

A low-angle photograph of a person standing in a forest, looking up at a large tree trunk. The person is wearing a red bucket hat and a grey long-sleeved shirt. Their arms are raised, and they are holding onto the tree trunk. The background is filled with green foliage and sunlight filtering through the leaves.

Become a FORCE of NATURE

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Join the Conservation Conversation

We don't inherit the environment. It is borrowed from our children's future.

Every day, with every choice we take another little piece. Throughout the Lower Thames watershed we commit to thousands of seemingly insignificant acts every day that, for better or worse, will change tomorrow. Consider that all the water, all the soil and all the air we will ever have is here now. Small choices make a big difference. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. Use a rain barrel. Plant a tree. Learn how to encourage pollinators. Teach your children how to protect your way of life.

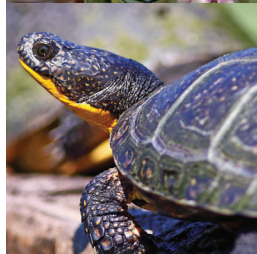




The Carolinian Life Zone.

On a line that runs from Grand Bend to Toronto, the Carolinian life zone is one of Canada's most significant ecosystems. Even though Carolinian Canada makes up only 1 percent of Canada's total land area, it boasts a greater number of both flora and fauna species than any other ecosystem in Canada. An estimated 2,200 species of herbaceous plants can be found here—including 64 species of fern, 110 species of grass, 130 species of sedge and 70 species of trees. Over half of all the bird species in Canada found here along with numerous amphibians, reptiles, insects and mammals. One of the most unique features of this life zone is the number of rare species—one-third of all the Canadian threatened and endangered species. Sixty-five percent of Ontario's rare plants can be found here—two fifths of these are restricted to the Carolinian life zone. This includes trees such as the PawPaw, Blue Ash, Tulip and Kentucky Coffee Tree. Herbaceous plants include the Green dragon, Harbinger-of-Spring, Yellow Mandarin and Swamp Rose Mallow. Shrubs such as the native Burning bush and the Rough-leaved Dogwood as well as our only cactus—the Eastern Prickly Pear make this region home.

In 1851, a lush, green Carolinian forest blanketed Elgin, Kent and Middlesex Counties in Southwestern Ontario. 100 years later, by 1951, this had fallen to an average of just 10 percent. The legacy has been an ongoing economic burden of erosion, flood damage and declining human health. Today the areas with the least cover today endure poorer respiratory health and a higher incidence of related health problems than anywhere else in Canada.





Become a Force of Nature

You Can Help.

There is no cost to become a member of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation. Just submit your name with a little information about you and your interests so that we can present your application for board approval. We welcome your input and participation in our activities no matter how small you believe it is.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.

Our Foundation works to cultivate, enhance and support the continued enjoyment of the natural character of this region. All of the funds we raise benefit communities in the Lower Thames watershed. We strive to make the Lower Thames watershed as vital for agriculture and business as it is to the lives of our families. Our activities focus on helping to provide present and future generations with safe and healthy communities embracing both natural and cultural heritage resources. The Foundation works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and citizens in the region to support programs, activities and capital projects that will encourage wise resource management and awareness of eco-interactions that continue to shape our regional destiny.



Some Ways You Can Help.

- development and fundraising activities
- organize, educate and communicate to the communities in the watershed
- assist with special project funding grant applications
- help with newsletters and social media
- start local projects to improve the quality of your community
- help us contact new conservation partners and friends
- conduct historical, environmental and economic research
- bring new ideas to make our region a better place to live
- make a donation
- ask your financial advisor about options for planned giving

Foundation Volunteers Make a Difference.

- they helped save 3 historically significant aboriginal log cabins
- they help with the annual Moonlight Family Winter Hike
- they created and maintain the Sharon Creek Tallgrass Prairie
- they have raised nearly \$700,000 dollars for reforestation, conservation and education in the region
- they have supported thousands of tree replacements in the Lower-Thames region
- they contributed to the Thames Talbot Land Trust acquisition of the Tanager Tract and Wardsville Woods
- they supported the creation and maintenance of the Carey Arboretum and Trail and Longwoods Conservation Area
- they serve at our Board of Directors
- they help make annual Memorial Forest services possible for families
- they help us raise funds and communicate with their communities



You Are Our Kind of People

For some, our members may seem to have some curious habits. You just might be Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation member material if you've found yourself engaged in any of the following activities:

(check all that apply)

- ☐ picking up litter without a second thought
- ☐ stopped to carry turtles off the road
- ☐ try to slow traffic for duck crossings
- ☐ sometimes just pausing to listen to the rustle of the trees
- ☐ feeling a little sad when you see an old tree fall
- ☐ love the smell of wet dirt
- ☐ take pictures of animals and nature
- ☐ feel more at peace watching minnows than watching TV
- ☐ want to make a difference just because it was the right thing to do
- ☐ have friends who stare blankly when you gush on about something you saw in the woods
- ☐ have an infectious passion for imagination, discovery and sustainability
- ☐ like to solve problems to help others
- ☐ stick with things until they are done
- ☐ enjoy working with people but love the quiet of the woods
- ☐ have a busy schedule with a couple of hours to invest in something really important



After reviewing The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation details on the website, please send us an email with your volunteer member interest and intent to yournature@lowerthamesfoundation.ca and our team will contact you with the next steps.



www.lowerthamesfoundation.ca



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Tel: **519.264.2420** Fax: 519.264.1562

E-Mail: yournature@lowerthamesfoundation.ca

R.R.#1, 8449 Irish Drive, Mount Brydges, ON. N0L 1W0

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation is a Canadian registered public charity
898198171 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.