

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

“for a balanced and healthy watershed”

2017 Highlights

Our values, programs, trends & challenges



ABOUT US

Our Vision

The LTVCA...for
a balanced &
healthy
watershed

Our Mission

Leading by example
in environmental
protection in
partnership with
the community

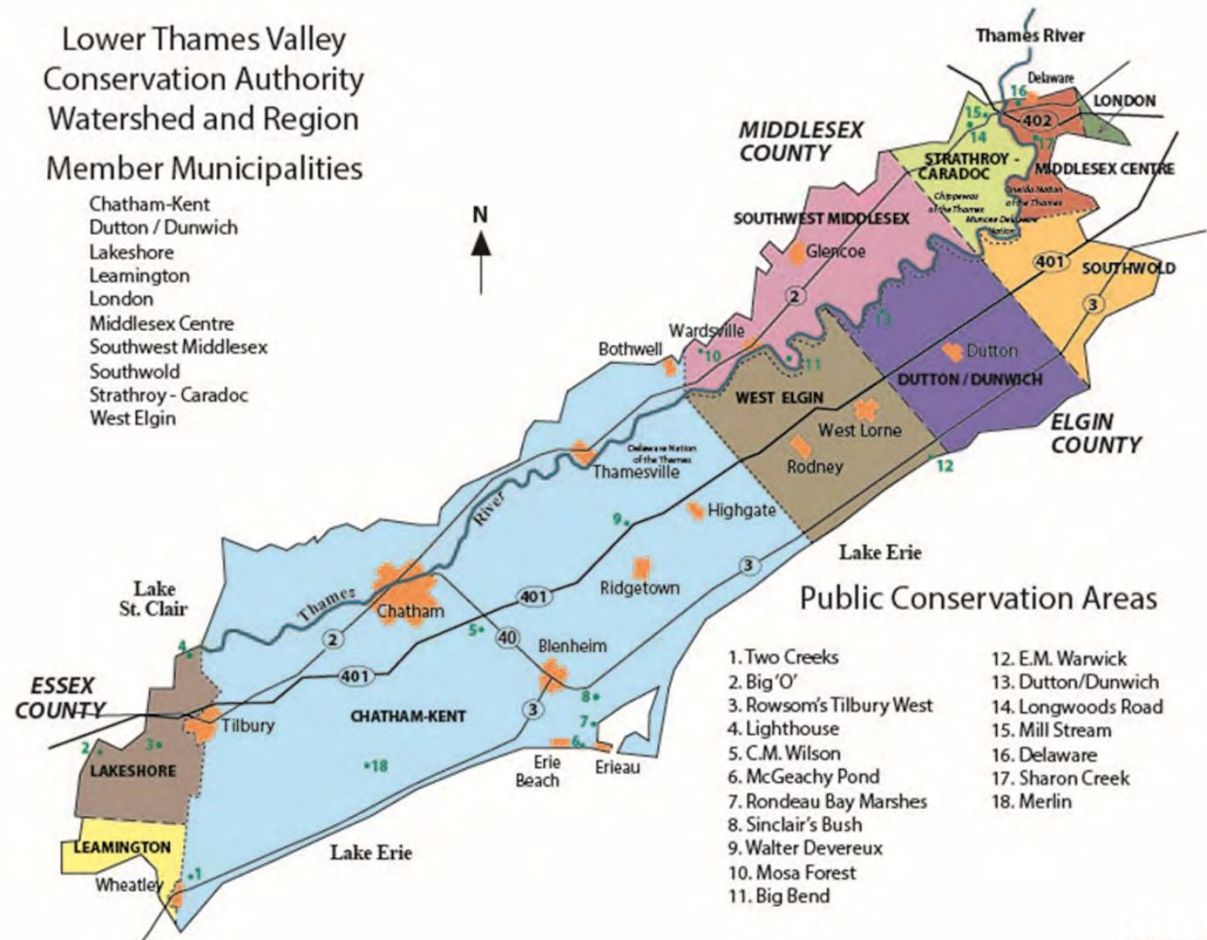
Our Core Values

Respect, integrity,
commitment, objectivity, &
collaboration



OUR AREA OF JURISDICTION

- 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 & is home to over 120,000 people



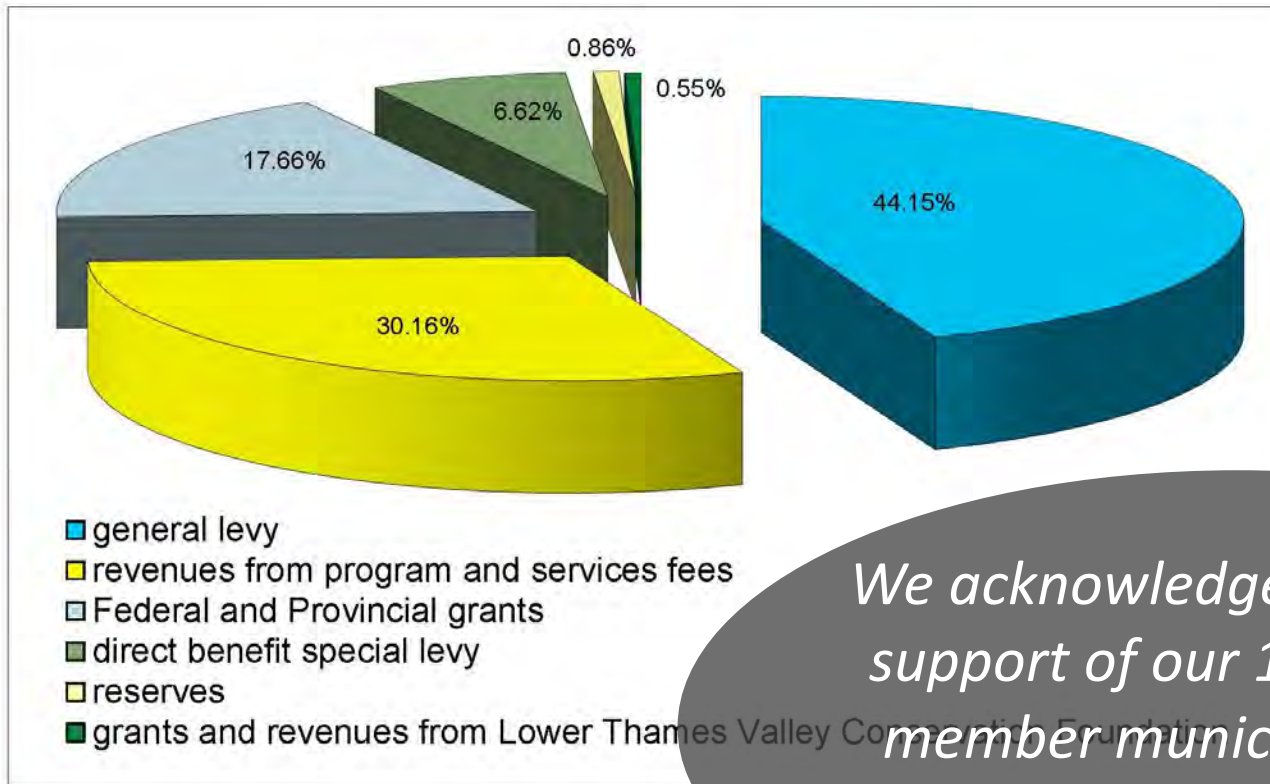
OUR DIRECTORS & MUNICIPALITIES

- **Linda McKinlay (Chair) – Town of Lakeshore**
- Hilda MacDonald (Vice-Chair) – Municipality of Leamington
- Gayle Bogart – Township of Southwold
- Stanley Caveney – City of London
- Ron Doane – Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- John Kavelaars – Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
- Leon Leclair – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Dan McKillop – Municipality of Dutton Dunwich
- Steve Pinsonneault – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Michelle Smibert – Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Trevor Thompson – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Jonathan Wolf – Municipality of West Elgin



Linda McKinlay– Chair

\$ BUDGET \$



We acknowledge the financial support of our 10 watershed member municipalities, our many granting partners and dedicated volunteers!

LTVCA's budget of \$3,097,028 received approval in February

LTVCA STAFF



*Don Pearson –
General Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer
2013 - 2017*



*Mark Peacock –
General Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer
December 2017 to present*

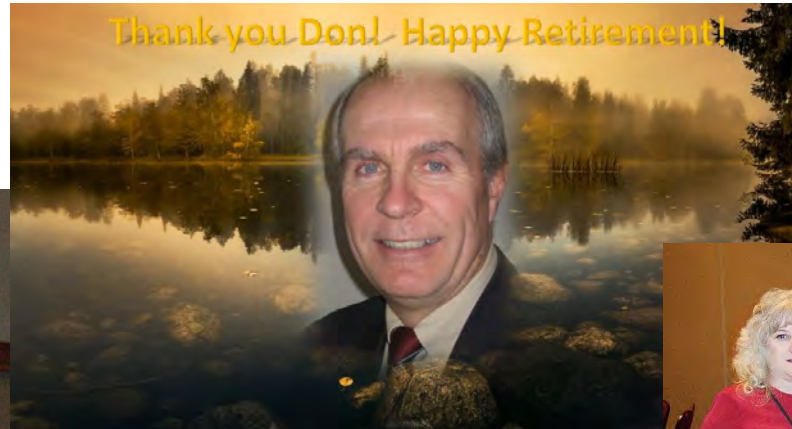
Welcome
Mark ! 😊

24 full-time
23 seasonal/part-time



<https://goo.gl/images/dghqQv>

Thank you & Best Wishes Don!



December 15
A "Surprise"
Retirement
Celebration!

And Best Wishes Russ and Dave!



Russ Dysarz
Western
District
Supervisor

Dave Little
Eastern
District
Supervisor

Retirement
After 40 years!
Enjoy



PRIORITIES

- Protecting life & property
- Protecting drinking water sources
- Enhancing watershed health
- Stepping into nature
- Partnering with the community



PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Water Management

Conservation Authorities are on the front lines of the **Provincial Flood Forecasting & Warning Program**, & undertake floodplain mapping; modeling; monitor streamflow, rainfall & snowpacks; issue warnings; acquire floodplain lands & flood vulnerable structures; & operate dams, dykes, channels & erosion control structures.



*May 5, 2017
Diversion Channel
and Thames River
in Chatham*

PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Water Management

- **Flood Forecasting & Warning**

- no significant ice cover, melt event in January
- Indian/McGregor Creek Diversion Channel operated 3 times last year
- High levels on L. Erie and strong winds created frequent flooding

41

flood bulletins
issued



McGregor Creek Flooding



Lake Erie Flooding

PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Water Management

- **Watershed in low water condition till March, again in fall**
 - triggered if there is between 60% & 80% of the long term average rainfall over the last 3 or 18 month period, or if river flows are between 50% & 70% of the lowest average summer month flow

Low Water Status



Low Water Level 1

PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Water Management

- **Binational Phosphorus Reduction Targets for Lake Erie**
 - Western and central Lake Erie, Thames River identified as a priority watershed that need to see a 40% reduction in dissolved phosphorus & total spring loadings
 - LTVCA engaged in consultation & early actions to reduce phosphorous loadings and to help develop the Draft Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan



Blue-green algae bloom on Thames in Chatham - September

PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Water Management



32

Provincial water
quality monitoring
sites operated

- **Provincial water quality monitoring sites**
 - monitoring conducted at nine groundwater wells & 11 stream (surface) water locations for water quality indicators - dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature & nutrients with analyses such as e-coli, metals & pesticides at select locations
 - A Canada – Ontario Agreement grant added 11 more surface water locations and winter sampling
 - results used towards grades reported in the Watershed Report Card

PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Water Management

- **Benthic Monitoring**

- sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates (*insects, worms & crustaceans that live at the bottom of the stream*) continued with the partnership with the Biology Department at the University of Windsor
- sampling helps us to better understand where to target stewardship projects in areas of greatest need



PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Water Management

- **Thames River Clearwater Revival**

- multi-agency partnership to improve the Thames
- drafting recommendations and action items for improving water quantity and quality
- CA continues to be involved in supporting the Antler River Guardians from the 4 Directions: First Nation Youth Stewardship Program



PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Land Use Planning & Regulations

To maintain the vitality of our watersheds & protect peoples' lives and property from flooding & erosion, Conservation Authorities administer the **Conservation Authorities Act & its regulations**.



*Erie Shore Drive
August 4, 2017*



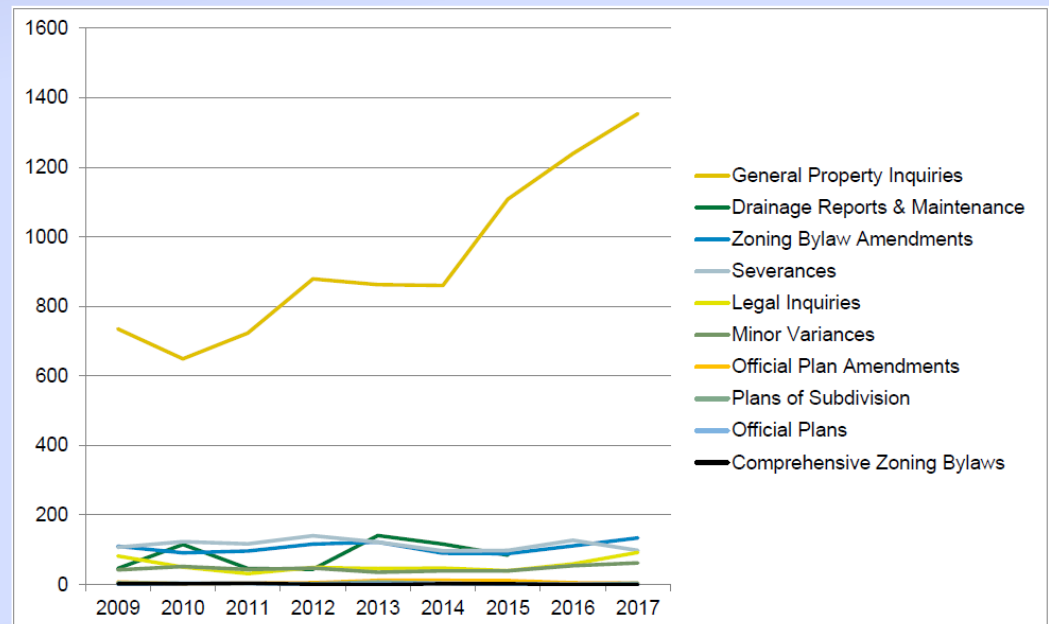
PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Land Use Planning & Regulations

- **Municipal Plan Input & Review**

- 271 applications under Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation (Section 28)
- Provided 1,748 plan input and review services for our municipalities

2,019
regulatory &
municipal plan
review services



Starting in 2016 'Drainage Reports and Maintenance' stats included in Regulation Permits Report

PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

Land Use Planning & Regulations

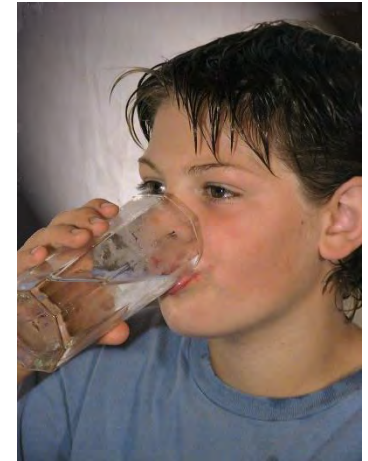
- **Planning & Regulations Policies**

- staff updated policies used for the review of municipal planning applications and private submissions for development within regulated areas under O. Reg. 152/06 of the Conservation Authorities Act
- the draft Regulations and Planning Policy and Procedure Manual addresses frequent issues and items encountered in the administration of the regulations and provincial hazard policy under the Provincial Policy Statement
- draft policy is being reviewed for comment by key municipal building and planning departments, public works and neighbouring Conservation Authorities
- It will be circulated for public review in early 2018

Erie Shore Drive



The purpose of the provincial Clean Water Act (CWA) 2006 is to protect existing & future sources of drinking water. Protecting water at the source – municipal wells & water intakes – is the first barrier in a multi-barrier approach to providing safe, clean supply of water.



Highlights of the Year

- Conservation Authority staff supported implementation of the SPP and monitored local progress
- Mr. Dean Edwardson was appointed by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) in March as the new SPC Chair, and the size of the SPC was reduced to 15 members
- UTRCA established a regional Risk Management Office for seven municipalities, including Chatham-Kent, with a service agreement to December 2020
- A website and promotional video were produced as part of an education and outreach campaign and can be viewed at www.protectingourwater.ca

ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

The responsible care of our natural resources on a watershed basis is essential to balancing human & economic needs against the needs of our natural environment. Conservation Authorities have a long history working with landowners in the planning & delivery of watershed stewardship initiatives.

Staff provide opportunities for local projects, which protect & restore species & habitats, encourage a sense of ownership of environmental rehabilitation efforts, & protect our water resources.



ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

30

Stewardship Partners

Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Oneida Nation of the Thames
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Eelūnaapéewi Lahkēewiit First Nation
Wildlife Preservation Canada
TD Canada Trust
Union Gas
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association
Forests Ontario
OMNRF
OMNRF Species At Risk Stewardship Fund
OMAFRA
MOECC
MTO
Environment Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Ontario Power Generation
Wildlife Habitat Canada
Chatham Kent Public Health Unit
Ontario Native Scape
Forests Ontario
Acer & the Riparian Rangers
Enbridge
Carolinian Canada Coalition
Stouffville Canada & Riparian Rangers
Chatham-Kent Retention & Attraction
ALU (Water Utilities and Use Service)
Eglin Stewardship Council
Nature Conservancy Canada
CK Retention and Attraction
Canadian Chestnut Council
Neighbouring Conservation Authorities

164 landowners benefit
from \$1.3 M in grants

ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship



117 Hectares
Naturally Restored
Across Watershed

ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

20 Hectares
Tallgrass Prairie
planted



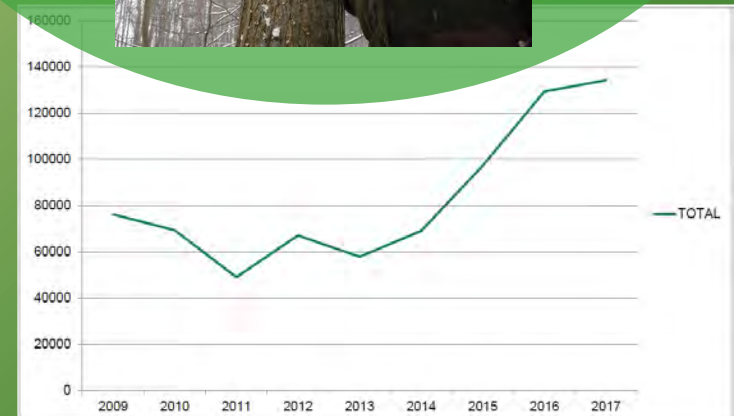
ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

134,221
trees planted

87
Hectares reforested

Even a discovery of healthy
American Chestnut tree in
Strathroy-Caradoc!



ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

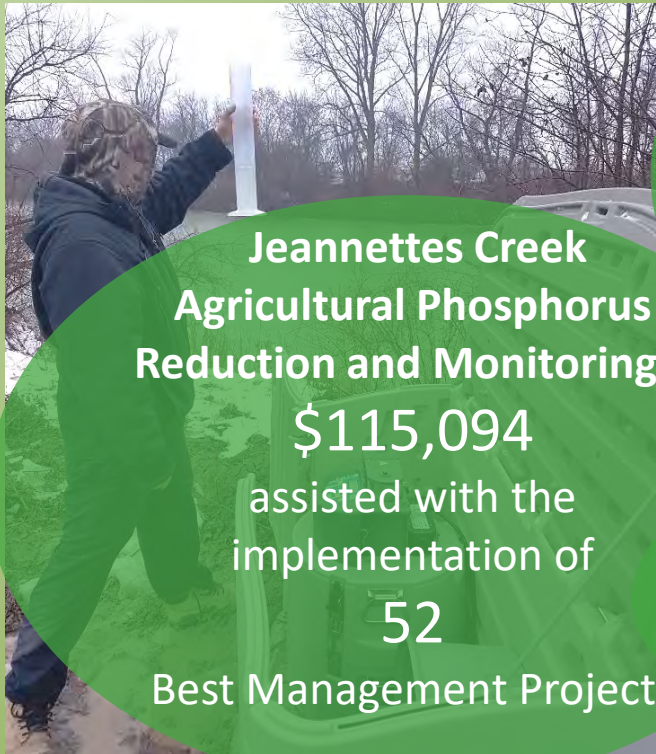


- **Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative**

Improving soil health, water quality & pollinator health

Supported by Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association.

Funding from OMAFRA & Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada through Growing Forward 2



**Jeannettes Creek
Agricultural Phosphorus
Reduction and Monitoring –**

\$115,094

assisted with the
implementation of

52

Best Management Projects

**Elgin County Watersheds
Education & Outreach
Partnership -**

LTVCA, KCCA, LRCA & CCA.

Engage local producers,
encourage action through
on-the-ground projects

**The Thames River Phosphorus
Reduction Collaborative (TRPRC)** raised
awareness and provided extension
services to reduce phosphorus reaching
our drains and waterways

ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Species at Risk (SAR)**

- Aquatic Species at Risk Biologist hired to develop an aquatic SAR program for LTVCA



\$50,000

from Fisheries and Oceans
Canada to develop a
Section 11 agreement, to
enhance survival & recovery
of fish and mussels



\$65,000

from provincial species at Risk
Stewardship Fund per year for 3
years to improve habitat and
educate about reptiles



ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Wetlands**



10

Wetland project sites had duck habitat boxes and cylinders installed for nesting and protection from predators

ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **The Elgin Clean Water Project**

- a cooperative program between the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek, Long Point Region & Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities
- assists landowners with projects to improve & protect water quality in Elgin County

\$36,246

towards

14

landowner projects



ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship

- **Watershed Awards**

- Greening Partnership
- University of Guelph – Ridgetown Campus – Environmental Management



*Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation*



Chelsea Garrett

*McGregor
Naturopathic*

STEPPING INTO NATURE

Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

- **270 Conservation Areas in Ontario!**
- Safety Committee regularly inspects our CA's
- 1 land donation totaling 40 hectares "Myslik Wildlife Preserve"

18

public conservation areas

463 hectares

LTVCA

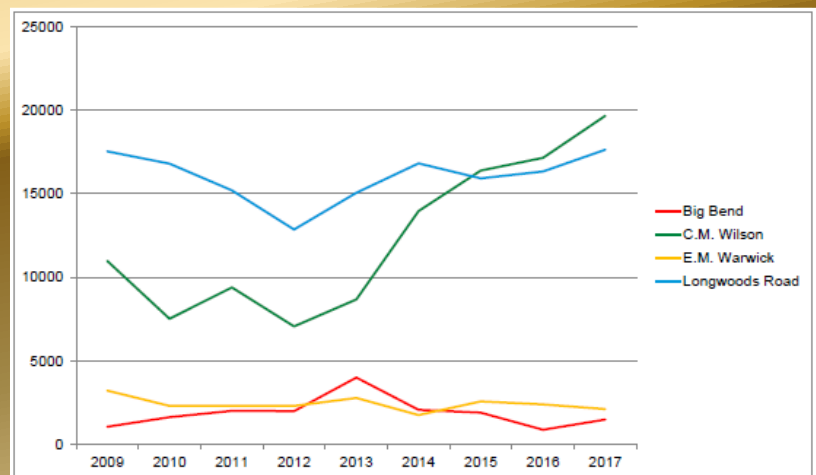
640 hectares

**protected wetlands, forests,
tallgrass prairies, lakefront &
habitat restoration sites**



STEPPING INTO NATURE

Conservation Areas — *Be Active! Be Healthy!*



STEPPING INTO NATURE

Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

- **Some New Developments**



*E.M. Warwick -
staircase removal*



*C. M. Wilson –
Barn Pavilion upgrades*



*Walter Devereux -
new interpretive farm
BMP demo trail*

STEPPING INTO NATURE

Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*



C.M. Wilson - earthen prairie walkway installation



McGeachy Pond – new animal proof refuse containers & phragmites control



Tell us what you think!

#myLongwoods

Longwoods Road- Visioning Project

STEPPING INTO NATURE

Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

- the Municipal Enforcement Unit (MEU) continued to patrol problem areas like Skunk Misery to reduce infractions on area regulations



STEPPING INTO NATURE

Education Programs

- **in Ontario over 410,000 students** participate annually in CA outdoor education programs which meet curriculum expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education

**we teach children about local & global
environmental issues,
explore linkages between humans & natural
environment,
& instill a greater appreciation &
understanding of nature**



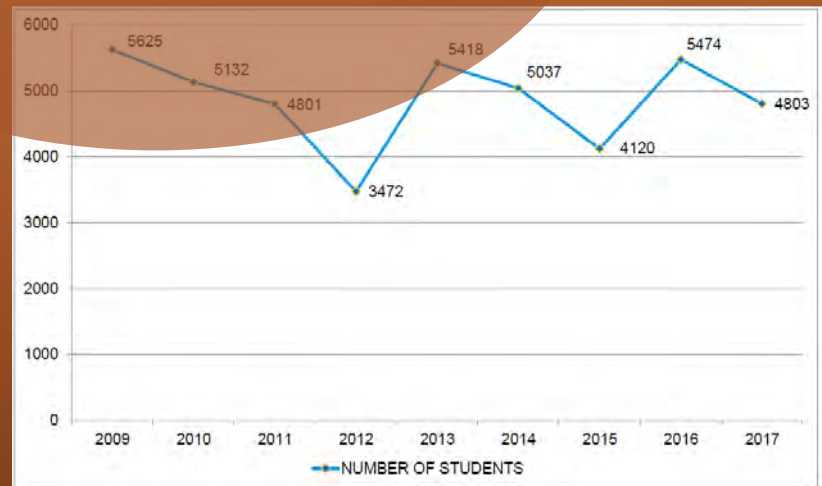
STEPPING INTO NATURE

Education Programs

- Longwoods, C.M. Wilson, Ska-Nah-Doht Village, Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival, inclass programs



7,400
children and their chaperones
received education programming



STEPPING INTO NATURE

Education Programs - *Conservation*

- the Conservation Education program operates year-round from Longwoods Road Conservation Area



Co-op Education

Public events

Native plants

Owl hikes

March Break

Twilight Tuesdays!

school field trips
1,098 students
53 classes

STEPPING INTO NATURE

Education Programs - *Conservation*

- participate in community expo's & fairs including **Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival** at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area



STEPPING INTO NATURE

Education Programs - *Conservation*

- River & Creek Safety Program sponsored by local service clubs



STEPPING INTO NATURE

Native Studies at Ska-Nah-Doht Village



OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

STEPPING INTO NATURE

Native Studies at Ska-Nah-Doht Village

- Ontario Curriculum based education program

4,028

students & chaperones

144 classes

“Balance & Biodiversity”

Our new program reflects First Nations’ approach to living within the environment & combines the Heritage and Sciences curriculum strands



SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

- Ska-Nah-Doht Village welcomes tourists from over 24 countries around the world
- The Turtle Trail Gift Shop
- \$22,992 from the Ministry of Culture through the Community Museum Operating Grant

Canada Summer Jobs
summer student grant



SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

- Two years of careful planning & hard work of staff with 2 great build teams has brought Ska-Nah-Doht back to life!
- A new longhouse and palisade maze, all fully accessible



- **GreenLane Community Fund**
 - **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation**
- **Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program Intake Two**

SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

“Tastes of Fall / Canada 150”

Government officials,
volunteers, friends and
family gathered to party
with food, music and
dance at on October 1st,
creating a community of
over 400



SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE & MUSEUM

- **More Special Events**



Artifact Day



Twilight Tuesdays

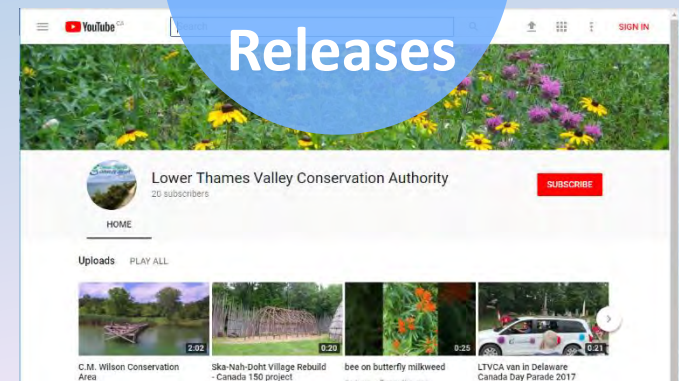
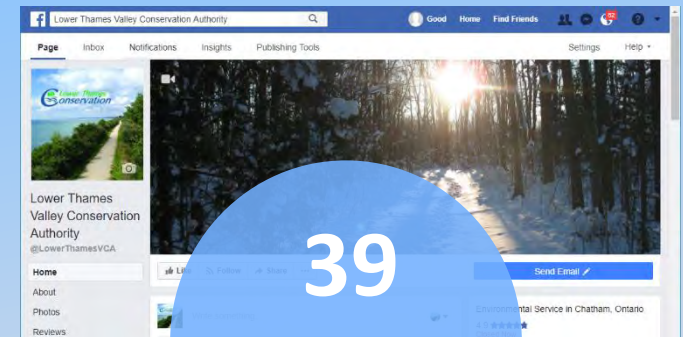
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

– *A Part of All Programs*

Communications enhance awareness & understanding of the goals & programs of the LTVCA for our target audiences, enabling them to support & enjoy our facilities & services. We use social media, literature, advertising, media releases, special events, watershed tours, festivals, & displays to relay our messaging.

Directors & Committee Members
Member Municipal Councillors / Staff
Government Agencies
CA Staff
Watershed residents
Media
CA Visitors
Project partners...

39
Media
Releases



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Some Highlights



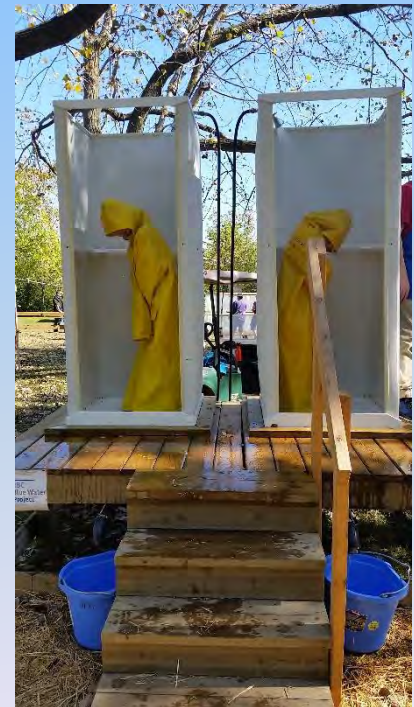
“Go Wild Grow Wild” Expo in London & Other Displays



West Watershed Bus Tour



Publications



Children's Water Festivals

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



28

public events hosted
in our conservation areas
throughout the watershed

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Some of the Water Festival Volunteers

CA
Maintenance

Habitat
Restoration

Thanks to the
700+
Dedicated volunteers

Who provided
4,000 hours
of their time in 2017!

Tree
Planting

CA
Events

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
ALUS Middlesex
Canada Summer

Lions Club of Rodney
London Community Foundation
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Ministry of Transportation
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ontario Forestry

Thanks to the
40+
inspired partners that provided
\$2.4 M
for watershed conservation!

Ontario Forestry
Dufferin District
Friends of the St. Clair River
Glencoe District Lions Club
Goodwill Career Center
Howard Mutual Foundation
Elgin County
Environment Canada
ENCO
Enviro

Wildlife Pres

CONTACT US!

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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**Please view the details
in our Annual Report
on our website.
Thank You!**

