



A N N U A L
REPORT

2022



ltvca.ca

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lower Thames Valley watershed is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario. We also acknowledge the local lower Thames River watershed communities of this area which include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation, Delaware Nation, and Caldwell Nation. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Unique to Ontario, Conservation Authorities are local watershed management agencies that deliver services and programs to protect and manage impacts on water and other natural resources in partnership with all levels of government, landowners and many other organizations.

Conservation Authorities are organized on a watershed basis. In fact we are the only agency in Ontario formed on this basis. It is through our understanding of our watershed that we can continue the work of improving our local environment in a sustainable and effective way.

The purpose of the Conservation Authorities Act is to “provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario” (section 0.1, Conservation Authorities Act). The LTVCA continues to take this purpose as the guiding principle of our programs. Bill 23 has refocused our planning and regulations programs and describes provincial priorities for Conservation Authorities but we still are committed to working with municipalities, residents, businesses, stakeholders and watershed communities in addressing local environmental issues.

I would like to personally thank the board of the LTVCA for their work in 2022. Their efforts ensure that residents across the watershed have a voice in the delivery of our programs and services. This year we say good-bye to a number of valued board members. Linda McKinlay has worked tirelessly for the LTVCA as a board member, Vice Chair and Chair. Her “lets get things done” approach made sure the LTVCA was lead efficiently and effectively during her tenure. Additionally, this was done with a sense of humour that made working with her a pleasure. Mike Hentz has moved on to the position of Mayor of his municipality. We wish him success but will miss his wisdom and support. Christa Cowell is another member that will be missed. Her energy and straight forward approach made for better decisions and fuller discussions around issues brought to the board. John Wright brought practicality and local knowledge to the board. We thank him for his valuable input. Finally, I would like to thank JJ Strybosch who was with us for about 1 1/2 years for his positive input. Mr. Stybosch supported the board to think in a greener and more informed way.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is committed to continuing to build positive and respectful relationships with the indigenous peoples of this area. We are excited to work with local nations as we reimagine the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, making it a site where “two eyed seeing” can be taught and traditional ecological knowledge learned.

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has a long history in working with landowners, and all levels of government in the planning and delivery of watershed initiatives. The LTVCA looks forward to continuing this work to make the Lower Thames watershed better for future generations.

Trevor Thompson,
Chair



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



The LTVCA believes that the responsible care of our natural resources and wildlife on a watershed basis is essential to balancing human and economic needs against the needs of our natural environment. The LTVCA adopted the phrase “The LTVCA...for a balanced and healthy watershed”, to describe the vision we have for the Lower Thames watershed. As caretakers of our environment, we need to continue to develop approaches to plan, promote and implement programs, projects and practices that protect and restore natural resources.

All life requires water and yet our global water supplies are quickly being dried up and polluted. The First Nations peoples of North America have a special relationship with water, built on our subsistence ways of life that extends back thousands of years. Our traditional activities depend on water for transportation, for drinking, cleaning, purification, and provides habitat for the plants and animals we gather as medicines and foods. Our ability to access good water shapes these traditional activities and our relationships with our surroundings. As Indigenous peoples, First Nations recognize the sacredness of our water, the interconnectedness of all life and the importance of protecting our water from pollution, drought and waste.” Assembly of First Nations web site.

“The LTVCA is proud to have partnerships with many of the indigenous communities in this watershed. “Leading by example in environmental protection in partnership with the community’ is our Mission. It is through the work of watershed communities that we improve our lands and waters for future generations.

We acknowledge the financial support of our 10 member municipalities, our granting partners and dedicated volunteers. In addition to municipal support, community and government partnerships assisted programs with over \$2 million in 2022.

I would like to thank all staff members for the positive and professional manner that they have addressed the challenges we have faced during this time of change. I am privileged to be supported by a committed board and, a competent and dedicated staff.

As reported last year, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is continuing to develop a new strategic Plan by 2024 which will respond to both community input and the new requirements of the provincial government found in changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. This plan will provide meaningful milestones for Lower Thames Conservation. I look forward to working to continue to develop recommendations that will guide the work of the Conservation Authority into the future.

We look forward to 2023, filled with new challenges and rewards as we all work together to improve our watershed for the benefit of our lower Thames community.

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



Bill 23

The More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022



On October 25th, the Government of Ontario tabled Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, an omnibus bill proposing sweeping changes to the province's natural heritage and land use planning legislation and policy. Overall, Bill 23 and associated policies remove and weaken environmental protections and diminish the role of Ontarians in land use planning and decision-making.

- CAs are no longer able to consider pollution or the conservation of lands when issuing or refusing to issue permits.
- CAs have been prevented from entering into agreements with municipalities regarding the review of planning proposals or applications addressing natural heritage. CAs would in effect be prohibited from providing municipalities with the expert advice and information they need on environmental and natural heritage matters.

Many of the proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act in Bill 23 are concerning, as they signal a move away from environmental protection at a time when climate change impacts are being felt more at the local level. Bill 23 creates significant changes to the plan review responsibilities of conservation authorities that will undermine the collaborative and productive work that conservation authorities undertake with their municipal partners.

Further to the Royal Assent of Bill 23, the province has recently released a new Minister's regulation on Prescribed Acts as well as Minister's Direction on Fees. This regulation and direction limit the ability to comment on natural heritage issues and freeze Conservation Authority fees. However, municipalities are still required to circulate planning applications to the LTVCA so that we can review and comment on natural hazard and source water protection matters per O. Reg. 686/21 and the Provincial Policy Statement. The scope of Conservation Authority reviews will also continue to include aspects of wetlands and stormwater management as they relate to natural hazard management and source water protection.

Many recent amendments to the Act [i.e., previous to and with Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)] are not yet proclaimed. Once approved, these amended sections will dictate the need to modify current Board-approved guidelines, policies, and procedures. It is unknown when additional proclamations will trigger implementation of these amended sections. There may be budgetary implications related to administrative work to refine local implementation policies.

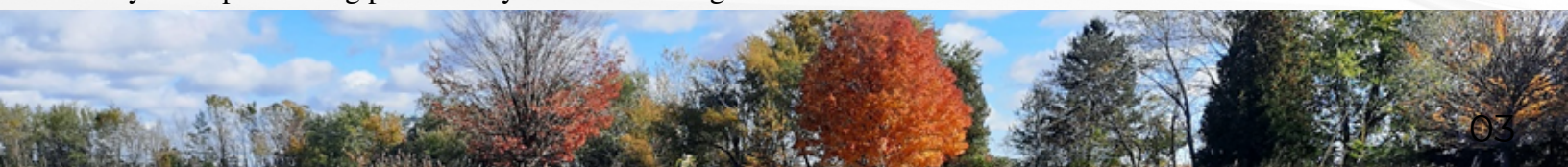
Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services, requires six major deliverables to be completed by December 31, 2024 that are mandated by the province. The breadth and scope of this work has not been fully planned or budgeted. These requirements include:

1. Ice Management Plan(s) – Section 4
2. Natural Hazard Infrastructure Operational Management Plan(s) – Section 5
3. Natural Hazard infrastructure Asset Management Plan(s) – Section 5
4. Conservation Area Strategy – Section 10
5. Conservation Land Inventory – Section 11
6. A Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy – Section 12 (4) – (9)

Further amendments were made to O. Reg. 686/21 with the enactment of Bill 23 (More Homes, Built Faster 2022) to require Conservation Authorities to identify conservation authority lands suitable for housing.

The process of completing all of the above deliverables and related reporting, in addition to other requirements of the Transition Plan will need to be accounted for in LTVCA's 2024 budget. Administration is still assessing work plans, and an understanding of costs are at this time not yet fully known.

The LTVCA appreciates that these are uncertain and somewhat complicated times. We will ensure that we continue open communication with all our municipalities to share information, address concerns, find solutions and work closely on implementing provincially mandated changes.



VISION

The LTVCA... for a balanced and healthy watershed

MISSION

Leading by example in environmental protection in partnership with the community

CORE VALUES

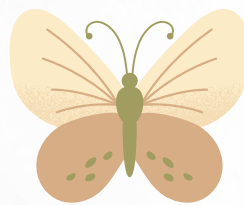
Respect, integrity, commitment, objectivity, and collaboration.

TREES SOLD



94,867

LAND RESTORED (HECTARES)



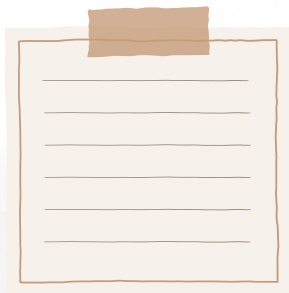
103

LAND HOLDINGS (HECTARES)



704

PERMITS ISSUED



556

WATER QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS



32

VOLUNTEERS



1065

CAMPERS



31,865

STUDENTS



3,586

SEASONAL CAMPSITES



72



Water Management

The spring freshet occurred in February and was drawn out over two rainfall events. Approximately 20 cm of ice had formed in the lower reaches of the Thames River by February 15th. On the 17th, the region received between 10 and 35 mm of rain, followed by freezing rain and snow. This produced enough flows to flood the river flats from Delaware down to Chatham. There was another warm period on the 21st and 22nd, with about 10 mm of rain on the 22nd. The rain and melting snow caused water levels to rise again before they had a chance to drop back from the previous event. Water levels peaked at around 177.52m (CGVD28) in Chatham the morning of the 25th.



The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated from the morning of February 17th to the morning of the 19th, and from the afternoon of the 22nd to the morning of the 24th. There were no other rainfall or runoff events of consequence during the rest of the year. Due to equipment failures two motors for the diversion channel dam gates were replaced.

8 advisories were issued for flooding concerns on the Thames River and local watercourses during the year; **2** Safety Bulletins, **5** Flood Outlooks, and one Flood Watch.

Water levels on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie were down substantially from the record setting years of 2019 and 2020 but still above average.



High lake levels led to **30** flood messages issued for the shoreline areas. There were **7** monthly standing Flood Outlook messages issued for shoreline flooding and erosion.

It was a fairly dry spring and by May some areas of the watershed, particularly in the west, were seeing Low Water Level One Conditions. Dry conditions continued and the Low Water Level One Condition was declared for the entire Lower Thames watershed in June and lasted until the end of the year.



The Algae bloom this year was quite similar to 2021's bloom, having an appearance people describe as looking like an oil spill. The bloom seemed to have been isolated to the Chatham area and was largely contained between Communication Road and Dillon Road. The bloom was noticed on August 1st and had largely dissipated by August 8th. As in past years, LTVCA staff were out in the field determining the extent of the bloom and collecting samples for research purposes.





Water Quality Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring is conducted at **9** wells throughout the watershed, with the use of water level loggers and supplemental rain and barometric pressure loggers at some locations. Water quality sampling is conducted in the late fall

The provincial stream water quality sampling is conducted at **11** locations throughout the watershed. LTVCA samples monthly in the spring, summer and fall for general water chemistry and then a provincial lab performs analyses. This program was supplemented by sampling an additional **11** locations across the watershed for most of the same parameters. By expanding the network to **22** locations and sampling during the winter months, a better understanding of water quality can be achieved as winter and spring months have shown to be the time where most nutrients and contaminants are transported to the Great Lakes. This program is further supplemented with pesticide monitoring at **3** sites.

Sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates (insects, worms and crustaceans that live at the bottom of the stream) was conducted by LTVCA staff in June. Usually the samples are analyzed by the University of Windsor, however the University is currently processing a backlog of samples from previous years.



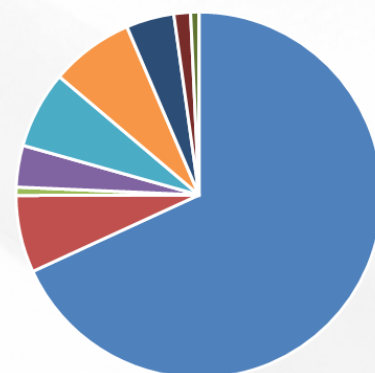
Planning & Regulations

The land use planning and regulations program directs development away from hazardous areas to reduce hardship, loss of property/possessions and to aid in the protection of life. Reducing the impacts of humans (development/infill) along and within natural hazard areas provides for unimpeded flood and erosion processes to occur without interference or impacts to structures from the hazard.

Planning staff dealt with **409** municipal planning submissions and regulations staff dealt with **453** permit applications in 2022, as related to Provincial Policy and Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. The planning and regulations numbers are down slightly from 2021.

Number of Permit Applications

- Chatham-Kent
- Lakeshore
- Leamington
- West Elgin
- Dutton-Dunwich
- Southwold
- Southwest Middlesex
- Strathroy-Caradoc
- Middlesex Centre
- London



CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES



Stewardship

2022 was a busy year for the stewardship department, **94,458** seedlings were planted across our watershed and **616** large-stock trees were put in the ground. Staff worked with **217** landowners across the watershed to reforest **64 ha/157 acres**, establish **21 ha/51 acres** of wetlands, and seed **35 ha/86 acres** of prairie.



The second year of our Imagine McGregor Program focused on engaging the community in restorative action throughout the watershed, including tree plantings, tree giveaways, rain barrel sales, pollinator garden creation, invasive species removals, and garbage pickups. **326** volunteers donated **897** volunteer hours, making it possible to plant over **500** large stock trees, over **500** pollinator plugs, and collect over **800** pounds of garbage. Stewardship staff held just under **20** volunteer events, partnering with over **30** unique organizations including high schools, service clubs, and local businesses. A large portion of the collected litter came from the second annual CK Paddle & Clean event, where staff partnered with several organizations including the Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise & Twin Dolphin/Stronghouse Canada Co.



LTVCA introduced the Winter Webinar Series, which focused on educating the public about the LTVCA watershed and restorative practices. Between the **4** webinars, **595** people signed up to hear from our guest speakers.

LTVCA provides HR, administration and accounting support to three ALUS Communities (see below).

ALUS CHATHAM-KENT

 62	 25	 \$330k	 1,000+
Acres Enrolled in 2022	New Projects	Invested in Projects	Community Reach

ALUS Chatham-Kent entered its 4th year in 2022 and a wide-range of projects were established. Interest in the program continues to grow and there are currently a total of 250 acres enrolled.



ALUS MIDDLESEX



285

Acres Enrolled in 2022



45

New Projects



\$500k

Invested in Projects



1,000+

Community Reach

ALUS Middlesex celebrated its 5th year of field operations and had more impact than ever, enrolling its 500th acre into the program - helping to sustain agriculture and the environment in Middlesex.



ALUS ELGIN



223

Acres Enrolled in 2022



41

New Projects



\$594k

Invested in Projects



4,500+

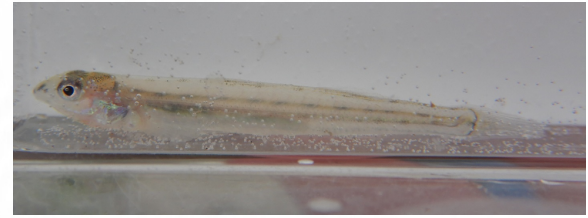
Community Reach

ALUS Elgin celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2022. With over 850 acres enrolled into the program to date, we are continuing to support Elgin County farmers reach their stewardship goals.

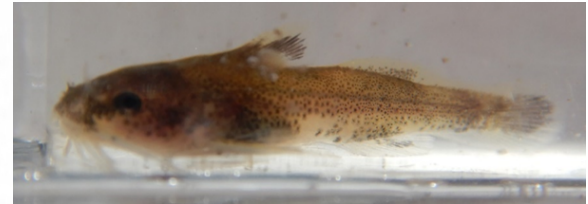


Species at Risk (SAR)

Aquatic surveys sampled **9** stations for fish and **5** for freshwater mussels. These confirmed the presence of **6** live SAR: Eastern Sand Darter, Northern Madtom and Threehorn Wartyback, Purple Wartyback, Fawnsfoot and Mapleleaf mussels. The Round Goby, an aggressive invasive species was also detected. Preliminary environmental DNA (eDNA) results identified **42** species of fish and **16** species of mussels from **7** lower Thames River stations sampled in 2022. Some of these locations were targeted for Gravel Chub, a fish species believed to be extirpated from Canada. Unfortunately, none were detected. A weathered Hickorynut mussel shell was identified from the Big Bend area of the Thames River. This species is believed to rely on Lake Sturgeon as its host species, supporting development of its larvae, known as glochidia. Paired data loggers monitored seasonal variations in temperature and light conditions, critical to the survival of fish and mussel SAR, at **9** locations in the Thames River and Baptiste Creek. A technical report, describing how to conduct a threat assessment for aquatic SAR, was drafted. A Fishing in Rondeau Bay flyer was distributed to help fisherfolk identify SAR fish from similar-looking species. Nine interpretive signs were installed at conservation areas along the Thames River and Rondeau Bay to encourage citizens to take action to protect SAR and monitor them through citizen science apps. Dynamic QR codes have been used to track public engagement.



Eastern Sand Darter



Northern Madtom

Contractor Myotistar completed Mosa and Ashton Forest monitoring plans, habitat delineation and bat identification from ultrasonic recording units. Private consultant Jeremy Bensette identified bird and amphibian sonograms from acoustic recorders. Incidental observations of other wildlife were noted during fieldwork and eBird checklists were submitted. This information will to inform conservation area management plans.



These projects were undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada) and Evolugen in 2022.



An Anabat Swift bat detector installed at the Mosa Forest Conservation Area.



A Mini Song Meter installed at the Mosa Forest Conservation Area to detect the sounds of breeding birds and amphibians.





Agricultural Programs

The Thames River has been identified as a priority watershed that requires a **40%** reduction in dissolved phosphorus and total spring loadings. If this reduction is achieved, it is anticipated that the lake will maintain algal species consistent with healthy aquatic ecosystems and minimize the extent of hypoxic zones in the lake. In February 2018, the Canada Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan was released. The LTVCA continued to engage watershed stakeholders in 2022 through the delivery of phosphorus reduction initiatives, with the goal of reducing the Thames River's load contribution to Lake Erie.

During 2022, LTVCA continued to offer a Soil Health Program to watershed agricultural producers. The program provides financial incentives to farm businesses to plant cover crops to improve watershed soil health and water quality. Cover crops also sequester carbon in soils to combat climate change. The program contributed **\$138,420** to **70** agricultural producers to offset the cost of planting **3,960 ha/9,785 acres** of cover crops in the LTVCA watershed. The program is undertaken with the financial support of the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, an Environment and Climate Change initiative.

LTVCA continued to conduct environmental and agricultural monitoring to support the objectives of the ONFARM program. A **20 km²** area in Jeannette's Creek has been monitored since 2016, to assess how agricultural practices are affecting water quality and soil health. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the program will provide **\$193,162** to LTVCA to support monitoring and agricultural research operations. The project is administered by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association and is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.



Through phosphorus reduction program LTVCA aims to reduce the total amount of phosphorus loading into drains and watercourses during snow melt events.



Radish Cover Crop; another phosphorus reduction initiative.

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES



Western Conservation Areas

A new viewing platform was installed at McGeachy Pond.

A five acre wetland was added to Skakel Conservation Area, a property just south of Thamesville. Drill seeding was done in the restoration area, with additional trees being planted by LTVCA staff.

Walter Devereux Conservation Area underwent a large transformation with a network of 5 new wetlands. Drill seeding was done in this restoration zone, as well as plugs being planted by staff and volunteers. Visitors will now see how farmland can interact with a tall grass prairie, mature woodlot and wetland system.



Eastern Conservation Areas

The historic Burwell house at Longwoods Road Conservation Area is being updated and converted back into an office space for LTVCA staff. ALUS Elgin & ALUS Middlesex have partnered with LTVCA to provide a financial contribution for this project.

New signage was installed at Delaware Conservation Area and others showing different species at risk in the Thames River.

Magic of Lights London was operated at Longwoods Road Conservation Area for the second year. It opened on November 18, 2022 for the Christmas season.



COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



Education Programs

As the impact of COVID-19 lessened in 2022 the education team was able to begin offering education programming to schools and communities again. Further adaptation has been underway in 2022 as curriculum, safety standards, and program schedules continue to change.

Spring and fall education programs returned to optimal levels as local school boards allowed for field trip opportunities to teach students about heritage and STEAM* outside of the classroom. Staff engaged with **3,586** students and **852** community members. This includes our river and creek safety program that was taught to **7** classes, **153** students, and **8** teachers.

LTVCA assumed management of the Chatham-Kent Safety Village at CM Wilson Conservation Area with the goal to expand outdoor education and safety programming. (see picture below)

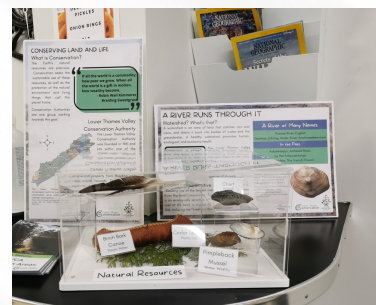


Outreach

The LTVCA's social media presence grew in 2022 with a total of **3,193** Facebook followers and **1,072** Instagram followers. The LTVCA website had **80,511** visits.

With the support of Visit Middlesex and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation the Curator developed three pop-up exhibits which traveled around the watershed to local businesses, organizations, and community spaces.

*STEAM- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math



COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



Events

Many events were held in 2022, a few are detailed below: The Battle of Longwoods (*see right*), hosted in partnership with the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society took place on April 30- May 1, 2022, approximately **1200** people, including reenactors, took part in the weekend long event.



On January 21, 2022, DJ Shub's War Club music special premiered on CBC Gem. The production, a special for national broadcast, features music, dance, and cinematic pieces. The special is part of the broadcaster's commitment to support indigenous artists and is designed to speak to what has happened and continues to happen to Indigenous youth and their navigation of modern society. The special was filmed at Ska-Nah-Doht Village.



You can view DJ Shub's War Club music special on CBC Gem or CBC Music.



Volunteer planting event at TREES Memorial Forest.

The Cultivating Conservation Tour was hosted on September 8, 2022 in the southern portion of Chatham-Kent. The event was a self-guided tour, where attendees had the opportunity to visit a number of different restoration-based projects throughout the region. LTVCA staff and landowners were at each site on the tour to explain what occurred and the significance of the project. The event concluded at the Red Barn Brewing Company in Blenheim, where a meal was available. Andrea Klymko from Forest Ontario spoke to the significance of natural heritage restoration on marginal land retirement in southwestern Ontario. In total **72** people attended the event.

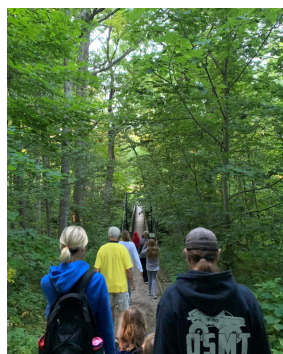


The Wampum Talk at the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival.



Information Booth at The Cultivating Conservation Tour.

The Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival returned after a two year break because of COVID-19. Along with the Water Festival Committee, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, and community partners, the LTVCA was able to support the provision of water knowledge to approximately **2000** students over 3 days at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area.



Twilight Tuesdays continued in 2022 and allowed visitors to explore different areas of interest each week.



Information booth at Brewfest in Chatham.



Cultivating Conservation Guest Speaker Andrea Klymko from Forest Ontario



CK Paddle & Clean Event removed over 700 pounds of trash out of McGregor Creek and the Thames River.



Forest therapy walks at Longwoods Conservation Area.

COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



Ska-Nah-Doht Village



The Heritage Cabin Accessibility and Renovation Project served to revitalize the heritage log cabins located at Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum in the lead up to the museum's 50th anniversary. The goal of the project is to open these buildings to the public on a day-to-day basis while improving the accessibility and structural integrity of these spaces. The heritage log cabins were built by members of the three local First Nations Communities: Oneida Nation of the Thames (built circa 1850), Munsee-Delaware Nation (built 1880s), and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (built 1820s), and are of cultural significance.

A further accessibility initiative that has been undertaken at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum is the digitization of exhibits located in areas that are currently inaccessible for those with mobility considerations, and for those making use of screen reader technology. The digital versions of exhibits are available on a tablet at the museum or online access can be provided.



Thank you to Kopriva Log Homes for their fantastic work at the Oneida (left) and Munsee (right) Cabins over the past few weeks.



LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Executive Committee

- Dan McKillop - President
- Ken Brooks - Vice-President
- Don Pearson - Secretary-Treasurer

The LTVCF works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and other watershed conservation organizations, to raise funds to support the wise management of our renewable natural resources. Since 1995, the Foundation has raised over \$1M for natural and cultural heritage conservation. The Foundation submits funding applications to corporations, government agencies, service clubs and other philanthropic organizations to undertake projects and programs.

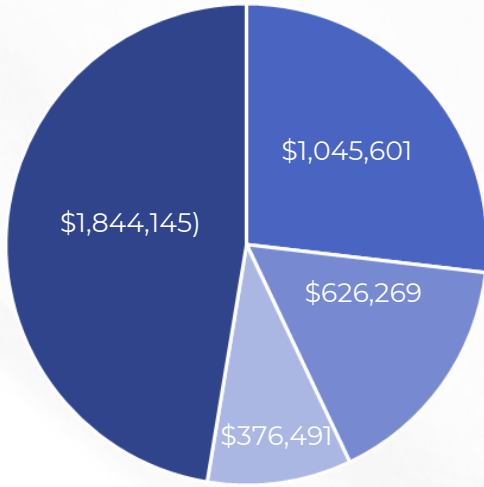
LTVCF co-hosted three memorial forest dedication services financially contributed **\$6,433** for **409** seedlings (cost of trees, planting, maintenance), **\$2,000** for interpretive signage regarding beavers at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area, **\$1,228** for **12** large stock memorial forest dedication service trees, and **\$250** for a sign at 'Rose's Outdoor Classroom.'







FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

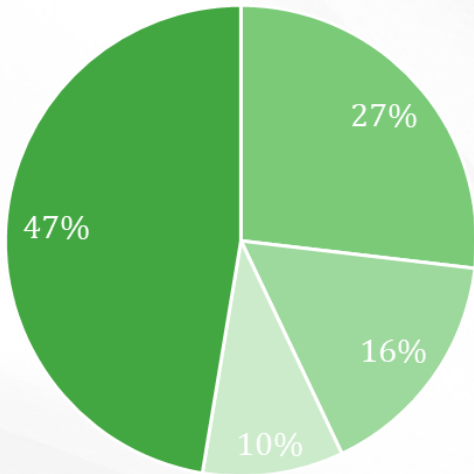






Budget



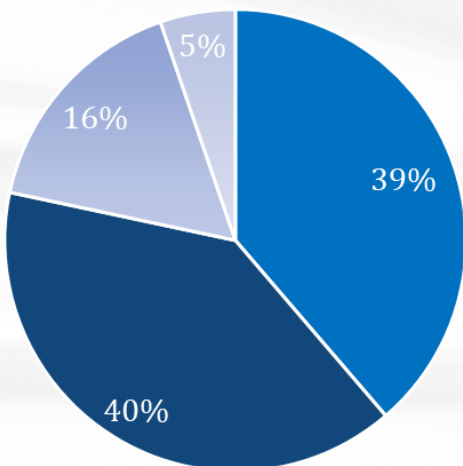
-  Conservation Services/ Stewardship (\$1,844,145)
-  Water Management (\$1,045,601)
-  Conservation Areas (\$626,269)
-  Community Relations & Education (\$376,491)





Use of Funds by department



-  Conservation Services/ Stewardship (47%)
-  Water Management (27%)
-  Conservation Areas (16%)
-  Community Relations & Education (10%)

Funding by Source



-  Federal & Provincial Grants (40%)
-  General Levy (39%)
-  Self-generated Revenue (16%)
-  Direct Benefit of Special Levy (5%)



LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS



Watershed Management Services

		2020	2021	2022
Permit Applications Received		556	684	543
Permits Issued		544	674	556*
Planning Applications		303	360	417
Landowner Inquiries		2102	1972	2341
Legal Inquiries		104	105	105
Average turn around time for permits (days)	Routine Development	9	3	7
	Minor Development	13	24	18
	Major Development	79	191	153
Hearings		2	4	7
Violations/Potential Violations		26	41	26

*permits Issued is higher then permit applications received because they were processed the following year

Water Monitoring

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Surface Water Quality Monitoring Stations	23	23	23
Number of Ground Water quality monitoring stations	9	9	9

ONFARM-Jeanette's Creek

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Water Sampling Stations	12	12	12
Number of Water Samples Collected	600	591	202

*Sampling demand decreased significantly during 2022 due to the drought conditions.



LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS



Conservation Lands and Services



		2020	2021	2022
Total Land Holdings (Hectares)		694	694	704
Total Hectares Under Forest Management Plans		143	143	153
Total Taxes for Landholdings		\$48,003.00	\$59,138.00	\$52,417.00
Total Seedlings Sold				
		90,366	87,701	94,867
Total of habitat restored (Hectares/Acres)	Trees	47.5/117	31.5/78	48/118
	Wetland	12/30	16.5/41	20.5/51
	Prairie	50/124	33.5/83	35/86
Total Number of Projects	Trees	65	91	56
	Wetland	24	33	28
	Prairie	23	30	17
New ALUS participants*	Chatham-Kent	16	26	13
	Elgin	20	28	24
	Middlesex	26	29	30
Total ALUS Hectares/Acres	Chatham-Kent	17/43.5	36/89	25/62
	Elgin**	38/94	48/119	90/223
	Middlesex	37/91	52.5/130	115/285
Total Seasonal Campsite Purchased				
		52	43	72
Total Campers				
		16,716	24,563	31,865
Day Use Visitors (CM Wilson)				
		2,171	2,868	5,881
Day Use Visitors (Longwoods)				
		8,383	10,111	11,716
Total Parking Passes Sold				
		279	472	396
*Included are ALUS participants with new projects in current year				
**LTVCA became the legal entity of ALUS Elgin in 2022				



LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS



Soil Health Program

	2020	2021	2022
Participating Farm Businesses	17	84	70
Funding Provided to Farm Businesses	\$28,480.00	\$143,807.35	\$138,420.85
Cover Crops Planted (Acres)	2,769	10,828	9,785

* 2020 and 2021 include cover crop project information from the McGregor & Jeannette's Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program

Communication, Outreach and Education

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Volunteers	73	84	1,065
Number of Volunteer Hours	672	360	6,527
Number of Outreach Events	14	19	29
Number of Students participating in Education Programing	421	204	3,586
Number of Webinars	0	5	4
Number of Facebook Followers	2,418	2,865	3,223
Number of Instagram Followers	615	912	1,101



Mgr, Communications, Outreach & Education Bonnie Carey won the Rekindle the Sparks Outstanding Achievement Award through Conservation Ontario.



Heather Wharram from the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus won the award for academic proficiency in Environmental Management sponsored by LTVCA.



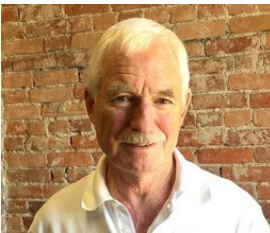
Volunteer Heroes Award 2021



Board & Committee Category
Andrew McCallum - for being a member of the ALUS Elgin Partnership Advisory Committee and completing many stewardship projects on his property.



Environmental Category
Dr. Chris Ellis - for his invaluable assistance in the Artifact display case project at Ska-Nah-Doht Museum.



Special Events Category
Barry Fraser - for his volunteer work for over 10 years to improve Chatham-Kent and volunteering at many of our events such as tree planting and CK Paddle & Clean.

Environmental Awards 2021



Most Generous Landowner
Robert Glenn - restored 16 acres of farmland in Cedar Springs back into nature.



Most Dedicated Organization
Joan Durdan-Fitzpatrick & District 33 Chatham-Kent Retired Teachers of Ontario - for funding tree donations and the grant writing efforts made to secure funds for this project.

Volunteer Heroes Award 2022



Board & Committee Category
Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise - for their continuous support volunteering with LTVCA at our events such as the Chatham-Kent and Lambton's Children's Water Festival.



Environmental Category
David Braukis - for his efforts in keeping our conservation areas clean, beautiful and safe.



Special Events Category
Border Services and Police Foundations students - for providing security at the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival since 2007.

Environmental Awards 2022

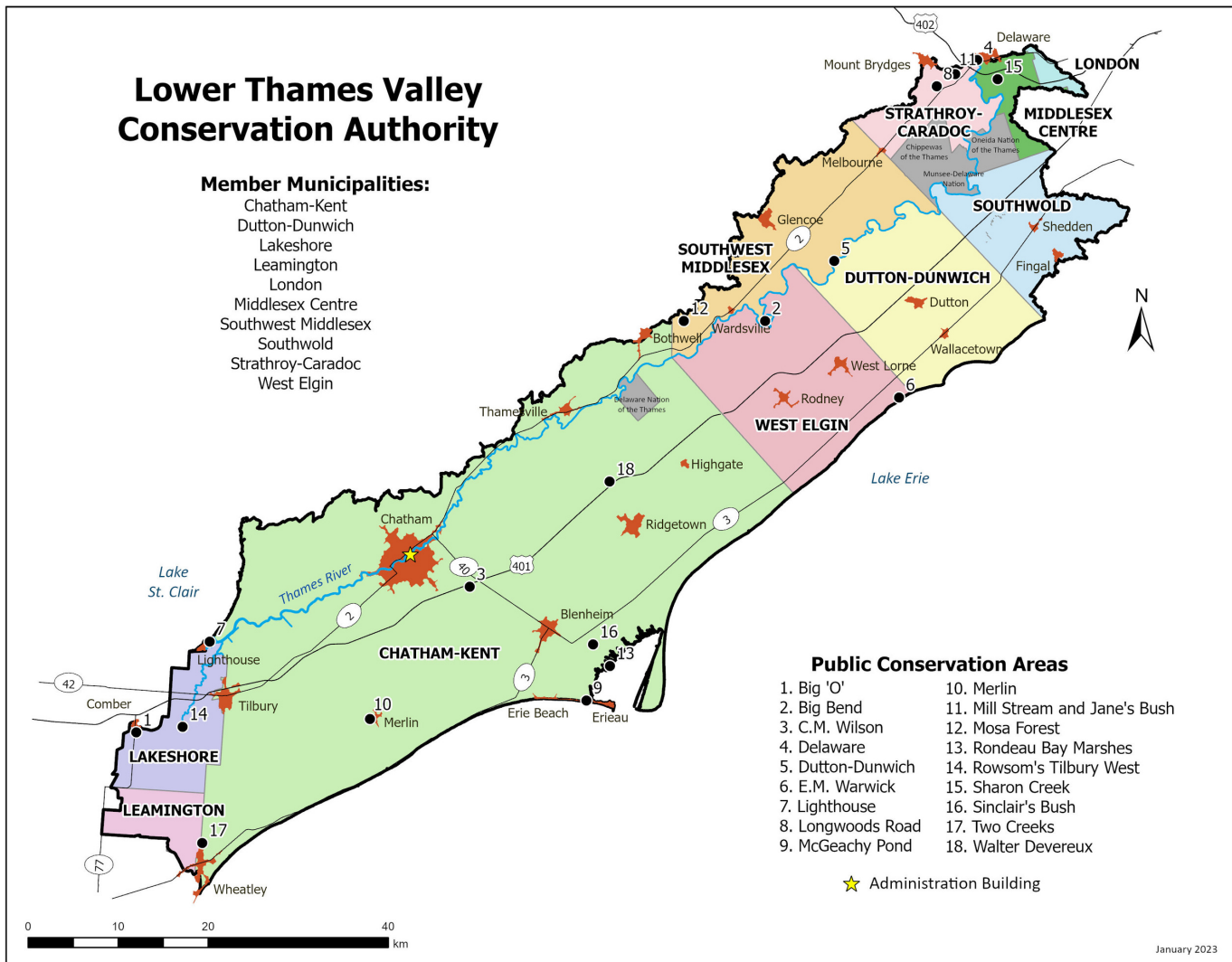


Most Generous Landowner
Chad & Kate Myslik - two young entrepreneurs in the Ridgetown area, restored 3 acres back to nature for future generations and beyond.



Most Dedicated Organization
Twin Dolphin/Strong House Canada Corp - for providing a large proportion of the paddlers at the 2nd Annual CK Paddle & Clean. The event resulted in over 700lbs of garbage removed from the Thames River & McGregor Creek.

Thank you to our member municipalities for your support!



2022 LTVCA Board

Trevor Thompson (Chair)

- Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Linda McKinlay (1st Vice-Chair)

- Municipality of Lakeshore

Christa Cowell (2nd Vice-Chair)

- Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

Hugh Aerts - Municipality of Middlesex Centre

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 Strybosh - City of London (non elected)

Paul Tiessen - Municipality of Leamington

John Wright - Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee

Willem Bruinink - Chair

Don Fairbairn - Vice Chair

Gayle Bogart, Ron Doane, Sarah Emons, Darcy Fallon, Mike Hentz, Sandi Hipple, Mark Peacock





FULL-TIME/LONG-TERM CONTRACT STAFF

Mark Peacock - CAO/Secretary- Treasurer
Daniel Bittman - Watershed Monitoring Specialist
Amanda Blain - Land Stewardship Technician (*maternity leave*)
Emily Brammer - Administrative Assistant, Planning and Regs
Alyssa Broeders - Urban Stewardship Technician
Bonnie Carey - Manager, Communications, Outreach & Education
Ryan Carlow - Soil & Water Quality Technician
Kally Casier - Finance & Administrative Assistant
Todd Casier - Manager, Finance & Administrative Services
Sarah Cook - Outreach Specialist
Jerry De Zwart - Community Educator (*on leave*)
Leeanne Doxtator - Community Conservation Educator (*until July*)
Adam Gibb - Western District Supervisor
Jason Homewood - Water Resources & Regulations Technician
Jumanah Khan - ALUS Elgin Coordinator
Alison Klages - Curator, Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum
Colin Little - Agricultural Program Coordinator
Thomas Martel - Community Educator
Vicki McKay - Species at Risk Biologist
Peter Moddle - ALUS Middlesex Coordinator
Elizabeth Philip - Water Resources Engineer
Neil Pothier - GIS Technician (*until June*)
Vance Stark - Eastern District Supervisor
Shauna Taylor - ALUS Chatham-Kent Program Coordinator
Celia Terry - GIS Technician (*until July*)
Valerie Towsley - Watershed Resource Planner
Randall Van Wagner - Manager, Conservation Lands & Services
Agnes Vriends - Administrative Assistant
Connor Wilson - Planner
Jason Wintermute - Manager, Watershed & Information Services

SEASONAL/SHORT-TERM CONTRACT STAFF

Jareice Antone - Eastern District Labourer
Cassandra Babbitt - Environmental Technician
Mark Bakelaar - Visitor Services, Longwoods
Gabriela Carew - Aquatic Biologist
Kendra Cervinka - Conservation Area Interpreter
Nick Congdon - Eastern District Lead Hand
Brent Crow - Western Lead Hand
Connor Ferguson - Conservation Services Assistant (Eastern)
Francois Gallant - Western Lead Hand
Madison Gillett - Western District Labourer
Anastasia Heuvelmans - Wetland Restoration Technician
Randy Kirby - Watershed Monitoring Technician
Megan Lee - Environmental Technician
Sabryn McLennan - Conservation Area Interpreter
Graham Moddle - ALUS Elgin, Monitoring Specialist
Preston Nielson - ALUS Elgin Program Assistant
Daniel Nydam - Species at Risk Monitoring Technician
Quintin Petley - Conservation Area Ranger- Eastern District
Sarah Rabideau - Species at Risk Monitoring Technician
Mike Shore - Land Stewardship Technician
Donna Small - Aquatic Biology Technician
Ashley Stewart - ALUS Chatham-Kent Program Coordinator
Shauna Taylor - ALUS Chatham-Kent Program Coordinator
Nolan Thibert - Ranger, CM Wilson
Justyna Van Poucke - Chouette- Conservation Area Interpreter
Hannah Vanderydt - Conservation Area Interpreter
Jason Verbrugge - Land Stewardship Assistant
Victoria Wisniewski - Watershed Monitoring Technician

HAPPY RETIREMENT

BONNIE CAREY
YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT: 1979-2022

Bonnie has had a long-standing career (over 43 years) at LTVCA working out of the Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Bonnie has been involved in community education programs throughout her career, shaping the minds of young children about the importance of the natural environment. Throughout her career she has help run the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival, the Tree memorial and the Rondeau Bay High School Conference. She has been a valued member of LTVCA staff.



FAREWELL

RANDALL VAN WAGNER
YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT: 2007-2022

In the past 15 years Randall lead many projects, including revitalization of many conservation areas, restoration of stewardship lands across the watershed, analysis of forest cover and natural heritage, development of the LTVCA land acquisition program, and many community projects including presentations (sometimes with live wild animals). Randall will be missed by LTVCA. We wish him luck at his new position.





Contact Us

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