

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

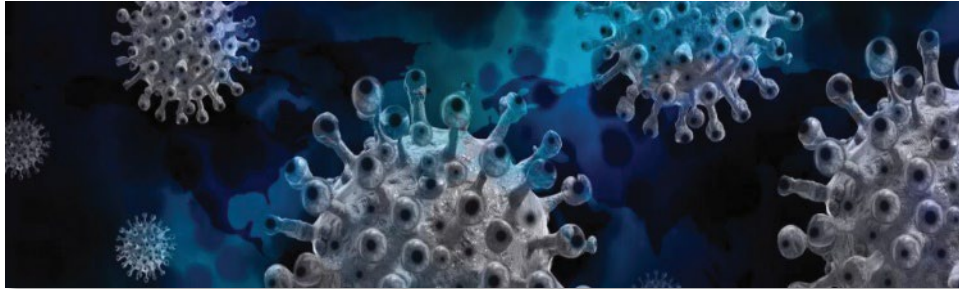
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2021

60  
yrs



# FIGURING OUT!

CONTINUING TO SAFELY PROVIDE SERVICES TO RESIDENTS IN CHALLENGING TIMES



Our Pandemic Management Committee is leading our efforts, listening to staff input and ensuring management's decision-making is up-to-date.

- safeguarding the health of staff and public with Covid-19 Safety Plan
  - in communication with municipalities to confirm our continued services

LTVCA strives to provide the service our communities have come to expect, as we move to more “normal” operations.

# ABOUT US

## Our Vision

The LTVCA...for  
a balanced &  
healthy  
watershed

## Our Mission

Leading by example  
in environmental  
protection in  
partnership with  
the community

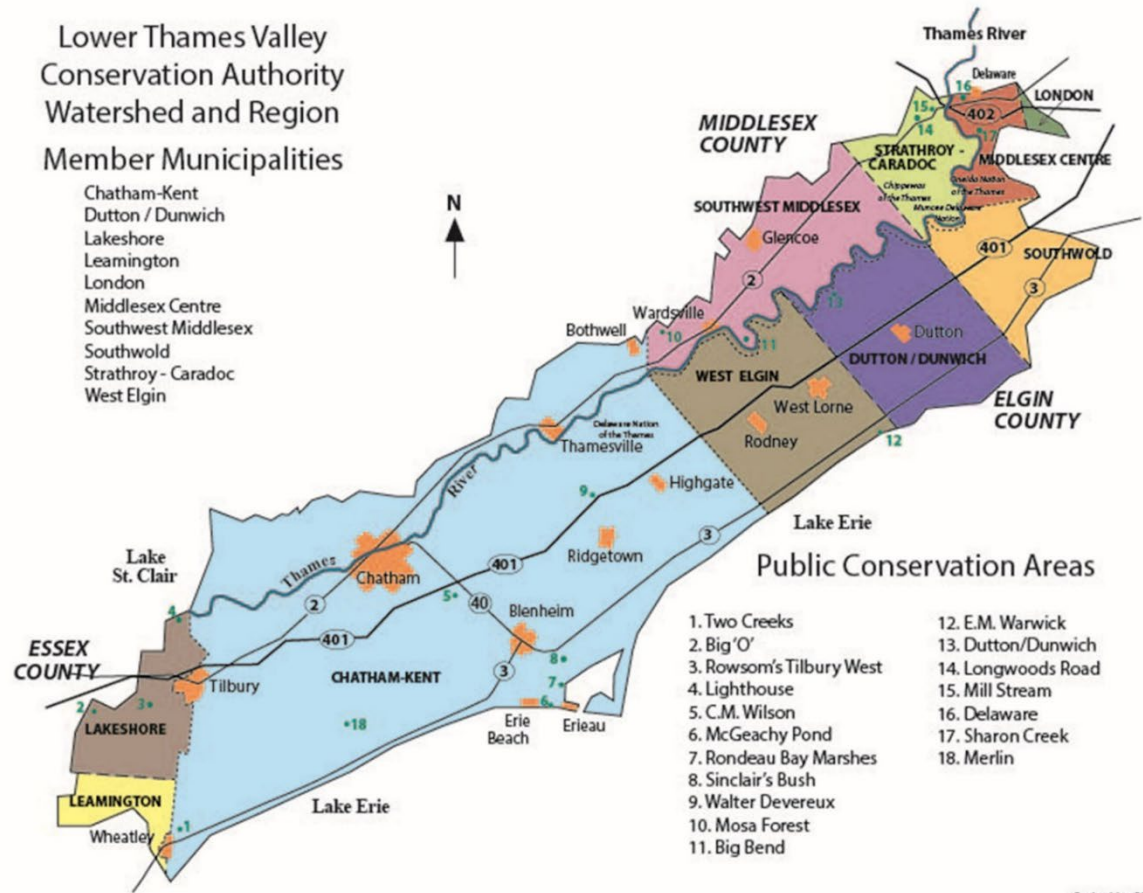
## Our Core Values

Respect, integrity,  
commitment, objectivity, &  
collaboration



# OUR AREA OF JURISDICTION

- area covers approximately 3,274 square kilometers (1,264 square miles) & is home to over 100,000 people.



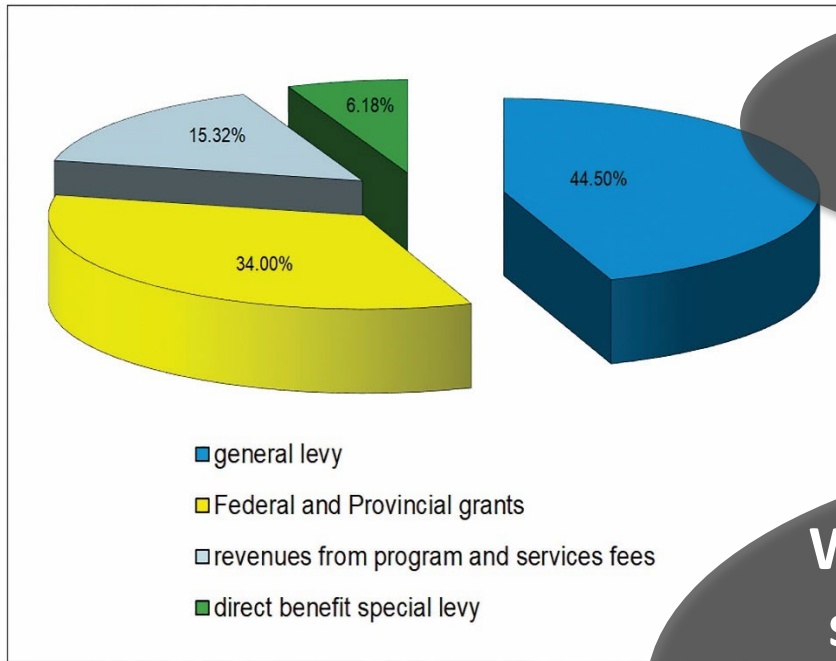
# OUR DIRECTORS & MUNICIPALITIES

- **Trevor Thompson (Chair) – Municipality of Chatham-Kent**
- Linda McKinlay (Vice-Chair) – Town of Lakeshore
  
- Hugh Aerts – Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Christa Cowell – Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
- Sarah Emons – Township of Southwold
- Amy Finn – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Mike Hentz – Municipality of Dutton Dunwich
- Sandi Hipple – Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Richard Leatham – Municipality of West Elgin
- JJ Strybosch – City of London (appointment to be confirmed by the Province)
- Paul Tiessen – Municipality of Leamington
- John Wright – Municipality of Chatham-Kent



*Trevor Thompson – Chair*

# \$ BUDGET \$



**LTVCA's budget of \$3,319,396 received approval in February**

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

**40  
partners augmented  
municipal support with  
\$1.82 million**



# LTVCA STAFF



*Mark Peacock –  
CAO / Secretary-Treasurer*

**Happy Retirement!**  
**Karen Mattila**  
**Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum**  
**Curator**  
**1994-2021**

**Staff**

**25**

full-time / long-term contract

**18**

seasonal / short-term contract



# AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT (CAA) - Bill 229

- A number of un-proclaimed provisions in the CAA are being implemented through a series of regulations. These regulations are being brought forward in two phases.
- The Phase 1 consultations focused on details of the programs and services that CAs will implement and how they will be funded.
- The Province is now consulting on a Phase 2 of the proposed regulations, including details on municipal levies, fees, as well as standards for the delivery of other types of programs and services.
- We completed the required municipal consultation and preparation of the LTVCA Transition Plan by December 31, 2021 followed by the detailed Inventory of Programs and Services, being brought to this Annual General Meeting for Board approval.
- Staff will be working with participating municipalities over the next year to finish Memorandums of Understanding and/or Agreements for implementation of programs not considered mandatory by the province.



# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

The Water Management program provides science-based support for water resources management and includes activities that protect life and property such as flood forecasting, control and monitoring of flooding and erosion, as well as broader watershed monitoring.



**18**

flood advisories  
Thames / watercourses

### Flood Forecasting & Warning



**56**

shoreline  
flood advisories  
Lakes Erie & St. Clair

# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

### Water Quality Monitoring

is conducted to understand current conditions, predict what may happen in the future and assess whether our actions are having a positive effect.



22

Provincial  
stream water  
quality monitoring  
sites monitored for  
general water  
chemistry  
and e-coli

9

groundwater wells  
monitored

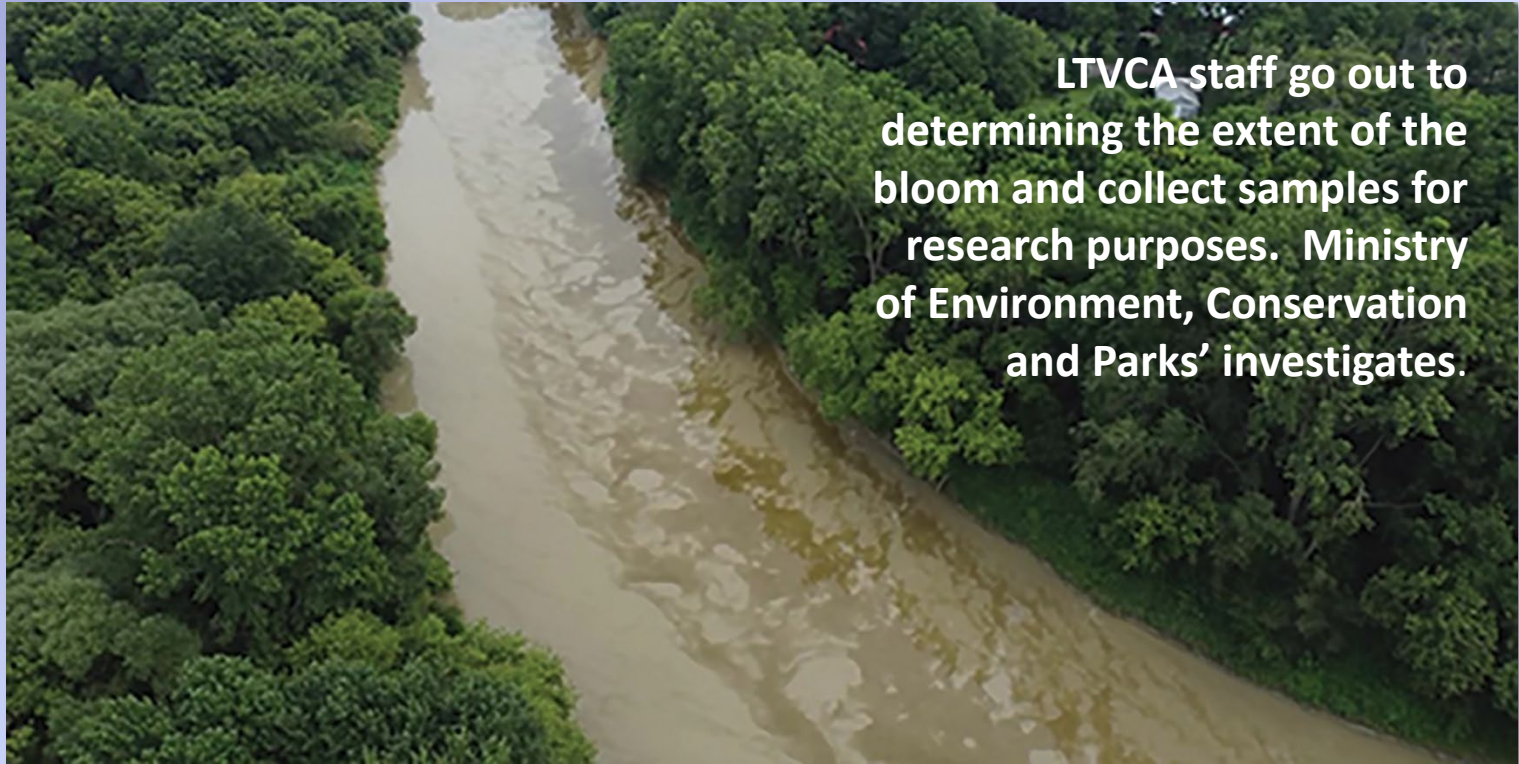
Sampling  
for benthic  
macroinvertebrates



# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Water Management

The watershed experienced another **Thames River Blue-green Algae Bloom** during August and September.



LTVCA staff go out to determining the extent of the bloom and collect samples for research purposes. Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' investigates.

# PROTECTING LIFE & PROPERTY

## Land Use Planning & Regulations

Conservation Authorities administer and enforce **Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act** and **Ontario Regulation 152/06** (Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alteration to Shorelines & Watercourses).

Through municipal planning and regulations, we direct development away from hazardous areas to reduce hardship, loss of property and protection of life.

**3,121**  
regulatory &  
municipal plan  
review  
services



**1,972**  
telephone  
inquiries  
planning, regs,  
general

# 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. LTVCA has a long history working with landowners and a variety of partners in the planning & delivery of watershed stewardship initiatives.



**448 landowners**  
assisted  
with \$ from  
stewardship grants

**146 acres**  
reforested

**41 acres**  
wetlands created

**83 acres**  
prairie planted

**88,903**  
trees planted



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

Aquatic species are at risk due to habitat loss from sediment, nutrient and contaminant loading and invasive species. Mussels and fish are an important part of a healthy ecosystem and are important to humans. LTVCA is helping landowners to reduce this habitat loss.



- 5 aquatic invasive species and 5 aquatic SAR recorded in LTVCA
- in lower Thames tributaries
  - eDNA sampling 12 sites
  - seining fish surveys 7 sites
  - searches for mussel SAR 8 sites
- invasive Water Lettuce removal from McGregor Creek and developed invasive species alert flyers
- SAR webpage – 2 guidebooks fish and mussels
- habitat protection signs and interpretive signs created
- initiated study for avian and bat species at risk in Mosa Forest



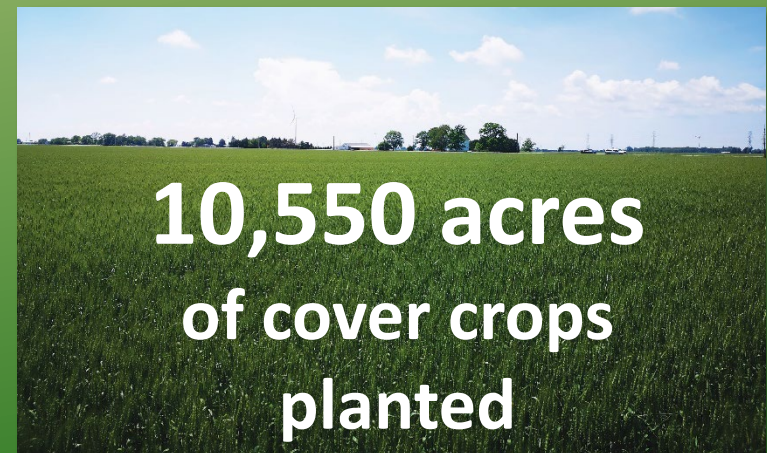
# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

The goals of this program support the agricultural sector, strengthen environmental stewardship, enhance water quality, and improve soil health.



- Lower Thames Valley Soil Health Program
- On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program
- McGregor & Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program



# ENHANCING WATERSHED HEALTH

## Alternative Land Use Service

**ALUS Middlesex**

**ALUS Chatham-Kent**

**ALUS Elgin**

This program collaborates with farmers to improve the environment. Partner funding supports sustainability efforts while addressing local environmental issues, prioritized by the farmers themselves.



341 acres  
of new ALUS restoration  
projects across the  
3 counties







# STEPPING INTO NATURE Conservation Areas

31 areas

**1,714 acres**

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

includes **18**

public conservation areas

**1,146 acres**

**new**

signage, parking,  
boardwalks, trails,  
campsites

**26 acre**

forest donation  
'Ashton Forest'



# STEPPING INTO NATURE

Conservation Areas – *Be Active! Be Healthy!*

**17**

**LTVCA hosted  
CA events**



**35,000 vehicles**  
at 'Magic of Lights'  
Longwoods

**472**

**CA parking passes  
purchased**



**67,788**

**recorded day use  
& camping at  
5 areas**



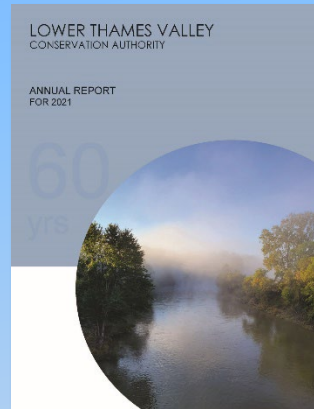
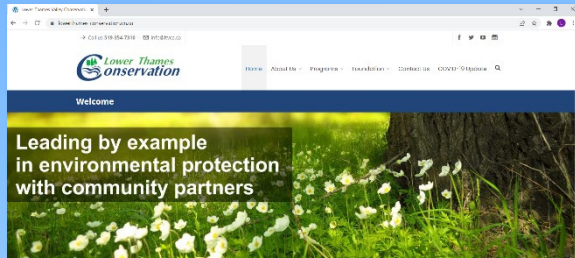
**9,000**

**Conservation Area  
Guidebooks  
distributed**

# COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH & EDUCATION

## – Supporting All Programs

Communications enhance awareness & understanding of the goals & programs of the LTVCA for watershed communities.



**New  
website  
launched**

**24  
Media  
Releases**

**Annual Report  
Publications  
Presentations**

**400+  
social media  
posts**



# OUTREACH & EDUCATION



**We teach about local and global environmental issues, explore links between humans and natural environment, and instill a greater appreciation and understanding of nature.**

**Programs are unique in that they reflect First Nations' approach to living with the environment and combine the Heritage and Sciences curriculum strands.**



# OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Stepping Into Nature - Outdoors & Virtual!



offered outreach events at 4 CA's

organized summer camp-in-a-bag



presented field trips at Longwoods CA / Ska-Nah-Doht Village - 228 engaged



collaborated in 2 virtual education programs with neighbouring Conservation Authorities

Western Lake Erie Student Summit:  
**Learning In Action**  
Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021  
9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**You are invited**

to attend the Western Lake Erie Student Summit! Join other participating classes to share your ideas and plans of action to improve the health of Lake Erie. Hear feedback on your ideas from experts from across the region. Guest speakers from different levels of government, from your community and from environmental organizations are ready to share some of their ideas with you too.

[Click To Register In Advance](#)



# Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum at Longwoods Road Conservation Area

2 film crews enjoyed  
Ska-Nah-Doht for production  
site - Learn with Ranger Em + DJ  
Shub's War Club music special



Artifact cases with education  
resources were donated to local  
schools as part of the museum's  
work towards  
Truth & Reconciliation



3 new pop-up  
exhibits will travel  
to watershed  
locations

Museum reopens with new  
exhibits to facilitate safe visits



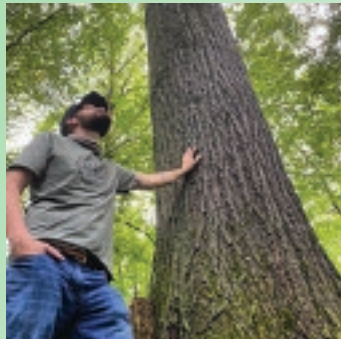


# Watershed Awards Applauding Special People & Groups

84  
volunteers  
gave 360  
hrs in 2021

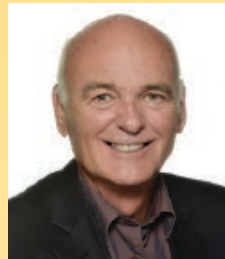
2020 recipients presented awards at the 2021 Annual General Meeting

## Environmental Awards for Landowners & Organizations



**Michael Smith**  
initiatives in CK  
and with LTVCA  
including new  
subdivision tree  
plantings

## Award for Volunteer Heroes



**Pat Lavin**  
donation of land at  
Big O CA



**Murray  
Hebblethwaite**  
donation of funds  
to McGregor Creek



**London Canoe Club**  
summer operations for  
11 yrs. at Sharon Creek  
CA

## Graduation Award Sponsorship 2021



**Ethan Musclow**  
Award for the  
Academic Proficiency  
- Environmental  
Management  
Diploma to  
(University of Guelph  
- Ridgetown Campus)



# CONTACT US!

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

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[info@ltvca.ca](mailto:info@ltvca.ca)

[www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)

**Further details are in the  
Annual Report, posted  
on our website.  
Thank You!**

## Thank You Partners 2021!

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) - LL-ON:

ALUS CK

ALUS Elgin

ALUS Middlesex

Canada Summer Jobs

CK Community Foundation

CK Real Estate Board

Department of Canadian Heritage

DFO, Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk

DUC

ECCC Eco Action

ECCC Habitat Stewardship Program

Elgin Clean Water Program

Elgin Stewardship Council

Enbridge

Environment & Climate Change Canada

Forests Ontario

Government of Ontario SARSP

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Oneida Employment and Training

Ontario Job Creation Program

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, & Rural Affairs

Ontario Ministry of Culture

Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association via CAP

Project Learning Tree Canada

Retro Suites

Ridge Landfill Community Trust

Ridge Landfill Mitigation

Retired Teachers Ontario

Service Canada

Southwest Ontario Tourism Corp

TD FEF

TD Tree Days

Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative

Together CK Events Program Grant

Tree Canada

Ursuline Religious of the Diocese of London in Ontario

Visit Middlesex

WHC Community Conservation Action Program

WHC Conservation Stamp Program

Wijnokiiying ON Works