



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MUNICIPAL

HARBOUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Grand Bend Marina and the Port Franks Marina have maintained the internationally recognized Blue Flag designation since 2009. The Blue Flag means that that our marinas meet certain environmental and operational standards in regards to water quality, environmental management, environmental education and safety, and services. Staff developed a Harbour Sustainability Plan that includes:

- Incorporating green cleaning supplies and bathroom products
- Introducing solar digesters and increasing recycling options
- Installing high efficiency lighting, low flow shower heads and faucets
- Providing bicycles for boater land use (loan-a-bike program), and an educational program for boaters.

Educational sessions are provided in partnership with ABCA and include: safe boating, invasive species, species at risk and naturalization. Staff are also distributing information packages, which includes items such as: recycling, composting, safe boating, and pertinent area environmental information.



SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

Lambton Shores has taken the following measures to try to correct and prevent shoreline erosion:

- MNR approved a grant to be used for Gill Road slope stabilization issues in 2009
- Bendway Weir project at Chicken Island in 2006
- Sheet wall stabilization at Port Franks in 2004
- Grand Bend River Road sheet wall installation in 2004
- South Basin wall in Grand Bend in 1999
- Ongoing review of dredging operations and staff training
- Dune grass planting along the coastline.



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PARKS GREEN PLAN

Municipal staff have been making a concerted effort to ban the use of all cosmetic pesticides and herbicides within any municipally-owned facilities. Staff have tested an environmentally friendly fertilizer made from corn gluten and kelp. Corn gluten has also been used as an effective weed control.

In 2010, staff completed a Parks and Gardens Plan for Lambton Shores parks operations. This includes: increasing recycling depots, using organic herbicides and fertilizers, and changing lawn-cutting practices. Some green spaces are being naturalized which will reintroduce native plant species and decrease maintenance costs.

Staff have purchased horticultural vinegar made of 20% acetic acid. This has been effective in weed control of public areas.





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WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Lambton Shores provides waste management services for approximately 12,000 residents and businesses. This involves:

- Weekly garbage and recycling pickup using Bluewater Recycling Association's automated collection system
- The municipal compost site accepts leaves and brush materials which is converted into mulch for residential use
- Leaf pickup program in the spring and fall
- Christmas Tree disposal depot each year
- Hazardous waste drop-off program in partnership with Lambton County
- Composter and waste digester sales
- Free E-Waste program, which allows residents to dispose of televisions, computers and computer components
- Rechargeable battery recycling program
- Bulk Waste Disposal Educational Program



BLUEWATER RECYCLING

Bluewater Recycling Association (BRA) is a unique rural based non-profit organization developing and maintaining facilities on behalf of and in cooperation with the municipal sector. BRA is a cooperative of 20 municipalities in Southwestern Ontario including Lambton Shores. Former Bosanquet Township in Lambton Shores was a leader in the implementation of the cooperative. BRA is one of the largest multi-material resource management municipal cooperative organizations in Canada that provides integrated waste reduction and environmental services ranging from collection and processing to marketing superior quality products and services. As of 2010, more plastics are being accepted and automated recycling is being phased in across the area. The new Material Recovery facility processes single stream materials meaning that it can sort fully commingled recyclables. This significant improvement in the technology means that 98% of the recyclables are able to be sorted and moved to markets. BRA has the most advanced facility in Ontario if not Canada. Lambton Shores committed to the automated curbside collection program and implemented the program in 2014. This program has shown to increase municipal recycling rates by at least 15%.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Lambton Shores Community Services Department undertook a thorough review of waste management operations in 2010 that included an extensive survey to residents asking questions related to waste management. A gap that was identified was options for disposal of large items that cannot be collected curbside. Lambton Shores developed a comprehensive communication pamphlet to inform residents on their options for large item disposal. This included information on where useable items could be taken for re-use in order to divert useable items from landfill.



MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION FACILITIES

THE LEGACY RECREATION CENTRE

The project was a major renovation of the Thedford Bosanquet Community Centre. The Legacy Centre received 2/3 funding from the Federal Provincial Stimulus Fund and was also the subject of a major community fundraising initiative. The project included: the construction of a new community hall with a state of the art kitchen, library, nursery school, new dressing rooms and upgraded mechanical systems. This facility has been made as accessible as possible.

The potential for energy savings from this project are substantial and include: passive heating and cooling, introduction of day lighting, higher efficiency systems such as HVAC and ice-making equipment, and solar panels. Native tree species have been planted. The Legacy Recreation Centre recently achieved a LEED® Gold Certification and the Excellence in Design Award from Parks and Recreation Ontario.

THE SHORES RECREATION CENTRE

In August 2007, the Municipality experienced the grand opening of The Shores Recreation Centre. The centre offers unique services to the area, focusing on health and wellness for area residents. The project was funded in part by Rural Economic Development grants and a community initiative.

The Shores contains a NHL-sized ice surface, a fitness centre operated by the YMCA, a free-access walking track, a full sized gymnasium, two meeting rooms and a municipal office. This state of the art facility was built with many “green” features including:

- Eco-chill compressor system—the heat produced from this system is reused to heat the building and the water
- Water conservation
- Lighting sensors
- Insulation values
- LED lighting





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MUNICIPAL



ENERGY CONSERVATION & “GOING GREEN”

The Municipality took part in the “Going Green” grant program by using low E-florescent lights, water conservation and retrofitting facilities with motion sensors.

Some green initiatives include:

- Wind energy by-law and approval of two wind farm projects in 2007
- Ongoing LED and solar street light initiative which should result in 83 percent energy savings
- Installation of Green Cone digesters at community centres and marinas
- Implementation of an E-waste program in partnership with Bluewater Recycling
- Availability of composter units at municipal offices
- Publication of “It’s Easy Being Green” flyer, in partnership with Communities in Bloom
- Battery Recycling Program implemented at municipal offices
- Low E-fluorescent lighting in conjunction with new road projects
- Installation of solar parking meters in Grand Bend
- Municipal office upgrades including motion sensor lighting and installation of Green Cone digesters
- Streetlight retrofit project



ELECTRONIC WASTE
Electronic waste (e-waste) is very harmful to the environment when not disposed of properly. Bring old televisions, computers and computer components to the Lambton Shores Municipal Offices in Forest or Northville, Monday through Friday from 8:30am–4:30pm to dispose of these items in an environmentally-friendly way. There is no fee for this service. A full list of accepted items can be found on the Lambton Shores website, www.lambtonshores.ca/undergarbage/RecyclingandComposting.

LOAN A BIKE PROGRAM
The Port Franks and Grand Bend Marinas, located in the Municipality of Lambton Shores, provide a unique opportunity for their patrons – a free “Loan-A-Bike” program. This program is easy, economical and eco-friendly! Boaters must head to the marina office to “check-out” a bike for their own use. Patrons are free to ride wherever they like! In Grand Bend, riders can travel along their road and either head towards the exciting Main Street or travel in the other direction towards the Pinery Provincial. In Port Franks, boaters can tour this quiet area and discover the beauty throughout this community. Bikes are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis and riders must provide their own helmet. Riders are responsible for the bike’s return. The bikes are maintained by the municipality’s Community Services Department.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF
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COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM**
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THE MUNICIPALITY OF
LAMBTON SHORES
Communities in Bloom

**It's Easy Being
Green**
Green initiatives in
Lambton Shores and how
YOU can participate!
2015

 
www.lambtonshores.ca



RURAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Lambton Shores water system was in expansion mode since amalgamation with the implementation of Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the water system that provided source water for Northville, Thedford, Arkona, and the spine for the rural system. Phase 4, the rural component was completed in the winter of 2008. This means that all residents of Lambton Shores have access to municipal water.



FOREST WATERMAIN PROJECT

This \$8 million project involved the replacement of six kilometers of 1928 vintage cast iron waterlines throughout the community. Some sewers were also replaced and roads were resurfaced. The project received 2/3 stimulus funding and was completed in three phases. The first phase was completed in fall 2009, Phase 2 was completed in mid July 2010 and the final phase in the fall of 2010.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MUNICIPAL

GRAND BEND AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Grand Bend Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (GBWTF) located in Ontario on the shoreline of Lake Huron, earned the Envision® Platinum level award. This project is the first ISI Envision verification in Canada, and first wastewater facility to be ISI Envision-verified in North America.

For the project, the municipalities of Lambton Shores and South Huron commissioned global design firm Stantec to convert one of four existing lagoons into an extended aeration mechanical treatment facility and wetland nature reserve. The facility prevents effluent discharges from adversely impacting surface and groundwater quality and allows for responsible community development. Stantec used the ISI Envision framework during the design to integrate sustainable features throughout the facility.

Key sustainable features include a constructed wetland to support native wildlife species and further buffer treated effluent, flexible design that makes the facility responsive to changing sewage flows, reduced construction and operational costs through a focus on efficiency, constructing the project within the boundaries of the original facility's footprint to protect prime farmland, and trails and interpretive signage to encourage community visitors. Part of the treatment plant project included a wetlands area which the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority planned along with Stantec. Volunteers planted over two thousand plants.

About ISI Envision

The ISI Envision system measures sustainability in infrastructure projects through the measurement of five categories: Quality of Life (QL), Leadership (LD), Natural World (NW), Resource Allocation (RA), and Climate and Risk (CR). These contribute to overall credits for the positive social, economic, and environmental impacts in a community in the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects.

Visit sustainableinfrastructure.org for more information on the GBWTF and the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure.





BEACH ENHANCEMENT AND BLUE FLAG BEACH

After nearly three years of development, the Grand Bend Beach Enhancement got underway in September 2008 and was completed in the spring of 2009. As a result of strategic plan and community improvement plan focus groups, the community identified the need to create a space that is more family oriented and enhances the natural beauty of the beach and the lake area. The many improvements include:

- Improved parking and energy efficient lighting
- Accessible pedestrian boardwalk and look out areas
- Better traffic flow
- Immense beautification with addition of gardens and other native habitats
- Fully accessible children's play area
- Environmental education signage
- Supported the Blue Flag designation
- Beach access mats have been added in 2 locations
- Community Stage for live performances
- Naturalization of gardens; feature garden at the turn-around

This significant enhancement project was coupled with the implementation of recommendations resulting from an aquatic safety audit of beach operations by the Lifesaving Society of Canada. The final audit document did state that the Municipality was operating within the range of safe practices; however, there were recommendations for improvement. Our municipality is proud of having such a wonderful escape for enjoyment and we believe that safety of the hundreds of people who visit the beach must remain a top priority. Improved signage and equipment and public education has been implemented.

In 2010, the Grand Bend Beach Enhancement project was awarded the Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) Award of Excellence in Design.

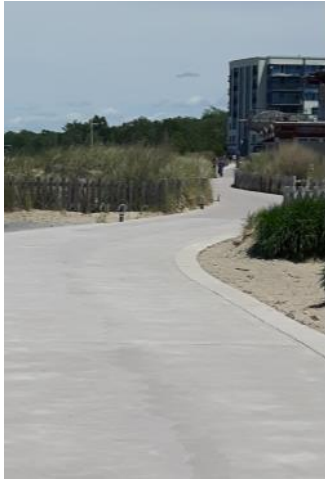
The Main Beach in Grand Bend has been the recipient of the Blue Flag designation since 2010.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MUNICIPAL * RESIDENTIAL * BUSINESS * COMMUNITY

The Beach Enhancement Project was completed in 2009 and was a result of Strategic Plan and Community Improvement Plan development with much public input. The components are :



New Boardwalk:

The new boardwalk achieves a number of purposes, including accessibility to the beach for those persons with disabilities, the elderly and our emergency responders. The boardwalk was recently upgraded to concrete for a more durable and level surface. New light bollards will be installed in 2018.

Stormwater Management:

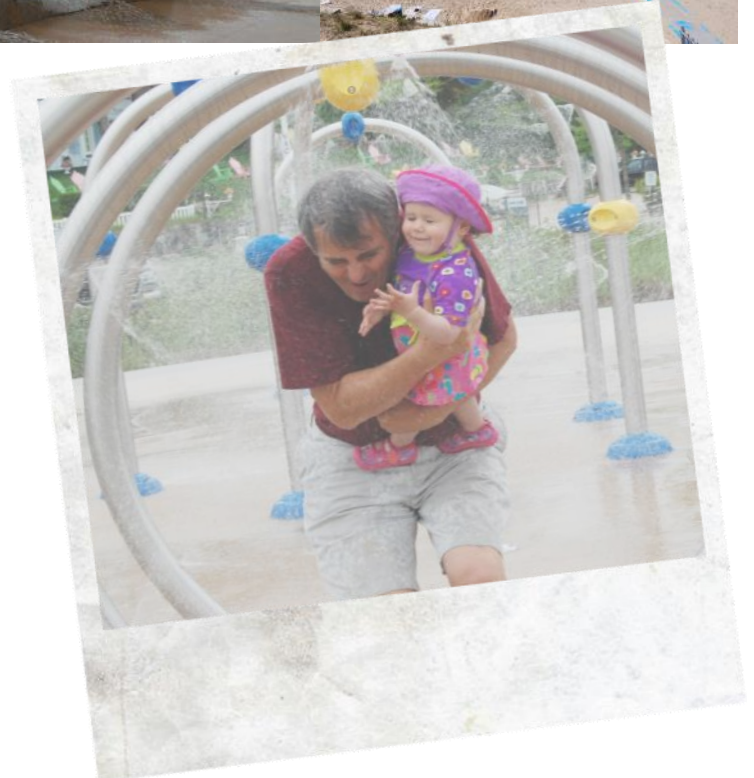
The design of the parking lots was to utilize the natural drainage properties of the sand they are built on, so rather than pave the lots, the lots are left with a sand base and light gravel overcoat to facilitate traffic movement. Paving is used, but only sparingly and where necessary. Limited grading and use of drainage tiles has been used in the parking lots, and water from storms is redistributed to the various planting areas.



Children's Accessible Splash Pad:

The accessible splash pad can be used by children with and without disabilities. Water used for the splash pad is collected in a large tank and redistributed to the various planting areas throughout the beach facility.

Lighting: energy efficient LED lighting fixtures have been used extensively and where necessary, high efficiency conventional lighting. The lighting strategy was also aimed at reducing extraneous light pollution of the night sky, so lights are equipped with shrouds that reduce "night glow".



**Planting Areas and Trees:**

The design of the planting areas throughout the beach has been based on the reintroduction of natural plant species. Their purpose is threefold: first is the aesthetic appeal; second, as a source of natural plant oxygen/carbon dioxide exchange and a habitat for birds and insects; and last, to serve as a natural windbreak and sand fence. These natural barriers will reduce the transmission of sand from the beach and reduce road maintenance costs in the downtown area.

Sand Dunes and Dune Grass:

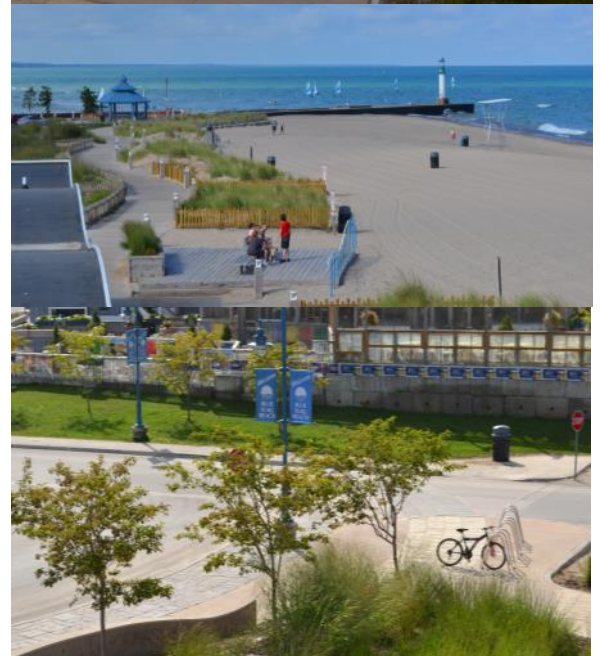
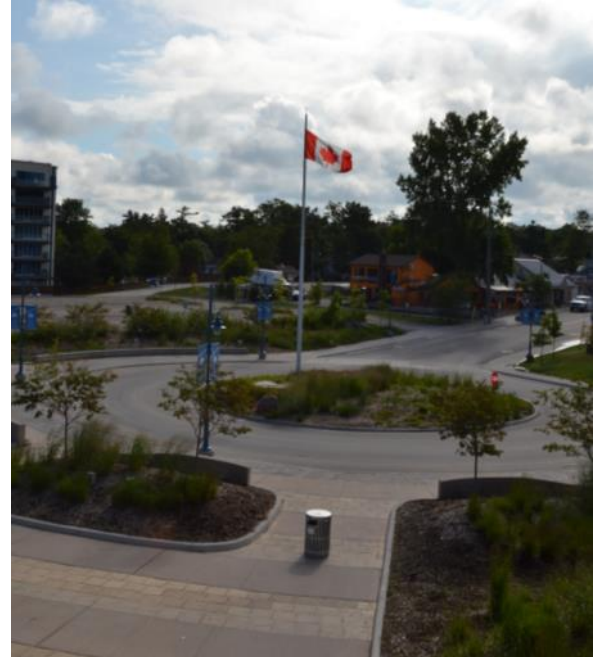
Great effort has been made to reintroduce the natural landscape of the beach by creating new dune grass planting areas (again, they serve as natural wind and sand breaks), and a large area of dune restoration that is intended to not only restore what once existed, but to also serve as an educational tool for the public, and to serve as a catalyst for further dune reintroduction on other areas of the beach.

Shade Structures:

One of the important components of the enhancements includes the introduction of shade structures. With the growing concern about the negative impact of the sun, steps have been taken to integrate numerous new shade structures on the beach. These shade structures includes the gazebo on the south end of the boardwalk, umbrella installations near the concession booth and children play areas, and the introduction of new tree plantings throughout the beach.

Irrigation Systems:

Irrigation systems were designed to maximize the utilization of natural storm water flows (parking lots, storm drains, splash pad, etc.) by using underground cisterns as a water source, and minimize the use of the municipal-chlorinated water system. It is better for the plants and has less impact on the lake.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MUNICIPAL * RESIDENTIAL * BUSINESS * COMMUNITY

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The final audit document stated that the municipality was operating within the range of safe practices; however, there were recommendations for improvement. Our municipality is proud of having such a wonderful escape for enjoyment, and we believe that safety of the thousands of people who visit the beach must remain a top priority. Improved signage and equipment and public education were implemented in 2009.





RETURN THE LANDSCAPE

Environment Canada and Canadian Wildlife Service recommend 30% natural cover to maintain a healthy natural environment. Lambton County currently has 9% and this number is still declining. The goal of Return the Landscape (RTL) is to reverse this direction through two main operations: plant rescues and naturalization projects. Native plants are saved from sites that are slated for development and used to create natural areas on other sites with matching conditions. The plant material, along with seed collected from local natural sites, is used as a propagation source for increasing the local genetic stock.

RTL will work to preserve and enhance our local natural heritage through plant rescue and restoration opportunities in hopes to create a healthier, more sustainable community by making important connections and working partnerships between local environmental, academic and business communities.

The objectives of the group are:

- To work with the public to increase the understanding and appreciation of our natural heritage through education and participation
- Effect policy change within municipal/county planning departments to include plant inventories, and develop a timely notification system for the RTL team to conduct plant rescues
- Maintain a holding facility/nursery to store and propagate the rescued plant material
- Use the rescued plants to establish natural areas in schoolyards and city parks

Return the Landscape was contracted by the municipality to clean up the four main gardens at the Grand Bend Main Beach in 2013. They worked with and trained municipal staff and volunteers to re-naturalize the gardens and improve their appearance.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

MUNICIPAL * INSTITUTIONAL * COMMUNITY

LAMBTON SHORES NATURE TRAILS COMMITTEE

Lambton Shores Nature Trails was founded in October 2011 by a group of local nature and hiking enthusiasts. LSNT is a volunteer organization and since 2012 a 'Community Committee of Council'. The group is dedicated primarily to the



upgrade & maintenance of trails in areas, not only of natural beauty, but also of great environmental significance. Constructive partnerships with conservation-minded landowners, supporters, donors and community groups has been instrumental in achieving results in the early years and has exceeded everyone's expectations. From the beginning, a key focus of LSNT's efforts was also to make residents, cottagers and visitors aware of the critical need to protect & preserve these local 'Gems of Nature' for generations to come.

Vision:

A Network of connected, accessible, safe & user-friendly Nature Trails for Lambton Shores & Vicinity (LS&V) for the walking, hiking, cycling, horse-back riding & outdoor enthusiast....and for those committed to protect & preserve our Natural Heritage.

Mission:

To work constructively & cooperatively with conservation-minded landowners, residents, local , council, nature & community groups, sponsors & donors, and other stake-holders to make Lambton Shores & Vicinity, with its truly special natural features. Southwestern Ontario's foremost 'Destination for Nature Lovers' - be it hikers, canoeists, beach-bums, cross-country skiers, geo-cachers, fossil hunters, campers, 'green' developers, 'green' business proprietors. leaders of 'green' industries & institutions, 'green' professionals, 'green' families or anyone with a to protect & preserve our unique Natural Environment.

Goals:

- To first & foremost protect & preserve our remaining 'Gems of Nature' in LS&V by providing environmentally responsible & free public access to these special places via safe Nature Trails.
- To encourage residents, cottagers & visitors of all ages to & appreciate our 'Gems of Nature' in every season.
- To provide opportunities to learn more about our Carolinian Canada Flora & Fauna, the Importance of Biodiversity, the Nature-First Ethic, Conservation of Environmentally Significant Areas & Rare Eco-Systems.
- To complement the work of the Stewards of the Land & the Lambton County Regional Trail Committee (LCRTC)
- To promote a more Physically Active & Healthy Lifestyle
- To support Tourism and Business Development
- To connect the Communities, Landowners, Business Leaders, & Residents of Lambton Shores

Youth Outreach:

LSNT has launched a new website to help promote trails and hiking. Geared towards youth, this website makes learning about Nature, Wildlife and Trails fun! Visit it today: www.DiscoverTheTrails.ca

To learn more about the committee and the work they are doing in Lambton Shores and Vicinity, please visit their website www.lsnoblazers.com



LAMBTON SHORES PHRAGMITES COMMUNITY GROUP

Phragmites is considered the most aggressive invasive species of the marsh ecosystems in North America and Canada's worst invasive plant. The Municipality of Lambton Shores is leading other municipalities in fighting Phragmites. These initiatives began with Phragmites management on the Port Franks beach and a demonstration project in 2011 on a small island in the Ausable River spearheaded by the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group (LSPCG). Over the past 5 years habitat restoration projects have resulted in successful partnerships with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Nature Conservancy Canada, Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and private landowners.

With council's financial support, a wetland ecologist, Dr. Janice Gilbert, was hired to create a 5 year Phragmites management plan for our community. It can be viewed on the municipal website at www.lambtonshores.ca.

Working with our partners, as of March 2016, control efforts have been initiated on over 120 ha (300 acres) in Lambton Shores. The following summarizes projects completed or underway in Lambton Shores.

- Successfully delivered 4 Community Information Sessions
- In 2012, the ABCA applied for and received a grant of \$23,000 from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund for on-the-ground work including a prescribed burn in Port Franks. With this grant and the contributions from the Municipality, The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Nature Conservancy Canada and private landowners, we were able to get a great start in managing Phragmites in Port Franks.
- The Port Franks Beach, Ausable River, Mud Creek and Sunfish Bay and ditches have been rolled, sprayed, burned (if appropriate) and touched up with herbicides. Touch up is ongoing.
- Work will begin on the Port Franks Nature Conservancy Canada property in late summer if site conditions allow. High water levels have delayed this work. Currently, there is no effective, long term control method available to us for wet sites.
- Grand Bend identified and treated 12 small stands and continues to touch up these sites. Working with the ABCA, Grand Bend Horticulture offered an information session and plant identification training. A community information session was held in 2015 aimed at agriculture and rural landowners and a brochure prepared by LSPCG and ABCA was distributed to property owners in the Ausable River watershed within the MLS boundary. Treatment has been done on all of the Ausable River watershed riverbanks and touch up will continue for several years.
- Sub-committees have formed of Ward 4 residents to coordinate restoration work in Wood Drive, Lake Valley Grove/Sunnidale/Pine Tree Estates, Cedar View Beach and Grand Cove Marina. Phragmites has been rolled, burned and herbicide applied where appropriate in these areas. A successful application for financial assistance was completed to the Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program. Rolling, cutting, and spraying in the dry sites at Wood Drive has occurred. In May 2016, a very rare and endangered Dwarf Lake Iris was observed in an area previously heavily infested with Phragmites that had been treated with herbicide. Remediation efforts at Wood Drive continue to be a challenge due to



the size of this site and high water levels. Along with partner St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, the LSPCG was awarded a \$24,995 Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund grant in April 2016 to assist with remediation at Wood Drive.

- Lambton Centre continues work on their shoreline.
- Ipperwash property owners continue to control Phrag along the beachfront. A committee is forming to address the Phragmites that is growing in the wetlands and the interior spread vectors. Remediation work is planned for 2016 and this will involve engaging and educating the community with the assistance of the LSPCG.
- The Municipality continues to have representation on the Ontario Phragmites Working Group.
- A training opportunity for municipal and conservation authority front line staff and local contractors was provided. The Municipality hired a co-op student to map the occurrence of Phrag in municipal and private ditches/drains and to coordinate all Phrag mapping.
- LSPCG helped prepare a brochure “Smart Practices for Ontario Roadsides” that is now used throughout Ontario by municipalities. Roadside ditches are considered as major spread vectors for Phragmites and control is essential. Lambton County and Lambton Shores have led the way in Ontario in recognizing this and in implementing a coordinated control plan. The MTO will also be treating the Provincial highway in Lambton Shores this summer.

LSPCG has spread the message about the dangers of invasive Phragmites throughout Ontario by presenting to many associations, community groups and municipalities. Their efforts have also been highlighted on the U.S. based Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative website. LSPCG has also lobbied extensively for the environmentally responsible use of herbicides in wet sites as is currently allowed in neighbouring states in the U.S. LSPCG was awarded an Honorable Mention by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in 2013 and was named 2016 “Conservationist of the Year” by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority for its Phragmites control efforts.



Mosquito Island August 2010



Mosquito Island 2012 after treatment



Mosquito Island 2013—Natural vegetation returning



MAJOR FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

Lambton Shores is fortunate to have passionate and committed community members willing to spearhead fundraising drives to support major municipal Recreation and Leisure projects.

THE SHORES RECREATION CENTRE

Lambton Shores hired a fundraising consultant to work with The Shores Fundraising team in 2005. The team assumed administration of the fundraising program and ultimately raised \$2 million for the construction of the facility which was built in 2007. The team's success is evident on the fundraising wall as you enter the Shores Recreation Centre. In 2008 the Fundraising Committee was awarded the Parks and Recreation Ontario Award of Excellence in Volunteerism.

THE GRAND BEND BEACH ENHANCEMENT

Lambton Shores used the fundraising lessons learned in the Shores project and put together a dynamic team of volunteers from the Grand Bend area to implement another major fundraising effort. This team lead by co-chairs and honorary chairs, raised over \$1.3 million for this significant environmental and community effort. In 2010, the Grand Bend Beach Enhancement received the Parks and Recreation Ontario Award of Excellence for Design.

THE LEGACY RECREATION CENTRE

The Legacy Centre Fundraising committee has been established and fashioned after the Shores Recreation Centre and the Grand Bend Beach fundraising efforts. The committee has surpassed their fundraising goal of \$400,000.00 and opened the centre with a gala on July 23, 2011. The Legacy Recreation Centre received the Parks and Recreation Ontario Award of Excellence for Design in 2013 and also received LEED® Gold Certification in 2013.

THE ROTARY COMMUNITY STAGE

In 2015, the Grand Bend Rotary Club partnered with the Grand Bend Community Foundation to build a new Community Stage to enhance the Grand Bend Beach. The Club was also successful in receiving a grant from the Canada 150 Fund to help make this dream a reality. The community came together to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the project for the 2016 season.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION BUSINESS * INSTITUTIONAL



AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES

Agriculture is one of the major components of the Lambton Shores economy. There are a variety of operations including: cash crop, fruit, produce, dairy, hogs, chicken, turkey, etc. The Arkona area is known for its fruit farms while the Thedford/Klondyke Bog areas are primarily used for vegetable production.

Local farmers have implemented a variety of environmentally friendly practices:

- Many farmers have constructed wind turbines on their properties as a part of the clean energy movement.
- No-till farming is a way of growing crops or pasture from year to year without disturbing soil through tillage. The practice is widely used by the farmers in Lambton Shores. This agricultural technique increases organic matter retention and the cycling of nutrients in the soil. It can also reduce or eliminate soil erosion. Farm operations are made much more efficient with less time and resources needed for planting.
- Use of buffer strips which act as a filter for chemical nitrate before getting to the ditch, protects erosion of the upper part of the ditch bank and protects the topsoil.





AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES

- Twin Pine Orchards and other fruit and vegetable farm operations have Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPM). This approach requires the grower to use several different methods to limit the adverse effects of pesticides on the environment, yet still control pests and diseases. Several different types of “bug traps” are placed in the orchard and are monitored twice a week during the growing season in conjunction with computer/weather monitoring for pest and disease activity. If bug counts are lower than critical thresholds, if beneficial insects are present, if weather conditions are not conducive to pest or disease growth, then spraying for these pests is not required. Other initiatives include hedgerows, solar hot water heating, environmental farm plan, environmentally friendly spray products, and mulching tree prunings.
- Ausable Produce has an energy efficient irrigation system and has implemented integrated pest management practices. Other initiatives include a 3-year crop rotation, less herbicide and pesticides and community support.
- Stewardson's Dairy Farm has built new livestock buildings, which are energy efficient. The farm operation has implemented many green practices.
- VanEngelen's Dairy Farm in Arkona was the winner of 2008 Premier's Award for agro innovation-wind turbine for electricity needs for 2 businesses, energy efficient pipeline milking system.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION BUSINESS * INSTITUTIONAL



GREEN INITIATIVES CHECKLIST

The CIB committee has worked with the Lambton Shores Commercial, Institutional and Industrial sectors' to incorporate environmental practices within their facilities and products they use.

Some examples include:

- Forest Armtec: conducts annual energy audits and air quality checks and is implementing a system to reduce trucking time
- Forest Bluewater Ford: uses no pesticides and environmentally friendly cleaning products, has installed programmable thermostats and other energy efficient items and supports many community events
- Forest Canada Post: a complete renovation with new windows, energy efficient lighting, programmable thermostats, no plastic packaging
- Forest Foodland: energy efficient systems, computer controlled watering and cooling, air quality monitoring, green bags, lights are kept down during peak times
- Forest Florist: composts all stems and flowers, supports festivals and events, adopts pots and plots
- Forest banks: new energy efficient features in all, support community environmental programs
- Prout's Building Centre: weekly cleanups, building retrofit, improved delivery systems, significant community support.
- Grand Bend Posh: uses mulch and ground cover, supports community cleanups, air quality monitoring, efficient vehicle use
- Widder Station Thedford: garbage pick up along roadways and course, variety of grasses, use recycled asphalt, extensive groundcover, cut back on spraying, tree planting, strategic watering.



2009 OLD AUSABLE CHANNEL ACTIVITIES

- Native Plant Guide Launch and Planting Day: ABCA and Grand Bend elementary school students planted native species in the reconstructed origin of the OAC.
- ABCA and Grand Bend Horticultural Society hosted a stewardship guide workshop
- A succession study
- Mapping that identifies priority natural heritage features



ABCA MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE OLD AUSABLE CHANNEL

The Friends of the Old Ausable Channel (OAC) is a non-profit organization that was created to help preserve and support this unique and valuable natural habitat. The committee is made up of local OAC neighbourhood volunteers (Southcott Pines, Huron Woods, Beach O' Pines, Wee Lakes, Pinedale and Port Franks) as well as technical advisors from agencies such as the Pinery Provincial Park, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, University of Western Ontario, Municipality of Lambton Shores and the ABCA. The committee helped in the writing of the management plan by reviewing the document and providing feedback.



ABCA AND PORT FRANKS FORESTED DUNES AND WETLANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INITIATION

The same partnership group is developing a Management Plan for the Port Franks area, lying between the Ausable Cut, Highway 21, Outer Drive and Lake Huron and will:

- Provide a unified vision for management
- Identify long-term community directions
- Identify education, public information and recreation opportunities
- Provide guidelines for adjacent land use
- Promote protection of significant habitat



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY GROUP ENERGY RETROFITS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

- **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 176 Forest** successfully pursued Trillium funding and has recently reinsulated the building, installed an energy efficient heating and air conditioning system, and constructed an expansive outdoor patio. Community foundation grants have assisted with auditorium and washroom renovations.
- **Forest Optimist Hall** - The Optimist Club of Forest leases the community hall that is adjacent to the former Forest Arena complex. This community group was also successful in obtaining Trillium funding for improvements to the roof, windows, insulation and ceiling tile. Improvements were made to the washroom facilities in 2012.
- **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 498 Grand Bend**— The Grand Bend Legion purchased a generator to make the Legion an evacuation centre for North Lambton. They also purchased two new commercial freezers, various new kitchen equipment, and 20 new eight-foot lifetime tables for the banquet hall. Electronic lighting was installed in the entire building to save energy. Shuffleboard courts and dart lines have been cut into the banquet hall floor and are heavily used by seniors' clubs.

