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Message from the Chair & General Manager

2025 was a year full of accomplishments worth celebrating in the Long Point Region watershed. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we are proud to showcase these accomplishments in the 2025 Annual Report.

LPRCA was successful in securing a multi-year commitment of over \$1.1 million in federal funding from the Canada Water Agency's Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative towards reducing phosphorus loading in the Big Otter Creek sub-watershed and advancing the decommissioning of the Vittoria Dam.

We celebrated the completion of the multi-year Conservation Education Centre Revitalization project at Backus Heritage Conservation Area, ensuring environmental education for students in the watershed can continue on for years to come in an updated space. Staff continue to make significant progress on several studies and mapping projects, safety improvements at our flood control structures, upgrades to our campgrounds and conservation areas, and multiple capital projects.

Change has remained constant for Conservation Authorities, and 2025 was no different. The Province announced the creation of a new governing agency and the proposed amalgamation of 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional authorities. Although the detailed framework of the proposed amalgamation has yet to be released, the Board of Directors and management will be proceeding forward with the best interests of our watershed residents, member municipalities and staff.

LPRCA's vision and mission has remained clear. The Authority continues to work together to shape the future well-being of our watershed by delivering excellent services; protecting, advancing and rejuvenating the watershed; and optimizing the health and well-being of the watershed through education and best practices.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for their support and to staff for all of their hard work and dedication that ensured meaningful progress continued.

Dave Beres
Chair, LPRCA Board of Directors

Judy Maxwell
General Manager, LPRCA

Protecting Life & Property

Flood Forecasting & Warning

In 2025, the Long Point Region watershed experienced a total of five flood-related events with staff issuing 12 messages during the events. LPRCA also monitors low water levels by measuring precipitation, stream flow and groundwater levels. With consultation and support from the Joint Water Response Team, one *Level 1 Low Water Advisory* was issued in August 2025 asking users to voluntarily reduce water usage by 10%. The advisory remained in place until mid-December.

	2025	2024
Water Conditions Statements	7	6
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Flood Warnings	1	3

LPRCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning team works on rotation 24/7/365 to fulfill Conservation Authorities' core mandate of protecting people and property from natural hazards. The team monitors both lake and riverine conditions across the watershed and with coordination with municipal emergency response staff, delivers flood-related messages to the public for storm events. The messages are also relayed to LPRCA's website and posted to all LPRCA social media channels.

Source Water Protection

The Grand River Conservation Authority manages the source water program for the Lake Erie Source Protection Region which includes Long Point, Grand River, Catfish Creek and Kettle Creek Conservation Authorities. In compliance with the *Clean Water Act, 2006* a plan to protect the sources of municipal drinking water is in place for each watershed.

The Long Point Region Source Protection Plan has been in effect since 2015 and addresses risks related to contamination and overuse. In accordance with *Ontario Regulation 287/07, section 52*, the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority submits annual progress reports to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on the progress made in implementing our Source Protection Plan.

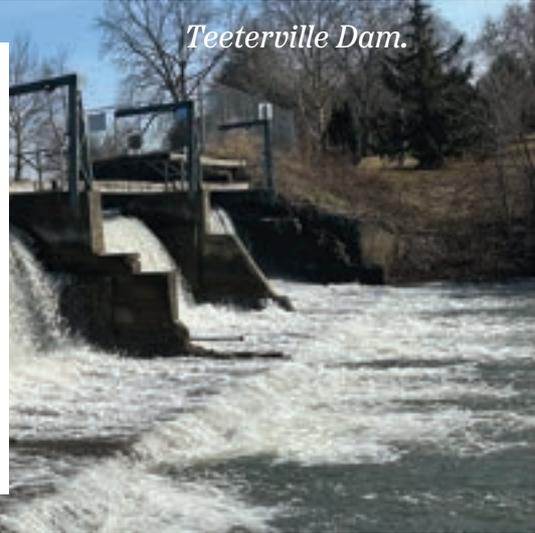
The Section 36 update to the Assessment Report and Source Water Protection Plan for Long Point Region was released for consultation with implementing bodies and the public and closed on December 19, 2025. The update for the plan is due for submission to MECP on December 31, 2026.

Engineering & Infrastructure

Teeterville Dam

A Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment (EA) was initiated for Teeterville Dam. LPRCA held Public Information Centres in February and June. Based on a weighted evaluation, the preferred alternative is to repair the dam. Repairing the dam will resolve the stability issues, improve still-water habitat and recreational opportunities, retain emergency fire water supply and maintain the historic visual character of the site. The EA process is in the final phase for Teeterville Dam.

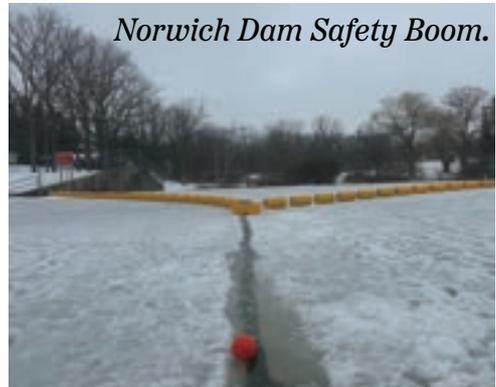
Teeterville Dam.



Other Projects:

- A Public Safety Boom was installed at Norwich Dam;
- A Dam Safety Review (DSR) was completed on Deer Creek Dam;
- A design report for repairs was completed for Hay Creek Dam;
- A design brief was prepared for proposed structure alterations and channel realignment at Sutton Dam; and
- A DSR commenced on Lehman Dam.

Norwich Dam Safety Boom.



Staff performing dam inspection.



Vittoria Dam

In 2025, LPRCA was successful in securing \$635,000 in federal funding over four years from the Canada Water Agency as part of the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative to support the Vittoria Dam decommissioning. The funding will support restoring the ecological connectivity to Young's Creek while improving Lake Erie nearshore water quality. A kick-off meeting was held with Canada Water Agency to start the planning process for the decommissioning.

Planning & Regulations

LPRCA is responsible for regulating development in natural hazard areas to protect people, property and the environment from damage due to flooding, erosion and other natural hazards. Regulating development also aids in the protection of natural features including rivers, streams, floodplains, wetlands, valley lands and the Lake Erie Shoreline. LPRCA completed a comprehensive update to regulation mapping which reflects new floodplain and hazard mapping studies and new topographic information. Additional updates to LPRCA's regulation mapping were made to ensure alignment with the updated provincial legislation, *Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*. LPRCA held a consultation period for the draft mapping, giving the public an opportunity to submit comments/feedback. Following the consultation, the comprehensive mapping update was finalized and approved by the Board of Directors in December of 2025. In accordance with the new Regulation, LPRCA will proceed with updating mapping annually.

Updated interactive regulation mapping.

In 2025, LPRCA issued 222 permits with the following average turnaround times:

Minor Applications: 4.7 days
Major Applications: 5.6 days

	2025	2024
Permit Applications Issued	222	198
Municipal Applications Reviewed and Comments Provided	123	84
Formal Pre-consultation Meetings	20	14

To aid LPRCA's planning and flood forecasting and warning staff, updates were made to LPRCA's hydrology model that will enable new and updated flood and erosion hazard mapping for 46km of Nanticoke Creek and 32km of Upper Big Creek. Nanticoke Creek mapping will be finalized in 2026 and Upper Big Creek will be completed in 2027.

Enhancing Watershed Health Stewardship Programs

LPRCA's stewardship programs help residents preserve and enhance their property through best management practices (BMP). Projects such as cover crops, planting trees, restoring land, erosion control and rural water quality programs benefit the watershed's health by decreasing sediment and nutrient loading, restoring the natural hydrology, habitat restoration and improving biodiversity.

In 2025, LPRCA was successful in securing a federal funding commitment of \$512,000 over four years from the Canada Water Agency as part of the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. This funding will support efforts to reduce phosphorus loading in the Big Otter Creek sub-watershed through the implementation of BMP. LPRCA is working closely with private landowners and farmers to implement these programs. To raise awareness and encourage participation, staff distributed program brochures throughout the rural areas of the sub-watershed and hosted a public information session.

Through Forests Canada's 50 Million Program and Ontario Power Generation's Regional Biodiversity Program, LPRCA facilitated the planting of 39,740 trees (seedlings/seeds). ALUS Norfolk coordinated funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Integrated Conservation Action Plan to help fund 1,609 acres of cover crops and one erosion control project on private lands. The Invasive Phragmites Control Fund provided funding to treat Phragmites within the Lee Brown Marsh Waterfowl Management Area.



Scouts Canada and LPRCA tree planting event.



Forests Canada and OPG funded tree planting site at Backus Heritage CA.

In October, LPRCA hosted Forests Canada Fall Partner Delivery Agency field tour event. The tour highlighted four restoration sites around the watershed where attendees were able to discuss best practices when facilitating a restoration.

Invasive Species Control



HWA treatment/prevention.

In 2025, forestry staff treated 717 acres across 11 properties, concentrating on the following species, Multi-flora Rose, Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn, Autumn Olive, Manitoba Maple, Japanese Knotweed, Norway Maple, Phragmites and Periwinkle, among others. LPRCA forestry staff will continue to treat for invasive species and monitor for new threats to the watershed.



Forestry staff examining eDNA samples.

With funding support from the Invasive Species Centre Council, LPRCA forestry staff installed environmental DNA (eDNA) traps across LPRCA properties to monitor for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Staff were then able to analyze caught HWA specimens under a microscope to confirm its presence in forest tracts. This is a cost effective method for monitoring the early detection of HWA on LPRCA forest tracts.

Forestry staff held a field tour for local private landowners and partners on the identification and treatment options for HWA. In 2025, a total of 7,984 Hemlock trees were inventoried with over 4,000 treated for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid throughout six forest tracts. The following LPRCA properties have tested positive for HWA and have been confirmed positive by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Haldimand CA, Harvey Tract and Coppens/Ferris/Armstrong Tract. Emergency use of Xytect 2F and Starkle has been extended for Ontario, allowing treatment of HWA to continue. LPRCA's goal is to continue working with partners and private landowners to monitor and fight against HWA in the watershed.



Landowner HWA field tour, discussing eDNA traps.

Forest Management & Land Holdings

LPRCA Forest Tract.

LPRCA uses good forestry practices to maintain the Authority's commitment of sustainable forest management that enhances the biodiversity and health of the watershed while balancing social, economic and environmental values. LPRCA owns over 11,000 acres of land including 90 forest tracts, over 7,500 acres of managed forest tracts, 1,145 acres of protected & classified natural heritage woodlands, and 800 acres of uplands and marsh. Protecting the watershed's forests and the management of them is guided by LPRCA's *Forest Management Plan 2020-2039*.

Annually, LPRCA retains an ecologist to complete ecological surveys on forested properties proposed for timber harvest. A total of five properties were surveyed in 2025 and data was documented for Species at Risk, Species of Conservation Concern, rare vegetation communities and invasive species. The surveys are to ensure that the species are protected in accordance with the *Endangered Species Act*.

On an annual basis, staff prepares prescriptions/operating plans for each individual tract that will receive some form of silvicultural treatment. Following Board approval, the forest tracts are marked and tendered for revenue. In 2025, there were four tenders awarded.

In 2025, forestry staff worked with the Ruffed Grouse Society to create habitat on one of LPRCA's properties.

Forestry staff hosted a tour for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative group in October, where they visited logging operations and forest tracts that have been treated for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Staff also attended the Ontario (Norfolk) Woodlot Owners Association meeting where they set up an informational booth for community outreach.



Forestry staff measuring a tulip tree.

Water Quality Monitoring

As a mandatory program and service, LPRCA monitors surface and ground water quality throughout the Long Point Region watershed. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) oversees the Provincial (Stream) Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) and the Provincial Ground Monitoring Network (PGMN). Samples are collected throughout the year and sent for testing for parameters such as chloride, nutrients and metals. In 2025, samples for PWQMN were collected eight times at ten different locations. Ground water quality testing for PGMN is completed annually through a process of water collection from any of LPRCA's 11 sampling wells. The information collected by analyzing these samples are added to a provincial dataset and uploaded to the MECP website. With funding provided from the federal government as part of the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystems Initiative, LPRCA purchased a phosphorus sensor to monitor phosphorus concentrations in the Big Otter Creek.



Phosphorus sensor installation.

LPRCA also monitors the region's stream health by collecting samples using the protocol under the Ontario Benthos Bio-monitoring Network (OBBN). LPRCA gathered benthic invertebrate samples from 15 separate sites around the watershed and sent them for identification following OBBN guidelines once the invertebrates were sorted by LPRCA staff. The LPRCA team also worked with Norfolk County staff, with funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to classify seven unrated drains. This is done by identifying fish species (through the practice of electrofishing), identifying different plant species and assessing flows within the watercourses.

A wide view of a stream flowing through a wooded area. The water is clear and flows over rocks. The surrounding trees are green and yellow, suggesting an autumn setting.

Big Otter Creek, Tillsonburg, ON.

Connecting People to Nature

Backhouse Historic Site

The Backhouse Historic Site welcomed approximately 1,000 visitors who enjoyed immersive period demonstrations throughout the village, including tinsmithing, traditional school lessons, historic games, and hands-on crafts. Guests also enjoyed the Field to Flour/Field to Fabric event, witnessing wheat transformed into flour and fibres into fabric.

The Norfolk Fibre Arts Guild showcased the art of fibre spinning both during the event and throughout the season in the Community Hall. Visitors were also able to explore the Backhouse Mill through guided tours. Additionally, the War of 1812 Re-Enactment returned as another highly successful weekend filled with engaging interpretation and family-friendly fun.



Education Programming

In 2025, the Conservation Education Centre multi-year revitalization project was completed and reopened to the public on June 21, 2025. The Education Centre hosted just over 2,000 visitors over the course of the summer. The revitalization project would not have been possible without the generous support from individuals, community groups, displaying partners, community foundations, and federal grants.



In 2025, LPRCA's education programming welcomed 3,900 students from two local school boards and out-of-contract classes from around the watershed. The interactive heritage and outdoor education programs encourage the community to connect with the environment and heritage of the watershed.

Leighton & Betty Brown Scholarship

Lee Brown Marsh Aerial Photo, courtesy of Earl Hartlen.



Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee with scholarship recipient. Lou Kociuk, William Culford, Doug Brunton, Tom Haskett, Larry Chanda.

The Leighton & Betty Brown Scholarship honours Leighton, former LPRCA employee, and Betty, Leighton's wife, who both spent their lives contributing to waterfowl management. For nearly two decades, the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee and LPRCA have been awarding the Leighton & Betty Brown scholarship to students within the watershed that demonstrate a passion for nature and are pursuing their passion in post-secondary school. In 2025, the \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to William Culford to help support his upcoming full-time studies in the Fish & Wildlife Technology program at Fleming College.

Conservation Stewardship Award

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo
May 24, 2020

The simple act of planting trees leads to positively complex outcomes

JEFF TRIIBE
Local Conservationist

An simple act of planting trees leads to positively complex outcomes. "It's amazing what happens as you plant a tree," said L...



Jeff Tribe and Paul Gagnon on Tribe's tree plant site.



The LPRCA Conservation Stewardship Award is awarded annually to an individual or group for their contribution to the natural heritage within the Long Point Region watershed. This year's recipient, Jeff Tribe of Oxford County, is a journalist, photographer, videographer and content creator who is passionate about the environment. Jeff, with the help of Ducks Unlimited Canada, facilitated a wetland restoration project on the Tribe Family Farm resulting in 1.4 acres of newly created wetland, including 2 wetland cells, several smaller water features and 8.9 acres of surrounding upland habitat. Around the wetland, Jeff planted 450 trees and shrubs. Most recently, Jeff planted another 550 trees on the farm through Forests Canada's 50 Million Tree Planting Program.

Conservation Areas

The 2025 season welcomed 8,463 nightly campers and 426 seasonal campers across LPRCA's five campgrounds. LPRCA education staff continued to bring the educational workshop, *Turtle Talk*, to all five campgrounds for campers and visitors to enjoy.



*Turtle Talk,
Backus Heritage CA*

A new playground was installed at Waterford North CA and two day-use, reservable picnic sites were introduced to the park. Deer Creek CA later introduced one picnic site to the park after a well received trial run at Waterford North CA. Norfolk CA and Haldimand CA received washroom upgrades. The parking lots at Trout Pond, Hay Creek CA, Brooks CA, Fisher CA and Norwich CA were upgraded for visitor safety and enjoyment.

New playground, Waterford North CA.



*Parking lot upgrades,
Hay Creek CA.*



*Picnic site,
Waterford North CA.*

Extensive renovations to Haldimand CA created 8 new campsites and upgraded 21 campsites, including improved services.

Haldimand CA campsite renovations, south side.



*Services upgrades,
Haldimand CA.*

Community Relations

LPRCA had a busy 2025 with lots of community outreach and involvement. The year kicked off with a collaborative presentation with Forests Canada discussing Canada's forestry sector delivered to the senior environmental class at Holy Trinity Catholic High School by LPRCA forestry staff. The Scouts of Port Dover and the Port Rowan Girl Guides joined LPRCA for a spring tree planting session, teaching the children how to properly plant and care for trees. LPRCA had an information booth at TurtleFest, promoting what the Authority has to offer its residents. Staff participated in ALUS Norfolk's farm tour as a guest speaker, discussing shoreline erosion, wetlands and Bank Swallows. Staff also volunteered at the annual Children's Water Festival and the Carolinian Forest Festival alongside Upper Thames CA, Kettle Creek CA and Catfish Creek CA.



Staff and Chair at LPRCA's booth during TurtleFest.



Lands & Waters staff presenting during ALUS Norfolk's tour.

Children's Fishing Derby

The 2025 Deer Creek Children's Fishing Derby (Kids, Cops & Canadian Fishing Days) saw an increase in young anglers hitting the water with 130 participants – one of highest attendance rates since it started in 1996! This annual event would not be possible without the continuous generosity of our community donors and all of their contributions.



Great catch at Deer Creek CA!



Memorial Forest Dedication Service



The Memorial Forest is a forest located within Backus Heritage Conservation Area meant to act as a living tribute to loved ones. A service is held annually on the third Sunday in September where donors and families are invited to remember their loved ones in the form of creating new life by expanding the forest each year in their memory. In 2025, we honoured 153 loved ones in the presence of over 100 guests. LPRCA Chair, Dave Beres, took to the podium alongside Pastor Rev. Ted Smith to deliver the service. Throughout the event, Brenda Atkinson performed a series of musical performances.



Meet the Authority

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Staff Christmas tree decorating, 2025.

Judy Maxwell General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Aaron Le Duc Manager of Corporate Services
Leigh-Anne Mauthe Manager of Watershed Services
Lorrie Minshall Project Manager, Watershed Services
Saifur Rahman Manager of Engineering & Infrastructure

Chloe Anna	Curator	Chloe Krouse	Water Resource Technician
Kim Brown	Marsh Manager	Parker Landry	Engineering Technologist
Paige Burke	Accounting Clerk	Barry Norman	Workshop Operations Labourer
Greg Butcher	Grounds Maintenance	Chris Reinhart	Forestry Technician
Bob Dewdney	Marsh Operations Labourer	Braedan Ristine	Resource Planner
Evan Forbes	Superintendent of CAs	Darell Rohrer	Workshop Operations Labourer
Paul Gagnon	Lands & Waters Supervisor	Frank Schram	Workshop Supervisor
Melanie Hadlock	Junior Forestry Technician	James Shaver	Workshop Operations Labourer
Alex Huber	Receptionist	Jeffery Smithson	Workshop Operations Labourer
Brock Hussey	Lands & Waters Technician	Jess Staton	Heritage Programmer
Isabel Johnson	Resource Planner	Nicole Sullivan	HR Associate/Executive Assistant
Amanda Kaye	Accounting Clerk	Debbie Thain	Supervisor of Forestry
Ryan Kindt	Workshop Technician		
Jessica King	Marketing & Social Media Associate		

As well as our many seasonal staff and summer students.

The Long Point Region Watershed

As a special-purpose environmental body, LPRCA works in partnership with our eight member municipalities, the provincial and federal governments, and the community to protect, restore and manage the natural heritage in the Long Point Region Watershed. The watershed is 2,782 km² with 255 km of Lake Erie Shoreline and a population of approximately 100,000. LPRCA owns approximately 11,000 acres of land, 13 water-control structures and operates five campgrounds and various parkettes within the watershed.

2025 Board of Directors



Dave Beres, Chair
Deputy Mayor
Town of Tillsonburg



Doug Brunton, Vice Chair
Councillor Norfolk County



Tom Masschaele
Councillor Norfolk County



Chris Van Paassen
Councillor Norfolk County



Debera McKeen
Councillor Haldimand County



Michael Columbus
Councillor Norfolk County



Ed Ketchabaw
Mayor Municipality
of Bayham



Pete Ypma
Councillor Township of
South-West Oxford



Jim Palmer
Mayor Township of Norwich



Robert Chambers
Councillor County of Brant



Shelley Ann Bentley
Mayor Haldimand County

Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee

Tom Haskett, Chair
Doug Brunton
Larry Chanda
Michael Columbus
Lou Kociuk

Backus Museum Committee

Tom Masschaele, Chair
Wanda Backus-Kelly
Dave Beres
Doug Brunton
Mary Charles
Jim Palmer
Trevor Shelley
Heather Smith
Julie Stone
Madaline Wilson
Pete Ypma

Facts & Figures

Financial Highlights

2025 Revenue

Municipal Levy - Operating	\$ 2,237,681	31%
Municipal Levy - Capital	\$ 182,638	3%
Provincial Funding	\$ 35,229	0%
Fees	\$ 4,301,177	59%
Forestry Sales	\$ 533,965	7%
Gain on Sale of Assets	\$ 17,108	0%
Total	\$ 7,307,798	100%

2025 Expenditures

Planning and Watershed Services	\$ 1,346,148	22%
Backus Heritage CA/Education/Heritage	\$ 415,304	7%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$ 951,021	16%
Forestry Services	\$ 403,830	7%
Conservation Parks	\$ 1,517,684	25%
Corporate Services	\$ 1,350,373	23%
Total	\$ 5,984,360	100%

Use of 2025 Operating Levy

Corporate Services	\$ 933,317	42%
Planning and Watershed Services	\$ 666,515	30%
Backus Heritage CA/Education/Heritage	\$ 3,945	0%
Maintenance Operations Services	\$ 633,903	28%
Total	\$ 2,237,681	100%

Share of 2025 Operating Levy

Haldimand County	\$324,627	15%
Norfolk County	\$1,136,959	51%
Oxford County	\$497,571	22%
Brant County	\$162,960	7%
Bayham Municipality	\$99,651	4%
Malahide Township	\$15,913	1%
Total	\$2,237,681	100%



Member of the
Conservation Ontario Network

@lpr_ca 
@LongPointConservation 
@longpointca 
@lprca 



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THANK YOU TO OUR MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

Municipality of Bayham | County of Brant | Haldimand County
Town of Tillsonburg | Township of Malahide | Norfolk County
Township of Norwich | Township of South-West Oxford