



LANDSCAPE MUNICIPAL

COMMUNITY GATEWAYS

- After amalgamation, Lambton Shores phased in the installation of “community identity” signs. Community groups in each area were consulted about the design of this signage. Each community took ownership by raising additional dollars in a variety of ways to add to either the sign design or the landscaping and plantings associated with the signs.
- The Arkona Beautification Committee designed the Arkona signs and installed one at each entrance in 2005. A local group, in partnership with Communities in Bloom, landscaped these signs in 2012
- Thedford Garden Club and Spirit Club designed the Thedford signs and landscaped the surrounding areas in 2006.
- In Forest, the BIA and the Community Foundation partnered for the landscaping around the Forest signs. This green space is relatively maintenance free and uses green materials instead of floral displays. This project was completed in the spring of 2007.
- The Grand Bend sign was designed and is landscaped by the Grand Bend Area Horticultural Society.
- New landscaping was completed around the Port Franks entrance sign in 2013 by the Port Franks Garden Club
- All gateway signage will be update over the next year or so. This is a component of the Wayfinding Signage project. Forest and Thedford have already receive their new signs.





COMMUNITY DESIGN PLANS

A strategic goal for Lambton Shores was to have a downtown revitalization plan for each urban area that will help attract investment and to improve the aesthetic appearance of the core area. EDA Collaborative of Toronto began work on this project in June 2007 with community walkabouts and community meetings to start the project. Further workshops were held in January and the plan was finalized in the fall of 2008. These plans have provided design standards for streetscapes, signage, walkways, site furnishings, etc.

Nearly 35 projects were identified in the final document and Council has prioritized five key projects to pursue at the present time. These include: The construction of the “Thedford Village Green”, the reconstruction of Main Street Grand Bend, streetscape enhancements including directional signage for Forest business area, and intersection upgrades at Main/Ontario Grand Bend, and intersection upgrades Biddulph and Riverside Port Franks. The sixth project, the revitalization of the Arkona Brownfield was initiated in the 2009 capital plan with the cleanup of site. Once ownership issues are resolved, partnerships will be formed to redevelop to site.

GRAND BEND MAIN STREET 2010

- Result of Stimulus Funding
- New amenities for pedestrians and people with disabilities
- Improved street lighting
- Consistent street furniture, more recycling and garbage containers
- Naturalized and native planting areas and tree species



THEDFORD VILLAGE GREEN 2010

- Result of Stimulus Funding
- Accessible Play Structure
- Historical gazebo
- Low maintenance perennial gardens
- Input received from community groups for final design, construction and planting
- Introduction of native trees, shrubs and other plantings





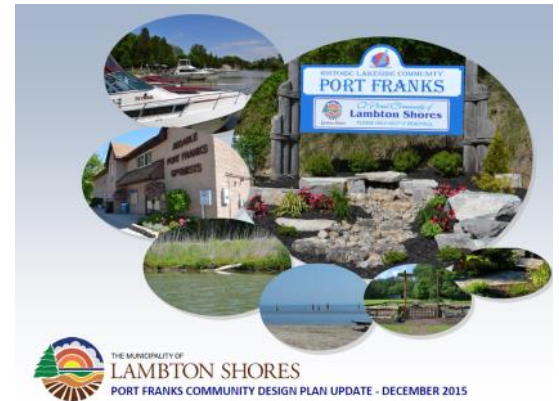
LANDSCAPE MUNICIPAL

In 2015, Council directed staff to review the Community Design Plan for Port Franks and to develop a plan for Ipperwash.

PORT FRANKS

The Port Franks review was completed internally with input being provided by residents, businesses and community organizations. The draft document was completed in December of 2015 with nine recommendations:

- Small grocery store or bakery/cafe
- Pedestrian and cycle -friendly connections extended throughout Port Franks and into other communities
- Neighbourhood trail or sidewalk system to the community centre from Highway 21
- Neighbourhood trail or sidewalk system to the community centre from the four corners
- Pedestrian bridge over Mud Creek (at Huron Street)
- Updated washrooms at the Port Franks Community Centre
- Plaques marking historically significant sites
- Additional maintenance to protect the inlet' s and creek's ecosystems
- Enhanced Education to protect the inlet' s and creek's ecosystems



IPPERWASH



The consulting firm, Stempski Kelly Associates Inc., were contracted to develop a design plan for the community of Ipperwash.

As part of their proposal, Stempski Kelly Associates Inc. (SKA) had included a number of public consultation methods to help gain input on the plan. These included:

- Community Search Conference
- Public Open House
- Stakeholder Interviews

SKA also familiarized themselves with the Ipperwash community and surrounding area by site visits and walkabouts with staff.

Priorities include - wayfinding signage, trail development/extension and landscaped areas.

The draft Ipperwash Community Design plan provides a brief overview of the community, site inventory, design theme elements, concept ideas and priorities for the Ipperwash community. It should be noted that both plans be presented as a working document, meaning that changes to the plan may arise based on emergent issues or changing trends of the community over time.

The 2016 budget includes funds for the consultant to get some of the trail projects “grant ready”.



COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE

Lambton Shores has 10 active parks, 20 passive parks, 8 ball diamonds, 8 sports parks and 56.8 kilometers of trails (including non-Municipally owned Rock Glen Conservation Area, the Port Franks Trail System and the Pinery Provincial Park). The parks and trails provide scenic exploration opportunities for residents and visitors. In addition the municipality in partnership with community boards in some cases operates and maintains four cemeteries in the community.

The Lambton Shores Community Services Department is responsible for the maintenance of these parks, playgrounds, sports fields, civic buildings, walkways, trails and other open spaces which must be groomed regularly. Parks and sports fields that are heavily used are groomed on a regular basis, larger passive green spaces may be left to grow to a greater height.

The 2010 Parks Operations Plan includes the use of organic herbicides and fertilizers as well as appropriate lawn cutting practices. Staff are investigating funding options for the naturalization of some of our green spaces. This will decrease maintenance costs and increase the reintroduction of native plant species into Lambton Shores. Staff will be involving the many volunteer groups, who assist with sports field maintenance, in parks maintenance training sessions.

To assist in weed control, a standard operating procedure was developed for lawn maintenance which included: increasing the cutting height of the lawn mower, mulching, and over seeding in the spring.

The Municipality will work with Communities in Bloom and the many subdivision and cottage associations to sponsor the preparation of a brochure for those living in the internationally significant oak savanna and dune succession ecosystems along the lakeshore. These residential stewardship brochures will be available on the website and will be distributed with tax notices and other communications. Until this is developed residents are referred to the ABCA and Huron Stewardship educational materials. The top 10 “do’s and don’ts” for living in these naturally significant areas are included in the appendix.





BEACH STEWARDSHIP GUIDE FOR PORT FRANKS

The Pinery Park, Port Franks and Ipperwash dune systems represent the most diverse dune system in Ontario. Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation is a Communities in Bloom partner. Meetings have been held with residents of various Port Franks Beach Associations to provide them with information and a guide. The guide is intended to encourage proper stewardship and provides information on conservation approaches such as dune grass plantings for local beaches.



LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOPS

Landowner Stewardship workshops have been held by "Huron Stewardship" in Port Franks in partnership with the Garden Club and in Grand Bend Area in partnership with the Grand Bend Chamber of Commerce. Participants received a comprehensive "Stewardship Guide" with information about enhancing the value of the land and improving the environment. The workbook was developed by a number of agencies including: ABCA, Huron Stewardship council, and Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation.

PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

In 2010, the Communities in Bloom Committee organized a speaker to talk about "What's New for 2010" as well as to speak about gardening with native plants. This special evening was promoted throughout Lambton Shores and included displays and sales by local greenhouses.

In 2013, Paul Zammit, the Nancy Eaton Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden spoke to a group of avid gardeners about the hot new perennials and annuals, as well as how to plant amazing displays in containers. We were also fortunate enough to have Mark Cullen come to our community in September 2013 to discuss a variety of gardening topics.





CENTRE IPPERWASH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Garden will be located at the corner of East Parkway Drive and Ipperwash Road. Partners include MNR, Lambton Shores, Larry Cornelis of Return the Landscape, Centre Ipperwash Community Association, and University of Guelph—Landscape Architecture Students. The University of Guelph students will participate in a design contest and the winner will be selected by CICA. Design elements include: native species, seating area, memorials (boardwalk, wall, brick). The garden will be funded by a local resident.

FOREST GARDEN CLUB LIBRARY GARDENS MASTER PLAN

The Forest Garden Club has worked endless hours revamping the Forest Library Gardens. The gardens are now a tranquil place for people to enjoy their lunch, read or just enjoy the view. In addition to the colourful flower beds, there are several trees planted in memory of loved ones and a water feature out in front of the library. The Club enlisted in the expertise of Sonny Parkes, a professional landscaper and tree pruner to ensure the job was completed correctly.

The Club would like to thank the many groups that contributed to the project including the Municipality of Lambton Shores, the Rotary Club of Forest, TD Friends of the Environment and Forest Tri-Sport.



GRAND BEND AND AREA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OPTIMIST PARK PLAN

In 2011, the enhancements of Optimist Park began with the addition of a pergola and concrete walkways for easier accessibility. Safety upgrades to the existing play structures took place in 2012. The Horticultural Society's role in the project was to coordinate the landscaping which included new shrubs, trees and annual flowers. The Optimist Club of Grand Bend is the other contributor to this project.

THEDFORD GARDEN CLUB MAIN STREET LANDSCAPING PROJECT

In 2012, the Thedford Garden Club completed a project located on Main Street across from the old library and east of the fire hall. The plantings include: 3 shade trees (red maples), 2 or 3 raised flower beds with low maintenance grasses and shrubs. The materials are provided by a Lambton Shores Community grant. The Club completed a garden surrounding the LCBO sign on Main Street in 2013.





LANDSCAPE BUSINESS * INSTITUTIONAL



Agriculture is one of the main industries in Lambton Shores. In the spring, summer and fall, Lambton Shores is very colourful with the abundance of cash crops in our community. Additionally, Lambton Shores is fortunate to be the home of seven privately owned golf courses.





BOG FARMING HISTORY

After the last ice age Lake Huron had a shore-line two to ten miles inland. The build-up of dunes between the lake and the interior prevented the Ausable River from finding an easy outlet to the lake. Because of the barely perceivable ridge on the east side – the former Lake Huron shore-line – and the dunes of the present lake on the west side, the area between them assumed a convex shape. These low-lying lands developed over time into a large marsh – the Thedford Swamp or Bog, approximately 17, 375 acres, featuring three small lakes, Burwell, George and Smith.



In 1826 the Canada Company, purchased the Huron Tract from the Crown. The Ausable River, in its meandering north to the "grand bend" at present day Grand Bend, flooded annually and the land was not a money maker.

In 1873 the Canada Company decided to provide a short-cut for the Ausable River by digging a "cut" through dunes to Port Franks and Lake Huron. This meant the Ausable no longer flowed north to Grand Bend but directly west to Port Franks. Seasonal flooding was abated and Lakes George and Burwell were drained. Finally buyers were being attracted.

Lake Smith was left, because it had no outlet to Lake Huron. Lake Smith had a total area of about 1,000 acres and was an important staging area of the Great Lakes bird migration flyway. The Hagmeier's bought the tract of land. In 1955 the lands were drained . and the Thedford-Grand Bend Marsh became one of the more productive vegetable producing areas in Ontario.

The lands in the former Lake Smith are drained by a series of diked drains which are kept at appropriate levels by large pumps. Control gates and large holding ponds on area farms help with irrigation needs in the summer. The pumps are not running during the annual spring waterfowl migration. This flooding of the land causes a temporary re-appearance of Lake Smith and a sudden gathering of thousands of tundra swans, Canada geese and all sorts of ducks..

The Utter family was the first to arrive and following them other families arrived, among them, the Smiths, the McPhersons and the Eastmans. By the early 1840's the community at the crossroads of the Townsend Line and the later King's Highway was developing with various businesses. It was known during these times variously as Bosanquet, Smithville, Smithfield and Eastman's Corners. By 1857, however, it was given its present name, Arkona, after a medieval castle located on the Isle of Rugen in Germany.

With abundant water sources and large hills in the Arkona area, mill sites abounded and formed the first major industry for the new community. Mills were established in the mid-1800's at Rock Glen, Hungry Hollow, and in Arkona. Along with the mills came general stores, trades people, hotels, workers and churches. Arkona was located along major travel routes to Lake Huron and to Lake St. Clair. As a result, its population grew and the community prospered. Farmers soon discovered that with an abundant supply of groundwater, and high hills in the north, the farmland was ideal for most crops, especially fruit trees. Soon Arkona's surrounding fields were covered not only with crops of every description but also large fruit orchards. These led to the development of an export trade of fruit with the United States, and Europe. An apple evaporator was constructed at the current site of Utter Park where fruit was dried, packaged and shipped often in baskets and boxes made locally.



LANDSCAPE BUSINESS * INSTITUTIONAL



GOLF COURSES

- Arkona Fairways Golf Course
- Forest Golf & Country Hotel
- Indian Hills Golf Club
- Oakwood Inn Resort
- Our Ponderosa RV & Golf Resort
- Sandhills Golf Resort
- Widder Station Golf & Country Club





SITE PLANNING

The Municipality administers site plan control over commercial developments. Council has established standards for the design and this includes buffering and appropriate landscaping. The Municipal standards are detailed and enforced through the site plan agreement. Some recent business and institutional landscaping includes:

- F.I.N.E. A Restaurant in Grand Bend
- Royal Bank in Forest
- St. Christopher's Catholic Church in Forest
- Baptist Church—Forest



FOREST BIA

- In 2008, the BIA partnered with the Forest Community Foundation to create two landscaped areas in front of the Bargain Shop plaza as part of their Communities in Bloom involvement.
- As a result of the Community Improvement Plan (CIP), the Forest BIA continued the partnership with the Community Foundation to fund three new iron benches that have been placed in key locations in the downtown area for 2009.
- The CIP has identified the communities' desire to promote and protect our unique downtown heritage buildings. With the help of grants from Southwestern Ontario Development project, the BIA designed and installed heritage banners for the downtown light standards and has also purchased Christmas wreaths for these same light standards.
- Another 2010 beautification project was a partnership with Lambton Shores, the Foundation and the BIA to develop a landscaped sitting area at the King/Main corner with a stamped concrete pad, new benches, recycling and garbage containers, new planters and native tree planting.
- In 2014, decorative metal leaves of native trees were added to the streetlights downtown.'
- Bike racks have been installed.
- New banners promoting the 'Shop Forest' have been ordered as a part of the Municipality's Banner Program.





GARDEN CLUBS AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Words cannot express how fortunate we are in Lambton Shores to have these dedicated groups of volunteers in each of our communities. These clubs have taken an ongoing responsibility for landscaping and floral displays in each community. Volunteers give countless hours of their time every year to make our community "bloom". In addition to this work, it is these groups who took the initiative to come together and participate in "Communities in Bloom". The following areas are beautiful because of these dedicated people:

- Grand Bend Optimist Park, window boxes, flower boxes at various parks and businesses, post office gardens, the Grand Bend Legion, Grand Bend Area Chamber of Commerce, The Centennial Flower Bed, hanging baskets, Grand Bend Service Club sign and entry signs, the Health Centre, the Chamber of Commerce Boat and River Bend Park. In 2011, the Grand Bend and Area Horticultural Society redesigned the beds at the Grand Bend Municipal Office.
- Grand Bend Area Horticultural Society, Grand Bend Optimist Club, Grand Bend Community Foundation and Lambton Shores have partnered for improvements to the Children's Optimist Park. Upgrades include re-landscaping, a new pergola, and upgrades to the existing playground. Native plant species are being incorporated into this design.
- Port Franks four corners, Community Centre, and Memorial Garden
- Ipperwash gateway signs
- Thedford planter boxes, parkette, entry signs, and Thedford Village Complex
- The Thedford Garden Club project for 2011 is landscaping the area to the east of the Village Complex. Raised beds and native trees are part of this project.
- Arkona four corners
- Arkona memorial garden is being planned by the Arkona Lions and Lioness, and other community representatives.
- Forest library gardens and parkette





OTHER CLUBS / SCHOOLS / CHURCHES

Other clubs as well as schools and churches have assumed responsibility for beautification of their spaces. Recent projects include:

- The Forest Agricultural Society partnered with the Forest Community Foundation and obtained funds to plant trees and to re-landscape the grounds, and add additional dirt and grass in 2008
- Port Franks—Windsor Park Gateway
- Arkona Library Project
- NLSS gardens by the horticultural classes
- Bosanquet Central School
- St. John Fisher School
- Forest Anglican Church
- Forest United Church
- Forest Presbyterian Church
- Grand Bend Optimist Children's Park
- St. Anne's Parish Hall, Port Franks
- Pioneer Cemetery Sign at Coultis Park
- Kinnwood Public School
- Knox Presbyterian Church
- St. Christopher's Church
- Grand Bend Lions Park





FLORAL DISPLAYS MUNICIPAL

Lambton Shores downtown areas are in bloom during the summer season. Staff arrange for hanging baskets, planter boxes and containers to be filled at area greenhouses:

- Arkona Hanging Baskets
- Forest Hanging Baskets
- Thedford Planters and Village Green Gardens
- Grand Bend Hanging Baskets
- Plantings and beautification at the Grand Bend and Port Franks Marinas
- Planting areas on the Grand Bend Main Street and Grand Bend Beach





Area businesses take pride in the community and contribute to the beautification of our core areas:

- Many area businesses plant with the theme colour
- Area businesses entered the Best Bloomin' Business Contest
- Forest BIA waters the hanging baskets in the downtown area, and every September decorates the light standards with a fall display
- CIBC in Forest adopted the raised flower bed next to the bank
- Area businesses in Thedford have cared for planters
- Grand Bend Chamber cares for several displays in the Grand Bend area.
- North Lambton Lodge partnered with the community foundation to create beautiful floral gardens at the newly renovated site.
- Forest Legion has partnered with expertise from the Communities in Bloom Committee to re-landscape their property
- Forest BIA's Best Bloomin' Business Contest



FLORAL DISPLAYS RESIDENTIAL * COMMUNITY

THEME COLOURS FOR 2018

This year the CIB Committee cooperated with area garden clubs to decide that the predominant colour in floral displays will be “Pink, Purple and White”. Efforts are made annually to coordinate colours across the Municipality with great success each year. Our CIB committee has promoted this via participation in local parades, distribution of flyers, distribution of seed packets and preparation of displays in shades of pink. PowerPoint presentations re: CIB initiatives have been made to at least twenty community groups throughout the municipality.

ADOPT A POT

In 2007, the Thedford Garden Club applied for a Municipal grant to place concrete planter boxes in the downtown area. Local business owners agreed to maintain the planter box in front of their business location.

In 2008, the CIB Committee extended the “Adopt a Pot” concept to the entire Municipality. The Municipality purchased similar planters to those already in Thedford to create a unified look. Grants were given to the Committee for this project by the Forest Community Foundation, Forest Garden Club, Arkona Community Foundation, Centre Ipperwash Community Association, Arkona Lioness and individual business owners in Arkona.

In 2009, community groups donated dollars for sets of pots. These groups include: the Community Foundations, Arkona Lioness, Bob’s Café and Darlene Richter, and Centre Ipperwash Community Association.

Residents and groups continued the program over the years watering, weeding and dead-heading the pots to ensure they remain beautiful the whole summer.

In 2013, the Committee decided to mix things up a bit by adding vegetables and herbs to the pots in Forest and Ipperwash. The response was been great. The vegetables and herbs are free for the taking!



FLORAL DISPLAYS

RESIDENTIAL * COMMUNITY



ADOPT A PLOT

Several churches, businesses, individuals and community groups are adopting "plots". Examples:

- CIBC Forest
- TD Canada Trust, Forest
- Lambton County Development Services
- North Lambton Secondary School horticultural class
- Catherine and Jim Minielly
- Kiwanis Club of Forest
- Thedford Village Complex Gardens and Beds
- Mac Webster and Luke George

FUNDRAISERS

Communities in Bloom has held numerous fundraisers including Bloomin' Chairs and Window Boxes that were displayed and sold at special spring events in Lambton Shores, at the Forest Garden Show, the Port Franks Garden Club Auction, and the Grand Bend Farmers market. The group has also hosted speaking engagement with such guest speakers as Darren Heimbecker of Whistling Gardens.

In 2012, the Committee sold planters made out of an old birch tree. Candle holders were also made from this tree. These items were sold at the events noted above and proved to be the most successful fundraiser to date.

In 2013, the Committee featured guest speakers Paul Zammit in the spring and Mark Cullen in the fall. We also sold our birch branch planters again.

In 2016, Committee members created planters out of birch logs and antique chairs to sell at the annual garden show.

In 2017 and 2018, a barbecue was held in conjunction with the Funtastic Day event in Arkona at the Home Hardware Store.

FOREST GARDEN CLUB YOUTH GARDENING

The Forest Garden Club has sponsored a Youth Gardening Club in the past. There were three sessions each year. The first session involves the planting of a hanging basket for Mother's Day. Other activities include the making of concrete garden stones, seed art, scarecrows and seed incubators. These activities correlated with the Junior Dept. of the Forest Fair so children have a ready made entry for the fair when they are finished. Each year we welcome 30-40 children. It is very encouraging to see the interest that our young folks have in growing both flowers and vegetables. It is hard to tell who is having more fun—the "little" gardeners or the "big" gardeners who are there to work with them!



FLORAL DISPLAYS BUSINESS * INSTITUTIONAL * RESIDENTIAL * COMMUNITY

LAMBTON SHORES FLORAL PROMOTIONS— PAST AND PRESENT

The Lambton Shores Committee tries to encourage the community to get into the CiB Spirit and plant the theme colours in their gardens and planters. Our successful programs include:

Garden of the Week

The Committee developed the “Garden of the Week” Program during its first year on Communities in Bloom to help get the community involved in the beautification of their homes and neighbourhoods

The project was a success in gaining community support for the program. Weekly winners were tasked with the selection of the next winner. Local newspapers ran a weekly feature for the Garden of the Week winners, and submitted photos were included in the papers.

The Committee put the program on hiatus after two years, but revived it with a few tweaks in 2015 with the support of Communities in Bloom and Miracle Gro. The Committee put their own spin on the program by awarding 1 garden per week in each Lambton Shores community the prestigious title and then entering all winners in a draw for a Miracle Gro package (10 winners total). Winning gardens had photos published in local and social media.



Best Bloomin' Business

- The Forest BIA wanted to get into the CiB spirit and launched the Best Bloomin' Business awards in 2013. This contest challenged the businesses to create floral displays in front of their businesses for bragging rights.
- In 2014, the Grand Bend Chamber of Commerce jumped on board and encouraged the businesses of Grand Bend to do the same.
- In 2016 the CiB Committee invited all the businesses in Lambton Shores to participate in this friendly competition in an effort to fill our community with this year's theme colours. Judging took place the second week of July. No entry was required. We simply wanted the businesses plant up their window boxes and containers with pink, purple and lime green for all to see!

FLORAL DISPLAYS

BUSINESS * INSTITUTIONAL * RESIDENTIAL * COMMUNITY



Best Bloomin' Residential

In 2013, the Committee wanted to shake things up a bit with the 2013 Contest to try to attract new entries. Changes to the contest included:

- Awarding just one award per category unlike the two we have done in the past. This is eliminating the divide between the north and the south regions of Lambton Shores, treating all areas equally
- The introduction of new categories: Best Bloomin' Rural Property, Best Bloomin' Business, Church or Public Space, Best Bloomin' Container or Window box; Best Sustainable Edible Garden, Once-A-Pond-A-Time, Best Wacky & Wild Space, Best "In the Pink", Best Wildlife Sanctuary, Grandest Native Tree, "For the Birds" Most Creative Bird House
- Awards were still presented to the winners at the Community Group Receptions during the judges' tour.

Lambton Shores in Bloom

The Committee wanted to expand the "Garden of the Week" concept in 2010 to create:

- More "Communities in Bloom" awareness in the rural, business, institutional and church communities
- Awareness of tree management and the planting of native tree species
- Awareness of the value of more naturalized and low maintenance plantings
 - The "In Bloom" contest initially recognized: the Best Bloomin' Home, Best Bloomin' Rural Property, Best Bloomin' Container, Best Bloomin' Church, Best Bloomin' Business, Best Bloomin' Public Building, Best Naturalized Garden and the Grandest Native Tree
 - Two awards were presented for each category (one for the north and for the south) and were presented during the judges tour.
 - The program was successful in receiving over 150 entries during the first two years.

