak about the archaeological site before entering Big Bend Conservation Area - Bonnie to speak about memorial forest
11:47 a.m.	-enter Big Bend Conservation Area and head to boat ramp and then onto the campground	- Bonnie to speak about Big Bend Conservation Area - flood prone area, majority of site naturalized, wetland ponds, only major access point to the Thames River by small boats between London and Delaware - Don - comments
11:53 a.m.	-leave Big Bend Conservation Area -turn left (north) onto Big Bend Road	
11:56 a.m.	-turn right (east) onto Longwoods Road	- Jess/Jason to speak about Newbiggen Creek and WQP site

get off bus refreshments and / or tour

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change in municipality

27.	11:59 a.m.	-continue on Longwoods Road past Battle of Longwoods Cairn	- Karen - to speak about the Battle of Longwoods significance, War of 1812, Chippewas First Nation
28.	12:11 p.m.	-drive through Melbourne	- Jason to speak about the Thames River Clearwater Revival - entering the Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc - Director Ron Doan to speak?
29.	12:17 p.m.	-arrive at entrance to Longwoods Road Conservation Area	- Bonnie - quick overview - Jerry - education programs, trails, Carolinian arboretum - Karen - Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum
	12:20 p.m.	-arrive in parking lot	- Don to lead up to the afternoon schedule - lunch is served at 12:30 at the pavilion followed by a wagon ride tour of the park including Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Resource Centre, Directors meeting at 2 p.m. sharp back at pavilion

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change in municipality

Valerie Towsley

From: Emons <sarahemons@hotmail.com>
Sent: June-18-15 9:44 AM
To: Valerie Towsley
Subject: Re: 35507 Fourth Line - ECWProject
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.tiff

Hi Valerie,

It is with much gratitude that I write to tell you how our restoration project is coming along.

Over the course of last summer the ponds slowly filled, and have maintained their water level since last fall, with normal variations due to weather. This spring we sprayed, prepped the soil using cultivators and harrows and seeded down the native prairie mix from Elgin Stewardship Council. There is lots of germination, although for the first year I know that some of this is of course weeds. We also planted Silky Dogwood along the borders of the ponds in order to provide wildlife cover in the future. Several hundred White Spruce were planted as a windrow along the border of the project and our hay field this spring, as well as around 50 Bur Oak and Silver Maple.

We have observed many species of wildlife use the new ponds already:

Mallard Ducks
Great Blue Heron
Canada Geese
Tundra Swans
Sandpiper (spp.?) (Definitely not a Killdeer, but could not determine species)
Killdeer

Leopard Frog
Wood Frog
Eastern Newt
Crayfish

Many, many species of larval macroinvertebrates, observed during children's dipnetting
Many species of Lepidoptera, including Monarch butterflies pupating on existing milkweed

Deer
Coyote
Raccoon
Muskrat

Although this is a small project, we feel it has greatly benefited our property and the surrounding landscape:

1. Capturing precipitation and runoff, leading to improved groundwater recharge and less downstream flooding.
2. Providing wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitat allows for a greater biodiversity, which improves my farm with beneficial insects (pollinators, predacious insects and decomposers), beneficial birds (insectivores particularly) and amphibians (also insectivores). I also feel that having wild places for nuisance wildlife to live (such as coyotes) actually decreases the chance that they will be bothering my animals. We take precautions such as electric fencing and a livestock guardian dog, but I think in the big picture there are more troubles with nuisance wildlife as we increasingly develop the wild places that are their homes.

3. The restoration project provides a beautiful place for my children and their friends to appreciate, discover and learn about nature. Their favourite activity right now is dipnetting, and this morning we had a conversation (initiated by them) on pond food webs. This is important as children are increasingly disconnected from nature, and are suffering both mentally and physically because of it.

Although this project is small, it is the sort of project we could initiate on every farm which would completely change the way our landscape functions in terms of hydrology (flooding/groundwater recharge/nutrient management) and biodiversity. These projects improve resiliency in our communities and across the landscape and are an important part of sustainable living.

Before/during excavation:





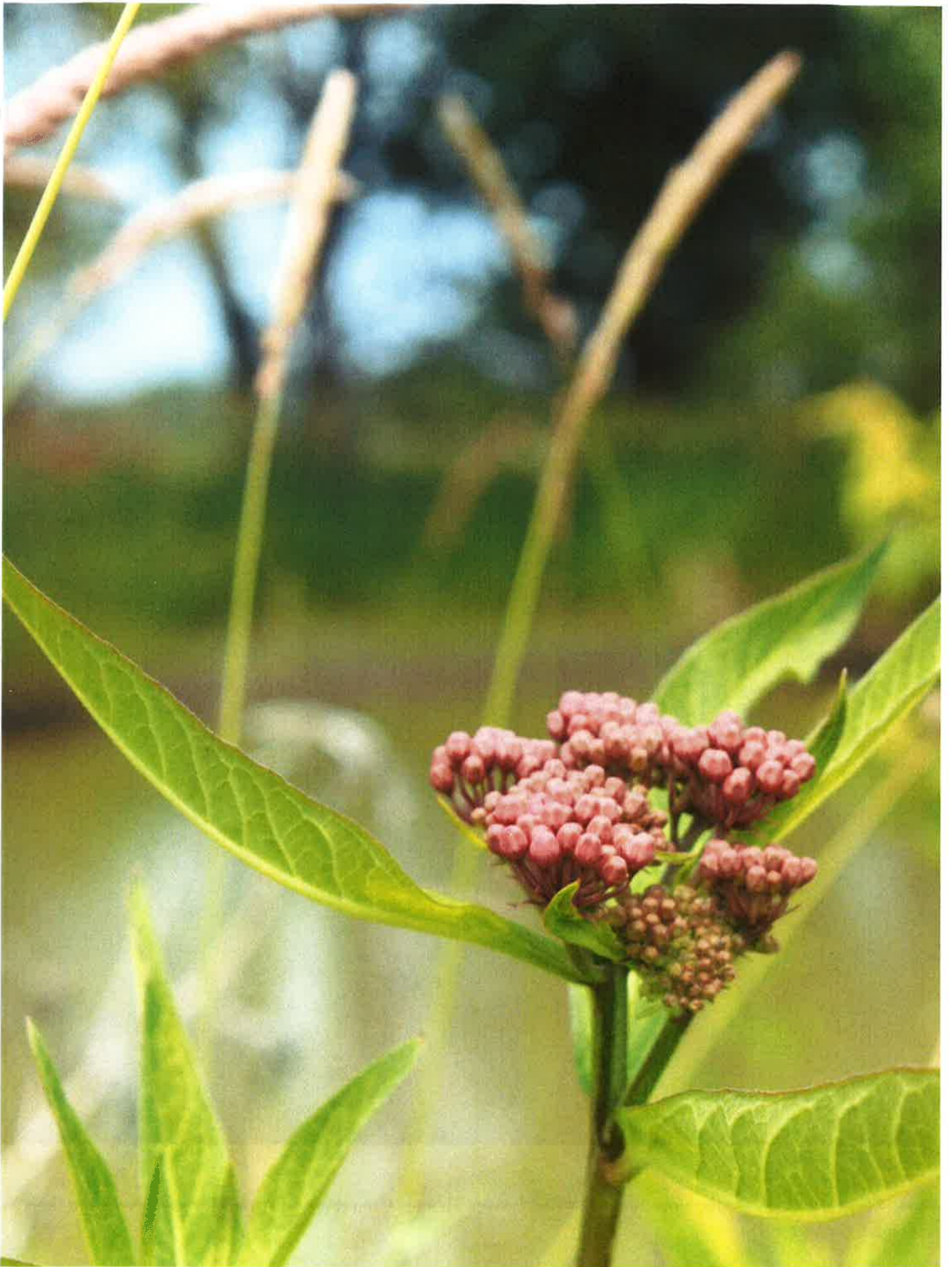




The first year:









Thank you very much for the time and effort that Lower Thames Conservation Authority has devoted to their stewardship program!