

Working in partnership toward the greening of Chatham-Kent



SUMMER 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 (SCRCA), to green our municipality through tree plantings, tallgrass prairie, and wetland restoration.

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NATURAL HERITAGE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC AREAS

Enbridge hosted an appreciation ground breaking ceremony for the 140 acre restoration project at Clear Creek. This project is being completed by the Greening Partnership over a 2 year span and includes 3 wetlands and reforestation.

Your Roots are Always in CK is an initiative sponsored by the Health Unit of Chatham-Kent and accomplished by the Greening Partnership and Community Attraction & Promotion from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The program sponsors a graduating class to plant a tree in their name within the community. This year the strategy was to plant the trees along many of our public trails including:

Blenheim B-Fit Trail
Mud Creek Trail (x2)
The Landings Trail
Pain Court Pathway
Dresden Trillium Trail
TREES Memorial Trail (x2)
Kingston Park Trail
Odette & Memorial Parkway
Community Services Pathway
MacDonald Park Trail

This year 14 classes planted a tree in their graduating year.

The Greening Partnership along with the Chatham Horticulture Society had a successful "Tree of the Year" program. The Greening Partnership gave out 1000 sugar maples to very happy landowners from CK. There was great interest to continue this program next year.

Additionally, 800 Carolinian species were planted in April in public green space, cemeteries, and roadsides.

Partners and donors include:

Union Gas
Scribendi Editing
Community Volunteers
TD Friends of the Environment
Truly Green Farms (Cedarline Greenhouses)
Ontario Parks
Waste and recycling services – Municipality of CK
Public Works – Municipality of CK
Parks and Open Spaces – Municipality of CK

CHATHAM OFFICE PARKING LOT

As part of the RBC Blue Water grant, the LTVCA Chatham Administration Office parking area received a renovation. A low impact development was incorporated to control and improve the quality of storm water runoff. Carolinian species were planted to enhance the riparian area around the office.

WHAT THE GREENING PARTNERSHIP BEEN UP TO

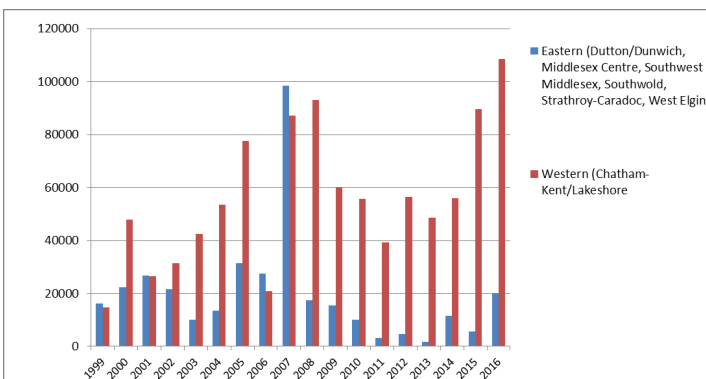
TREE PLANTING

The planting season was successful with the help of strong organizational skills from Amanda Blain. Weather, and despite the larger than average number of trees, the season finished on time. This year we rented a tractor from Furlan Bros. which was more efficient for site to site planting.



Amanda Blain, a land stewardship technician with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, shows off one of the several thousand Jack Pines planted in an area near Thamesville

LTVCA did not have to involve the dump truck with float, which saved considerable wear and tear. Staff time was gained by not having to attach, detach, load, transport and unload the tractor daily. Special thanks to those who participated and assisted with getting the trees in the ground... Paul, Ben, Brandon, Jen, Kirsten, Emily, Amanda, Colin, Randall, Mike, and Greg.



Comparison of East and West Sales from 1999-2016

The Land Stewardship Technician and the Environmental Project Coordinator attended the annual Post Plant meeting with Forests Ontario. Technical information was shared and key take home items were promotional campaign resources and public education on forestry.

WETLANDS

With the end of tree planting season and dry weather, wetland excavations have resumed with additional funding acquired from Wildlife Habitat Canada \$30,000.



Gutoski wetland being excavated

SPECIES AT RISK (SAR) FUND

The proposal for Species at Risk mitigation measures as they relate to municipal drains and clean outs has been drafted and submitted to CK Drainage Superintendents for final review and submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Unfavorable weather conditions caused delays with the Phragmites control program earlier in 2016, herbicide applications should commence during the summer months.

Tallgrass prairie planting was completed on June 14 and 15, 2016 using a private contractor and coordinated by Lindsay Bennett. Approximately 34 acres were seeded on 8 properties and an additional 4 acres were planted using hydro seeding methods along drainage ditches. Focus for the summer will include increasing drainage buffer numbers for the second year of Eco Action funding, wetland restoration and SAR research along drainage ditches.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO

GREENING PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Delaware First Nations have been a significant stewardship partner in the community. Recently they have completed 20 acres of reforestation and prairie. In addition they have opened an interpretive trail along the Thames River that is approximately 2km long and is open to the public. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the future!



Chief Peters accepts the Greening Partnership Environmental Award at the LTVCA Annual General Meeting

C.M. WILSON CONSERVATION AREA

The C.M. Wilson Fish Habitat Improvement Project was approved by the MNRF's Land Stewardship & Habitat Restoration Program for \$19,000 to complete wetland improvements.



C.M. Wilson bridge in the process of being removed for earthen structure which is low maintenance and less liability.



*Greening Partnership Team
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GREENING PARTNERSHIP*Working in partnership toward the greening of Chatham-Kent***LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL 2016**

1. Advancing the promotional campaign with Forests Ontario
2. Summer Bus Tour
3. Devising a more efficient database for project handling
4. Scheduling talks and presentations to community groups
5. Planning phase ii of the Enbridge 140 acre restoration at Clear Creek

Many thanks to our generous sponsors and stakeholders who were involved in local conservation efforts

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Patrick Rivers—Environment Canada
Ontario Power Generation
Rotary Club of Chatham
Sara Pegg—Scribendi Editing
Sun Media News
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
The Ridgeway Independent
Forests Ontario
Union Gas, a Spectra Energy Company
Wheatley Blenheim News Tribune
Chatham Daily News
Chatham Kent Community Foundation

Jim Blake— The Chatham Voice
Chatham This Week
Darrell Randell - Ducks Unlimited Canada
Enbridge
Environment Canada
GDF Suez
Great Lakes Guardian Fund
Kent Federation of Agriculture
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Two Creeks Association