

Conservation Areas

Merlin
128 William St, Merlin

Mill Stream
22035 Gibson Rd, Mount Brydges

Mosa Forest (a.k.a Skunk's Misery)
962 Centreville Dr, Southwest Middlesex

Rondeau Bay Marshes
92 Wellington St, Shrewsbury

Rowsom's Tilbury West
15172 South Middle Rd, Lakeshore

Sharon Creek
4212 Springer Rd, Delaware

Sinclair's Bush
10671 Sinclair's Line, Blenheim

Big "O"
7034 Highway 77, Main St, Comber

Delaware
2695 Gideon Dr, Delaware

Dutton Dunwich
14494 Coyne Rd, Dutton

Lighthouse
19028 Harbour Dr, Lighthouse Cove

McGeachy Pond
17978 Erieau Rd, Erieau

Walter Devereux
13016 McLarty Line, Chatham-Kent

Two Creeks
21638 Wheatley Rd, Wheatley

Campgrounds Facility Rentals

Big Bend
21239 Big Bend Rd, Wardsville

CM Wilson
21799 Fargo Rd, Blenheim

Longwoods Road (group only)
8348 Longwoods Rd, Mount Brydges

EM Warwick
26135 Warwick Line, Eagle

CM Wilson
217999 Fargo Rd, Blenheim

Please contact us if you require information in another format

Contact Us



100 Thames Street
Chatham, Ontario



(519)-354-7310



www.ltvca.ca



Relax, Refresh, Return.

Explore LTVCA Conservation Areas



About the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) sits within one of the largest watershed areas of Southwestern Ontario. It is a primary focus of the LTVCA to increase the conservation, restoration, and management of our surrounding natural resources. This is achieved with many community partners, acquisition and of environmentally significant areas like wetlands, forests, and tallgrass prairies. We work directly with private landowners and provide technical advice, and incentive dollars to naturally restore our watershed.

"Having paddled the Thames River, and now Chair of the LTVCA, I am always learning new and unique things about this diverse watershed that we live in. This guide is just a glimpse as to what is out there. I encourage you to visit these properties and support the businesses in this brochure"

**CK Councillor and
LTVCA Chair - Trevor Thompson**



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority acknowledges that the land on which it operates is the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, Tuscarora), Anishinaabeg (Ojibway, Chippewa, Odawa, Algonquin, Potawatomi, Mississaugas), Lenape (Delaware, Munsee), Attawandaron (Neutral) and Wendat peoples.

In addition: the First Nations communities in our shared watershed are:

Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Oneida Nation of the Thames
Munsee Delaware Nation
Delaware Nation at Moraviantown
Caldwell First Nation



For 60 years, the LTVCA has promoted, conserved and managed our environment. Now more than ever before we recognize the value of visiting Conservation Areas (CA's) for our mental and physical health. Our local Conservation Areas offer a perfect venue for hiking, biking or just spending time with family and friends. From great vistas at McGeachy Pond in Erieau to the beautiful example of a Carolinian Forest at Walter Devereux CA, there is much to explore in our watershed. With your support we can all make a difference and assist the LTVCA with achieving their goals. Please visit these Conservation Areas and when you do, be sure to leave only footprints!

Yours in conservation,

Mayor Darrin Canniff



 Chatham-Kent



BIG BEND Conservation Area

Located on the largest meander of the Thames River, Big Bend offers direct access to this Canadian Heritage River, full service campground and picturesque views of the surrounding Carolinian forest. Big Bend is a great spot to fish, paddle and watch the wildlife.

Facilities and Services

- Day use , Boat Launch on Thames River, Memorial Forest
- Family, group and seasonal trailer camping, serviced washrooms
- Hike to the Beaver Pond and go fishing
- Canoe or Kayak



21239 Big Bend Rd, Wardsville ON



TIP: the River campsites are great for paddlers, as one can put watercraft in right at site.



BIG "O" Conservation Area

If you want to see birds, you must have birds in your heart
- John Borroughs

Big "O" sits within a migration route for a variety of bird species and provides access to a serene marsh, unique swamp woodland, and views of the adjoining lagoons.

Facilities and Services

- Parking area
- Wetlands
- Educational signage
- Trails
- Fishing



7034 Highway 77, Comber, ON.



TIP: visit the *Iron Kettle B&B*, right around the corner.



C.M. WILSON Conservation Area

Set up camp within the Carolinian forest and enjoy one of the many facilities C.M. Wilson has to offer. A place for adventure, down-time, and memories. This conservation area is named after a Chair of the LTVCA , Clarence Mike Wilson.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, including picnic areas, natural playground
- Camp as a family or group
- Seasonal trailer camping
- Serviced washrooms
- Access the pond for canoeing and fishing
- Hike the trails
- Rent the historic barn for special events
- Have a tree planted in the Memorial forest



21799 Fargo Road, Chatham-Kent





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Beer

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FARM STORE
FARM PATIO
EVENT SPACE

FAMILY
&
PET FRIENDLY

OPEN
FRIDAY
THRU
SUNDAYS

20466 LAGOON ROAD, BLENHEIM, ON
WWW.REDBARNBREWING.COM

The LTVCA would like to acknowledge 2020 Land donors:

Pat Lavin - for land adjacent to Big O.

Ken Ashton - for a new Carolinian Forest in east Chatham-Kent.



Be sure to visit Red Barn Brewing Company after hiking the trails and enjoying the C.M. Wilson property. Just a quick trip down the road will bring you to Red Barn - you can't miss it!

Snapping a pic?

Be sure to tag #familyfarmbeer, #ltvca and #healthyhikes on social media !

C.M. WILSON
Conservation Area



DELAWARE Conservation Area

Delaware remains one of the few natural areas that is subjected to the natural flooding rhythms of the Thames River. The area provides the opportunity to observe the natural workings of our local ecosystem. Catch a glimpse of one of the largest known Swamp White Oaks that still stands here.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Fish at this seasonal pickerel "Hot Spot"
- Access the Canadian Heritage river - Thames River
- Hike on the Thames Valley Trail



2695 Gideon Drive, Delaware ON



Canoeing the Thames River?

- Access Points at Delaware, Big Bend, Dutton Dunwich, Thames Grove, or Lighthouse Cove CA's, as well as Oneida First Nation
- Delaware CA to Lake St.Clair is 173 km in length, and the average paddling speed is 3.5km/hr, at 5 hours per day it would take about 9-11 days to complete the entire 173 km stretch

check out www.ltvca for more details on canoeing





DUTTON - DUNWICH Conservation Area

Dutton Dunwich provides an ideal spot to launch a canoe or kayak on the Thames River. Follow one of the many trails and find the Hackberry *Heritage Tree*, marked with a plaque.

Facilities and Services

- Day use
- Launch a watercraft into the Canadian Heritage River - The Thames
- Go fishing



14494 Coyne Road, Dutton, ON.



Did you know?

- LTVCA has two Seasonal Campgrounds
- Big Bend and CM Wilson, both have showers, hydro and water hook ups as well as other amenities.

TIP: always let others know your estimated time of return.



E.M. WARWICK Conservation Area

Some visit E.M. Warwick for the Carolinian forests intersected by undisturbed ravines. Others visit for the uninhibited access to the north shore of Lake Erie. Why not visit for both? Be sure to check out the cabins and community hall that are ideal for large group rentals.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Group camping is available in our cabins, each sleep eight
- Community Hall with full kitchen, washroom, shower and dining area, also sleeps eight
- Trek along a forested trail that leads to the shores of Lake Erie
- Great views of Lake Erie
- Visit the David Morris sculpture

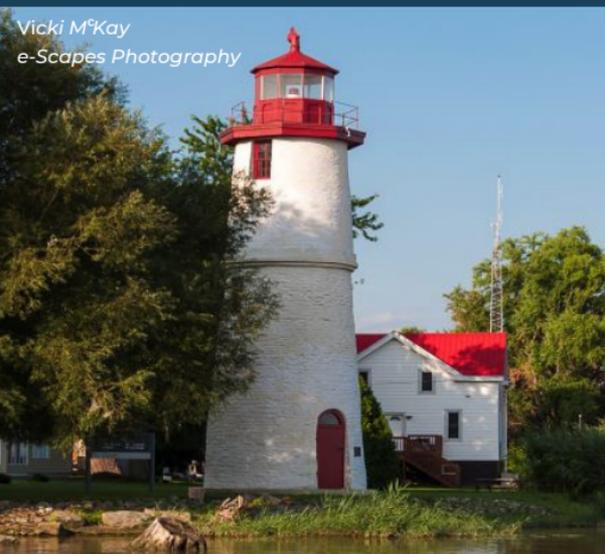


26135 Warwick Line, Eagle ON



TIP: We have rentals for family events!
Weddings, reunions - whatever reason you
have to get together - we have a venue!

Vicki M^oKay
e-Scapes Photography



LIGHTHOUSE Conservation Area

This historic site has guided ships entering the Thames River since the 1790's until its decommissioning in 1968. Now, it plays host to visitors seeking history in a natural setting. Bring your camera and binoculars to get a better look at the many shorebirds found here, including: Green Heron, Bald Eagle, Night Heron and the majestic Great Blue Heron.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Access Thames River and Lake St.Clair
- Fishing and birding



19028 Harbour Drive, Lighthouse Cove, ON.



TIP: October is great for Musky fishing here, so come early to get a good spot!



SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE

LONGWOODS ROAD Conservation Area

Learn about the traditional practices of the Haudenosaunee people at Ska-Nah-Doht Village. Explore the nature trails and Resource Centre.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round, group camping, heritage log cabins, education programming, special events
- Follow an accessible Carolinian Arboretum Trail, wetland boardwalks and bridges
- Rent site facilities for gatherings and events, serviced washrooms
- Visit the "Turtle Trail" gift shop



8348 Longwoods Road, Mount Brydges Ontario



Be sure to visit us when you are in the neighbourhood, just 10 minutes west of Longwoods Road CA, our 100 acre farm has PRO Blueberries, livestock viewing, catering and special events in an ideal setting for weddings, family gatherings, and corporate retreats.

6460 Riverside Drive, Melbourne, Ontario
(519) 289-0389
www.arrowwoodfarmontario.com

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THE

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ROYAL LEPAGE



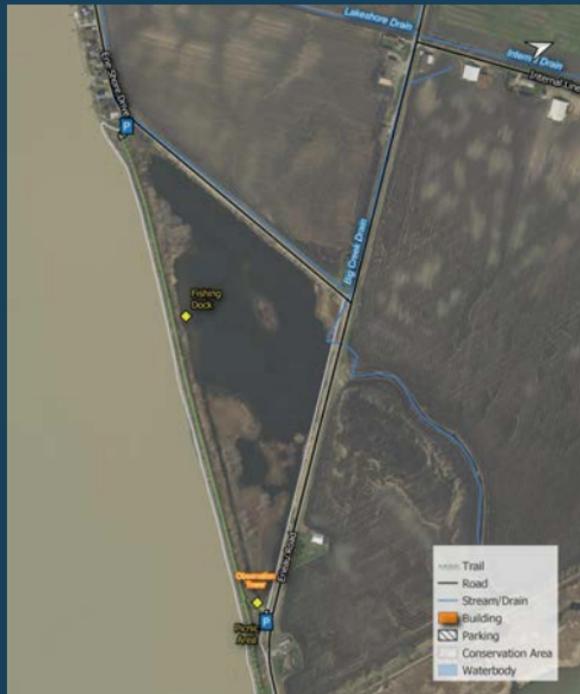
MCGEACHY POND

Conservation Area

Part of the Erieau Trail, McGeachy Pond offers pathways for hiking or biking along the north shore of Lake Erie. Being a provincially significant wetland, there is a good chance you will see a unique bird species like the Dowitcher or a cool aquatic plant like the American Lotus Flower.

Facilities and Services

- Day use
- Access trails by walking or biking
- Use the observational platform to lookout onto Lake Erie
- Fish from the dock
- Bird watch



17978 Erieau Road, Erieau, ON

Did you know ...

LTVCA is a charitable organization and can provide income tax receipts for donations of land? What better way to ensure your land is protected for future generations!



TIP: bring your bike and cruise into *Erieau* for lunch or a beverage break.



MERLIN Conservation Area

This property was formally the old high school. Check out our restoration techniques as you stroll around the trails. This is a good place to see the Bobolink a species at risk bird.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Hike or bike on the trail
- Have a tree planted in the Memorial Forest
- Visit the tall grass prairie site



128 William Street, Merlin, ON.



Did you know ?

- LTVCA manages over 730 hectares of property, some strictly as Nature Reserves with no public access.

TIP: visit *Summer's Gold Honey Store* around the corner, and support a local business.

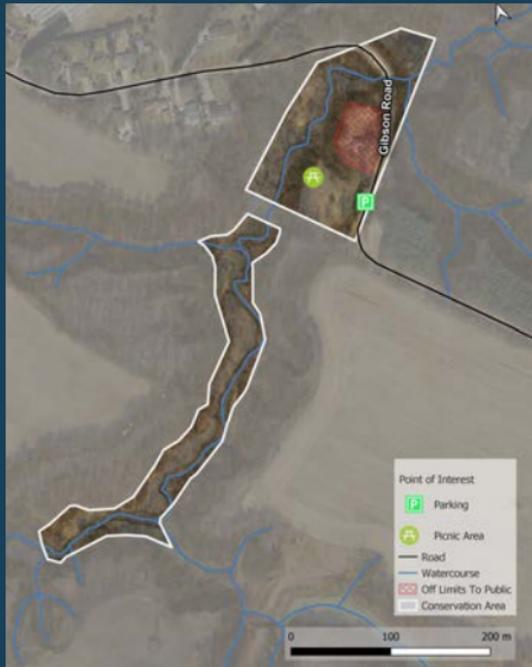


MILL STREAM Conservation Area

Step into nature and find serenity at Mill Stream. As part of a stream corridor, this conservation area not only provides public enjoyment but protects our water resources at the source.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Picnic shelter
- Take in the Carolinian forest ravine ecosystem
- Bird watch



22035 Gibson Road, Mount Brydges, ON.



Did you know ?

LTVCA has an aquatic Species at Risk program that is working towards protecting and improving fish and mussel habitat.

TIP: if you are heading to *London*, stop here for a break and stretch your legs!



RONDEAU BAY Marshes

Located within the hamlet of Shrewsbury, this Provincially Significant Wetland is a good spot to view and access Rondeau Bay. Look for Common Night Herons, Great Egrets, Green Herons and much more!

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Hike along trails
- Launch a canoe or kayak
- Fish for Large Mouth Bass or Pike
- Bird watch

TIP: launch your canoe or kayak here,
and bring your fishing rod for Large
Mouth Bass, Pike, Crappie and more!



92 Wellington Street, Shrewsbury, ON.



Rondeau Rod &
Gun Club
10260 Campbell Line,
Blenheim, ON
www.rrgc.ca



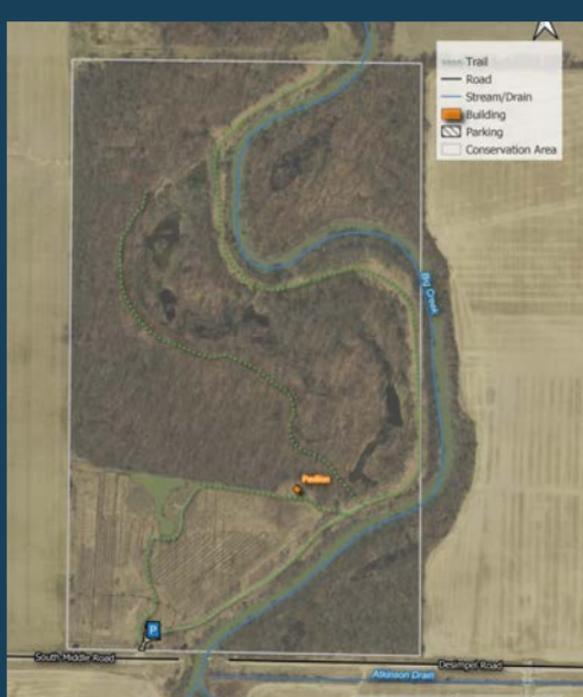


ROWSOM'S TILBURY WEST Conservation Area

Visit part of Canada's Carolinian Forest along the banks of Big Creek. The trail passes by wetlands, mature forest, the creek and open meadows. Big Oaks, Sycamore and Shagbark Hickory trees make this property one of the nicest in Essex County.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Hike & bike
- Wildlife viewing
- Launch a watercraft into Big Creek



15172 S. Middle Road, Lakeshore, ON.

Did you know?

The LTVCA Trails and public areas welcome thousands of people each year? When you pay for parking (at select locations) or make donations to the LTVCA - you are helping to keep our trails in good shape!



Chad Barry Photography



Rick Battson Photography

SHARON CREEK Conservation Area

A short drive from the City of London, a paddlers paradise awaits at this 80 hectare property. This is a popular spot for watercraft, fishing, and hiking. This is also one of the largest Tallgrass Prairies in the Lower Thames Valley watershed and Middlesex County!

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Canoe, kayak or stand-up paddle, non-power vessels
- Great fishing
- Amphitheatre and small docks
- Hike or bike on the trails
- View local wildlife, see pollinators in action!



4212 Springer Road, Delaware, ON.



TIP: Interested in paddle sports but not sure where to start? Check out London Paddle Shop for demo days!

NOVA CRAFT CANOE.

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Southwestern Ontario's paddling source since 1970

471 Nighthingale Ave. London, ON. 866-88 CANOE. www.novacraft.com www.londonpaddleshop.com

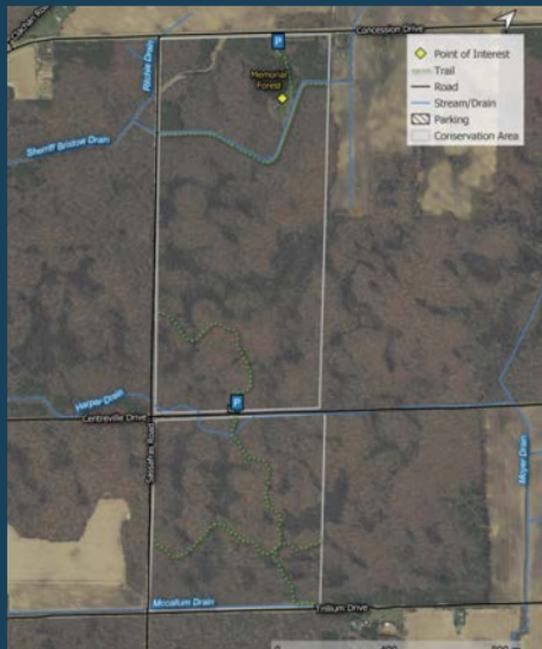


MOSA FOREST (A.K.A. SKUNK'S MISERY) Conservation Area

This is the largest forest south of the City of London with an extensive wooded area home to many unique species only found in the Carolinian Life Zone. Because of its features, Skunk's Misery is designated an Area of Natural Scientific Interest. Birders may see Pileated Woodpecker and Cerulean Warbler that require a large interior forest for habitat.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Hike or bike on the trails
- Visit the adjoining lands owned by Middlesex County and Thames Talbot Land Trust
- View the surrounding wildlife
- Annual butterfly count



962 Centreville Drive, in the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, ON.



Did you know ?

Over the last 10 years LTVCA has planted over 1 million trees!

TIP: visit at different times of the year to really appreciate the beauty of this area.



SINCLAIR'S BUSH Conservation Area

Traveling due east of the town of Blenheim, and down Sinclair's Line is like going back in time. A Carolinian Canada signature site, Sinclair's Bush has an abundance of unique species, such as: Tulip, Beech, Shagbark Hickory, Black Cherry and Paw Paw trees .

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Hike on the trails
- Wildlife viewing

Did you know ...

The LTVCA offers funding programs to watershed landowners to restore marginal land? This includes projects such as planting trees, native grasslands and restoring wetlands.

LTVCA staff can assist with the project planning and raising funds to offset the cost of implementation.



10671 Sinclair Line, Blenheim, ON.



TIP: check out the Paw Paw fruit growing along the road side.



TWO CREEKS Conservation Area

Trails, trails and more trails! If you like hiking or biking, this is the place for you! Many trails take you to all corners of this 32 hectare parcel.

This property is managed by: *The Wheatley Two Creeks Association* which hosts **free** summer concerts, every Sunday night. Check out their website at: www.twocreeks.ca All are welcome to enjoy some of the many local acts that take the stage.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Enjoy concerts and other local talent
- Hike or bike on the trails
- Have a tree planted in the Memorial Forest
- Wildlife viewing

Did you know ?

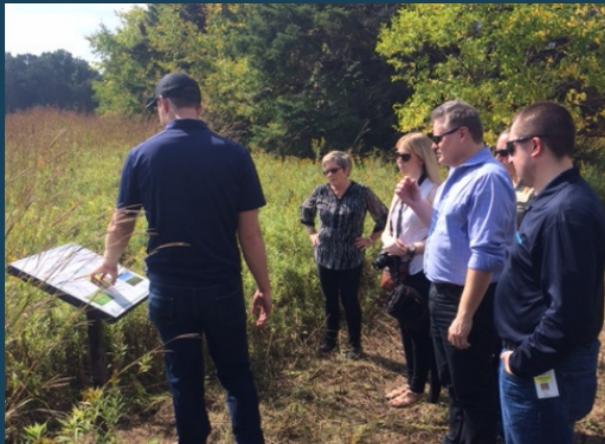
The LTVCA has Agricultural Programs that could assist you with minimizing soil erosion on your land.



21638 Wheatley Road, Wheatley, ON.



TIP: want to make a difference? Join *Wheatley Two Creeks Association!* With generous donations they do great things with it in the community.

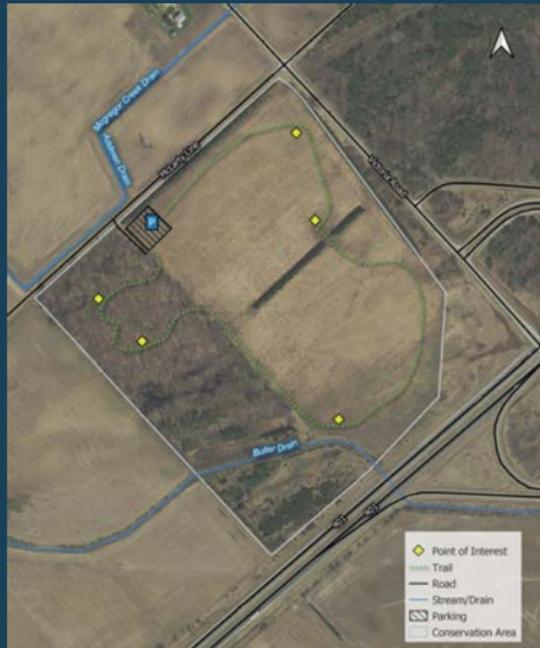


WALTER DEVEREUX Conservation Area

Aptly named after a long time LTVCA Chair, and local dairy farmer, this property is home to a variety of ecosystems, including: tallgrass prairie and mature hardwood forest. Visitors can take a self guided tour of the trail and learn about best management practices for rural properties.

Facilities and Services

- Day use, year-round
- Self guided trail
- Farm demonstration site
- Wildlife viewing



13016 McLarty Line, Chatham-Kent, ON.



Wildlife Habitat Management

Interested in creating wildlife habitat or
Improving Water Quality on your
property?

- Ontario Native Tallgrass Prairie Planting, Seed & Plug Sales
- Native Tree and Shrub Planting
- Invasive Species Control (phragmites)
- Prescribed Burning
- Wetland Creation

519-809-5767 or 519-809-5759
ontariornativescape.ca





Chad Barry Photography

RELAX, REFRESH, RETURN.

Gain year round access to all LTVCA public conservation areas by purchasing your annual *Conservation Area Parking Permit*. Fees go directly back into conservation and making these places great!

To Purchase *Conservation Area Parking Permit*:

Please email info@ltvca.ca with your contact information.

Agnes will contact you via phone (please ensure you have included your phone number in your email) for your credit card payment – DO NOT EMAIL credit card information.

Your pass will be mailed to you.

Some Events to Watch For!

- Family Day Snowshoe
- Moonlight Winter Family Hike (aka Owl Hike)
- March Break Guided One Hour Hikes and Tours
- Big "O" Birding
- Native Plants Workshop
- Longwoods Heritage Weekend
- Twilight Tuesdays
- Learn to Fish- multiple locations
- Artifact Day
- Spirit of the Harvest
- Season's Greetings at Longwoods
- and many more!

Check www.ltvca.ca for event dates and times

- Due to COVID-19, programs may be cancelled or discontinued based on provincial guidelines. Please check website for more information.

General Admission - Pay and Display machine at entrance to CM Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Areas
Coin or credit card only
Parking fee applies.

Use McKay Pay Phone App at
Sharon Creek Conservation Area

Beautiful Wedding Photography Locations

Longwoods Road
CM Wilson
Sharon Creek
...and more





REFOREST RESTORE RENEW

LTVCA offers different programs annual to support water quality and sustainability efforts of agricultural partners.

The LTVCA Agricultural Initiatives work to create a balanced, healthy watershed - something we can't achieve without you.

To find a full list of our programs visit:
www.ltvca.on.ca/conservation-services/grants-for-landowners/



AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS



THANK YOU!

The LTVCA would like to thank the following for their contributions to our Conservation Areas

- ReLeaf CK for program promotion and assistance with naturalizing the CA's.
- Retro Suites Boutique Hotel - donating room stays and trees in the watershed
- Wheatley Two Creeks Association for donating time and energy supporting Two Creeks Conservation Area
- Blain Trucking for donating time and material for new parking areas at Big O Conservation Area.
- Canada Woodcraft for donating trees to the watershed

If you are a business in the LTVCA Watershed and want to help us create and maintain a more balanced watershed - email info@ltvca.ca.

We Thank all the talented photographers who contributed their images for this booklet.

In no particular order: Vicki McKay, Chad Barry and Rick Battson. And of course our staff!

How can you help?

- Volunteer your time
- Purchase Conservation Area Parking Permit
- Donate online
- Consider LTVCA in your will

Visit our website and join our email newsletter list to keep in touch.

www.ltvca.ca

LTVCA gratefully acknowledges financial support from our member municipalities: Chatham-Kent, Lakeshore, Leamington, West Elgin, Southwest Middlesex, Dutton Dunwich, Strathroy-Caradoc, Middlesex Centre, Southwold and the City of London.

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