

2016

GREENING PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership toward the *greening* of Chatham-Kent

FALL EDITION

The Greening Partnership is an agreement between The Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRC), to green our municipality through tree plantings, tallgrass prairie, and wetland restoration.



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NATURAL HERITAGE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ANALYSIS

Reforestation area was up by approximately 100 acres in 2016. We have completed the five year analysis of forested area within Chatham-Kent. The comparison showed a 0.04% decrease in forested area on private lands. This equates to 299 acres and does not include reforestation areas. Reforestation over the same five year period increased by 527 acres or 0.08% natural cover. See subsequent report (Chatham-Kent Forest Cover Analysis—2010-2015) for more detail.

PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC SPACES

TD tree days were held in September at Stranak Park in Dresden. 150 trees were planted by 25 volunteers.



Family volunteers at TD tree days event—Stranak Park Dresden

WHAT THE GREENING PARTNERSHIP'S BEEN UP TO

Tomorrows Greener Schools Today

For the second consecutive year the LTVCA has partnered with Chatham-Kent Public Health to provide trees to plant in school yards. In October, 137 large trees were requested by local schools. The program is called Tomorrows Greener Schools Today. This was a skin cancer prevention initiative. Local businesses were awarded 6 trees as well as a pilot for a Greener Businesses model, expanding the program. For 2017 there are plans to create an education awareness film for school presentations. There are also potential grant funds for more promotion of the program.

WETLANDS

Nineteen more wetlands have been constructed/restored over the summer of 2016 in Chatham-Kent. This brings the Greening Partnership total to just over 50 sites in the past three years. Some of these sites included intense phragmites control measures.



Natvik wetland underway

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A number of grant opportunities have become available for 2017. Staff are preparing applications for submission diligently. Below is a list of current opportunities:

SARSF – submitted for continuation of a body to work with drainage, reptiles, buffers recovery.

GLGCF – submitted for landowner project (Simpson or Wilson)

WWF – submitting for funding for Tree of the Year Program

RFCPP – submitting in partnership with Ducks Unlimited

LSHRP – submitted for corridor linkages and building core areas near Clear Creek Forest.

WHC – submitted for further wetland program funds.

HSP – Full application submitted for Lower Thames Valley species recovery of the Acadian Fly Catcher and stewardship funding gaps.

A grant to the Chatham-Kent Community Foundation/South-Kent Wind was submitted for assistance with a Canoe Trail through Chatham on the Thames River. The funds will be to acquire appropriate signage for canoeists. The signage and method of installation is modelled after the Saugeen River canoe trail. This is a partnership between the LTVCA and Chatham-Kent Parks and Open Spaces.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Merlin Public School will be awarded the Greening Partnership Award for efforts toward an outdoor classroom.



Koopman wetland after first year of establishment



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WHAT THE GREENING PARTNERSHIP'S BEEN UP TO

"FARM TO COAST" BUS TOUR

The LTVCA hosted the "Farm to Coast" annual stewardship bus tour in Chatham-Kent on Sep-



Blake Vince Speaking at the LTVCA "Farm to Coast Tour" about Soil Health, No-Till Farming, and Cover Crops

tember 22nd. The tour provided local landowners and project funders with the opportunity to visit and learn about restoration projects that have been occurring throughout the watershed. These projects included seedling plantings, windbreaks, native prairie grasslands, wetlands and phosphorus reduction research initiatives. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to tour the GLASI Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed and see how LTVCA staff, in partnership with local farmers, are assessing and monitoring the effectiveness of agricultural best management at reducing farm sourced phosphorus loading. A soil pit was excavated at Blake Vince's farm, to demonstrate the benefits that a no-till and multi-species cover crop system can offer to a producers overall soil health and soil resiliency to phosphorus transportation.

Approximately 35 people attended the "Farm to Coast" bus tour. Additionally, the bus tour received significant media attention, with multiple articles released in the Chatham Daily News regarding topics discussed on the tour. The LTVCA would like to thank Jeff Jack, Blake Vince, Peter Roberts (OMAFRA), and Rob Buchanan for speaking throughout the bus tour event.

STEWARDSHIP DATABASE

The stewardship department has implemented a database system for more convenient project tracking, reporting, and invoicing. We are currently making minor adjustments to ensure accuracy. We are starting to use it for 2017 projects.

HERITAGE TREES

"A Living History- Heritage Trees of Chatham-Kent" was a success. The 45 minute documentary which features local citizens was screened at the Chatham Cultural Centre, with over 115 people attending. The fund raiser gala afterward raised \$4,000. These funds will go toward tree planting in CK and support local artist Lorraine Roy.



Return on Investment: The Greening Partnership has a proven track record of providing roughly 3 dollars into restoration for every dollar invested by Chatham-Kent.

WHAT THE GREENING PARTNERSHIP'S BEEN UP TO

AGRICULTURAL BMPs, RESEARCH, & MONITORING

GLASI Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed Project Update

Monitoring:

The GLASI Jeannette's Creek Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction and Monitoring Program remains in the monitoring and implementation phase. The majority of monitoring network in the study area is now operational and is continually collecting rainfall, climate, and water quality data. The field scale monitoring stations still require some instrumentation, however the LTVCA anticipates the 8 edge of field water quality sampling plots will be fully operational by the end of October.

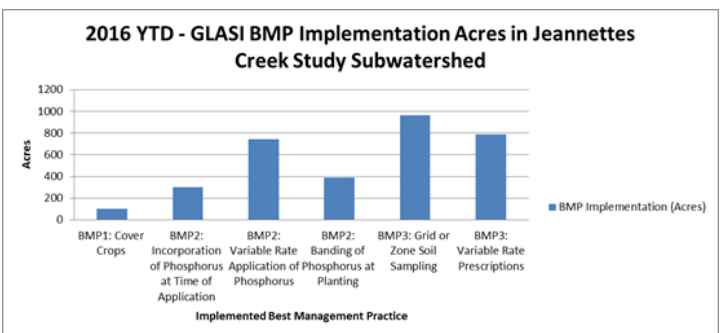


ISCO Water Quality Auto-Sampler at Boudreau Pump Station located in the Jeannettes Creek subwatershed

Water quality sampling has been limited this fall for the GLASI project, as there have been few significant rain events in the Jeannettes Creek study region. Auto-motivated samplers will continue to operate and sample throughout the study area as rain events occur this fall.

BMP Implementation:

Farmer participation and agricultural best management practice (BMP) adoption through the project continued to increase this fall. Year to date, approximately 39 BMPs have been implemented, covering a total of 1431 acres of agricultural land in the study subwatershed. The below chart illustrates the total acreage of BMP implementation for each adopted program BMP for the year of 2016.



GLASI Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed Project: BMP Implementation 2016 YTD

This Fall, 3 new best management practices have been introduced to the GLASI Jeannettes Creek cost-share program in an attempt to increase adoption levels with local farmers and reduce agriculturally sourced phosphorus loads. Applications for the new BMPs will be available to eligible landowners this fall. Below are the new Program BMPs:

- Machinery and Tillage Modifications
- Buffer Strips
- Drainage and Water Management