

Appendix G. Clean Water Project Summary



Funded by your local Municipalities and delivered by your local Conservation Authorities

The County of Oxford has been a partner in the Clean Water Program since the program was launched in the fall of 2001. The Clean Water Program (CWP) is a technical and financial assistance program to improve and protect water quality. Rural landowners in the Counties of Middlesex, Oxford and Perth, the Cities of Stratford and London, and the Town of St. Marys are eligible for the program. The CWP also has a research and demonstration component to help develop and share new practices and solutions for surface water and groundwater quality issues.

Funding for the Clean Water Program comes from the participating municipalities. Other major financial supporters have included the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture Program, the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation and Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program.

Our accomplishments as of December 2006 include:

- \$3.1 million investment generated \$8.4 million in projects
- Over 1500 projects

The Clean Water Program has had a significant impact in this region and fits well into the recommendations of Justice O'Connor. It is an example of a positive action making a difference. From the onset, our local municipalities recognized that protecting clean water is a shared responsibility. They agreed that the Clean Water Program was an opportunity to work together for the collective good.

The CWP steering and review committee includes farm representatives and staff from the participating municipalities. The program is delivered by local Conservation Authority staff. In Oxford County, the Long Point Region, Grand River and Upper Thames River Conservation Authorities deliver the program.

This investment will work to safeguard public health through protection of drinking water supplies and provide public confidence in food safety. The cumulative impact of individual water quality improvement projects will not only improve local water quality but benefit the Great Lakes as well. The program provides an opportunity for rural and urban citizens to mutually invest in long term local water quality health.

A strength of the CWP is its flexibility to meet local issues and needs and therefore the opportunity to bring additional environmental benefits and grant dollars to the region. Examples of this include a recent focus on well decommissioning and wellhead upgrade projects, the participation of Environment Canada's - Habitat Stewardship Program, the involvement of the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation and currently the delivery of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's – Greencover Program.

A summary of the CWP activities in Oxford County, since 2001 follows.

Year	Number of Projects	Total Project Value (\$)	Grant (\$)	Oxford Contribution (\$)	Other Contributions (\$)*
2001	9	86,662	39,599	-	
2002	91	773,478	296,111	115,160	
2003	82	695,798	269,671	140,160	
2004	83	542,522	204,944	140,000	
2005	65	372,002	135,963	70,000	
2006 (to-date)	71	318,104	87,515	70,000	
TOTAL	401	2,788,566	1,033,803	535,320	498,483

*Other contributions include:

1. Habitat Stewardship Program \$50,000
2. Great Lakes Renewal Foundation \$140,000
3. Health Futures for Ontario Agriculture \$218,483
4. City of London \$90,000

In addition to the CWP, Conservation Authorities maintain tree planting and woodlot management programs throughout the region. Private landowner services includes tree planting plans, supplying appropriate stock, planting and maintenance and other woodlot management assistance. Among the other naturalization related services are the Communities for Nature Program which gives thousands of students and other volunteers a hands-on educational opportunity to enhance their local environment, the Trees for Tomorrow Program, Memorial Forestry Programs and site-specific naturalization efforts on public lands.