Day Use Conservation Areas

21239 Big Bend Rd. Wardsville

7034 Highway 77, Main St, Comber

21799 Fargo Rd, Charing Cross

2695 Gideon Dr. Delaware **Dutton Dunwich**

14494 Coyne Rd, Dutton

26135 Warwick Line, West Lorne

19028 Harbour Dr. Lighthouse Cove

Longwoods Road 8348 Longwoods Rd, Mount Brydges

McGeachy Pond 17978 Erieau Rd, Erieau

Camping

Big Bend (family, seasonal, group) 21239 Big Bend Rd. Wardsville

CM Wilson (family, seasonal, group) 21799 Fargo Rd. Charing Cross

26135 Warwick Line, West Lorne

EM Warwick (group)

Longwoods Road (group) 8348 Longwoods Rd. Mount Brydges

Please contact us if you require information in another format.

128 William St. Merlin

22035 Gibson Rd, Mount Brydges

Mosa Forest (Skunk's Misery) 962 Centreville Dr. Newbury

Rondeau Bay Marshes 92 Wellington St, Shrewsbury

Rowsom's Tilbury West 15172 South Middle Rd. Comber

Sharon Creek 4212 Springer Rd, Delaware

Sinclair's Rush 10671 Sinclair's Line, Blenheim

Two Creeks 21638 Wheatley Rd. Wheatley Walter Devereux 13016 McLarty Line, Ridgetown

Facility Rentals

Big Bend (pavilion) 21239 Big Bend Rd, Wardsville

CM Wilson (historic barn pavilion) 21799 Fargo Rd, Charing Cross

EM Warwick (community hall /cabins) 26135 Warwick Line, West Lorne

Longwoods Road (pavilion) 8348 Longwoods Rd, Mount Brydges

Two Creeks (pavilion) 21638 Wheatley Rd, Wheatley



Relax, Refresh, Return.

Explore LTVCA

Contact Us









Lower Thames Sonservation

CONSERVATION AREAS 2022





For over 60 years, the LTCVA has promoted, conserved and managed our environment. Now more than ever before we recognize the value of visiting Conservation Areas (CA) for our mental and physical health. Our local Conservation Areas offer a perfect venue for hilms, piking or just spending time with family and friends. From great vistas at McCeachy Pond in Erieau to the beautful examples 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 ooals.

Please visit these Conservation Areas and when you do, be sure to leave only footprints! Yours in conservation

Mayor Darrin Canniff

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 LTVCA to increase the conservation, restoration, and management of our surrounding natural resources. This is achieved with cooperation of many community partners, and acquisition 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 currently 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."

Chatham-Kent 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, Tuscaroral. Anishinaabea (Oilbway, Chippewa, Odawa.

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

The Thames - A Canadian Heritage River



Conservation Areas are Open Year-round for Day Use

General Admission

Please use the Pay and Display machine to pay for parking at CM Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Areas. Coin or credit card only.

Please use the Phone App at Sharon Creek Conservation Area to pay for parking. Instructions on signage.



Purchase

Annual Conservation Area Parking Pass

Gain year round access to all LTVCA public conservation areas by purchasing an annual Conservation Area Parking Pass! Fees go directly back into the conservation areas for facility improvement.

LTVCA 2022 Parking Pass – \$60 each or 2 for \$90.
Pass is valid from date of purchase until December 31, 2022.
Purchase online at www.ltvca.ca under the Conservation Areas tab
using PayPal. (A PayPal Account is not requi



Once payment has been made, your pass will be mailed. For immediate use, print your receipt and display on vehicle dashboard.

The Parking Pass allows day use entrance to all public LTVCA
Conservation Areas including Longwoods Road and
Ska-Nah-Doht Village, C.M. Wilson, and Sharon Creek. LTVCA
sponsored special events are included. (not valid for camping or non
LTVCA sponsored events/programs i.e. Magic of Lights)

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Boardwalk	Г	•						•										
Playground	Г		•	П	Г		Г						Г	Г				Г
Bird Watching	•		•				•							•	•	•		
Fall Colours	٠		•	П	•	•	Г	•						•	•	•	•	
Dog Walking	٠		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	
Cross-country Skiing	•	•	•		Г	-	Г	٠		•			Г	•	-	•	•	•
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Winter Facilities	Г		•		Г	•		•					Г	П	Г			Г
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Sports Fields	Г		•			٠		•										
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Accessible Trails	Г		•		Г					•			Г					
Indigenous Historic Site	Г				Г								Г					
Heritage/Museum	Г			П	П			•					П		Г			
Education/Interpretive	Г		•	П	П		Г	•							Г			
Wetlands	٠		•	П			Г	•	•				•		•			
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BIG BEND Conservation Area

Located on the largest meander of the Thames River, Big Bend offers access to this Canadian Heritage River.

Facilities and Services

- $\bullet \ \ \mathsf{day} \ \mathsf{use}, \mathsf{boat} \ \mathsf{launch}, \mathsf{pavilion} \ \mathsf{rental}, \mathsf{fishing}, \mathsf{serviced} \ \mathsf{washrooms}$
- family, group and seasonal camping with online reservations
- · canoeing, kayaking access to the Thames River, picnicking, hiking





21239 Big Bend Rd, Wardsville ON

McNaughton's Home Hardware

22789 Hagerty Road Newbury, ON NOL 1Z0 1 800-265-4259



BIG OConservation Area

Big O is located on a migratory route for birds and is known as a 'birding hot spot'! Ponds, trails and viewing platforms offer excellent wildlife observation areas with educational signage.

Facilities and Services

- · day use, wetlands and Carolinian forest
- · picnicking, hiking, fishing, birding
- · viewing platform and boardwalk

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

Watch for the annual Big 'O' Birding event in May!



7034 Highway 77, Main Street, Comber ON





C.M. WILSON Conservation Area

Camp in the Carolinian forest. Enjoy the many facilities C.M. Wilson offers like the man-made pond and rustic barn pavilion for events. It's a place for adventure, down-time, and making memories!

Facilities and Services

- · parking fee, day use, facilities rental, serviced washrooms
- · family, group and seasonal camping with online reservations
- canoeing (rentals), kayaking, playground, trails, memorial forest, educational programming, picnicking, fishing, hiking

LTVCA has 2 seasonal campgrounds!

C.M. Wilson and Big Bend - both with showers,
hydro and water hook ups, plus many
other amenities.



21799 Fargo Road, Charing Cross ON

Terry Peck Signs Ltd. 240 William Street South Chatham, ON N7M 4S9 519 354-2911

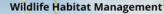
C.M. WILSON Conservation Area











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 ontarionativescape.ca



Community Partner Opportunity PURCHASE AD SPACE IN CONSERVATION AREA GUIDEBOOK 2023 AND SUPPORT THE WATERSHED!

Ad space purchased in our Conservation Area Guidebook goes directly to LTVCA properties and the community. Connect with your patrons as your patrons connect with nature!

See sponsorship level details throughout this Conservation

Area Guidebook

Have questions? Ready to ORDER for 2023? www.ltvca.ca

FASTSIGNS. London Fast Make Your Statement

Call Us Today For A Free Consultation/Quote!

(519) 453-0982 fastsignslondon.com

-12



DELAWARE Conservation Area

Delaware remains one of the few natural areas subjected to the natural flooding of the Thames River. Catch a glimpse of one of the largest known Swamp White Oaks still standing in the floodplain.

Facilities and Services

- day use, trail, tallgrass prairie, fishing 'hot spot' for pickerel
- canoeing and kayaking access to this Canadian Heritage River





2695 Gideon Drive, Delaware ON



-13-



DUTTON DUNWICH

Conservation Area

Dutton Dunwich provides an ideal spot to launch a canoe or kayak on the Thames River. Find the Hackberry 'Heritage Tree', marked with a plaque!

Facilities and Services

- day use, fishing
- canoeing and kayaking access to a Canadian Heritage River!

Paddling the Thames River?

- conservation area access points at Delaware, Big Bend, Dutton Dunwich, Lighthouse; in Chatham at Thames Grove; also Oneida Nation of the Thames
- 173 km Delaware to Lake St. Clair, average paddling speed 3.5 km/hour
- at 5 hours per day plan approximately 9-11 days to complete this stretch





14494 Coyne Road, Dutton ON



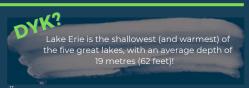


E.M.WARWICK Conservation Area

Visit E.M. Warwick for Carolinian forests and ravines. Access the north shore of Lake Erie! Check out the cabins and community hall - large group rentals available for your special camp or event!

Facilities and Services

- day use, pavilion with David Morris sculpture, trail to Lake Erie, fishing, birdwatching, picnicking, hiking
- group camping in cabins, each sleep 8; community hall with full kitchen, washroom, shower and dining area, sleeps 8





26135 Warwick Line, West Lorne ON

'GOLD' CONSERVATION AREA GUIDEBOOK SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES \$ 2000 - ¾ page ad and in social media Have QUESTIONS? Ready to ORDER for 2023? www.ltvca.ca

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LIGHTHOUSE

Conservation Area

This historic site has guided ships entering the Thames River since the 1790's until its decommissioning in 1968. Bring your camera and binoculars to get a better look at the shorebirds found here.

Facilities and Services

- day use, picnicking, 200 year old lighthouse, birdwatching, fishing
- boating, canoeing, kayaking access to Thames River a Canadian Heritage River and Lake St. Clair

October is a great month for Musky fishing in the shallows of Lake St. Clair! Find muskies off-shore from the mouth of the Thames River.



19028 Harbour Drive, Lighthouse Cove ON

'SILVER' CONSERVATION AREA GUIDEBOOK SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES \$1000 - ½ page ad Have QUESTIONS? Ready to ORDER for 2023? www.ltvca.ca



LONGWOODS ROAD Conservation Area

Learn about the traditions of the Haudenosaunee people at Ska-Nah-Doht Village. Explore trails, a Museum and Resource Centre and an accessible Carolinian Arboretum and Trail.

Facilities and Services

- parking fee, day use, group camping, heritage log cabins, education programming, special events, "Turtle Trail" gift shop
- trails with wetland boardwalks and bridges through Carolinian forests, birdwatching, picnicking, hiking
- facilities rental for large events, serviced washrooms





8348 Longwoods Road, Mount Brydges ON



-

LONGWOODS ROAD Conservation Area







Lower Thames Valley Conservation

FOUNDATION



The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, raising funds to encourage wise management of our renewable natural resources. The Foundation cultivates and enhances all aspects of conservation, helping to provide present and future generations with a safe and healthy environment which includes our natural and cultural heritage resources.

Funding supports education, events, and watershed a conservation projects. Its Memorial Forest Program is collaboration between the McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd., Tilbury and District Horticultural Society and the LTVCA.

This year marks the exciting beginning to a
multi-phased fund-raising campaign in support of
a new Indigenous Education Centre
- an addition to the
Ska-Nah-Doht Museum/Resource Centre at
Longwoods Road Conservation Area!
Please consider a donation
towards this amazing community project!

The Conservation Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity – Number 898198171 RR0001. Tax receipts are issued for all donations.

> Donations can be mailed to: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation R.R.#1, 8449 Irish Drive, Mount Brydges, ON NOL 1WO

Email:

yournature@lowerthamesfoundation.ca www.lowerthamesfoundation.ca



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Be sure to wist as when you are in the neighbourhood, just 10 minutes west of Longwoods Road CA, our 100 oure form has P100 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







MCGEACHY POND Conservation Area

Hike or bike this part of Erieau Trail along the north shore of Lake Erie. McGeachy Pond is a provincially significant wetland with unique bird species like the Dowitcher and aquatic plants like the American Lotus Flower.

Facilities and Services

- · day use, fishing docks, canoeing, kayaking, biking
- observation platform, birdwatching, picnicking, hiking

LTVCA is a charitable organization and can provide income tax receipts for donations of land? Ensure your land is protected for future generations!



17978 Erieau Road, Erieau ON





MERLIN Conservation Area

This property was home to the Merlin District High School in the 1950's. Merlin Conservation Area is being re-naturalized. Take a stroll to catch a glimpse of the Bobolink - a species at risk bird.

Facilities and Services

- day use, trail, tallgrass prairie
- · hiking, biking, picnicking, birdwatching
- McKinlay Memorial Forest site

LTVCA has protected 703.58 hectares (1.738.584 acres) of conservation lands, some of which are strictly nature preserves. Eighteen properties are public conservation areas!



128 William Street, Merlin ON

'BRONZE' CONSERVATION AREA GUIDEBOOK SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES \$ 500 - ¼ page ad Have QUESTIONS? Ready to ORDER for 2023? www.ltvca.ca



MILL STREAM Conservation Area

Step into nature and find serenity at Mill Stream. As part of a stream corridor, this conservation area offers public enjoyment, while protecting a unique Carolinian forest ravine ecosystem.

Facilities and Services

- day use, picnic shelter
- birdwatching
- · Carolinian forest and stream

LTVCA has an aquatic Species at Risk program working towards protecting and improving fish and mussel habitat in the watershed.



22035 Gibson Road, Mount Brydges ON

'SUPPORTER' CONSERVATION AREA GUIDEBOOK SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES \$ 250 acknowledgement Have QUESTIONS? Ready to ORDER for 2023? www.ltvca.ca

-31-



MOSA FOREST Conservation Area (Skunk's Misery)

This is the largest forest south of London with an extensive woodland home to many unique species only found in the Carolinian Life Zone. Skunk's Misery is designated an Area of Natural Scientific Interest. Birders may see Pileated Woodpeckers and Cerulean Warblers that require large interior forest habitat.

Facilities and Services

- day use, trails, hiking or biking, Carolinian forest, wetland
- visit adjoining lands owned by Middlesex County and Thames Talbot Land Trust
- annual butterfly count, a designated Carolinian Canada site

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



962 Centreville Drive, Newbury ON





RONDEAU BAY

Marshes

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

Facilities and Services

- day use, birdwatching, fishing
- canoeing, kayaking in Rondeau Bay
- $\bullet\;$ be aware Rondeau Bay is home to several fish Species at Risk

Launch your canoe or kayak at Rondeau Bay Marshes, and bring your fishing rod for largemouth bass, pike, crappie and more!



92 Wellington Street, Shrewsbury ON

Waddick Fuels 15807 Longwoods Road Bothwell, ON NOP 1C0 519 695-2121



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, birdwatching, fishing
- trail, hiking, biking through Carolinian forest
- canoeing, kayaking in Big Creek, memorial forest





15172 South Middle Road, Comber ON





SHARON CREEK Conservation Area

A paddler's paradise and a popular spot for fishing awaits at Sharon Creek. View one of the largest tallgrass prairies in Middlesex County and the lower Thames watershed. Great for birdwatching!

Facilities and Services

- parking fee, day use, amphitheatre, docks, trails, hiking
- canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddling, only non-power vessels
- Springer Lake reservoir, wetland, memorial forest, picnicking





4212 Springer Road, Delaware ON



9-



SINCLAIR'S BUSH Conservation Area

Traveling east of Blenheim, and down Sinclair's Line is like going back in time. Sinclair's Bush has an abundance of unique species, such as tulip, beech, shagbark hickory, black cherry and pawpaw trees. It is a Carolinian Canada signature site.

Facilities and Services

- day use, trails
- hiking and birdwatching
- Carolinian Forest

The Pawpaw is one of the rarest trees in Canada and grows in the Carolinian Zone of Southern Ontario. The fruit is sweet and known as 'banana of the north'!



10671 Sinclair Line, Blenheim ON



41-



TWO CREEKS Conservation Area

If you like hiking or biking, this is the place for you! This property, nestled in Carolinian forest is managed by: *The Wheatley Two Creeks Association* which hosts summer concerts. Check out their website at: www.twocreeks.ca

Facilities and Services

- day use, trails, pavilion, amphitheatre
- birdwatching, biking, hiking, picnicking
- facility rental for large events





21638 Wheatley Road, Wheatley ON





WALTER DEVEREUX Conservation Area

This property is home to a variety of ecosystems, including tallgrass prairie and mature Carolinian forest. Take a self guided tour of the trail and wetland and learn about best management practices for rural properties.

Facilities and Services

- · day use, trail, educational signage, wetland
- farm best management practices demonstration site
- · birdwatching, hiking

LTVCA has agricultural programs that could help minimize soil erosion - tree planting, native grasslands, wetlands. We can assist with planning and raising funds!



13016 McLarty Line, Ridgetown ON



Some Events to Watch For!

- · Family Day Snowshoeing
- · Moonlight Winter Family Hike (aka Owl Hike)
- · March Break Guided One Hour Hikes and Tours
- Big O Birding
- Native Plants Workshop
- Battle of Longwoods
- Twilight Tuesdays
- Learn to Fish
- Artifact Day
- Magic of Lights Longwoods



Check our website for current event details.

Due to COVID-19, programs may be cancelled to comply with

provinicial health quidelines.



Beautiful Wedding Photography Locations

Longwoods Road C.M. Wilson Sharon Creek ... and more











Rustic Country

Event Facility Rentals

Longwoods Road

C.M. Wilson

E.M. Warwick



LTVCA's Programs & Services

Flood Forecasting assesses climate, water levels and/or flow information to predict the likelihood and severity of flooding and erosion from rivers and lakes



Watershed and Shoreline Studies, provide a broad perspective of watershed issues to inform planning and regulatory processes. This offers a balanced program for environmental

protection.





Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring in our watershed help us understand current conditions, predict what may happen in the future and assess whether our actions are having a positive effect on the environment.





Maintaining and operating Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructures like dams and diversion channels helps ensure the safety of the public.



Land Use Planning and Regulations direct

development away from hazard areas to reduce hardship and loss of property and to protect life. (Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and R.O. 152/06)



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works closely with watershed partners. providing advanced analysis for programs examining the health of the watershed



www.ltvca.ca

Land Stewardship programs work with landowners, municipalities and funders, to provide financial incentive and education for the conservation, restoration and sustainable development in the watershed.





Conservation and Ska-Nah-Doht Village

Education, provide experiences to enjoy nature and heritage so their inherent value is realized.



Natural Heritage Protection

helps secure sensitive species and land.





of over 690 hectares, on 31 different Conservation Lands across this watershed provides habitat protection, public recreation.

education and event opportunities.

The management





Our Vision

The LTVCA ... for a balanced and healthy watershed.

Our Mission

Leading by example in environmental protection in partnership with the community.

Our Core Values

Respect, integrity, commitment, objectivity, and collaboration,

WE THANK YOU!

Awards for Volunteer Heroes

These awards honour and recognize those in the community for their outstanding volunteer time and services towards conservation activities that educate about or improve our natural environment in the LTVCA watershed and region.



Dr. Chris Ellis - Dept. of Anthropology, Western University - Environmental Education Category Provided invaluable assistance in the Artifact Display Case Project at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum where cases were given to local schools for education programs.



Barry Frazer - Special Events Category
Improved C-K community over 10+ years, planted prairie
plugs along McGregor Creek, helped at CK Paddle &
Clean event with the Downtown Koarry Club of Chatham,
encourages Lake Morningstar community to plant
pollinator friendly gardens.



Andrew McCallum - Board/Committee Work Category
Completed many stewardship projects on his property
and is a member of ALUS Elgin Partnership Advisory
Committee (PAC).
Andrew also assisted LTVCA staff with Thames River

Visit our website to discover how you can volunteer with us and about the awards nomination process! LTVCA recognizes award recipients each year at their Annual General Meeting

in February.

access points.



Environmental Awards

These awards honour and recognize individuals in the LTVCA watershed, for their outstanding work towards environmental stewardship on their own land or in the community.



Robert Glenn - The Glenn's

For a 16 acre restoration legacy project in Cedar Springs and demonstrating exemplary leadership in environmental stewardship on their property.



Joan Durdan-Fitzpatrick (far right) President & District 33

- Chatham-Kent Retired Teachers of Ontario For funding tree donations and grant writing.



- 52-

FAQ'S

What is CONSERVATION?

By definition, conservation is "the wise management and use of natural resources", primarily renewable natural resources including water, soil, vegetation and wildlife.

What is a WATERSHED?

A watershed refers to an area drained by a particular watercourse and its tributaries.

What is a CONSERVATION AUTHORITY?

A Conservation Authority (CA) is an autonomous corporate body established under the CA Act of Ontario. CA's manage renewable natural resources on a watershed basis. Projects are initiated locally by the CA's member municipalities to meet regional (jurisdictional) conservation needs.

What are the POWERS of a CONSERVATION AUTHORITY?

Conservation Authorities study and investigate the watershed and determine a program whereby the natural resources of the watershed may be conserved, restored, developed and managed.

What is the AREA of JURISDICTION OF THE LTVCA?

LTVCA has jurisdiction over the watersheds of all streams which drain into the Thames River from the village of Delaware to Lake St. Clair. Its 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. This area of jurisdiction covers over 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) and includes 10 member municipalities.

We thank all of the talented photographers who have shared their images in this Guidebook: In no particular order - Vicki McKay, Chad Barry and Rick Battson. And of course - our staff!

How can you help

- · Volunteer your time
- · Purchase an annual conservation area parking pass
- · Donate online
- · Consider naming LTVCA in your will

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

www.ltvca.ca

LTVCA gratefully acknowledges the 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.

Mailing Address

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 100 Thames ST. Chatham, On NT. 2Y8 email: info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca (519) 354-7310



-53-