

ANNUAL REPORT

2023





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**

CONTENT

- Message from the Chair & CAO
- Watershed Management Services
- Conservation Lands & Services
- Communication, Outreach & Education
- Finance & Administration Services
- LTVCA by the Numbers





LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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 First 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



2023 was a year of growth and success for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. We welcomed new faces to the board, all of whom have worked to support their municipalities and the LTVCA with thoughtful questions and insights around issues brought to the board. Thank you to Ken Loveland, Larissa Vogler, Martin Vink and Paul Van Meerbergen for embracing the positive spirit of our board and helping us to make decisions in the best interests of our communities and the watershed. Board members often attend our events on evenings and weekends, demonstrating their commitment to our watershed and supporting the LTVCA's contributions to the community.

There are so many accomplishments which deserve celebration in 2023. At our last AGM, we entered into a peace and friendship agreement with the Caldwell First Nation under Chief Mary Duckworth. The One Dish, One Spoon Wampum Belt reminds us that we live on shared land and that we should take only what we need, so that there is enough for others.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum, with a day-long event supported by so many in our community. As well as being an important example of Carolinian forest, Ska-Nah-Doht has played a pivotal role in regional student education and has been practicing land-based education for decades. The success of our event demonstrates the multi-generational impact and the relationship to land that this education has fostered. In 2023, we broke ground on the ambitious Indigenous Learning Centre project, which will provide a venue for community engagement in Indigenous cultural heritage and land based learning. The aging Learning Centre has been reimagined, improving structure, accessibility and learning opportunities.

The LTVCA is also working with local First Nations to reimagine the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, making it a site where two-eyed-seeing and traditional ecological knowledge can be shared. We continue to support the Children's Water Festival, tree planting programs, camping, as well as critical flood forecasting and monitoring to ensure community safety. The LTVCA continues to pursue land based stewardship initiatives, partnering with local landowners to create healthier ecosystems across the watershed.

And finally, I will speak from a personal note. As someone who loves the land and my community with equal passion, being entrusted in the role of Chair of the LTVCA means a great deal to me. I believe in our community, our staff, and our partners to deliver high quality services, management and protection to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation watershed.

Miigwetch and thank you to everyone who has been a part of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's successes this year

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Emons".

Sarah Emons
Chair

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



For over 63 years the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has worked with the local communities of the lower Thames River to improve their watershed. This work continued in 2023. Once again community members came to support the many different programs we offer. The LTVCA appreciates the support and dedication of individuals, businesses, community groups, municipalities and a huge variety of organizations. Without this support we could not do our work.

We are excited about new opportunities to apply for federal funding for phosphorus reduction, Lake St. Clair resiliency planning and restoration of the Rondeau Bay Barrier Beach. These opportunities, provided by the federal government, will allow us to move forward with communities to address outstanding issues that affect us all.

In 2023 we began the construction of the Indigenous Community Learning Centre and the revitalization of the Longwoods Road Resource Centre. This project (funded through grants, donations and reserves) involves a modernization of the existing building (new fire alarm system, windows, insulation, furnaces, roofing and siding) and the construction of a new hall, kitchen and accessible washroom (Indigenous Community Learning Centre). The LTVCA thanks the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for moving forward with a major fundraising campaign to fund this work and a second phase. The second phase will move forward once funds are raised. This phase will include construction of an accessible elevator (funds already received to complete the elevator), a new gallery, new offices to allow conversion of current offices into an additional gallery and the provision of proper storage of the large number of artifacts collected from the site.

In 2023 we also moved forward with the revitalization of the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre (previously known as the Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village). A significant amount of funding has been received from a number of grants to allow this to occur. We thank the Municipality of Chatham-Kent for its support in making this happen. We are excited as we start seeing increasing interest in programs and use of the revitalized building.

The LTVCA continues its work with Indigenous Nations in flood plain mapping, agricultural land stewardship, land restoration, education and events. Staff are thankful for the opportunities to work and learn from Indigenous community members as we move projects forward that improve our environment. Bill 23 has had a significant impact on staff tasks in 2023. During this year, LTVCA staff have worked with member municipal staff and councils to complete cost apportionment agreements. Agreements are in place for all 10 municipalities. We are thankful that our municipalities support the work we do and we will continue to ensure this support through provision of cost effective programming. This would not have happened without the support of board members who championed our agreement requests. For this and all the other support that Board members provided the LTVCA during 2023, we are grateful.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for all their hard work and dedication. The success of our programs would not be possible without the talents and efforts of staff. We look forward to working with you all for a successful 2023.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Peacock'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Peacock, P.Eng
CAO- Secretary/Treasurer

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SERVICES

WATER MANAGEMENT

The winter of 2023 was particularly mild. The Thames River didn't freeze over until February 1st and by the 10th, some small rain events had flushed all the ice away. Warm temperatures for the rest of the month didn't allow the river to refreeze. There were a couple small events in late March leading up to the spring freshet. It was triggered by a rain event on March 31st and April 1st that dropped 30 to 60 mm around the watershed, with more rain spread out over the next 5 days. In response, the Thames River rose flooding the river flats from Delaware down to Chatham. Flows peaked near Dutton at around 500 m³/s on April 3rd and near Thamesville at around 590 m³/s late on April 4th. The 6th Street Backwater Dam in Chatham was closed on April 3rd and wasn't reopened until April 7th. Water levels peaked at around 178.93m (CGVD28:78) in Chatham on April 5th.

The McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated three times in 2023. The first time was March 4th through the 6th. The second operation was associated with the spring freshet and lasted from April 1st through the 7th. The last event was caused by a significant July rain event that saw 107 mm of rain at Ridgetown between June 30th and July 3rd, with 71 mm of it falling on the 2nd. The Diversion was operated from July 3rd to the 5th.

Water levels on Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie were overall quite similar to those seen in 2022. They were down substantially from the record setting years of 2019 and 2020 but still above average.

As 2022 was quite a dry year, the Lower Thames watershed started 2023 in a Low Water Level One Condition. That Low Water Condition was lifted in March. Conditions started to dry out in late May and June, but storms in July and August brought water levels back up. No additional Low Water Conditions were issued for the rest of the year.

FLOOD MESSAGES



THAMES RIVER

19

SAFETY BULLETIN



1

FLOOD OUTLOOK



11

FLOOD WATCHES



5

FLOOD WARNINGS



2

LAKE ERIE/ST-CLAIR

10

9

1



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SERVICES

WATER QUALITY

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. New telemetry equipment was installed at a well near Ridgetown in the 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 during the spring, summer and fall.

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

The algae bloom situation in 2023 was not as significant as in previous years. A small bloom was seen starting to form on the Thames River in Chatham on August 11th. However, it was gone the next day. Another bloom was seen starting to form on October 5th. However, rainfall later that day and overnight cause the river to rise and the bloom was flushed away. LTVCA staff were also monitoring the river for blooms with an algae sensor. However, due to how quickly the blooms disappeared this year, samples were not collected.



Staff collecting Benthic Invertebrates for water quality research with the University of Windsor.



Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network sample collecting.



Fixing the intake and bubbler line to the ISCO at Big Creek.

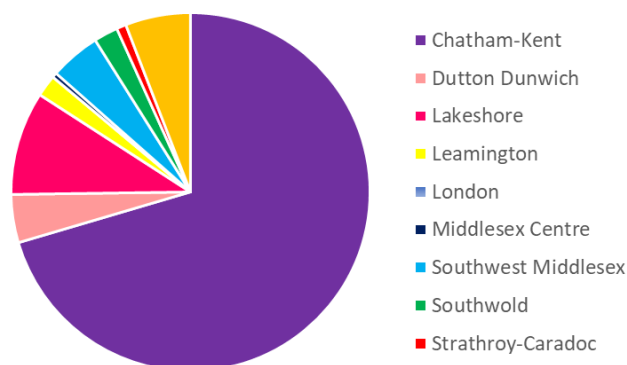
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PLANNING AND 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 human activities (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 hazards. Education of the public and our member municipalities is key to helping maintain these areas in a natural state so that they continue to provide a flood and erosion service on the landscape.

Planning staff dealt with 416 municipal planning submissions in 2023 (OP's, ZBL's, OPA's, ZBLA's, CZBL's, Severances, Minor Variances, subdivisions, and legal inquiries) as it relates to Provincial Policy. Regulations staff dealt with 460 permit applications in 2023. The planning and regulations numbers are down from 2022.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS BY MUNICIPALITY



6th Street Dam Operation during the April 2, 2023 flood event.



Flooding from the Thames River impacting Thames Grove Park in Chatham, April 5, 2023



Erie Shore Drive road flooding, April 17, 2023

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

RURAL STEWARDSHIP

Embracing our commitment to environmental stewardship, our team diligently worked on the ground, making strides in greening our communities across 10 municipalities. Our ongoing partnerships with Ducks Unlimited and ALUS Canada flourished, showcasing collaborative efforts that have positively impacted our watershed. Here's a glimpse of the impactful work accomplished this year:

SEEDLINGS SOLD



71,210

WETLANDS



9 PROJECTS

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE



39.5 ACRES



ACRES

23 New Acres
enrolled



FUNDING

\$80 000
invested in projects



PROJECTS

15 New Projects
Planted 9440 trees



IMPACT

150 projects to date
275 acres to date



NEW FARMERS

12 New Participants

ALUS Chatham-Kent is entering its 5th year of partnering with local farmers to provide ecosystem services. We are currently working with twenty farmers who want to establish projects on their farms in 2024. Tree planting remains a popular project & we've seen an uptick in interest for the creation of wetlands.

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES



ACRES

72 New Acres Enrolled
117 Renewed Acres



FUNDING

\$300 000
invested



PROJECTS

21 New Projects



COMMUNITY

2 Community Events



NEW FARMERS

8 New Participants
6 Returning Participants

Interest in the program continues to thrive without advertising. Twenty-eight landowners have approached us with project requests for 2024.

While all project types are in demand, erosion control is currently a concern for many Elgin Country farmers.



ACRES

150 New Acres



FUNDING

\$915,000
invested in projects



PROJECTS

48 New Projects



COMMUNITY

2 Community Events



NEW FARMERS

30 New
Participants

ALUS Middlesex completed its 6th year of field operations - enrolling its 700th productive acre - providing ecosystem services across the county through trees, wetlands, and grasslands.

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

URBAN STEWARDSHIP

The LTVCA’s Urban Stewardship program made significant strides in fostering environmental sustainability and community engagement throughout 2023. With the help of numerous community partners and volunteers, we were able to accomplish the following:

TREES PLANTED



625

POLLINATOR GARDENS CREATED



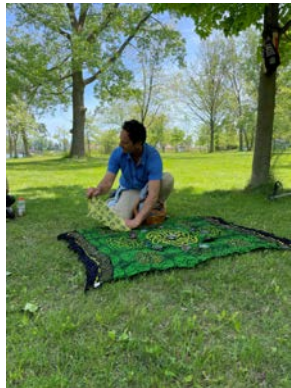
6

GARBAGE CLEANED UP



1,500 LBS

The Urban Stewardship program expresses deep gratitude to all our volunteers and community partners. Together, we have made progress towards more sustainable and resilient urban environment in our watershed, and we look forward to continuing this journey in the years to come.



Ben Porchuk leading an eco-psychology event at C.M Wilson Conservation Area.



Baha'i community of Chatham-Kent tree planting.



Scouts Canada #19 Chatham Group cleaning up the Thames River during the 3rd Annual CK Paddle & Clean.



CUCC science class helping out with Invasive removal at Thames Grove.



Cloverbud's garbage clean up Paxton's Bush.



The Ridgetown Horticultural Society and Ridgetown Rotary Club tree planting at TREES Memorial Park.



TD Tree Days planted 150 trees at C.M Wilson Conservation Area.

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The Agricultural Program works to enhance water quality, improve soil health, support the agricultural sector, and strengthen environmental stewardship. The LTVCA continued to engage watershed stakeholders in 2023 through the delivery of phosphorus reduction initiatives, with the goal of reducing phosphorus loads in the Thames River and the Lake Erie basin. During 2023, the 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.

Monitoring and research to assess how agricultural practices are affecting water quality and soil health was conducted through support from the ONFARM program throughout 2023. The summer months saw multiple high intensity rain events. The data collected will help to evaluate the effectiveness of different best management practices.

The Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health works to restore, protect and conserve Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health. One highlight of this project during the 2023 year includes the collaboration with the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation to develop an Agricultural Management Plan as well as a surface water quality monitoring program.

TOTAL COVER CROP FUNDING TO FARMERS



\$138,062.50



Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Environmental Technician learning how to take stream flow calculations with assistance from LTVCA water quality staff members.

AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS



51



Landowners cover crop planting in the LTVCA watershed supported by the Soil Health Program incentive dollars.

COVER CROPS PLANTED



3,601 HA/8,900 ACRES



Flooding at a LTVCA edge-of-field monitoring station caused by significant precipitation event in August.

JULY/AUGUST WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED



108



Water samples collected for edge-of-field research. Samples on the left were collected from a conventional tillage, no cover crop field. The samples on the right were collected from a field where Best Management Practices including no-till and cover crops have been implemented.

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK (SAR)

Staff deployed data loggers at 10 stations in the Thames River and one station in Baptiste Creek to quantify the health of the aquatic environment for fish and mussel SAR. This is the third year of temperature and the first year for dissolved oxygen monitoring.

Nine interpretive signs were installed in conservation areas (CAs) to raise awareness about local fish and mussel SAR and aquatic invasive species (AIS), encouraging citizens to take action to protect SAR and monitor them using citizen science apps. Dynamic QR codes track public engagement. An Aquatic SAR Threats Guidebook was created and fish and mussel guidebooks were updated. All are available on the LTVCA's SAR webpage and in print form. Landowner contact information was gathered to connect with landowners whose livestock access watercourses or whose creeks lack shoreline vegetation (i.e. riparian buffers) to encourage future interest in SAR-beneficial restoration projects. This work was funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO's) Habitat Stewardship Fund (HSP) and Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic SAR.



Staff prepare a PME miniDOT logger for sampling dissolved oxygen and temperature conditions in the Thames River.



Staff taking the DBH (diameter at breast height) of an Eastern Cottonwood tree as part of ecological land classification (ELC) work at Big Bend Conservation Area.

TERRESTRIAL SAR

Habitat classification and acoustic and ultrasonic recordings of birds, amphibians and bats were completed at Big Bend, E. M. Warwick and Feasby CAs, as were late season breeding bird surveys and surveys for threatened Bank Swallows. Sound recordings, including those from Mosa and Ashton Forest CAs in 2022, were identified. Mosa and Ashton Forest CA bat activity was also determined. This work, funded by Environment & Climate Change Canada's HSP and Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) programs, provides valuable biological information to support the future development of CA management plans. Three interpretive signs were completed for installation at Mosa Forest CA in 2024. These signs will raise awareness of the importance of core forest habitat to bird SAR like the Cerulean Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker, the overall significance of the forest and why it is important to stay on designated trails. Dynamic QR codes will track public engagement generated. A bat banner displaying the eight bat species native to Ontario was also developed for interpretive use. Printing costs were covered by Evolgen.

INVASIVE SPECIES AND AQUATIC SAR

A canoe survey along 2.26 km of McGregor and Wolfe Creeks did not locate Water Lettuce, suggesting success of a removal effort in 2021. Staff raised awareness of the impact of AIS on SAR with local businesses. Booths were staffed at The Glasshouse Nursery and Cultivating Conservation Tour. Invasive carp and goby models (purchased with Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk funding) were displayed. Nine AIS Alert factsheets were distributed at these events, through social media and on the LTVCA website. This work was funded by the Invasive Species Centre.

CONSERVATION LANDS AND SERVICES

WESTERN CONSERVATION AREAS

The Western district has witnessed significant developments recently. At the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre and Village, a comprehensive overhaul has been underway, with staff diligently cleaning and revitalizing both the building and surrounding structures. Notably, the installation of a new Wind Phone provides a compassionate avenue for connecting loved ones during times of grief. Additionally, the relocation of the Agricultural Soil and Water Lab. Furthermore, Walter Devereaux Conservation Area is undergoing an exciting transformation with the creation of a new trail within the woodlot.



New road signs for the C.M Wilson Learning Centre.



Rotary Satellite Club of Chatham-Kent paint the conservation classroom in the C.M Wilson Learning Centre.



A wind phone was donated to C.M Wilson Conservation Area by the After;Group.



a nature display from the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum was relocated to the C.M Wilson Learning Centre.



A memorial bench was installed at McGeachy Pond.

EASTERN CONSERVATION AREAS

In the Eastern District, recent developments include the installation of a new dock at Sharon Creek, enhancing waterfront access. Progress continues at the Ska-Nah-Doht Museum construction site, advancing steadily. E.M. Warwick is spearheading the West Elgin Community Health Initiative, bolstering revenue streams during winter months, alongside regular Scout bookings. Infrastructure upgrades include new steel roofs at Livermoore and Millstream, while Mosa Forest benefits from invasive species control, ensuring ecosystem health and sustainability.



Staff received training for their chainsaw license.



A new dock at Sharon Creek Conservation Area for paddlers.



The Ska-Nah-Doht museum expansion and renovations are underway.



New roof on the barn at Millstream Conservation Area.



Staff work hard to construct a brand new dock at Sharon Creek Conservation Area.

COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In 2023, LTVCA sustained its respected education programs at Longwoods Road Conservation Area while initiating plans to establish the Learning Centre at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Renovation efforts are in progress with initial programming underway. Three team members now operate from the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, facilitating program delivery. This expansion signifies a commitment to enhancing environmental education opportunities, fostering greater community engagement, and promoting conservation awareness across our region.

STUDENTS



5,049

COMMUNITY MEMBERS



574

OUTREACH



Glasshouse Nursery event educating gardeners on invasive species.



Outreach booth on species at risk at the 3rd annual Cultivating Conservation.



Farmfest hosted by Red Barn Brewery.



Staff at Chatham-Kent Farm show.



Harvest Days at University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus.



Sons Of Kent Night Market.

COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE AND MUSEUM

In 2023, the museum featured two temporary exhibits, including a commemorative 50th Anniversary Exhibit. Notably, in May, the Longdo Trail showcased red dresses, inviting visitors to cut out a Red Dress to display on the museum windows.

In the spring, interpretive signage detailing the history of each Heritage Log Cabin was installed in both English and their respective native languages. Throughout summer, the Munsee and Oneida Cabins welcomed visitors with small exhibits. Additionally, an updated highway sign on Longwoods Road was installed.



LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) is an independent, not-for-profit, federally registered charity, governed by a volunteer Board of six Directors. The LTVCF works in partnership with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and other watershed conservation organizations, raising funds to support the wise management of our renewable natural resources.

This year, the Foundation embarked on an ambitious capital fundraising campaign in support of the LTVCA's new Indigenous Learning Centre and Revitalization of Ska-Nah-Doht Museum.

Since the establishment of the Foundation's Memorial Forest Program over 26 years ago, 10,120 trees have been planted in six memorial forests. Three dedication services were held this year at memorial forests. The Foundation provided the LTVCA with \$4,479 towards the planting of the 338 memorial tree seedlings donated this year.



COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

EVENTS

A number of events were held throughout 2023. A few are detailed below:

March Break activities at low or no cost to the community at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Approximately 370 people visited Ska-Nah-Doht Museum during March Break.

The Battle of Longwoods hosted in partnership with the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society took place on May 6 to 7, 2023. Approximately 1450 people, including reenactors, took part in the weekend long event.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum, a celebration was held on August 13th, 2023. Approximately 900 people, including partners, vendors, presenters, and performers participated in the event.

The 3rd annual Cultivating Conservation Tour, hosted in our Eastern municipalities, showcased restoration efforts across four sites. Participants concluded the day at Arrowwood Farms, indulging in a delectable meal and immersive farm tour. It celebrated community-driven conservation while fostering appreciation for sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

Imagine McGregor Through the Eyes of Youth was a community-based art show revolving around climate change, in which art students from Ursuline College Chatham created over 50 pieces of art that were displayed at William St. Café. The two-day grand opening of the art show helped raise awareness of environmental issues and sparked hope for the future.

The Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival took place at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area in early October. 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 600 students over 3 days.

On November 22nd, 2023 a commencement event was held to recognize the beginning of construction of the renovation and expansion of the Longwoods Road Resource Centre.



50th anniversary of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum.



A stop on the 3rd annual Cultivating Conservation Tour.



Imagine McGregor Through the Eyes of Youth art show held at William Street Café.



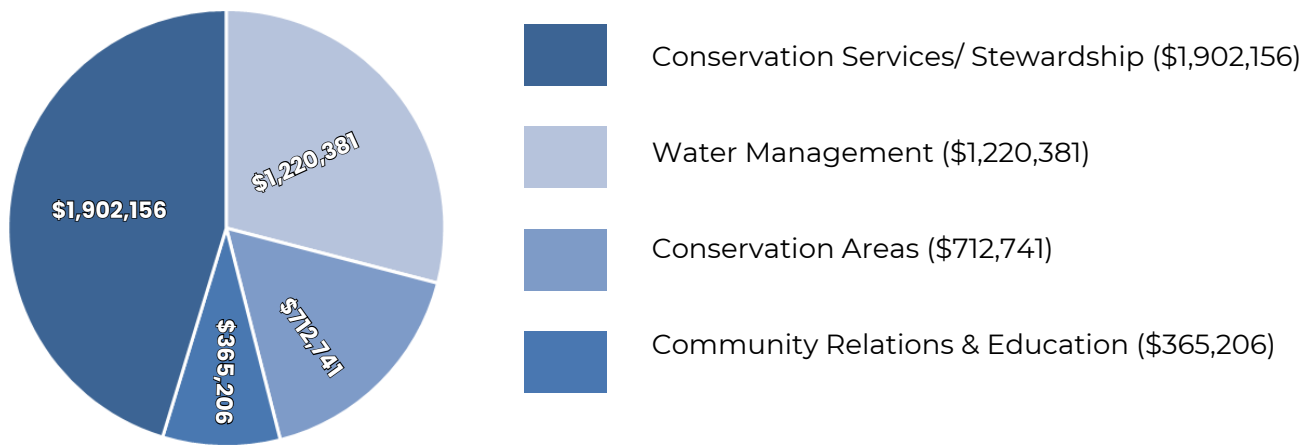
Eagle Flight singers and dancers performing at commencement event. Two of the dancers are the grandchildren of our late Indigenous Educator Rose Nicholas, who had a large impact on the teachings at Longwoods Road Conservation Area.



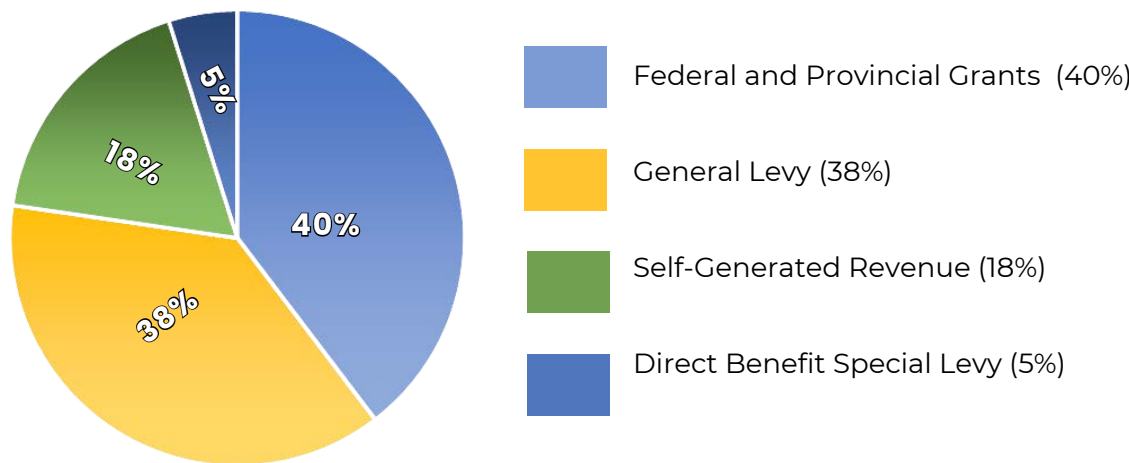
Chatham-Kent & Lambton Water Festival a three day event held in partnership with St.Clair Region Conservation Authority.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES







BUDGET



USE OF FUNDS BY DEPARTMENT



LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS

 Watershed Management Services 				
		2021	2022	2023
Permit Applications Received		684	543	460
Permits Issued		674	556*	451
Planning Applications		360	409	416
Landowner Inquiries		1,972	2,341	1,091
Legal Inquiries		105	105	61
Average Turn Around Time for Permits (days)	Routine Development	3	7	3.5
	Minor Development	24	18	14
	Major Development	191	153	n/a**
Hearings		4	7	0
Violations/Potential Violations		41	26	21
*Permits issued is higher than permit applications received because they were processed the following year.				
**No major development actions received.				
 Water Monitoring 				
		2021	2022	2023
Number of Surface Water Quality Monitoring Stations		23	23	22
Number of Ground Water Quality Monitoring Stations		9	9	9
Number of Benthic Monitoring Stations		11	6	12
 ONFarm 				
		2021	2022	2023
Number of Water Sampling Stations		12	12	7
Number of Water Samples Collected		591	202	108

LTVCA BY THE NUMBERS

<div>  Conservation Services  </div>				
Area		2021	2022	2023
Total Land Holdings (Hectares)		694	704	704
Total Hectares Under Forest Management Plans		143	153	153
Total Taxes for Landholdings		\$ 59,138.00	\$ 52,417.00	\$54,046.00
Seedlings Sold		87,701	94,867	71,210
Total Hectares/ Acres of Habitat Restored	Trees	31.5/78.2	48/117.8	33.5/83
	Wetland	16.5/40.7	20.5/50.8	1.88/4.66
	Prairie	33.5/83.2	35/86.2	16/39.5
Total Number of Projects	Trees	91	56	49
	Wetland	33	28	9
	Prairie	30	17	19
New ALUS Participants**	Chatham-Kent	26	13	12
	Elgin	28	24	14
	Middlesex	29	30	30
Total ALUS Acres	Chatham-Kent	89	62.35	23
	Elgin	119	223***	72
	Middlesex	130	285	150
Urban Stewardship Events		6	20	24
Total Seasonal Campsite Purchased		43	72	72
Total Campers		24,563	31,865	29,952
Day Use Visitors (CM Wilson)		2,868	5,881	5,577
Day Use Visitors (Longwoods)		10,111	11,716	13,401
Day Use Visitors (Sharon Creek)		N/A	N/A	3,630
Total Parking Passes Sold		472	396	343
**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



	2021	2022	2023
Participating Farm Businesses	84	70	51
Funding Provided to Farm Businesses	\$143,807.35	\$138,420.85	\$138,062.50
Cover Crops Planted (Acres)	10,828	9,785	8,900



Communication, Outreach and Education



Area	2021	2022	2023
Number of Volunteers	84	1,065	915
Number of Volunteer Hours	360.4	6,472	5,764
Number of outreach Events	19	29	26
Number of Students Participating in Education Programing	204	3,586	5,049
Number of Webinars	5	4	3
Number of Facebook Followers	N/A	3,223	3,483
Number of Instagram Followers	N/A	1,101	1,258



AWARDS

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2023

MOST DEDICATED ORGANIZATION CHATHAM-KENT DRAINAGE-BLAISE CHEVALIER



Blaise has been a valuable drainage superintendent for Chatham-Kent in East Kent and Zone Township. We commend his efforts to involve the LTVCA where possible and present opportunities where we can collaborate on Green Infrastructure projects to improve drainage, water quality, and bank stability.

MOST DEDICATED LANDOWNER LINDA AND GARY KALITA



Linda and Gary have shown immense dedication in managing their new tree planting project. They have personally tended over 2000 trees to ensure optimal growth for the young seedlings, ensuring their forest has the best chance to grow into its full potential. Their continued support for the environment and LTVCA has resonated throughout the office, which can also be attributed to Linda's famous lemon squares.

VOLUNTEER HEROES AWARDS

SPECIAL EVENT GARY EAGLESON



For 16 years, Gary lead an interactive activity on acid rain at the CK & Lambton Children's Water Festival, engaging young minds alongside a team of retired high school science teachers. Beyond his festival contributions, Gary's commitment to conservation is evident in his ownership and meticulous management of a 16-hectare naturized property since 2006. His dedication to environmental education and sustainable land stewardship has left an indelible mark on his community and beyond.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOUTS CANADA #19 CHATHAM GROUP

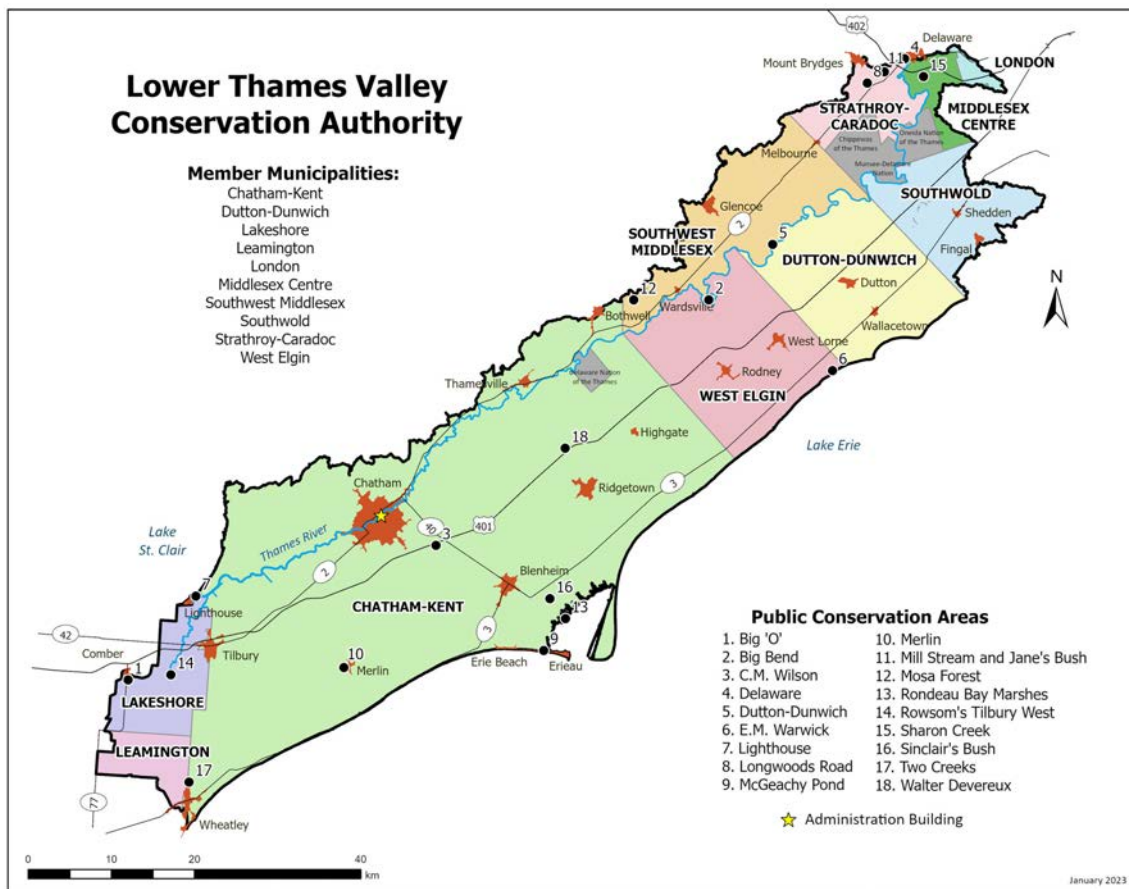


Scouts Canada #19 Chatham Group is a group of passionate young individuals and their leaders dedicated to environmental stewardship. Their recent participation in the CK Paddle & Clean showcased their commitment to conservation, as they played a pivotal role in removing over 1500 lbs of garbage from the Thames River, including six shopping carts. Additionally, their efforts in enhancing the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre demonstrate their dedication to improving their community.

COMMITTEE ROTARY SATELLITE CLUB OF CHATHAM-KENT



The Rotary Satellite Club of Chatham epitomizes proactive community engagement. When the LTVCA initiated renovations at the C.M. Wilson Learning Centre, they eagerly took charge, painting the conservation classroom. Their team, comprised of skilled and dedicated volunteers, worked tirelessly after hours, swiftly turning a mundane space into an enchanting nature-themed environment. Through their hands-on approach and unwavering commitment, they continue to leave a lasting impact.



2023 LTVCA BOARD

Sarah Emons- Chair (Township Of Southwold)
Trevor Thompson- Vice-Chair (Municipality of Chatham-Kent)
Paul Tiessen- Vice Chair (Municipality of Leamington)
Hugh Aerts (Municipality of Middlesex Centre)
Michael Bondy (Municipality of Chatham-Kent)
Amy Finn (Municipality of Chatham-Kent)
Sandi Hipple (Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc)
Richard Leatham (Municipality of West Elgin)
Ken Loveland (Municipality of Dutton Dunwich)
Paul Van Meerbergen (City of London)
Martin Vink (Municipality of Southwest Middlesex)
Larissa Vogler (Municipality of Lakeshore)

SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Willem Bruinink- Chair
Ken Loveland- Co-Chair
Gayle Bogart
Don Fairbairn
Darcy Fallon
Ronald Doane
Christopher Parker
Sandi Hipple



2023 LTVCA STAFF

Full-Time/Long-Term Contract

Mark Peacock - CAO/Secretary- Treasurer
Victoria Barlow - GIS Technician (until September)
Daniel Bittman - Watershed Monitoring Specialist (*until January*)
Amanda Blain- Communications Specialist/Lands Technician (Western)
Emily Brammer - Administrative Assistant, Planning and Regs (*until September*)
Alyssa Broeders - Community Educator/Urban Stewardship Technician
Ryan Carlow - Soil & Water Quality Technician (until March)
Kally Casier - Finance & Administrative Assistant
Todd Casier - Manager, Finance & Administrative Services
Genevieve Champagne - Manager, Conservation Lands & Services
Jessica Cook - Indigenous Community Educator
Sarah Cook - Outreach Specialist
Stephanie Cullen - ALUS Elgin Coordinator
Jerry De Zwart - Community Educator (*on leave*)
Elise Gabrielli-Schroeder - ALUS Middlesex Coordinator
Adam Gibb - Western District Supervisor
Robert Guo - Planning Technici
Jason Homewood - Water Resources & Regulations Technician
Jumanah Khan - ALUS Elgin Coordinator (until June)
Randy Kirby - Watershed Monitoring Specialist
Alison Klages - Curator, Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum,
Team Lead Education and Communications
Colin Little - Agricultural Program Coordinator (until June)
Brittney Littlefield - Soil & Water Quality Technician
Thomas Martel - Community Educator
Vicki McKay - Species at Risk Biologist
Peter Moddle - ALUS Middlesex Coordinator (*until October*)
Elizabeth Philip - Water Resources Engineer
Michael Shore - Eastern District Supervisor
Donna Small - Agricultural Program Coordinator
Vance Stark - Eastern District Supervisor (until June)
Shauna Taylor - ALUS Chatham-Kent Program Coordinator (until March)
Tyler Thornton - Eastern District Stewardship Technician
Valerie Towsley - Watershed Resource Planner
Rashel Tremblay - ALUS Chatham-Kent Program Coordinator
Greg Van Every- Conservation Service Coordinator
Agnes Vriends - Administrative Assistant
Connor Wilson - Planner (*until July*)
Jason Wintermute - Manager, Watershed & Information Services

2023 FUNDERS

Member Municipalities
TD Bank
Together CK
CK Community Foundation
Wildlife Habitat Canada
The Invasive Species Council
Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise
The Baha'is Community of CK
The Hindu Community of CK
The Chatham 19 Scouts
Rainbarrel.ca.
The Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund
Environment and Climate Change initiative
Forest Ontario
Ridge Landfill
Rotary Satellite Club of Chatham
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Retro Suites
Ridgetown Rotary
Ridgetown Horticultural Society

Province of Ontario
Coca Cola Canada
Elgin Clean Water Program
Elgin Stewardship Council
Enbridge
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Invasive Species Centre
Canada Summer Jobs
Government of Canada
United Way
Visit Middlesex
Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Sport Ontario
Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation
Desjardins Foundation
Friends of the St. Clair River
Delaware Lioness Club
Optimist Club of West Lorne
Optimists of Mount Brydges
Rodney Lions Club
Salus Mutual Insurance

Part-Time/Contract Staff

Mark Bakelaar - Visitor Services, Longwoods
Jack Belleghem - Land Stewardship Assistant
Nicole Clark - Eastern District Lead Hand
Nick Congdon - Eastern District Lead Hand (until June)
Ismay Earl - Western District Ranger
Connor Ferguson - Conservation Services Assistant (Eastern)
Natasha Gamble - Reforestation Maintenance Assistant
Darren Hughes - SAR Technician
Madison McKnight - Environmental Technician
Sabryn McLennan - Community Engagement Staff
Graham Moddle - ALUS Elgin/Middlesex, Project Monitoring Specialist
Edmund McRae - Eastern District Ranger
Kevin Nielsen - ALUS Middlesex, Research and Monitoring
Preston Nielson - ALUS Elgin Program Assistant
Sarah Rabideau - Species at Risk Monitoring Technician
Alison Roland - Administrative Assistant, Planning and Regs
Kristina Silveira - Environmental Technician
Nolan Thibert - Western Lead Hand
Hannah Vanderydt - Education Programmer
Michael Young - Wetlands & Stewardship Technician



RETIREMENT- JERRY DEZWART



Jerry's passion was at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village, where he offered a blended outdoor curriculum of western science and traditional ecological knowledge. He taught pre-school to college level and engaged the public at events like the Moonlight Winter Owl Hike and March Break Programs.

In the community, Jerry lent a hand to all LTVCA departments and neighbouring Conservation Authorities. He helped at watershed water festivals in Middlesex, Elgin and Chatham-Kent/Lambton, and with a virtual high school student conference concerning the Huron-Erie Corridor portion of the Great Lakes shoreline. On numerous occasions Jerry presented at the London school board environmental awards. Every spring, the River and Creek Safety Program was Jerry's flood awareness presentation to grade 2 students in the Lower Thames.

Over the years, Jerry mentored many student volunteers and staff. He coached them in trail maintenance and management of nesting box programs and shared his concern about invasive species through hands-on control of phragmites and garlic mustard. He was also key in the planting and maintenance of the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail with youth at Longwoods.

Jerry retired after 16 years of unwavering care and concern for the environment, and promotion of biodiversity, pollinators and native species. His kind, patient, and gentle demeanor established him as an effective communicator with all audiences, while teaching about conservation year-round. He will be missed. Thank you Jerry!





ltvca.ca

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